

Berkhamsted *review*

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August 2008



for Town and Parish

30p



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

Welcome to the August 2008 issue of the Berkhamsted review

There is much in this month's *review* about the oneness or otherwise of the Christian Church - from the grassroots at All Saints' Church - *One Worshipping Community* - to the discord afflicting the wider Church as the Lambeth Conference approaches - A theme picked up both by **Michael Bowie** in his leader *A dispute about trifles* and by **Jonathan Gordon** writing on *Inclusion & Exclusion*. Today's conflicts of belief and conviction stand in a long tradition, starting with the Apostles, even in the lifetime on Earth of Jesus Christ. And in the following centuries down to the present day the history of the Christian Church could conveniently be written in terms of the disputes that have shaped it and at times sought resolution in violence and bloodshed. The Albigensian Crusade for example and the Thirty Years War are particularly noted for the savagery with which they were conducted. What is remarkable about the Christian Church is that its differences and their sometimes thoroughly un-Christian consequences have not destroyed it. They are the product of human weakness often manifest as unarguable conviction and the arrogance to which it leads. There is another way if we have the humility to recognise it.

Christopher Green

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Cover: Row of shops in London Road (p9)
photo: Tony Firshman

Editorial Team: Christopher Green, 17 Cowper Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 3DE (863241)
email: greenc@waitrose.com
Tony Firshman, 29 Longfield Road, Tring, HP23 4DG (828254)
email: review@firshman.co.uk fax: 828255
Joe Garstin, 26 Priory Gardens, Berkhamsted, HP4 2DS (866846)
email: joe_garstin@hotmail.com

Advertising: David Woodward, 3 Murray Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 1JD (862723)
woodies@chyverton3.freemove.co.uk

Circulation: Sheila Miller, 31 Lincoln Court, Berkhamsted, HP4 3EN (864277)

Treasurer: Michael Below, Hillcote, Doctors Commons Road, HP4 3DR (862316)
email: below@waysid.freemove.co.uk

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A Dispute about Trifles

Father Michael Bowie looks behind the rhetoric

review leader

As the first Queen Elizabeth said, *There is only one Jesus Christ and all the rest is a dispute about trifles.*

The recent Global Anglican Future

Conference (Gafcon) and the *church within a church* which it has created, the **Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (FOCA** – yes they really *chose* that acronym) energetically insists that its members are only interested in promoting pure faith in Christ. But they would say that, wouldn't they. We know, however, that this active opposition to the Archbishop of Canterbury has actually arisen now because of the concerns of fundamentalist Christians about women bishops and homosexuality. Those two issues are so hard to find in the Bible that they neatly fit Queen Elizabeth's definition of *trifles*.

So, presumably, there must be more at stake. And there is. I have some personal experience of this through lifetime and family knowledge of the diocese of Sydney, which (uniquely in the Australian church) sides with these extremists. As I watch the Archbishop of Sydney brokering this new breakaway group (which claims, as such groups always do, to hold the *real* tradition), I have a horrible sense of *déjà vu*: arguments that have paralysed the Australian church for decades are now being played out in the whole Anglican world.

There are two things which lie behind what's been going on in the Australian Church for as long as anyone can remember. They are power and money. There's no doubt that these fundamentalists honestly believe that their version of Christianity is the only true and saving way. But the Church of England has always, wisely, agreed with the first Elizabeth that we too often and easily delude ourselves about what is central and what is peripheral. Too much certainty and dogmatism is dangerous.

In Sydney diocese, as it seeks to *convert* the

rest of the Australian church, there is a good deal of money at stake - property and income which came to the diocese from the colonial settlement have been effectively managed to make it, allegedly, the richest diocese in the world. Archbishop Jensen of Sydney has spun all the statements of Gafcon / FOCA to avoid talk or action which will lead to schism, splitting away from the Anglican Church (yet they have met in effective opposition to the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lambeth Conference - nearly all episcopal participants in Gafcon are boycotting Lambeth). This is because he knows that if he takes the diocese of Sydney out of communion with Canterbury he will place all of his diocese's vast wealth at risk of litigation – all its assets are vested in Trusts which allow it to be used only for Anglican church purposes. If a split comes, he knows that lawyers are poised to recover the prize for the rest of the Anglican Church of Australia, which does not agree with Sydney, and will not elect Jensen as Primate. A few years ago Jensen told his diocesan Synod that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the whole Church of England are *apostate* (i.e. outside the Christian faith): that's what he really thinks. So why doesn't he leave?

This new *Fellowship* (including its English sympathizers) should, if it were honest and honourable, separate itself from the mainstream Anglicanism which it despises and opposes from within. To see why Sydney stays in, follow the money. I guess that may be true elsewhere too.

Clearly I have some personal history with this argument! But as you read the (often confused and confusing) media reporting of these events, portentous with predictions of gloom and disaster, please remember that the Church of England in Berkhamsted and, in my experience across this land, is here for all and open to all. It is in good hands and good heart. Perhaps the first Elizabeth's words would be a good motto for us now: *There is only one Jesus Christ and all the rest is a dispute about trifles.* ❖

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MU TAKES TO THE ROAD

Margaret Burbidge explains why

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



The Roadshow travelled proudly to seven venues across the United Kingdom from Armagh to Worthing and Stirling to Exeter to showcase the work of the MU. Mothers' Union likens its work to a picture in a child's book, which is made by joining up the dots. The picture is not discernible until the dots are linked together in the right order, to make something

recognisable, transforming the shape. The dots are the many issues that threaten and challenge communities all around the world; poverty, illiteracy, domestic violence and family breakdown, time-impooverished parenting and HIV/AIDS. They present a chaotic picture; in real life there are no numbers to produce the picture easily, but if people power, experience, sustainability, money and love are there, families and communities can begin to be transformed.

The Roadshow was *book-ended* by **Rosemary Kempshall**, the Worldwide President, who opened and closed the proceedings. Her belief in and passion for the difference Mothers' Union can make in the world was there for all to see. **Reg Bailey**, the Chief Executive, directed the presentation, illustrated throughout by video clips of Mothers' Union work in some of the 78 countries where its 3.6 million members live.

The focus for Mothers' Union work is the home, the family and communities in the developed and developing world. Home needs to be a place of refuge and safety, offering provision of food and medical care, and a sense of belonging and acceptance, and where we can learn how to support each other and our neighbours. Mothers' Union endeavours to achieve this through projects like the Family Life

Programme in Uganda, helping families to be more self-sufficient for food and in medical care. The Parenting Programme in this country and overseas supports parents and helps people to feel they belong to communities. In this country 1000 volunteers work in 90 prisons. Working in collaboration with the Prison Service,

one project aims to sustain relationships with the family while fathers are in custody. One prisoner said that holding his 3 year old daughter's hand for the first time helped him feel like a dad again. Two volunteers spoke of their experiences of prison work in Leicester, in a male prison and a Young Offenders Institution. Both spoke of how the inmates, whether in their early 20s or 50s and 60s, were amazed that volunteers care about them and value the time and attention they receive.

The Roadshow gave a taster of Mothers' Union as an international organisation with enormous grass roots capacity, and motivated to be Christ-like in its care for others. The one we attended was held in Leicester. We were among the 6,000 or so members and guests across the UK and Ireland who have learnt about the variety and extent of Mothers' Union work and have caught something of the enthusiasm and passion for transforming families and communities through nurturing relationships and making home a safe haven where people can truly be themselves. By taking risks and joining up the dots where family life is chaotic and fragile, Mothers' Union creates a new picture that reflects God's love for everyone. ❖

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A well designed building, I once heard someone say, is a good neighbour. This has more often than not been forgotten by architects at least in recent decades. A house may have its own integrity and consistency of purpose

but it is not a good neighbour if it violates the neighbourhood. A modern building in an historic setting can indeed do violence to its surroundings. That this frequently happens shows that something went badly wrong with architecture and urban planning in the 20th century. A mixture of blind reason and utopianism (part of what **Roger Scruton** has called a *culture of repudiation* †) took over; replacing a prior, traditional culture of refinement and adaptation. In line with the new ideas of modernists, such as Le Corbusier and Gropius, acts of revolutionary violence were encouraged in schools of architecture and urban planning across the world. The effect that this has had on our towns can be seen by reviewing the difference between Letchworth and Hemel Hempstead. Letchworth was the first Garden City, built as a town planning experiment in 1903 before the eruption of modernism. Hemel Hempstead was created after the Second World War when modernism was at the height of its explosive power. An eminent American urban planner, **Andres Duany**, said recently that when he looked at the design statement which was used to plan and create Stevenage (another New Town built after 1945), it all made sense, but somehow on seeing the finished product - the completed town - it hadn't worked.

How could there be such a large gap between intention and outcome? I think it is because the neighbourliness of new buildings was not taken sufficiently into account. In fact, it is not enough for a building to be a good neighbour. It also has to be a good citizen. A good neighbour gets on with the others in the

Ian Reay's &news &views

Blind Reason & Utopianism

Ian Reay looks back at
post-war architecture

same street. A good citizen fits into society, into the landscape. If you design a town just by drawing patterns on a two dimensional map then it should come as no surprise that the three dimensional landscape doesn't work. It was given no consideration.

Our landscape is a very ancient one – made up of chalk, clay and flint soils, a mosaic of woods, fields and smallish settlements constructed for the most part with local materials. The Chiltern Hills are the result of many thousands of years of continuous human intervention. Ancient and beautiful, the landscape is also the result of sustained epochs of good citizenship on the part of its dwellers.

It may be that times are changing. Some detect a new, or rather atavistic, trend taking precarious root. The Government recently refused to list a housing block in Tower Hamlets, declaring it as *not fit for purpose*, despite the protestations of its highly acclaimed architects. When it was built in 1972 it was hailed as a *hallmark of Brutalist architecture*. Brutal it may have been, but *hailed* it no longer is. The trend is increasingly to return to older, gentler styles of building. The house which recently won the Building Design Award sponsored by the Chilterns Society and the Chilterns Conservation Board broke all the rules that were taught in schools of architecture in the sixties – at least that was what I was told by one of the judges.

All this will be very, very important for the coming decades. We can expect to see more than 80,000 houses springing up across Hertfordshire over the next 20 years, and many more as well in Beds and Bucks. This will keep architects and urban planners very busy. It is important that we eschew the acts of violence of the past and insist on the good citizenship of the newcomers. ❖

† Culture Counts, Faith & Feeling in a World Besieged, Encounter Books, 2007

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On the cover this month the *review* has a twentieth century building - the rather austere parade of shops at the east end of the town, between Londrina Terrace and Little Bridge Street, called The Hall Walk and forming 1-9 London Road. It bears the inscription 1934 EG. EG was **Edward Greene** the grandson of **Benjamin Greene** who in 1799 in Bury St Edmunds founded what is now Greene-King, the largest British owned brewery in the United Kingdom. **Edward Greene** is perhaps less well known in Berkhamsted than his brother, **Charles Henry Greene**, Headmaster of Berkhamsted School from 1910 to 1927. Edward lived in *Berkhamsted Hall*, often called simply *The Hall*. This was a large Georgian house on the site where Swing Gate First School now stands, almost exactly opposite The Hall Walk. *The Hall* was surrounded by a broad estate, extending on both sides of the London Road. By the 1930s the estate had been largely broken up and given over to residential development -

THE HALL WALK

Christopher Green writes



including both early local authority council housing on the west side of Swing Gate Lane and on the east side, private developments forming eventually Hall Park Gardens, Hall Park, Upper Hall Park and the adjacent roads. At this time *The Hall* itself had become the preparatory department of Berkhamsted School and continued as such until 1937. It was later demolished. **Edward Greene** was a generous benefactor of Berkhamsted School, gifting to the school in 1927 the land now known as the Greene Field, beside the Lower Kings Road. He obviously retained an interest in the land belonging with Berkhamsted Hall as the development of The Hall Walk in 1934 bears witness. Apart from the oval plaque with the date and Edward's initials there is little in the architecture of the parade that speaks of the 1930s. Most of the original architectural detail has been replaced - the windows, the doors and the shop fronts. Only the green roof tiles, fashionable in the 1920s and 30s, give a hint of the building's pre-war origins.



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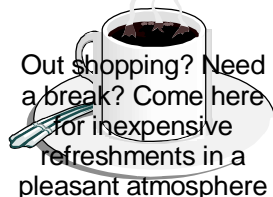
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OUR CHURCH SCHOOLS

Inticate design details of one of our Church School buildings, as seen through the eyes of its pupils, have been preserved for posterity in an innovative Perspex mural created during a special art activity week.

All 233 children at Victoria C of E First School and Nursery played a part in making the eight foot by four foot exterior collage, which is now hanging on an upper playground wall, catching the light and breeze to dramatic effect.

It looks amazing said the school's art coordinator, teacher **Norah Burgess**. *It's individual and yet corporate, a permanent record of a moment in time, which the children found inspiring and exciting.*

The collage was conceived by local artist **Lyndy Moles**, who with fellow artist **Joanna Bryant**, worked with each class - from nursery through to year four - for two days as artists in residence. The artists, members of the Pressmore Studio Group, who exhibit as a collective in Bucks and Herts, are also mums at the school. Their workshop marked the start of the activity week, entitled ***Our Rich Environment***, drawing on the plentiful artistic material the school has on the doorstep of its Prince Edward Street site. Lyndy based her idea for the mural on the early work of British contemporary artist **John Virtue**, a former artist in residence at the National Gallery, known for his large paintings in black and white ink. It was his work *Views of London*, a collage of London cityscapes, that inspired Lyndy's idea for a parallel *Views of Victoria*.

Before we sat down with them, they'd

Plastic Fantastic Innovative art at Victoria School Cathy Salmon writes



spent time going round the school, observing and sketching things they liked the look of explained Lyndy, Which they then traced or copied onto Perspex tiles with permanent

black marker pen. It's amazing to see the tiny details they've picked up, from individual decorative bricks to tiny roof details. They also enjoyed choosing where their tiles would go and building the mosaic up. When they put up the last tile, it was

finished and ready to hang. That immediacy really worked.

We had a lot of fun and I think they did too added Joanna. We wanted to show them that art isn't just about drawing on a piece of paper – it's about using other materials. It's about playing and experimenting and not always knowing what you're going to end up with. We had no idea how this was going to turn out but the result is better than we could have hoped for.

We're so grateful to Mrs Moles and Mrs Bryant for giving the children the benefit of their experience and skills and affording them this opportunity said Mrs Burgess, who organised the week's activities all based around the arts, but including music and dance with links to the environment. After completing their masterpiece, the children went on to enjoy an ***Umbanda*** drum workshop and a multi-cultural dance workshop as well as undertaking various creative activities in their classes. *The week was a great success* said head teacher **Anna Brown**. *It provided the children with opportunities for new experiences and to try new things whilst having fun at the same time.* ❖

(photo: Cathy Salmon. More on p32)

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As part of my life, my wife seems to have got involved in agility competitions with our dogs. It all started with a small 'hyper' Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (Bonnie), that the dog club suggested might be good for agility. Wow, she took to it like a noisy duck to muddy water. Put a hurdle in front of her, and she was away.

Over the years, we acquired a Cocker Spaniel (Jamie), who turned out to be a real prat – plodded his way round courses, always out of time but considered to be a

good *banker* for club competitions and even managed to win *out of class* three years ago due to being the only dog that did a clear round - although with time faults. This was the time that we choose a *sheltie* (Flora) to continue helping my wife keep fit. Flora is faster than James, not as enthusiastic as Bonnie (or as noisy!) but tends to stop and ensure that the number of the piece of equipment is correctly marked – funny girl! When the act gets together, she is good.

However, over 8 is considered veteran and with Bonnie over 9, James being a stupid 7 year old, Flora was 4 so it was time to choose another dog.

I got home one day and *that* question was asked – *What are you doing tomorrow afternoon?* Off to East Anglia we go and come back with a nephew of Flora. Oh well, another mouth to feed.

Two years on, Bonnie is no longer with us, James has all but retired, Flora still tends to check the numbers and Archie (that's the latest sheltie) is coming along in leaps and bounds.

All this travelling to competitions is very

FROM A FIELD IN EAST ANGLIA

Norman Cutting wonders why



from left: Jamie, Bonnie, Flora and Archie

wearing (on site at 7:30 often means a 5am start!) and a couple of years ago, going to Huntingdon racecourse three days

running was the last straw. Time to resolve the matter by obtaining a motor-home or caravan. This is easier said than done as I soon found out. Both have advantages and disadvantages. In the end, we settled on a small caravan which was as self contained as

possible. The idea was, naturally, that *her indoors* could toddle off and I could get of bit of peace. After all, the caravan has its own motor system for easy manoeuvring, own water supply, shower, WC and everything else a girl could want.

So I ask myself, exactly why am I writing this piece in the middle of Littleport Sports Centre grounds in lovely sunshine surrounded by barking dogs and lots of gals (like horses, it appears to be a female thing). Easter was spent in the grounds of Shuttleworth complete with gales and 2 inches of snow, a couple of weeks later it was the turn of Walton on Thames to have more than an inch of snow and a couple of weeks after that we had nice sunshine at the Newbury Show Ground, while you all had thunder and lightning. I'm really looking forward to Peterborough Show Ground, Orsett Rugby Ground, Huntingdon Racecourse and all the other *fields* that await our presence over the next few months.

Stop press – the tannoy has just announced a fly ball demo is being set-up – now that is fun, must go and have a look! ❖

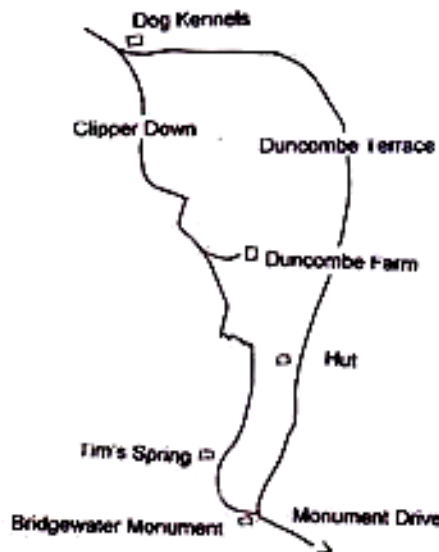
This 3 mile circular walk is suggested for those who seek a short family walk from the Earl of Bridgewater Monument. The Monument, map reference 970 131, is at the end of Monument Drive, a turning off the Ringshall Road. The route leaves the crowds on Monument Drive behind, while affording ease of parking. Much of the route is shaded to avoid the heat of the August sun; where it is not there are fine views over Aldbury and Pitstone. The paths are mainly surfaced and buggy friendly, but sensible shoes are suggested for your comfort where there is gravel. A section, about three quarters of a mile, is in grassy fields and would call for carrying a buggy-age child. The route is simple and obvious such that it scarcely warrants the following description. Townsman hopes it will, however, give confidence to launch into an unknown route with the assurance of a pleasant walk and a sure return!

The Route

Monument Drive forks to the left and the right ahead of the Monument. Tea rooms and an information centre are alongside the left fork which leads into a track down hill to Aldbury. The Monument itself is generally open at weekends for those with the stamina to walk to the top! The right hand fork leads to a signed mobility vehicle track just beyond the Monument

BERKHAMSTED'S BEST WALKS

Summer Shade Townsman writes



on the right; this is your return route. Ignoring the mobility track, continue ahead soon going down hill with a house roof in sight where stay on the right with a house sign, *Tim's Spring*, ahead. Follow the track passing post and rail and panel fences with the path becoming steeper downhill. At the bottom of the slope it bears to the left with fields to left and right. Shortly, with a hedge on the left and an open field on the right, look for a Public Footpath sign on a rickety fence on the right. (A sign post, lost in the foliage, and a swing gate are to the left.) Turn right onto the

footpath to cross the small field and to reach a gap in the hedge. The path bears half left through, at the time of writing, a wheat field. At the far side of the wheat field the path reaches a driveway to *Duncombe Farm*. Ignore the footpath opposite and turn left onto the driveway. In less than 200 yards look for a narrow footpath on the right by a holly bush. It is easily missed with its signpost deep in vegetation. If you reach a telegraph pole you have gone too far. Turn right onto the path which goes gently up a slope, trees on the left, to reach a wooden gate with a stile on its left. Cross the stile, respecting the request that dogs should be kept on leads, to bear left onto a delightful path carved into the contours of the hillside, Clipper Down. The path offers splendid views towards Pitstone before reaching

ageing and fallen conifers where cross the stile into the grassy field ahead with a hedge on the left and continuing under electricity pylons. The path reaches a rusted iron gate with a stile on its right. Across the stile, the path becomes gravelled and soon reaches two way marking posts where turn back on the right towards *Clipper Down Cottage*, a dog kennels. A gate on the right, well marked with National Trust signs showing that the route is now a Cycle Route and the Boundary Trail of the Ashridge Estate, leads onto Duncombe Terrace. It is now nigh on impossible to lose your way as Duncombe Terrace is the mobility vehicle track at the beginning of your outward walk! You're on track if you

pass or stop at the following features. On the left, a sign shows the end of the mobility track, with a turning point and a log bench if respite is needed. Later, a log bench on the right has expansive views over Aldbury, worthy of a halt in any event. A wooden hut on the right towards the end of the walk is always an attraction as Three Bears Cottage for the young, before crossing a wooden bridge where the Billy Goats Gruff foil the evil intent of the wicked Troll. The path reaches the Monument where teas and ice creams are available at most times. Townsman hopes you have enjoyed your walk, and your weather justified the summer shade. ❖

St Peter's Church was privileged to play host to an outstanding London-based choir on June 28th, when the Chandos Chamber Choir performed Brahms' *German Requiem* in the so-called *London*

version. The Choir was founded in 1985 and is an amateur group of about 30 voices, conducted by **Andrew Arthur**, a distinguished organist and Tutor in the Music faculty of Cambridge University. Brahms' *German Requiem* was first performed in Bremen in 1868. The sheer size of the required combined orchestral, choral and solo forces necessitates a large venue. The first London performance in 1871 took place in a large private house, but not large enough to accommodate an orchestra as well as the singers. So Brahms prepared a piano duet version of the orchestral part, and it was this version that was presented in St Peter's Church. Listening to it on this reduced scale was by no means a disappointment. Quite the contrary; it was like hearing the work afresh, with the choir enjoying subtle nuances with the phrasing, vocal colouring and dynamics – with the piano duet part never *swamping* the Choir (which can often happen with an orchestra involved). The duettists, **Jonathan Lee** (St Peter's resident organist) and **Gavin Roberts** (organist at St Marylebone Parish Church) made a perfect combination. They obviously relished their task, eliciting wondrous sonorities and brilliance from the St Peter's Kawai Grand, and responding to the changing moods in the music – at times calm and reflective; at other times

THE CHANDOS CHAMBER CHOIR

Eine Deutes Requiem reviewed by Penny Abbott & Adrian Davis

passionate and intense – always in perfect synchronisation with the choir.

The vocal soloists were exceptionally fine. The soprano, **Amy Moore** has surely a most promising career ahead of her; the sheer beauty and control in her tone and projection made *Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit* pure magic, whilst **Alexander Ashworth's** rich and majestic baritone voice left no doubt that here was a singer of great presence, who invested his part with tremendous authority and expressiveness.

The Choir had been very well drilled; it was refreshingly bright and youthful in tone quality and sang with rhythmic precision, exemplary German enunciation and was not in the least daunted by some of the exacting, brisk tempi chosen.

Andrew Arthur's direction was a model of restrained gestures and clearly he had put his own scholarly stamp on the interpretation – with some exquisite phrasing, distinctive dynamics and not a few surprising choices of tempi.

This was an evening to remember; a monumental masterpiece performed with an impressive depth of stylistic and expressive awareness. Thank you Chandos Chamber Choir and **Andrew Arthur** for bringing this highly talented group to St Peter's. We hope we shall not have to wait long before a return visit is made. ❖

THE REVD JOHN PRITCHARD

His ordination at St Albans on June 28th 2008, his first Eucharist at St Peter's on June 29th 2008 and subsequent party.





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All are welcome in this place. So runs the refrain of a hymn we sang at All Saints' on Wednesday 25th June 2008 during the service to mark the signing of the new single congregation

constitution. An apt hymn on several levels, and one adopted by a party of All Saints' Anglicans and Methodists during their recent retreat on Iona, echoing the all-embracing example of the Iona community itself, and the closer ties developed between Anglicans and Methodists as they spent uncluttered time with each other and in contemplation of our one God.

We were particularly privileged to welcome **The Right Revd Christopher Foster**, Bishop of Hertford, and **The Revd Anne Brown**, Chair of the Bedfordshire, Essex, and Hertfordshire Methodist Circuit, together with visiting dignitaries from the Diocese and the Circuit. As **Paul Timmis** mentioned during his opening words, all those present, regardless of denomination, regular place of worship, or length of their job-title were and are most welcome.

Even our recently *acquired* white cat was welcome - for a while. Strolling nonchalantly across the sanctuary carpet during the Old Testament reading, it was discretely intercepted and ejected by **Richard Hackworth**, thus avoiding any unwitting Blofeld impersonations by Revds Foster, Brown, Bowie or Timmis.

NB: Said cat does have a purple collar, and is rumoured, in a previous incarnation, to have been a cleric of particular ecumenical bent, still showing its approval and desire to participate.

In his address, Bishop Christopher continued the four-legged theme, pondering on the success thus far of the amalgamated congregations, and how that co-operation had been engendered. He recounted how, on a recent visit to a Lakeland farm, he had encountered a shepherd with two bitterly feuding rams, each intent on doing the other no good. Solution? Make them share the same small, enclosed space, without enough room to take a run up, and thus force them to put up with each other, and ultimately to get

ALL SAINTS' - ONE WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

Peter Bryant writes

on.

Prior to leading us in the Act of commitment, the **Revd Anne Brown** reminded us how All Saints' Anglicans and Methodists had been journeying together for over thirty years. The


path had not always been smooth. Although probably not as antagonistic as Bishop Christopher's rams, there were still misunderstandings and different expectations. Yet the journey together and with God continued. Having only been worshipping at All Saints' for the last five years, this scribe has witnessed a transformation. Initial impressions were of two distinct sets of people, sharing a building, yes, but only sharing a nodding acquaintance as they passed to and from their respective different services at different hours. Even a glance through a newsletter of that era reveals such headings as *Methodist Crèche* and *Anglican Pathfinders*, illustrating the identities still divided. How far we have been able to progress, even in that comparatively short space of time.

Despite its being held on a *school* night, there were still over one hundred people present. We were guided through the service by **Revd Paul Timmis** and **Revd Dr Michael Bowie**, and were blessed with some stirring singing, and strong direction and support from the All Saints' choir. The official constitution document was signed by our group of VIPs (see p32) during the singing of *All Are Welcome* (fitting and practical, as it is quite a long hymn!), and refreshment was taken after the service, allowing us to celebrate further our *one congregation*, and to reinforce the welcome to all of our guests.

It may have taken over thirty years, but this new constitution does not mark the end of the journey, indeed it might not even mark the end of the beginning. Let us thank God for the journey so far, and for those who have helped make it possible, and pray that He might stay with us on the road ahead.

PS - Newly ordained priests are especially welcome in this place (congratulations John, and thank you already for having led a Tuesday Eucharist service for us)! ❖

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review Northchurch & Wigginton

Inclusion & Exclusion

**The Revd
Jonathan
Gordon writes**

I went to a social gathering in Tring recently and sat next to someone who was the 52nd Orator of Selwyn College in the University of Cambridge. He shared with me an interesting

story that inspired me to do some further research. His background was in the study of Ancient Greece and he was particularly interested in Greek cults and religions before they were banned by the Christian Emperor Theodosius in the Fourth Century.

In 1801 the Cambridge professor **E D Clarke** visited the village of Eleusis near Athens, once the site of an important sanctuary dedicated to Demeter, the Greek goddess of corn and fertility. He observed in his diary a statue *"in the midst of a heap of dung, buried as high as the neck,"* and went on to explain that *"the inhabitants of the village still regard [it] with a very high degree of veneration. They attributed to its presence the fertility of the land, and it was for this reason that they heaped around it the manure intended for their fields."*

Recognising the quality and importance of this statue, Clarke decided to remove it. He winched the statue out of its dungy bed and shipped it to England. But it did not travel willingly: the ship carrying the statue, and other items collected by Clarke, sank off Beachy Head on the south coast of England. However, it was found and remains of the statue can be seen in the Fitzwilliam Museum. My table companion was very interested in the way faith in the statue had been passed down the generations and revealed that there were particular people who passed on the mystery of the cult and were sworn never to tell other people what they knew.

This was starting to sound a bit like the Da Vinci Code with its tales of the activities of the Templar Knights. However, what got me thinking was the idea of hidden knowledge and secrets. By implication a distinction is made between those who know the truth and those who are kept on the outside. Jesus in St Matthew's Gospel gives thanks that the message of God's kingdom has been hidden from the wise and the intelligent, but revealed to infants. The ignorance of the wise is contrasted with the response of those who hear Jesus' words and respond in faith. The question is whether God excludes people from the kingdom or whether people exclude themselves by ignoring or refusing to accept God's open invitation.

The idea of inclusion and exclusion is an important issue for the church. One thing people can worry about when they come to church is how you negotiate your way through a service. When do I stand up or sit down? What do all the different bits of the service mean? Why does everyone else apart from me look as if they know what they are doing? The worldwide Anglican Church has also been concerning itself with boundaries. Recently in Jerusalem the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans distanced itself from other parts of the Anglican Communion, and a few days ago there was a report in the newspaper that 1200 priests would leave the church if woman became bishops. The new Fellowship and the opponents of woman bishops would claim that they are protecting the integrity of the Bible, but their language is one of boundaries and only those who share their belief system can ever really feel at home with them and belong.

I have always resisted the idea that the church should have strict boundaries of who is in and who should be considered

→p23

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← p21 Northchurch

out. In part this goes back twenty five years to the activities of Christian groups in my University that said that if you did not agree with them then you would go to hell. It is not that I think what you believe is unimportant or how you act doesn't really matter, it is a more a sense, rightly or wrongly, that the human experience of life and faith is complex and each of us will have different perspectives and experiences that simply do not fit into boxes of what is acceptable and what is not. No-one has a monopoly on truth and we all journey forward together. The language of the church is relational, not individualistic or narrow and fundamentally the church is about unconditional welcome and support.

Likewise, the community of men, women and children around Jesus in the gospel stories was not rigid or closed. New people seem to be coming all the time, and it was not that the wise and intelligent were not welcome; it was more that they

failed to see what Jesus represented. A good example being the feeding miracles: Jesus feeds 5000 people and then the Pharisees ask for a sign. Those who do respond in faith see in Jesus the reality of God at work in their lives and the promise of divine companionship. That promise also is a vocation to learn from Jesus and through following him find true freedom.

It is a call for everyone. It is not a call to a few or a call that makes distinctions. You might have degrees and letters after your name or you might have failed your exams, you might have been to university or you might have left school when you were young - It does not matter.

What does count is to hear the call of Jesus and seek to learn from him, become more like him and to serve him. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love and a desire to serve. This has been the message of the church for two thousand years and it is not a secret. ❖

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review notes & notices

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



On a perfect summer afternoon our Joint President **Judith Lowther** welcomed members to our July meeting and after reading two poems gave out July birthday cards to members. Our Secretary **Janet Mitchell** gave us a report on the AGM recently held in Liverpool and notified us of various events taking place later in the year

Anne Nightingale told us about her recent visit to Denman College and the course that she undertook there. On display was a selection of children's items made by **Sue Bull** and members which were presented to **Ann Parsons** for *Hope for Children* for their school in South Africa in memory of the late **Liz Baxendale**.

Ann Parsons was our speaker this month - her subject *Rhymes and Reminiscences* kept her audience in fits of laughter. How one struggles with changing the duvet cover - finding suitable swim-wear for the older lady - and the change in one's eating habits were just a few of her reminiscences. We do hope she will visit us again for another amusing talk. A vote of thanks was given by **Jean Presland**. During teatime the raffle was drawn and the competition for a Japanese item was judged. We meet on the first Friday of the month at the Court House at 2:00pm. Why not come and pay us a visit?

TUESDAY CLUB

April

On **Tuesday 1st April 2008** we had a welcome return visit from **Jill Carey** who transported us to Russia, by means of excellent slides, to show her experience of a journey on the Trans-Siberian Railway from Moscow to Vladivostok.

After viewing the wonders of Red Square

and the magnificent palace at St Petersburg, we set off for ten days of luxury travel from the west to the east coast. The Siberian scenery was surprising, with woodland and rolling hills not much higher than the Cotswolds, but the rivers were huge and would be iced up in winter. Lake Baikal was amazing, 395 miles long and a mile deep. As we left Europe and crossed the steppes towards Asia we were left with a lasting impression of the vastness of Russia.

May

At our birthday meeting on **Tuesday 6th May**, members and visitors welcomed **Chetna Shah**, who came to talk about Indian Festivals. Arrayed before us was a wonderful display of Indian clothes, jewellery, books, instruments and pictures of Hindu gods and goddesses. Chetna began by telling us about Hinduism as a way of life and then went on to describe the various Festivals. Afterwards we gazed in admiration at the two exquisite saris which she had worn at her wedding. Two of our members then dressed up in saris of their choice, beautiful necklaces, bindis and earrings. Refreshments and pleasant chatting completed a delightful evening.

July

After a somewhat disappointing summer outing to Cambridge, partly due to the weather but mainly because of a collapsed steering wheel on our river boat, we were pleased at our July meeting to hear of a successful journey by narrow boat down Regent's Canal from Limehouse to Little Venice. Our speaker was **Runnals Davis** on a very welcome return visit. His talks are always entertaining and informative, accompanied by magnificent slides. Every lock and tunnel had a story and there were some lovely gardens along the towpaths, the best being at Blomfield Road where **Judi Dench** has a boat.

review notes¬ices

THE OXFAM CHILDREN'S WEAR EVENT

Friday 12th September 2008 As the school year ends and children change schools, families faced with funding a new set of uniform or replacing outgrown items will be glad to know that the Oxfam Children's Wear event takes place in the Berkhamsted Civic Centre opening at 9:00am.

In Liberia, recovering from over a decade of civil war, primary school education is now free and a woman president is encouraging schooling for girls. Only 26% of women in Liberia are literate. Oxfam has supported the setting up of Girls' Clubs in schools and is also paying for teacher training and facilities such as libraries. Now working in 12 schools, Oxfam is also involved in setting up night schools so that older people who have had no formal education can benefit.

But this all costs money so occasions like the twice yearly Oxfam children's wear event are vital. The event provides a wealth of children's clothes for the new season from tots to teens. Books, toys and games will also be available.

In just two and a half hours Oxfam can transform the lives of children in the developing world and help young families here too.

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CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week, from **11-18th May 2008**, has come and gone. The large, red envelopes dropped through letterboxes and a few days later collectors rang doorbells or knocked knockers to collect them. Cakes were made and plants potted up for the stall in the market and helpers chatted to friends and strangers and persuaded them to buy for their cake tins or gardens.

The total raised in Berkhamsted was £5,200 and this will go to support all aspects of Christian Aid work. The total for the United Kingdom is not yet available, but last year it was just over £14 million!

The focus for Christian Aid Week was Bangladesh where rising sea levels caused by climate change have flooded the wells with salt water. Villages on the river banks near the coast have lost their supplies of drinking water. Thanks to Christian Aid, working through a local partner organisation, many people are now able to collect rain water and store it safely in special tanks, and the women in the villages are involved with teaching others to use their limited supplies of clean water responsibly. The net result is that women feel valued, everyone is healthier and children are able to spend more time in school, instead of travelling long distances to get expensive drinking water. Christian Aid continues to campaign about climate change which is already affecting the poorest communities in countries like Bangladesh.

All our contributions are greatly appreciated by Christian Aid, but this year's total for Berkhamsted was down on that of the last two years. Next year, let's aim to increase it!

BERKHAMSTED'S HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Once again the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society is staging Berkhamsted's Heritage Open Days as part of the nationally sponsored Civic Trust's event, giving free entry to many interesting buildings and the opportunity to learn more through guided tours of Berkhamsted's hidden history. Popular sites, such as 173 High Street, formerly Figg's the chemist, the oldest known urban timber-framed building in the

review notes¬ices

country, and Ashlyns School, formerly the Foundling Hospital, with the opportunity to hear from former foundlings of life in the hospital, are included, together with the Town Hall, Berkhamsted Castle and St Peter's Church and the Old Hall and Chapel of Berkhamsted Collegiate School. This year we are introducing two new sites, St Mary's, Northchurch and St John's Broadway, Bourne End. Many may not be aware of the important historical link between these two churches. Why is Peter the Wild Boy who lived with the Fenns at Bourne End buried at St Mary's, and why did the funeral of the Rector of Northchurch, **Sir John Culme Seymour**, take place at St John's and not St Mary's, Northchurch, and finally what is the link between The Hall, Berkhamsted, and this beautiful little church at Bourne End? – all will be revealed if you visit these two churches on **September 14th 2008**.

Further details will be available nearer the time from the Society's website, <http://www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk> or from <http://heritageopendays.org> or from **Jenny Sherwood** on 865158.

WAY INN

Saturday 16th August 2008 2:00pm

Is there a book in you?

Kathy Lee will be hosting a workshop on getting into print as part of the *Creative Christians* promotion taking place on Saturdays in August. Kathy will draw on her extensive experience to present all aspects of transforming your creative genius into published work. Refreshments will be served and the afternoon will be fun as well as informative. Also, although they have had a good response to their *Creative Christians* Saturday afternoons they still need more exhibitors prepared to display their creative work. Don't be shy! Call **Kate Hardy**, Bookshop Manager, on 870768 for more information.

ASHRIDGE NATIONAL TRUST EVENTS

For booking and details of all events phone 01442 851227.

Saturday 9th August 2008 8:00pm
Incredible Edible Dormouse Talk and Walk - learn all about this rare local animal, followed by an optional walk. Ashridge Estate Visitors' Centre

Saturday 16th August 2008 8:00am - 6:00pm *Trail and Ale* 16 mile boundary walk around the Ashridge Estate ending at the local pub (experienced walkers only). Booking required

Wednesday 20th August 2008 10:15 am
Mini-Beast Safari - Forget the Serengeti. Experience the wilds of Tring and track ferocious predators and their prey across the wildlife area. Booking required.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

Thursday 21st - Saturday 23rd August at 7:00pm in Berkhamsted Civic Centre - The Dacorum Live Summer Theatre School presents *The Wind in the Willows*, based on the book by **Kenneth Graham**, adapted by **Jane Iredale**. To book call 01442 228091 or visit <http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/arts>

LIONS BANK HOLIDAY FETE

Monday 25th August 2008 1:00 - 5:00pm in Berkhamsted Cricket Club grounds. A traditional family fete. Main arena event: The Medieval Combat Society will be re-enacting combat in the 14th century. Net proceeds in aid of local charities.

August

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist	
		9:30am Sung Eucharist	
		6:00pm Evensong	
	<i>All Saints'</i>	3 rd 10:00am Holy Communion - Methodist led	
		10 th 10:00am Sung Eucharist - Anglican led	
		17 th 10:00am Morning Worship - Methodist led	
		24 th 8:00am Holy Communion - Methodist led	
		10:00am Morning Worship - Methodist led	
		31 st 10:00am Morning Worship - Methodist led	
All services at <i>St Peter's</i> unless otherwise indicated. MP = Morning Prayer EP = Evening Prayer			
MON	MP	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	MP	7:30am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 11:00am (<i>Fr Michael's day off</i>)
FRI	MP	7:30am	EP 5:00pm <i>both churches</i> Eucharist 9:15am
SAT	MP	9:30am <i>St Peter's</i>	EP 5:00pm <i>St Peter's</i> Eucharist 10:00am <i>St Peter's</i>
	MP	8:45am <i>All Saints'</i>	

3 rd Mon	GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP 7:45pm	Court House
	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 th Tue	MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:00pm	17 <i>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 <i>Meadow Rd</i>
	<i>All are very welcome at 11:30am as arranged</i>	or at Ruth's 1 <i>Montague Rd</i>
	Contact: Jenny Wells (870981) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)	
Wed	PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7-8:30pm . (yrs 5-8)	Jimmy Young (384929) <i>All Saints' Hall</i>
3 rd Wed	GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT Lunch at 12:30pm for those who have been bereaved.	
	Contact 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 Helen Ruberry (865048)	<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 <i>St Peter's</i> (10am)	
	Carrie Wegenerl (877404)	
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

Sat 2 10:30am Bellringing: Universities Association of Change Ringers
ringing tour *St Peter's*

Sat 16 8:00am Association of Berkhamsted Churches

Prayer Breakfast.....*Berkhamsted Baptist Church*

Fri 29 8:00pm Bellringing visitors: Quarter Peal..... *St Peter's*

SEPTEMBER

Fri 5 10:00am Little Fishes Service..... *St Peter's*

Tue 9 10:15am Chuckles Toddlers' service

Samuel the good Listener *All Saints'*

Fri 12 1:00pm Recital: Angela Brownridge *piano*..... *St Peter's*

Sat 13 10:00am Start of Beds & Herts Historic Churches

Sponsored Bike Ride (ends 6pm).....*most churches*

7:30pm The Cowper Society presents –

The Bridgewater Sinfonia *St Peter's*

Sun 14 2:00pm Local History Society Tours *St Peter's*

6:00pm Choral Evensong *St Peter's*

Fri 19 1:00pm Recital: Felicity Vincent '*cello*,

Dominic Saunders *piano* *St Peter's*

Sat 20 8:00am Association of Berkhamsted Churches

Prayer Breakfast... *Kings Road Church*

7:30pm The Cowper Society presents – Berkhamsted Choral Society

A Chorus of Celebration. *Vivaldi Gloria* and other works

Phone 871967 for details and tickets..... *St Peter's*

Tue 23 10:15am Chuckles Toddlers' service

David & Goliath..... *All Saints'*

review registers

Baptisms (St Peter's)

22 June Charlotte Megan Powell, Amelia Grace Thompson, Edward John Price,
Freddy Christopher Davies, James Thomas Noble Roscoe, Gabriella Mae Tonev

Weddings (St Peter's)

5 July Philip Joshua Shaw & Hannah-Grace Abramian
Geoffrey Neal Williams & Natalie-Paula Dabreo

Memorial Service

16 June Michael Muller *St Peter's Church*

Funeral

27 June Eric Gerald Sandifer *Chiltern Crematorium*

review factfile

YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST PETER'S AND ALL SAINTS'

St Peter's

Sunday school and Pathfinders run from 9:30am to 10:30 in the Court House (next to the church in the High Street). Sunday School caters for 4 to 10 year olds, Pathfinders from 10 years upwards. Contact Helen Nicholls (873162) for Sunday School or Stephen Lally for Pathfinders (863526).

Donutz - for young people (10 years up) meeting at St Peter's Church or the Court House every Sunday after the 9:30am service. Contact Stephen Lally (863526) or Gill Malcolm (874993)

Crèche is available at 9:30am for under 3's. Parents are most welcome to use this facility in the Court House. Please contact Nicola Beadle (874538)

All Saints'

The Anglican and Methodist children meet together on Sundays at 10:00 am as *Explorers*, in four age-groups: *Trekkers* 3-5 years, *Hikers* 5-8 years, *Climbers* 8-10 years and *Pathfinders* 11 years onward. Contacts: for Explorers—Carenza Wilton (875147), for Pathfinders—Penny O'Neill (843422) or Rebecca Judd (865691).

Youth Groups

TEs for Year 9 up meets each Thursday at 7pm to 9pm in the Court House Contact Jimmy Young (384929)

Pathfinders games club meets 7:00-8:30pm each Wednesday in All Saints' Hall. Contact Jimmy Young (384929)

Been to the
Post Office?

Next stop
the Bookshop
then coffee
to recover

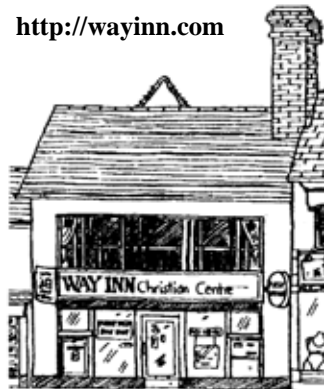


WAY INN

A Christian Centre at 268 High Street

Telephone: Coffee Shop 864751, Bookshop 870768

<http://wayinn.com>



Drawing by Mary Casserley, with permission

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, (875970)
The Revd Canon Basil Jones (Hon.Asst.Priest), 17 Lochnell Road (864485)
The Revd Canon Anthony Lathe (Hon Asst Priest), 15a Kingsdale Road (863115)
The Revd John Russell (Hon Asst Priest) 49 Tring Road, Aylesbury (01296 423022)
Christina Billington (Diocesan Lay Minister), 13 Ashridge Rise (385566)
Marjorie Bowden (Reader Emeritus), 16 Broadwater (871283)
Joan Cook (Reader Emeritus), 6 Clunbury Court (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)
Peter Bryant, 36 North Road (871680)
 All Saint's Representatives: **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): **Helen Ruberry** 2 Hall Park (865048)

All Saints'

Choirmaster: **Peter McMunn** (874894)
 All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist
 Local Ecumenical Partnership.
 Methodist minister: **The Revd Paul Timmis** (866324)

Personalities in the Parish



Answer next month

July's Personality



**Philippa Seldon (of course) as a student nurse
at the Middlesex hospital in 1962**



← p19 All Saints'

From left, **Tracy Robinson** (of All Saints' Church), **Revd Andrew Hollins** (Ecumenical Officer for the Methodist Church in Hertfordshire), **Revd Christopher Futchter** (Ecumenical Officer in the St Albans Archdeaconry), **Major Gerald Peacock** (County Ecumenical Officer, Churches Together in Hertfordshire), **Revd Paul Timmis** (All Saints' Church), **Revd Anne Brown** (Chair of the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire Methodist District), **Rt Revd Christopher Foster** (Bishop of Hertford), **Revd Dr Michael Bowie** (Rector of the Parish of Great Berkhamsted), **Revd Antony Cavanagh** (Superintendent of the Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted Methodist Circuit), **John Wignall** (All Saints' Church).



← p11 Plastic Fantastic at Victoria School

photos: Cathy Salmon

