

# Berkhamsted *review*

**November 2008**

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*for Town and Parish*

**30p**



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

### **Welcome to the November 2008 issue of the Berkhamsted review**

I have written this month (p11) about *Transition Town Berkhamsted* and the *Sustainable Communities Act*. One of the issues with which these developments are concerned is the protection of *green spaces* within our communities. How *green* is Berkhamsted? The answer to that depends on how we choose to define *green*. If *green* means trees, then Berkhamsted is surprisingly *green*. Go to a vantage point and look across the town. Even in the centre there are many fine trees, and the more residential outlying areas seem veritable woodland. Old photographs of the town show that there are many more trees now than there were in the nineteenth century.

Then the valley sides were still farmland or the open parkland attached to our great houses. The trees we see now are often in people's gardens. Protecting them is a central issue in concerns and conflicts over building in those gardens. Fortunately most of the finest trees, such as those in the churchyard around St Peter's Church, are protected by *Tree Protection Orders*. Our trees are all the more important because there isn't all that much public open space in Berkhamsted - but that's another issue.

**Christopher Green**

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Cover: 212 High Street (see p13)

*Photo: Tony Firshman*

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**Next copy dates (all Fridays)**

**31 Oct 28 Nov 2 Jan**



**Finding a Rule**  
**Fr John Russell**  
 commends the daily  
 routine

## review leader

I suspect most of us have various routines which we follow each day, particularly at the beginning or end of the day; whether it's the taking of children to and from school, catching the train or

bus for the daily commute, going to the gym, walking to the shop for the paper or taking the dog for a walk, as well as the simple tasks of washing and dressing.

Many Christians and believers of other faiths too, have a daily routine, often called a *rule*. For priests, it may centre round the daily office of morning and evening prayer. For me, having a full time job as well as being a priest, finding a rule which works for me has taken time. I read the bible each morning, but in the form of a short portion of scripture with a commentary along side it; I use two, one English, one International, in addition I use a book with daily readings from various religious writers, including Julian of Norwich, John of the Cross, Frances de Sales and many others, it sounds pious but it isn't.

I realise of course that we're all different; even the way we hear and take on board information is different, whether it be the news on radio or television, or reading the paper, we all assimilate in unique ways. Professor Leslie Francis, Professor of Religions and Education at Warwick University and Canon Theologian of Bangor Cathedral, has done much research in these fields and his books make interesting reading. One particular point of interest for me is his studies as to how different personality types hear a bible reading.

Using my usual rule, one particular morning I read a passage by Jean-Pierre de Caussade from his book *The Flame of Divine Love* entitled *A Most Dangerous Temptation*, in which he warns the reader not to be tempted to be discouraged; *I conjure you to resist it with all your might. Have confidence in God and be convinced he will finish the work he has begun in you. Your foolish fears about the future come from the devil. Think of the*

*present, abandon the future to Providence. It is the good use of the present that assures the future.*

The same morning the reading set was from St Matthew's Gospel [6: 25-34] Jesus said

*I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ... And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ... Do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own.*

We live in a world of economic, political and social uncertainty, if we look back in history it was ever thus. There are few constants in our lives, but the ones we do have, we should cherish and support; our families and loved ones, our friends and neighbours, our community and perhaps most of all our faith in God. Perhaps as well, we should value our daily routines a little more, even develop a daily *rule* of our own, even if it's just five minutes alone with a cup of coffee and a bit of silence, it might be really useful. Life can feel a bit of a drudge and we can easily take our nearest and dearest for granted and not stop to count our blessings. Often the mundane nature of everyday living can feel like a treadmill, but perhaps it can be our lifeline in today's insecurity. I am reminded of Kipling's words in his well known poem *If... If you can keep your head when all about you are losing their's and blaming it on you.... Your's is the Earth and everything that's in it...*

It seems to me at this time, we need to hold on to our core values - for Christians, the writer of the Hebrews has it right, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever [13:8]*. So let us take courage and hold fast and take each day as it comes ... well, I'll try, will you? ♦

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*Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem.....with Mary to whom he was engaged, and who was expecting a child. Luke1:4-5*

No doubt this was not a very comfortable journey for the holy family. Travel was not easy in the first century A.D. The journey of more than 70 miles would have been taken on foot and the accommodation too would be basic once they arrived at their destination. We know that when they finally arrived at Bethlehem, there was, *no place for them at the inn.*

There would have been many preparations to be made before Mary and Joseph set out, especially as the birth of a baby was imminent. Babies in those days did not require much, but still there would be much to carry and whether that *little donkey* existed we do not know. It is not mentioned in Luke's gospel.



## A JOURNEY LONG AGO

Jenny Wells welcomes the travelling crib

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Of course it is not Christmas yet, and we in the church have been used to deploring the commercial side of things. So many shops start stocking up with Christmas items as soon as the children go back to

school after the summer holidays. But some preparations still *do* have to be made don't they?

It will soon be Advent and during that time we shall be remembering that journey to Bethlehem taken so long ago. On Advent Sunday (November 30th) two travelling cribs will set out, one from All Saints' Church and one from St Peter's Church and that will take preparation.

Each crib consists of Mary, Joseph and the donkey and they are always greeted by children as old friends. Mary and Joseph are knitted and are very child friendly. They travel to their destination in a padded basket.

This holy family is not going to be left without accommodation this year because they will be offered hospitality by a different family every night until they arrive at the crib service on Christmas Eve in time for the birth of Baby Jesus the next day.

That is where the preparation is necessary.

There will be lists in each church on 9th and 16th November and you will be asked to sign up for one night. The lists do fill up very quickly and it would be a shame if a family was left out. If you wish to take part in this and think you might not be able to be in church on these dates, please contact **Tracy Robinson** (863559) for St Peter's or **Jenny Wells** (870981) for All Saints'. ❖

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There was once a cement factory close to Pitstone village, just to the north of Tring, which was supplied by three chalk quarries. Since it closed down in 1991, the site of the factory has been converted into a new housing estate. Of the three quarries, one has been partly converted into a business park and another has been subject to an unsuccessful application for a licence to convert it into a landfill site. The third has, since 1984, been gradually maturing into a stunningly beautiful wildlife park.

College Lake Wildlife Centre, as it is called, is just over 160 acres of lakes, marshes, chalk grassland and wooded slopes, which lies just across the Buckinghamshire border between the Euston to Birmingham railway line and the Grand Union Canal, a couple of miles to the north-east of Tring. But as

## Ian Reay's &news &views

### Chalk Quarry to Wildlife Park

**Ian Reay makes a  
rewarding journey**

you drive off the B488 into the College Lake site there is no hint of the vista which will present itself to you once you have left your car and walked a little way into the grounds. The first glimpse, on arrival, gives the surprising impression of a miniature landscape, which somehow manages to convey an aspect of vast stillness within a hidden, tiny corner of the countryside.

More than a thousand different species have been spotted here, including ten species of orchid, and at least sixty species of birds – swans and magpies, red kite and geese, woodpeckers, kingfishers, different kinds of finches and martins, and many, many more. The more exotic bird species include widgeon, teal, the larger saw-billed goosander, lapwing, ringed plover and redshank. It is a harbour for

p9 ➔



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If you were in the vicinity of St Peter's church on the morning of Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2008, you

would have heard the bells ringing, and it was very good ringing indeed.

It was a full peal and was successfully completed in 2 hours 47 minutes. Seven of the ringers had not rung a peal at Berkhamsted before. Some of them had travelled some distance to do so, though the eighth person was local ringer, **David Burbidge**. Peal ringing is an acquired taste, and the collective total of those eight ringers is over 15,100. Each peal takes on average 3 hours. That's many, many hours of ringing and does not include the time spent on unsuccessful peals, not completed because of human error, mechanical failure or because the standard of ringing is not acceptable.

This peal at Berkhamsted drew on the wide network of ringers across the

## A GOLDEN PEAL

Margaret Burbidge reports

country. It was specially arranged to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of **Alan and Marion**

**Ainsworth** of Amersham. Alan and Marion are both experienced and well-known ringers. Alan's peal total exceeds 3,700 and he is Secretary of the St Paul's Cathedral band, organising ringing there for Sunday services and other special events. Berkhamsted was not the only place where bells were rung to mark this special occasion. Altogether 42 ringers took part in 5 churches that Saturday morning, providing the opportunity to meet other ringers and renew acquaintances with old friends, especially while socialising afterwards in a hostelry in Amersham.

We in Berkhamsted were privileged to have our bells rung by some of the country's leading bell-ringers, who produced ringing that was of a high standard and a pleasure to hear. ❖

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### ← p7 Chalk Quarry to Wildlife Park

migrating birds that either spend winter there, having travelled from the north, or remain there during the summer and migrate southwards for winter. It is possible to walk around the lakes, which make up most of the centre, by means of a two-mile long circular walk. Around this perimeter walk the Trust has built a number of *hides* for bird-watchers to sit in and spot the different species without disturbing them.

To preserve the habitat for wading bird species, in particular, the water level on the marshy segments has to be carefully managed. The persistent rainfall, that we have experienced for several seasons now, has led to water levels in the marshland being rather higher at the moment than the Trust would like. Originally the Trust pumped surplus water off into the canal but that is no longer possible and so they have built a new system, which will control the water levels by pumping water from the

marshy wetlands into the deeper lakes.

College Lake shows what can be achieved by one man's vision and energy. When the site was originally opened as a chalk quarry in 1972 it was agreed that it would revert to farmland when it was no longer economical to extract chalk. But the Centre's founder, **Graham Atkins** (now an MBE), who is a former lorry driver at the cement works, managed to persuade the owners, Castle Cement Ltd, and the local council, to support a wildlife venture. The Bucks, Beds and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust now manage it, and it is run by volunteers. It has 7000 visitors every year. College Lake is a very rewarding visit but it is closed at the moment while a new visitor and education centre is being built at the entrance. It will reopen again to visitors on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. Before visiting we are asked to get a permit from the Warden's Office. ❖



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**T**he *Transition Town Movement* is about changing the way we source and use energy - making the *transition* from reliance on oil to a much more diversified pattern of energy use.

The need to make this transition is of course recognised at international and national levels, but the *Transition Town Movement* focuses on the issues at a local level.

*Transition Town Berkhamsted* began informally last year, but having attracted the support of the Town Council has now gained formal recognition, joining about a hundred other Transition Towns worldwide, from the UK to New Zealand, from Ireland to Chile, from small communities like our own to inner city Brixton and the City of Bristol.

*Transition Town Berkhamsted* has held three public meetings so far where citizens of the town had the opportunity to discuss ways in which our community can adapt to the changing energy environment. This is an issue that has many ramifications, including access to public transport, incentives to encourage cycling and walking, greater dependence on local produce, developments of local energy sources and local re-use of waste products.

The emphasis on opportunities in the local community is being given new significance by the passage through Parliament of the *Sustainable Communities Act* in October of last year. This Act puts in place a process through which local communities and their local authorities, including County Councils, can influence central government policy, in particular through measures to reverse community decline and to promote sustainable communities. The Act provides the opportunity to support local sustainability by promoting local businesses, local jobs, shops, public services and local sources of renewable energy; by protecting green spaces, by alleviating fuel and food poverty and by encouraging people to participate in local decision making. The Act also obliges central government to publish details of the public money spent in each local area.

## TRANSITION TOWN BERKHAMSTED

**Christopher Green investigates**

The formal invitation to local authorities to *opt in* to the provisions of the Act was made on 14<sup>th</sup> October by **Hazel Blears**, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Local

authorities don't have to *opt in* but the benefits of *opting in* are obvious. Where local authorities *opt in*, the Act imposes a duty on central government to assist them in promoting the sustainability of local communities.

To take advantage of this assistance local authorities have to submit relevant proposals to central government. They must however involve local people in the shaping of any such proposals. To do this the local authority has to set up *citizens' panels* representative of the residents in the council's area of responsibility. Where suitable representative groups already exist, local councils may recognise them as such. It is essential however that these new panels include people from those groups that are often under-represented in public affairs and local decision-making - for example the young, the elderly and ethnic minorities.

*Transition Town Berkhamsted* obviously has the potential to play a role in the local implementation of the *Sustainable Communities Act*. At its September meeting, the Act was the subject of a talk by **Steve Shaw** of *Unlock Democracy*, the group which has been campaigning for the new legislation for several years .

**On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2008, *Transition Town Berkhamsted* will be holding a public meeting in the Town Hall with the title *A Great Unleashing*. This will be an opportunity for the citizens of Berkhamsted to learn more about developing a sustainable community, and also an opportunity to become involved in initiating practical projects to make the community more sustainable.**

For more details contact **Danny Bonnett** (07795 236402) or **Marion Baker** (874732), or see <http://transitionberkhamsted.org.uk> ❖

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Any worthwhile guide to Berkhamsted mentions the fact that **William Cowper** was born here. His father **John Cowper** was the Rector. William was baptised in St Peter's Church on December 13<sup>th</sup> 1731. Berkhamsted has gently drawn attention to this connection with Cowper from an early date. Cowper died in 1801. Engravings of the Rectory, entitled *The Birthplace of Cowper* appeared in the early nineteenth century, perhaps even earlier, and were no doubt sold locally as souvenirs. The Rectory that was Cowper's birthplace was pulled down in about 1830 by the Rector at that time, John Crofts, who put up the grander building that survives today as the Old Rectory. The present Rectory stands on the site of Cowper's birthplace. The memory of Cowper is kept alive in Berkhamsted in many ways. There are two windows in St Peter's Church that commemorate him. He is remembered in Cowper Road, and Gilpin's Ride recalls the subject of one of his most famous poems. All this is by way of preamble to my main

## THE DAME'S SCHOOL?

Christopher Green writes



purpose which is to draw attention to another building in Berkhamsted which is said to have associations with Cowper. On our cover this month is a photograph, apparently of M&Co, but in fact continuing our series of buildings with a date visible on the outside. The date is inscribed in a decorative brick set in the structural brickwork at first floor level - but is it 1726 or 1762? The building is one of three that form the premises of M&Co. The three separate buildings are

easily recognisable above the modern shop front. Facing the store, the one on the right is probably the oldest. It has an eighteenth century façade but inside at the rear of the shop the roof timbers of a much older building are exposed above the duvets and the blankets. The dated building, the middle one of the three, also has a Georgian façade and, as well as the date, has a blue plaque - No 25 in the Berkhamsted Heritage Walk, described as **William Cowper's School**. So this is, perhaps, the place where Cowper's mother, in the words of his biographer David Cecil, *when he was old enough to do lessons ...sent him off to learn his book at the dame's school down the street*. His mother died when he was six and soon after, his father sent him away to school in Markyate. So Cowper was at the dame's school in Berkhamsted in the 1730s and if our photograph is truly of that school, the date must be 1726; unless the Georgian façade we now see was added - in 1762 - to an older building, as seems to have happened to the house next door. Or perhaps the house was built in 1762 and wasn't the dame's school after all. ❖



This walk is a modest 3 miles, about two hours or perhaps more if you choose to explore the wonders of nature.

## AUTUMN SPLENDOUR

**Townsman** sets out across  
Berkhamsted Common

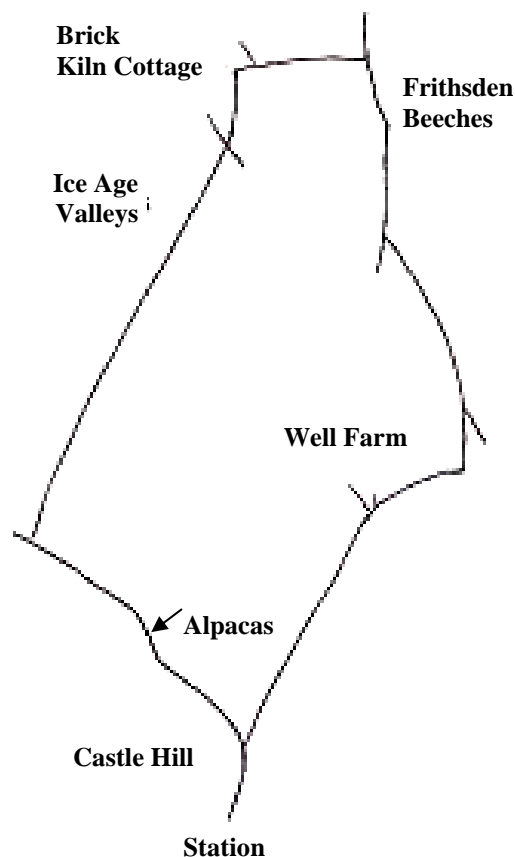
Autumn is a wonderful time to walk in the Chilterns. The gold of the falling beech leaves, the red of berries and russet all around brings a riot of colour to the countryside. On the floor of the woodlands, fungi of many varieties can add a fungus foray to the walk. Fly Agaric, the red and white spotted fungus inhabits the birch woods. *Lepiota cristata* with its brown speckled cap and the bell like shaggy ink cap can both be seen anywhere. Beware the Death Cap fungus, especially common under beech and oak, with its yellow cap on a long stalk!

The walk starts at the bottom of Castle Hill, reached by going under the railway bridge at Berkhamsted station to pass the Castle and continue on Brownlow Road into Castle Hill. The Map Reference is 9947 0845, post code HP4 1HE.

Walk up Castle Hill to reach a signpost showing that the unmade access road on the right is a Public Footpath. The footpath passes converted barns on the left where take the right fork with donkeys and alpacas in the field on the right. (What do you get if you cross a donkey with an alpaca; a prize for the best answer!) Cross the stile ahead into a field rising gently on a grassy track with a hedge on the left. At the far side of the field in front of two farm gates turn right under oak trees and walk on the field edge with a hedgerow on left. The footpath drops down into a shallow valley and then rises to reach a stile and a way mark post alongside. Over the stile, continue ahead with the hedgerow and trees now on the right and a wheat field on the left. At the far side of the field, under a mighty oak, cross the track coming in from left and right and continue ahead with a midden heap on the right. The footpath passes a concealed pond and continues downhill to cross a stile where the path becomes

steeper. The valleys to left and right are a reminder of the influence on the landscape of the glaciers of the Ice Age near their most southerly point. At the

bottom of the valley continue ahead rising steeply to pass under a splendid beech tree and cross over a stile with a way mark post a few feet ahead. To the right of the way mark post is a large holly bush, go round it to reveal a narrow path initially continuing in the direction you have been following. The path soon bears left to reach a cross track, a bridleway, with a way mark post on the left of a mighty oak tree. A word of caution. Some tracks





designated as bridleways appear to be unused by horses and have been narrowed by encroaching bracken. Follow the instructions carefully through the many criss-cross tracks in this area regardless of the width of the track you are approaching! To the right of the oak tree is another bridleway, continue in the same direction to reach a small area of open grassland and another cross track, also a bridleway. Turn left and follow the bridleway to emerge from the bracken onto a broad track. Cross the track continuing in the same direction to go under the canopy of an oak tree to reach a wide grassy expanse with trees on both sides. Turn left to reach the gravelled access road to Brick Kiln cottage, a property on your left.

Turn right to walk on the grassy field edge alongside the access road. Ignore a signpost on the right pointing into the woods and across the field with a brown Frithsden Beeches information board close by. Continue until reaching a roadside way mark post where the access road is curving to the left. Drop down onto a flinty path on the right and turn right to walk towards another brown information board ahead. At the board continue in the same direction on a track with trees, shrubs, and dying fern on both

sides. There is a high probability of seeing fallow deer, frozen still to avoid detection until disturbed, in this area. The track goes steeply downwards, crossing a bridleway, before continuing upwards. Where the track later enters an overhang of trees, look to the right where the effect of pollarding of beeches decades ago is displayed by an ancient beech with eight massive boughs reaching skywards.

The track breaks out into a junction of bridleways with a wooden signpost on the left with four arms. Cross the open area continuing in the same direction to a bridleway with a silver birch on the right to reach a way mark post where the route bears left to a fork. Take the left fork between gorse bushes and continue on the straight and well defined track through hedgerow and trees. After a while the track becomes noticeably broader with a path coming in on the right from the corner of a field. Keep walking until the mound of a golf green can be seen in the distance as the path bears round to the left. Turn immediately right here onto a narrow path which goes downhill increasingly steeply to reach a cross path with a mud bath churned up by horses. Turn right to reach a tarmac road where turn right downhill to pass Well Farm house and reach farm buildings and silos.

Turn left though the galvanised swing gate opposite the silos and continue walking with a hedge on the right to reach sports grounds to left and right. The footpath reaches a car park and gates with a stile alongside crossing onto the start of the walk at Castle Hill.

Townsmen hopes you have enjoyed your walk, or fungus foray. *Salad Days*, the popular musical, has it that *Autumn is just as nice as Spring*. Why not get out there and see if you agree? ❖



photo: Tony Firshman

→p32

## A VERY SMALL WORLD

It was one of the all too few sunny days in August of this year when encouraged by the blue sky and a hopeful weather forecast I decided on the spur of the moment to revisit the small Cotswold village of Blockley.

**Frank Norman** revisits  
childhood memories

I knew that it would have a strong element of nostalgia for me as my Mother was born and brought up there. Sadly I was also aware that I would not have my dear wife Muriel in the car to guide me, as she always had, with her faultless map-reading. Nevertheless after a careful look at the road map I set off and some two hours later arrived in Blockley.

The village itself was much as I remembered it with Cotswold stone walls and graded stone tiled roofs spattered with lichen growth. I must admit however it was a shock to see the multitude of motor vehicles parked nose to tail along the High Street - progress indeed!

After walking the length of the High Street I turned back and made my way to the village Church of St Peter and St Paul. Inside I took several photographs including some of the six hundred year old stone font with roses carved around it. My only other encounter with this piece of stone carving took place nearly eighty years ago, but I cannot for the life of me remember whether I cried or not!

I then spoke to a lady whose name I subsequently learned was **Rhia Bazeley**. She and her husband Chris edit the *Church and Village News* - the equivalent of our **Berkhamsted review**. After my visit Rhia wrote an article for their publication which among other things dealt with the unusual consequences of our chance meeting. In her words, because I could not possibly describe it more adequately, here is part of *Blockley - A Special Place*.

By the time I went back into the church, the crowd of visitors had

gone. There was only one gentleman in the nave taking in every detail. I wished him good morning, and we began to converse. He informed me that he was

visiting the church where he was christened. This accounted for his obvious interest in the font, which I had previously observed. We continued our chat, and it transpired that he was visiting alone - not as a member of the large group I had observed earlier - and he had travelled that morning from Berkhamsted where he and his wife lived for most of their married life. He told me that he had never visited the church before but he and his wife had wanted to for many years. His dear wife had died last December, and he would have loved her to see the village. I was able to give him my sincere sympathy for his loss and explained that I



St Peter and St Paul church, Blockley

had just been tending my father's grave in the churchyard, and how our grief is still raw after losing him in March. He replied that his mother had been a Blockley girl and he had many fond childhood memories of visiting his Grandparents in Blockley. He remarked that the house where they lived was still so vivid to him at 80, even though his visits here were when he was only about five years old. *Where, I enquired, did his Grandparents live?* His reply left me speechless - *Sheafhouse Cottage, just on the edge of the village, towards Draycott.* When I told him that this was where I live, he was speechless too!

You can imagine the details the conversation then spiralled into. We were both enthralled, me by the memories he had of our beloved home 75 years ago, and he by developments in recent years. He was an architect by profession, and I was pleased to invite him to see the house

before he returned home to Berkhamsted. We parted at the church having exchanged names and I directed him to lunch at the Shop and Café. He wanted to look round the rest of the village, but promised to call in to see us later in the afternoon. I scuttled home to tell Chris about my morning and share my excitement.

We were both delighted when Frank walked into the drive, just in time for a cup of tea with us in the garden. Having looked round the house, we sat in the shade and talked about what he remembered, the lay out, not only off the house, but of the farm opposite and the orchard, which he remembers was full of delicious yellow plum trees. One of his vivid memories was of hanging out of the very top bedroom window, which was where all the children slept, dormitory fashion, looking at the farm traction engine filling up its tank from the brook at the bridge next to *Sleepy Hollow* - near *The Dell*. During this interlude an unusual light aircraft flew over, and both Frank and Chris looked skyward with interest. They then proceeded to discover a mutual interest in aviation ... and so the afternoon progressed.

Frank enjoyed his visit to Blockley and we were overwhelmed by the series of coincidences we experienced. I have always been aware of the work of angels in our daily lives, and this was a day when I feel the angels were very active indeed. I got the impression when Frank decided to make that long promised trip to Blockley, he was just beginning to try to put his life back on track after the death of his beloved wife and to take a trip on his own was not something he normally did. However, he was inspired by the beauty of our village and because I bumped into him where and when I did he was able to share his sadness and also relive all the happy memories of his childhood in this very special place. He left us saying that it had been a very special day indeed, as it truly was for us too.



Inside the church

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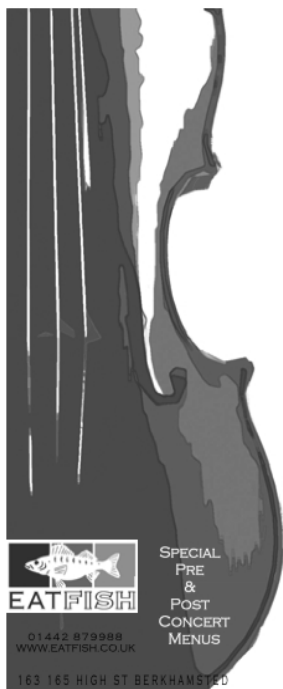
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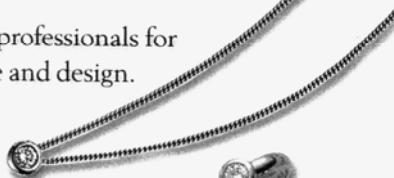
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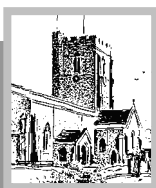
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**Saints aren't  
Perfect  
The Revd  
Jonathan  
Gordon explains**

## *review* Northchurch & Wigginton

The bookstalls in the charity shops in Berkhamsted are a never-ending source of fascinating reading material. Last week I picked up a book entitled *The Damned*

*United*. It describes Brian Clough's forty-four day tenure as manager of Leeds United in 1974. The previous season Leeds had been champions and Clough who had led Derby to the title in 1972 took on the job after his bitter rival, Don Revie, had become manager of England. The book is written from the perspective of the mind and thoughts of Clough himself and he comes across as fascinating, deeply complex and slightly paranoid. It made me realise how much I missed Clough's perspective on football and was a great reminder of what a character he was. I remember someone described him as a *flawed genius*, which is a fair summary of the book. The fact that he had so many flaws is perhaps what makes the book such an intriguing read. Despite his successes as a manager he was never content or happy, but rather driven on by the need to prove past critics wrong or the desire to keep winning at all costs. He could be rude, brash and arrogant, but could also inspire deep loyalty and bring the best out of many of the players under his control.

Not all of us are necessarily geniuses, but it might be fair to say we are all flawed. Each of us will have strengths and weaknesses, good points and bad, and most likely we are all aware of our own shortcomings and failures. In November the church celebrates All Saints' and I find it helpful to remember that the concept of sainthood or holiness is not about specialness or moral perfection, but rather how ordinary men and women have been inspired by the call and grace of God. If we expect the characters in the Bible to be shining examples of sanctity and goodness

then it is worth reflecting that many are shown to have feet of clay. As an example, King David is the writer of beautiful poetry, yet he also is described as a liar, a murderer and an adulterer. In no sense are his actions condoned, but the Bible is very clear that it is ordinary human beings who are used by God with all the frailties and weaknesses that this implies.

This remains true for all the people that Jesus calls into discipleship. They are remembered in the church as saints, but only in the sense that they retain their inconsistencies and failings. They are shown at times to be arrogant, jealous, often misunderstanding and periodically lacking faith. Yet, they are also sometimes perceptive, loyal, imaginative and courageous. The reader is given the sense that Jesus recognised in them a potential and that the weaknesses they had might in time be transformed into strengths. He allows them to make mistakes, completely overreach themselves and even look ridiculous or become humiliated. Jesus takes the long term view and calls them to follow him.

A good example is Saint Peter who makes bold claims of faithfulness, but in a time of pressure denies even knowing Jesus. In John's Gospel he is brought face to face with the risen Jesus and in Acts speaks out publicly in front of a potentially hostile crowd. What has changed? Peter is still Peter; he has not had a new character implanted into his personality. The difference is that he has lost any illusions about himself and recognises that he is dependent on God's grace and strength. Most importantly as a leader of the church, he will have compassion on anyone who makes mistakes and falls short. His own denial of Jesus will remain a core part of his identity and his own experience will teach him that grace, forgiveness and restoration are open to everyone. In this respect he is an ideal role model for the celebration of All Saints'. ❖

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# review notes&notices

## NATIONAL TRUST

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008** 2pm-4pm at Ashridge Visitors Centre - *Badger Tea and Talk* - Enjoy tea while learning about badgers. Booking required 851227

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008** 2pm at Ashridge Visitors Centre - *Incredible Edible Dormouse Tea and Talk*. Booking required 851227

## OXFAM CHILDREN'S WEAR

Huge thanks are due to all donors, customers and helpers for the fantastic £5,500 raised at the 28<sup>th</sup> Oxfam Children's Wear Event in September. Organiser **Nicky Evans** was thrilled with the result which is enough to build three new schools in Africa. Nicky's own herculean efforts were praised by Area Manager **Maria Harrison** who was kept busy operating one of the tills.


## VICTORIA SCHOOL

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2008** at 8:00pm at Victoria School. Bar from 7:00pm.

*A Child's Christmas in Wales* and other works by **Dylan Thomas** - a special benefit performance by internationally renowned actor, director and producer **Guy Masterson** to raise funds for Victoria C of E First School and Nursery. Guy, nephew of the great **Richard Burton**, will perform his award-winning interpretation of the Welsh wizard's genius. His enchanting one-man shows have won him worldwide critical acclaim – in particular his interpretation of Dylan's masterpiece *Under Milk Wood*.


Tickets, priced £10, are available from the box office on 07946 323360, from **Fiona Powell** on 07971 564532 or from **Karen Walker** on 07876 731539.

To find out more about **Guy Masterson**, visit <http://theatretoursinternational.com>.



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# *review* notes&notices

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## HOSPICE OF ST FRANCIS

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**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008** 6:00pm at The Watermill Hotel, Bourne End, Hemel Hempstead - FIREWALK - It's back!! Perform a flaming feat with your feet and take part in our firewalk.

Entry is just £30 to secure your place and you will need to raise a minimum of £200 sponsorship. For more details call Harriet on 01442-869555

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008** 9am-1pm at the Civic Centre - *Annual Christmas Fair* for cards, crafts, knitted goods and delicious refreshments.

**Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> 2008**

*HO HO HO for the Hospice*

Hemel Hempstead's first ever Santa Dash - a two and a half mile run, walk, jog, skip or sleigh through Hemel Hempstead's town centre dressed up in a free Santa outfit. Everyone who takes part can collect sponsors to raise cash for the Hospice.

Registration costs just £15 for adults and £5 for kids or £35 for a family (2 adults and up to 3 children including the dog).

Organiser **Fran Martin** said *"This is all about fun – it's a great way to do something entertaining as a family and raise money for the Hospice at the same time. We are delighted to have the Snow Centre on board as our main sponsors along with Premier Inn Central who are giving away a free bacon buttie and a cuppa to all Santa dashers"*.

**Stephen Jordan**, the Snow Centre's Technical Operations Director said *"Supporting the Hospice of St Francis' Santa Dash is a perfect fit for the Snow Centre and as Britain's premier indoor snow sports destination we are delighted to be involved from the start. It would be great to see this event snowball and raise much needed funds for the Hospice"*.

Call **Fran Martin** on 01442 869555 or email [fran.martin@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:fran.martin@stfrancis.org.uk) now for your Santa pack and dash for cash for the Hospice of St Francis.

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## FAIRTRADE COFFEE MORNING

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**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008** 9am - 12noon in the Court House by St Peter's Church. Come to an Autumn Fairtrade Coffee Morning and enjoy excellent Fairtrade coffee or tea and homemade Fairtrade cakes. Pop in before shopping or after dropping off children at school. All are welcome and there is ample room for buggies.

Find out more about Fairtrade and how schools, churches and businesses in Berkhamsted support this rapidly growing movement which seeks to abolish the scandal of poverty in developing countries and focuses on trade not aid.

There will be stalls with Fairtrade food, paper goods, crafts, cards and jewelry and ample scope to buy ethical Christmas presents and so spread the Fairtrade message.

Please be aware that we shall observe the Silence at 11am, but we have two rooms and mums with young children and babies are very, very welcome - as they were at our Spring Fairtrade Coffee Morning.

We look forward to offering you a very warm welcome.

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## BERKHAMSTED YOUTH THEATRE

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**27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> November 2008** 7:30pm daily and 2:30pm Saturday at the Court Theatre, Pendley - *Macbeth*. £6-£10 from Berkhamsted Imaging 226 High Street and at the door.

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## BERKHAMSTED MUSIC SOCIETY

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**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008** at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre - Max Brod Piano Trio playing Dvorak, Martinu and Beethoven.

£12 at the door. U18 free.

## OXFAM'S SYMBOLIC SNOWFLAKES



Global warming and climate change are major concerns for Oxfam but visitors to the shop in the High St. will be greeted by traditional winter snowflakes as part of the Christmas display. Well, not entirely traditional as the clever designs illustrate different aspects of Oxfam's work.



Stethoscopes represent healthcare work. In Azerbaijan we support community-based healthcare schemes, which involve villagers contributing a small amount each month (the poorest do not have to pay) to fund a local clinic and health worker. Oxfam refurbishes and re-equips the clinics, and provides refresher training for health workers, who may not have received any training since getting their original qualification.



Sustainable agriculture, helping people to earn a living and enjoy a better diet, is symbolized by trowels, garden forks and watering cans. In Honduras we are training farmers in organic techniques which the farmers will then teach to others.



Needles and thread are a reminder of help to sewing groups like the one in Liberia.



In a slum area of Monrovia the capital, we provided training and sewing machines for a women's group to make free school uniforms for the children who go to local schools that Oxfam is renovating or rebuilding. We are now supporting the group to find markets for the clothing they make.



Hoes represent a project in part of Malawi where HIV infection is common and many people live with AIDS. The project promotes labour-saving agriculture and communal gardening. It helps people save their strength and provides income and improved nutrition, so that they cope better with taking ARVs (Antiretroviral medicines) and are less prone to infection.

Water has been supplied for the last five years to over half a million people in Darfur and Chad using tapstands shown in another innovative design.



Spanners and screwdrivers used for maintaining vehicles and other essential equipment complete the unusual set.

Providing this essential equipment costs money but buying Christmas gifts and cards at Oxfam makes it possible to give twice – once to the recipient and once to Oxfam's partners in need.

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk>



# review notes&notices

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## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

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This year's Berkhamsted Walk took place on a beautifully sunny day in May and raised a total of £5,800. We are very grateful to all who supported us by walking and raising so much sponsorship and also to all our volunteer helpers without whom we would find it difficult to organise such a large event.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009** is the date for next year's walk— please reserve it now and tell all your friends so we can make it our best ever walk.

Over the summer we have been working with the web design company Ambrit in Northchurch to design a new website for the walk. It should be up and running by the end of this month so do take a look at We are very excited about the new site and hope it will generate lots of interest in the walk.

**Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup> 2009** at All Saints' we shall be holding a concert given by a group of musicians and singers called *The Little Singers* after their leader **Bob Little**. The concert will feature a varied programme to entertain all tastes, so do put the date in your diaries now!

Finally, thank you again to all the many people who support the fund raising events organised by The Children's Society here in Berkhamsted.

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## DACORUM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2008** at 3:30pm in the Centenary Hall, Berkhamsted Collegiate School, King's road - Strauss Horn Concerto No 1, Vaughan Williams London Symphony. £10/£7 from Berkhamsted Arts & Crafts, Lower King's Road and at the door. U18 free.

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## FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

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**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2008** from 3:00pm in the High Street. Trade and Charity stalls, children's rides and entertainment. Switching on the Towns Christmas lights - 4:00pm.

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## BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI

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**Judith Lowther**, Joint President welcomed members to our meeting and opened the proceedings with a poem by Pam Ayres. Cards were given out to the October birthday girls.

Together with joint President **Joy Lovell** they informed us about forthcoming events taking place within the Group in which we can participate. Our speaker this month was **Isobel Leek**, who gave an illustrated talk on *The Magic of the Colour Red*. We learnt how dyes were obtained, originally from insects and plant roots and now synthetically to produce the colour red. From very early days the belief was that this colour kept you safe and warded off evil spirits - a custom that survives in many Asian countries to this very day. A vote of thanks was given by **Jean Presland**. On **7<sup>th</sup> November** we hold our Annual meeting at the Court House at 2:00 pm. Our County speaker will be **Eve Davis**.

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## LOCAL HISTORY & MUSEUM SOCIETY

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**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008** at 8:00 pm in the Civic Centre - Talk by Colonel JD Sainsbury: *Hertfordshire Home Guard 1940-1945*. £2.00 at the door.

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## BERKHAMSTED THEATRE COMPANY

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**25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> November 2008** 7:45pm daily and 2:30pm Saturday at the Civic Centre - *Snow White*. Tickets from £10. Box Office 394363

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## CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS

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**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008** 9:15am-4:00pm at the Court House - Fortieth Anniversary Sale to be opened by the Mayor of Dacorum. Also on **15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2008**, same times and place.

## November

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evensong	
	<i>All Saints'</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> 10:00am Morning Worship with Baptism - Methodist led 9 <sup>th</sup> 8:00am Holy Communion - Methodist led 10:00am Sung Eucharist - Anglican led 16 <sup>th</sup> 10:00am Morning Worship - Methodist led 23 <sup>rd</sup> 10:00am Holy Communion - Methodist led 30 <sup>th</sup> 10:00am Morning Worship - Anglican led	
All services at <i>St Peter's</i> unless otherwise indicated. MP = Morning Prayer EP = Evening Prayer			
MON	MP	7:30am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 6:00pm
TUE	MP	7:30am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 9:30am <i>All Saints'</i>
WED	MP	7:30am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 8:00am
THU	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</i> Eucharist 9:15am
SAT	MP	9:30am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 10:00am
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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	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 <sup>st</sup> Tue	TUESDAY CLUB 7:45pm <i>A lively women's group with guest speaker Court House</i> Contact chairman Val Atkinson (866792)		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Kathie Lally (863526)		
4 <sup>th</sup> Tue	MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:30pm <i>17 Shaftesbury Court.</i> Tell us if anyone needs our prayers. Contact: Jenny Wells (870981)		
Wed	JULIAN MEETING: meets about twice a month at Jenny's <i>57 Meadow Rd</i> <i>All are very welcome at 11:30am as arranged</i> or at Ruth's <i>1 Montague Rd</i> Contact: Jenny Wells (870981) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)		
Wed	PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7-8:30pm . (yrs 5-8) Jimmy Young (384929) <i>All Saints' Hall</i>		
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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	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 <sup>st</sup> Fri in <i>St Peter's</i> (10am) Carrie Wegener (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 <sup>rd</sup> 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.

### November/December

#### NOVEMBER

Mon	3	8:00pm	All Souls' Requiem.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	7	10:00am	Little Fishes Service.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	9	3:00pm	The Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	11	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Daniel and the lions</i> .....	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sat	15	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches	
			Prayer Breakfast.....	<i>Northchurch Baptist Church</i>
Sat	15	7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents: Bridgewater Sinfonia .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	23	6:00pm	The Cowper Society presents:	
			St Peter's Choir <i>St Cecilia Concert</i> .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	30	6:00pm	Advent Carol Service .....	<i>St Peter's</i>

#### DECEMBER

Mon	1	8:00pm	The Cowper Society presents:	
			<i>Chroma Strings</i> play <i>Messiah</i> by candlelight .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	5	10:00am	Little Fishes Service.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
		1:00pm	Lunchtime Recital: Adrian Davis <i>Organ</i> .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	7	7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents: Berkhamsted Choral Society....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	9	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Christmas story</i> .....	<i>All Saints</i>
Fri	12	9:15am	Thomas Bourne Eucharist (with Victoria School attendance) ...	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	16	10:00am	Chuckles Toddlers' <i>Christmas Party</i> .....	<i>All Saints'</i>
		7:15pm	Thomas Coram School Christmas Service .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Wed	17	7:30pm	Rotary Carol Service .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Thu	18	9:30am	Victoria School Carol Service.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	19	12noon	Thomas Coram School End of Term Service .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	20	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches	
			Prayer Breakfast.....	<i>Sunnyside Church</i>
Sun	21	9:30am	Sung Eucharist with Sunday School Nativity.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	23	7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents: Chiltern Chamber Choir,	
			<i>Monteverdi Vespers</i> .....	<i>St Peter's</i>

## review registers

#### Baptisms (St Peter's)

7th September  
14th September  
21st September  
28th September

Ava Louise Maxwell  
James Grant Stott  
Oliver Mark Fulcher  
Henry David Charman, William Jonathan Markwort,  
Eleanor Chiara Preston

#### Weddings (St Peter's)

27th September

Paul Williamson & Kirstin Robinson

#### Funerals

29th September

Joan Mary Gregory St Peter's Church (Kingshill)

## 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 Carolina Bowie (864194) or Stephen Lally for Pathfinders (863526).

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

#### All Saints'

The Anglican and Methodist children meet together on Sundays at 10:00 am as *Explorers*, in four age-groups: *Trekkers* 3-5 years, *Hikers* 5-8 years, *Climbers* 8-10 years and *Pathfinders* 11 years onward. Contacts: for Explorers—Carenza Wilton (875147), for Pathfinders—Penny O'Neill (843422) or Rebecca Judd (865691). Crèche is available at the same time for children under 3. Contact: Vicky Drury (384794).

#### Youth Groups

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

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

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. <http://allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk>  
 Minister: **The Revd Caroline Weaver** (866324)

### Personalities in the Parish



Answer next month

### October's Personality



Adrian Davis on a punt in the 60s at Cambridge

**St Peter's  
Harvest  
Festival  
Service**

**October 5  
2008**

*The Water  
Hole*



← p14

**Autumn  
Splendour**



*photos: Rowena Pike*