

Berkhamsted. *review*

In this issue

October 2009

**A New Heaven
and a New
Earth**

Scrapbooks

**High Speed
Trains**

**A Church
Restored**

**Titles and
Rank**

**The Digital
Revolution**

**This Month's
Notes and
Events**



for Town and Parish

30p



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

**Welcome to the October 2009 issue of
the Berkhamsted review**

Last month **Ian Reay** was writing about memories. This month **Margaret Burbidge** writes about them. Memories are vitally important to all of us. Our personalities are shaped by our memories. Our collective memories are the raw material of history. From earliest times people have found ways of keeping memories alive - through story telling, through pictures and above all through the written word. Now we are becoming more and more reliant on electronic devices - e-mail, blogs, digital photography, the web, video recording and so on. The volume of words and pictures captured in electronic form is immense. Is it changing the way we remember, either individually or collectively? It probably is. Our records of our lives, the record of our children's lives can now be very much fuller than they were when we only had Brownie box cameras. But do we have time or inclination to look at it all? And how easy will it be to access in fifty years time? Will our great grandchildren be able to access these memories as easily as we can riffle through a box of old photographs or read a faded letter? How much of it will be saved at all?

Christopher Green

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...

A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

Fr John Russell explores the Revelation of St John.....p3

SCRAPBOOKS

More than a popular pastime -

Margaret Burbidge writesp5

HIGH SPEED TRAINS

Ian Reay asks - Where will they go?p7

A CHURCH RESTORED

St Peter's in the nineteenth century. -

Christopher Green writesp10

THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

Norman Cutting is unimpressedp18

TITLES AND RANK

Do they matter? **The Revd Jonathan**

Gordon asks.....p21

Cover: Bike 'n' Hike on September 12, 2009

photos: Chris Clegg

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: firshman@firshman.co.uk fax: 828255
Joe Garstin, 26 Priory Gardens, Berkhamsted, HP4 2DS (866846)
email: joe_garstin@hotmail.com

Advertising: Rowena Pike, 18 Osmington Place, Tring, HP23 4EG (826821)
email: review-ads@greatberkhamsted.org.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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Next copy dates (all Fridays)

2 Oct 6 Nov 4 Dec



A New Heaven and a New Earth

Fr John Russell
explores the
Revelation of
St John

The final book of the New Testament – *The Revelation of St John* sometimes referred to as *The Apocalypse*, has in Chapter 21 a description of a new heaven and a new earth.

Look! Look! God has moved into the neighbourhood,

making his home with men and women! They're his people, he's their God. He'll wipe every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good—tears gone, crying gone, pain gone—all the first order of things gone... Look! I'm making everything new.

[from *The Message* a contemporary language translation of the Bible - 21: vv3-5]

I have sometimes used these words [in a more traditional form] at a funeral service and have found them a source of personal comfort too, especially the phrase, *Look I am making everything new*.

As human beings, we are not able to make everything new; we can repair, touch in, bodge, fettle, tidy up, even replace a broken part with a new part. In that latter case, I suppose we can make something *like* new, but it isn't restored to its true original state. One thinks of the old woodman's axe which has had five new handles and three new heads!

In my work restoring instruments of the violin family, particularly when working on those of high value, it is very important to retain as much as possible of the original and only add the bare minimum of new material. We try to make all things as they were, before whatever disaster befell the poor, defenceless instrument and whilst we replace worn or damaged sections we cannot make things new. We try to disguise the damage, but like a scar on our bodies, the wound may heal, but the mark will remain, even if it does gradually fade with time.

With God the reverse is true; if we care to take a look at any of the healing miracles Jesus performed in the four Gospels, we read

of events that go outside all human experience both then and now. People are not just made a bit better, helped to soldier on with their disease or infirmity, no, they are completely healed, they are made whole, in fact they are made new. Surely a true vision of a new heaven and a new earth and a glimpse into the nature of God's Kingdom?

In this world in which we live, it's not all bad; returning to the example of my work, there is a strange phenomenon with restored instruments, sometimes quite unexpectedly, an instrument sounds better following extensive repair, than it ever had before. In the same way, whilst we can't make all things new in any aspect of our lives; relationships which have been damaged, bodies injured or maimed, lives turned upside down for whatever reason, can be stronger and more positive after a catastrophe than before. Frequently a major event makes us take stock, we re-examine our lives, we are forced to stop and think again, and so we work out what really matters and new priorities and goals emerge.

Wilkie Au, the professor of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University in California wrote in his book, *By Way of the Heart: Toward a Holistic Christian Spirituality*.

Achieving wholeness and holiness requires traversing the difficult terrain of real life with all its challenges and crises. Even at the end of a lifetime of effort, we still need to be completed by the finishing touch of the divine artist. God will then bring to completion in us the eternal design of people destined to love wholeheartedly. While awaiting that unifying touch of divine grace, we pilgrims are called to follow the way of Jesus. And the Lord who walks with us assures us that we will always be blessed. The blessings sent our way may not always be enjoyable, but they will always nudge us forward in our efforts to love as God intended...

It is our life's vocation to collaborate with our creator in fulfilling the Christ-potential in each of us.

Final completion comes in that vision of a new heaven and a new earth. ❖

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Making scrapbooks is a popular pastime. Does the fast-moving world in which we live create a need to preserve memories for future generations?

Scrapbooks are invaluable too for the elderly. They trigger memories and stimulate conversation and can help pass many long hours for people on their own in hospitals and residential homes. The Mothers' Union in this diocese has latched onto this, and encourages members to make scrapbooks or memory books as we call them, which are taken to elderly care units in local hospitals. We, in Berkhamsted, have taken part in this project. After all, cutting and sticking are fun whatever your age! Members brought magazines, postcards and greetings cards; pictures were selected carefully, trimmed and stuck onto sheets of A4 paper, which were put into the plastic inserts of a display book. The clear shiny pockets enhanced the pictures and make the books easy to handle and keep clean. Each memory book comes with a front page bringing love from The Mothers' Union.

This year we made a special memory book for an elderly member from our branch, **Dorothy Bailey**, now living in a local nursing home. We found photographs of Dorothy with MU members, pictures of Berkhamsted and the surrounding area, and of All Saints' Church where she worshipped for many years. The remaining pages were of flowers, gardens, food and people. I took the book to Dorothy for her 94th birthday and the joy with which she received it was something very special. It brought her great pleasure and continues to do so as we look at it together when I visit. As I sit by her side

SCRAPBOOKS

More than a Popular Pastime

Margaret Burbidge writes



<http://themothersunion.org>



Reg Bailey
MU Chief Executive

she comes more alive and delights in the pictures and speaks of the book as something of great value! This project meets one of **MU's Objectives**: To help those whose family life has met with adversity, but the words of **Mary Sumner's**

Prayer say it better:

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live.

Children, too, are **MU's** concern. Another *Objective* refers to promoting conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children. Our fast-moving world seems to demand that children become mini-adults

all too quickly; they need to be consumers. Statistics are scary. 78% of 10 year olds *enjoy shopping*. The child-orientated market in the UK is worth £30 billion! 70% of 3 year olds recognise the McDonalds logo, so it is not surprising that very young children are targeted through advertising on websites, mobile phones and television. Is childhood too commercialised? How can parents, grandparents, teachers and clergy help young people deal with the pressure?

Mothers' Union has been working on these issues for the past three years and this diocese is hosting a talk on the subject given by **Reg Bailey**, The Mothers' Union Chief Executive. It is on **Wednesday 14th October 2009** at 8:00pm in Christ Church, Radlett, WD7 7JJ. It is open to everyone, free, but please phone the **MU Office** on 01727 858979 or e-mail sec@mustalbans.fsnet.com to reserve a place. Do come! ❖

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No sooner is the autumn upon us than we are presented with offers and ideas for our holiday plans for the coming year. Many people find rail journeys a romantic form of travel, preferable to travelling by car, coach or aeroplane. I have seen suggestions for rail journey holidays in Wales, Scotland, France, Switzerland, Canada, California, the Orient Express, the Trans Siberian Express, and the Lhasa Express from Beijing to Tibet across the Himalayas.

In all these advertisements the chief attraction of the holiday, apart from the romance of train travel, is the spectacular scenery to be seen from the train, as well as the sights and experiences to be found on arrival at the destination. The attraction of a train journey is that you are free to watch the passing landscape and, unlike the regular commuter trip into London, such railway lines always pass through landscape worth seeing. Sometimes the railway track itself can be part of the attractiveness of the scenery: maybe a spectacular viaduct across a valley, or just the sight of a small group of coaches clattering across the rails and sounding off the odd playful whoop.

But what of High Speed trains? These fly like a bullet through the countryside and need to ride on tracks that are straight and wide and cluttered with gantries. Their paths cut through the landscape like a knife through modelling clay. The noise they make is not the friendly clatter of a suburban sprinter but more akin to the rush and roar of a jet. Those who travel on High Speed trains do so because they are in a hurry to reach their destination, not because they wish to savour the experience of travel itself. Their eyes will be on the screens of their PCs and their thoughts on the task at the end of the

Ian Reay's &news &views

High Speed Trains

**Ian Reay asks -
Where will they go?**



journey. High Speed trains add to *Gross Domestic Product*. They can regenerate distant towns and draw them into prosperity for all.

On the agenda now, and possibly as an alternative to a third runway at Heathrow Airport, is a new High Speed rail link from London to the West Midlands – known as High Speed 2. (High Speed 1 being the Eurostar route from St Pancras to Folkestone). High Speed 2 cannot be achieved by upgrading an existing line, such as the one

that runs from Euston to Birmingham through Berkhamsted, and will require a brand new track. But where should it go?

In January a new company was set up to look into the possibility of this new High Speed railway line and will give its suggestions to the Government by the end of the year. The main issue is, of course, the route – particularly the section through the Chiltern Hills, which form an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and so have a status requiring special protection. The Chilterns have a unique charm but not on the scale of the Alps or the Himalayas or even Snowdonia or the Scottish Highlands, and it is difficult to see how a High Speed rail track can be cut through these hills without seriously damaging them. A serious contender for this misfortune is Bradenham valley, which runs between West Wycombe and Princes Risborough, currently of a quiet and peaceful demeanour. A High Speed line through it would split it into two noisy halves.

It is rumoured that the cost of this ambitious project would be more than £20 billion. In the current financial state, of massive government debt for years to come, this is likely to be unaffordable for the foreseeable future. So we have the credit crunch to thank if we are to retain the quiet charm of Bradenham valley. ❖

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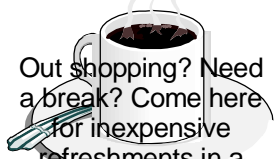
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In previous articles (September 2008, January 2009 and March 2009) I wrote about the history of St Peter's Church up to 1800. At that time the church, like many others throughout the

country, was probably in a poor state of repair. The first attempt to improve this situation was made just before 1820 when **Sir Geoffrey Wyattville** was invited to direct the restoration. His work has often been criticised, particularly over the number of memorials that were lost. He also removed the gallery in the crossing and erected a new gallery at the west end. A new floor was laid, high box pews were introduced, the old south porch was closed up and became the baptistery, the exterior walls were extensively rendered, or more likely re-rendered and the roof was renewed in lead and plastered internally. Until the mid-twentieth century, when it was replaced with copper, the lead bore the date 1818.

The accompanying photographs show the exterior of the church some time after Wyattville's restoration and before the next phase of work directed by **William Butterfield**. This began in 1870 and proceeded in at least three phases. The

A CHURCH RESTORED

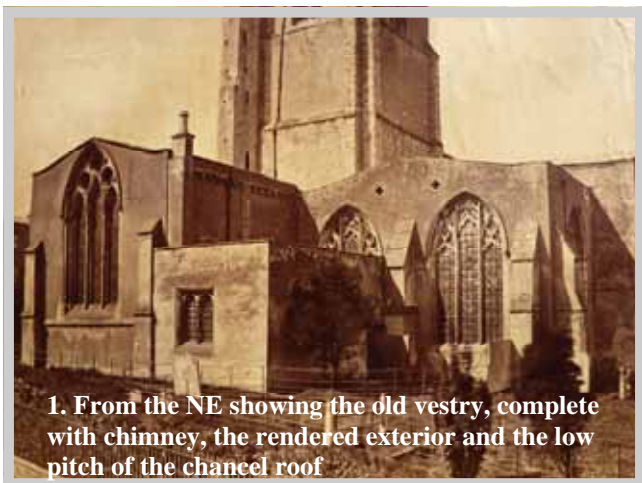
St Peter's in the
Nineteenth Century
Christopher Green writes

two earlier phases in 1870-71 and 1873 included the removal of the old vestry from the angle between the Lady Chapel and the Chancel (Photo 1). The roofs of the chancel and the south transept were

renewed, and in both cases the pitch was raised to the original medieval level. The old south door (Photo 2) was completely removed and replaced by a window matching existing windows in the St John's Chantry. Internally, at the west end of the St John's Chantry, the wall enclosing the former porch was taken down, together with the vaulted porch itself and a chamber above the porch. A new, and exceptionally ugly, south door, was opened into the south transept.

Externally, the work in the 1870s included the re-facing of the east, south and west elevations of the church, with the removal of render and its replacement with flintwork. At the same time all of the stonework on these elevations - coins, copings, external window and door reveals and window tracery, all of local Totternhoe stone, were replaced in Bath Stone. Comparison of photographs taken before and after the restoration show that the existing stonework was copied faithfully. However it has been alleged that some of the window tracery owed more to Wyattville than to the original medieval masons.

Internally, during these early phases of restoration, walls enclosing areas at the west end of the north and south aisles were removed and the door at the west end of the south aisle was closed up. This door had opened into an area reserved for the town fire-engine! The floor of the church was renewed again and the chancel floor was raised. Wyattville's gallery



1. From the NE showing the old vestry, complete with chimney, the rendered exterior and the low pitch of the chancel roof

was taken down and the present gallery put in place. The box pews introduced by Wyattville were removed and the present oak benches put in place.

After a pause of several years, on 4th December 1880, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, chaired by **Earl Brownlow**:

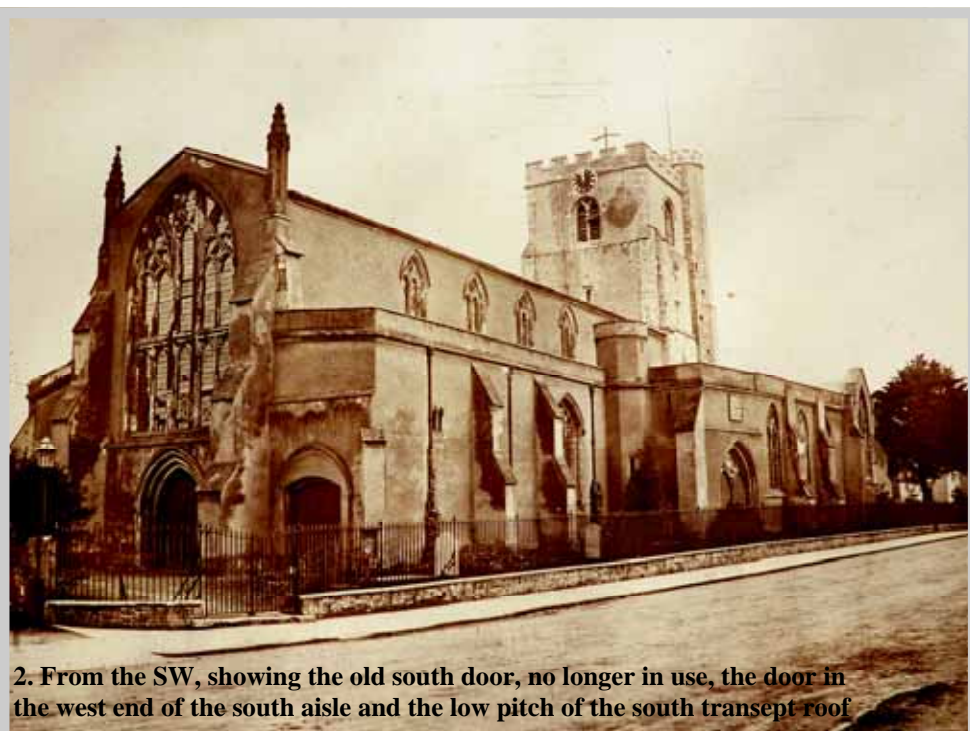
... to consider the necessity of completing the Restoration of this Church, and a report was read from the architect Mr W. Butterfield, which stated that the plaster coating of the North Transept and North Aisle required removing: that this and necessary repairs to the Stone-work would nearly amount to the re-building of the exterior of those portions of the Church; and that certain repairs were necessary to the roof of the Grammar School Aisle.

In a report published on 1st March 1882 the Committee appointed to oversee this work was able to record the completion of its first phase:

... the North Transept is now uniform in appearance with the East, South and West of the Church, the rough plaster hitherto covering the walls having been carefully removed and supplanted by substantial flint work, and the stone buttresses and copings renewed.

The cost was £535, equivalent to £286,000 today. Butterfield wanted to reface the tower as well, but the Rector, **John Wolstenholme Cobb** was unenthusiastic. He wrote to **Thomas Penny**, the churchwarden: *The more I think about the tower the less inclined I am to have it meddled with at all.* And so in the end it was left alone.

In the remaining years of the nineteenth century, much was done to enrich the building and its furnishings. Memorial stained glass was put into several windows and other gifts included the font, the lectern, the pulpit, and the reredos and marble panelling in the old chancel. ❖



2. From the SW, showing the old south door, no longer in use, the door in the west end of the south aisle and the low pitch of the south transept roof

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GRAHAM GREENE FESTIVAL 2009

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday 1st October 2009

5:30 – 7:00pm **Buffet Supper, King's Arms** Cost: £13.95 payable on arrival.

Contact the King's Arms (866595) by Monday 28 September 2009, if you intend to be present.

7:30 – 9:30 pm ***The Third Man*** at the Rex Cinema, High Street, Berkhamsted

Preceded by a selection of film scores played on the zither by **Cornelia Mayer**.

Friday 2nd October 2009

TALKS AT THE TOWN HALL, BERKHAMSTED

9:30–10:30am **Jeremy Lewis** *The Other Greenes*

11:00 – 12:00 noon **Dr Rod Mengham**

Graham Greene in the 1930s

2:15 – 3:15pm **Tom Aitken**

Eccentric Catholics: Graham Greene and

Frederick Rolfe as Spoiled Priests

3:45 – 4:45pm **Fr Mark Bosco, SJ**

Graham Greene: Catholic Literary Modernist

4:50 – 5:10pm **Prof François Gallix** - *The Discovery of **The Empty Chair***

Concert and Film at the Civic Centre, Berkhamsted

7:45 – 8:45pm Music by **Anton Karas**, played on the zither by **Cornelia Mayer**

9:00–10:00pm ***Five Minutes, Mr Welles*** directed by Vincent D'Onofrio, A tribute to Orson Welles

<http://grahamgreenefestival.org>

Director's blog:

<http://grahamgreenefestival.blogspot.com>

Saturday 3rd October 2009

TALKS & EVENTS IN DEANS' HALL, BERKHAMSTED SCHOOL

Exhibition: *The Third Man*

9:30 – 10:30am **Dr Chris Hull**

Prophecy and Comedy in Havana: Greene's *entertainment* and British diplomacy in Cuba

11:00 – 12:00 noon **Michael Billington** - *Graham Greene in the Theatre*

12:00 noon – 12:10pm **David Pearce GGBT** (Graham Greene Birthplace Trust)

In Memoriam: **Ken Sherwood (1935 – 2009)** Co-founder of the Trust and the Festival - *A Tribute*.

2:00 – 3:00pm **Prof David Crystal, OBE** *Going Careful in **The Third Man**: a Linguistic Exploration*

3:30 – 4:15pm **Kate Adie, OBE** - *Into Danger*

Ms Adie will focus more upon her own work than upon Greene's writing.

6:30 pm ***To Graham Greene : The Birthday Toast*** proposed by **Andrew Bourget**, his grandson

6:45 – 7:45pm **Dr Charles Drazin** - *The Oklahoma Kid* : A sympathetic portrait of writer and part-time investigator **Holly Martins**

8:00 pm **Austrian Buffet Supper in Old Hall**

Followed by a short talk on Anton Karas by **Dr Brigitte Timmermann** with

a selection of music for *The Third Man* by Anton Karas, played on the zither by **Cornelia Mayer**

Alternative Event in Deans' Hall, Berkhamsted School

9:30 am– 5:00pm **A Creative Writing Workshop** to suit aspiring adult writers of all ages.

NB Advance booking is essential to guarantee a place on the Creative Writing Workshop. It will run only if there are sufficient advance bookings by **Friday 25th September 2009**.

Sunday 4th October 2009

TALKS & EVENTS IN DEANS' HALL, BERKHAMSTED SCHOOL

9:30 am – 9:50am **Historic Film of Greene's Switzerland**

10:00 – 11:00 am **David Pearce** - *Dr Fischer of Geneva and coming to terms with terrorism*

11:30 am – 12:30pm **Prof Neil Sinyard** *Forgotten Memories and the Mystery of **The Tenth Man***.

12:45 pm – 2:00pm **Farewell Lunch in Old Hall, Berkhamsted School**

Tickets from the treasurer (866694) or treasurer@grahamgreenebt.org

Tickets will also be available at the door for individual events only – except for film and meal tickets which must be purchased in advance. Free entry for 21 and under to all events except the film at the Rex cinema and the two meals.

Martin Cruttenden shared rooms with David at St John's College, Cambridge

Sharing rooms with someone for two years you get to know them pretty well. David was always fun to be with. I had done odd jobs for a year waiting for the call to National Service which never came, but David kept me amused with his own National Service experiences. You didn't have to be a genius to guess that he was never destined for the Brigade of Guards, but I suspect it was his then rather outspoken left of centre views which upset the officer allocating David to his unit, which resulted in his spending the first few weeks of National Service digging trenches in wet Wales as part of a Pioneer Corps Platoon where he claimed he was the only member without a prison record. His true talents eventually showed through and he finished his service in Germany as a sergeant in the Education Corps teaching the three Rs to recruits.

As senior partner David acted as guardian of our limited combined housekeeping budget - a sure indication of a future career in banking. I remember his first purchase from the fund was a large enamel jug with which to fetch the beer. Not that I ever saw him drunk, just merry and mellow. On such occasions he had an unnerving party trick of suddenly declaiming at full volume one of **Lewis Carroll**'s nonsense verses. I particularly remember his delight in *Jabberwocky* - 'Twas brilliant and the slithy toves did gyre

DAVID WOODWARD 1937 - 2009

A tribute



Compiled from words spoken at David's Memorial service by his daughter Rachel, his university contemporary and long-time friend Martin Cruttenden and fellow parishioners, John Cook and Ruth Treves Brown.

and gimble in the wabe, all mimsy were the borogoves, etc. ... after which normal conversation would be resumed.

David at University showed all the characteristics which remained throughout his life - A huge interest in everything and everyone, an openness to new ideas, strongly held views on many subjects and a wonderful ability to argue his case, but however much you might sometimes disagree with him, he always remained kind and understanding.

So our three years came to an end. David got his first, and we went our separate ways, David to the Bank of England where he first joined the Bank's Economic Intelligence Unit, then became involved with computers when they were just making their

presence felt in banking. Throughout his career David was involved in the introduction and operation of the Bank's systems. He played a major role in introducing the Bank's Payroll System, and eventually was responsible for setting up the Bank's Clearing Centre.

In concluding, Martin summarised what for him were David's essential qualities

... his enormous interest in everything and everyone, the sympathy he always showed, his openness to ideas and in spite of his strong views on so many issues, his kindness even to those who disagreed and his total lack of malice.

These qualities are equally evident in Rachel's account of being David's

daughter, in particular in ideas that she sees as her most important inheritance from him

The first idea is about family life, enjoyment of that, having fun with family and the endless continuity of that – sitting around and talking and eating and drinking and laughing was a significant part of family life for all the family, kids and grandkids as well as friends. Some of my strongest childhood memories of my dad are of family holidays, because this was when we spent time with him – time with family, having fun, talking and enjoying a good view and a good dinner - the jokes, the *joie de vivre*, the humour, the fun of family life.

The second idea is about the importance of ideas, the importance of having ideas and having an intellectual life, of having a life of the mind and an interest in a world beyond the self. He was a war baby, born just before the start of the Second World War, and had a strong and enduring interest in 20th century politics, history and international relations. I always reckoned that his intellectual interests were formed by his early experiences of wartime childhood. The significance of having an idea bigger than yourself and your immediate world was manifest in the interest that he had in the world around him - an ability to think about spaces and places and landscapes and the ideas that give these material forms their meaning. This is my inheritance from him.

*Many readers of the **review** will remember David best for his active roles in the life of parish and town.*

David came to Berkhamsted in 1965, and before long he and his first wife Ann became deeply involved with the church. Soon he was on the PCC, then the Stewardship Committee, then churchwarden with special responsibility for All Saints'. And it was at All Saints' that his affection and loyalty were centred. He was a faithful and stalwart supporter there, not just of the Anglicans, but very willing to make the best of all the changes that took place right from the days when All Saints' was simply a daughter church

of St Peter's. His involvement went back all that time, including to the major re-ordering and setting up the partnership with the Methodists, right up to recent times and the granting of near independence to All Saints'. Throughout he stayed positive and committed. Whatever job he was asked to do, large or small, from membership of the Joint Council to Transport Secretary, organising lifts for people who otherwise could not get to church, he took it all on conscientiously and cheerfully.

A major contribution to church and town was as editor of the Berkhamsted **review**. It really was remarkable and highly praiseworthy the way he took on the editorship over 40 years ago, and kept at it. In some ways he was a reluctant editor, and when anyone else came forward to take the job on, he was happy to hand it over. But when that person gave up, David was quite prepared to take it back, as he did on two occasions. Even after he handed over the editorship just a few years ago he agreed to continue to perform the unglamorous but important role of advertising manager. If it needed to be done, David would do it.

It was not only to the church that David gave his service. He was a long-standing member of the Berkhamsted Citizens Association, and when a few years ago there was a need for capable people willing to serve on the committee, typically David stepped forward. He became a valuable member, representing the Association on the Crime Prevention Panel.

Many people who knew David have spoken warmly of him. He was in some ways a private man: kind and thoughtful, never seeking attention, but very likeable, highly effective in his own way - he would, for example, sit quietly in a meeting and then come up with such a sensible solution that it was immediately accepted by everyone. He was a committed Christian gentleman. The church and the community need people like David. We mourn his passing, but must thank God for him and the service he gave. ❖

From the left:

St Jerome - The most scholarly of the four great doctors of the early church. He revised the Latin version of the New Testament while serving as secretary to the fourth century Pope Damasus.

St Gregory - Pope Gregory the Great (590-604), one of the four great doctors of the early church. In 596 he sent missionaries, led by St Augustine, to refound the Church in England.

St Augustine - Sent by Gregory the Great to England he was favourably received by Ethelbert, King of Kent and was subsequently consecrated at Arles as the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

ST PETER'S REREDOS

by **Christopher Green**

St George - Patron saint of England. Little is known of his life, but he was probably martyred in Palestine at the beginning of the fourth century. The dragon is not mentioned until the twelfth century.

St Andrew - Brother of Peter and Apostle, also patron saint of Scotland. Tradition places his martyrdom at Patras in Greece but the tradition of the form of his cross - X



St Jerome

St Gregory

St Augustine

St George

St Andrew

St Raphael

- is no older than the fourteenth century.

St Raphael - One of the seven Archangels who stand in the presence of God. From the meaning of his name - *God heals* - he is associated with the healing properties of the pool Bethesda (John 5. 4)

St Gabriel - One of the seven Archangels who stand in the presence of God. He foretold the birth of John the Baptist and announced to Mary the forthcoming birth of Jesus.

St Peter - Leader of the Apostles. That he went to Rome is now generally accepted. That he was the first Bishop of Rome seems less certain. He was martyred probably in AD 64 during the reign of Nero.

St Alban - The first British martyr, he

sheltered a priest during the emperor Diocletian's persecution c.AD 305, was arrested and executed.

St Ambrose - One of the four great doctors of the early church. Bishop of Milan in the fourth century, he was the first teacher to make extensive use of hymns as a means of praise and to teach Christian beliefs

St Patrick - Patron saint of Ireland. Of Romano-British descent, his ministry in Ireland in the fifth century brought an organised Christian Church into existence there.

St Nicholas - Patron saint of sailors, children and Russia. In the late third century, Bishop of Myra in what is now southern Turkey. ❖



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As some of you know, during the summer months I travel around the bottom right hand quarter of our fair land in our little caravan. As I write this section of this article

THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

**Norman Cutting is
unimpressed**

I'm attending the International Agility Festival organised by the Kennel Club - the Agility equivalent to *Crufts*, held this year just north of Northampton. There are around 800 caravans and tents from all over Europe and some 200 day parkers, who live within easy travelling distance - that means up to about 70 miles or an hour and who come just for the day.

Next weekend, it's a little village outside Ely called Littleport. Only about 350 caravans and tents descend for the Bank Holiday Summer Agility Show. Summer was stretching the point and more than one camper was heard to decide that a caravan has many advantages for the British summer weather if you didn't want to get soaked in a thunderstorm, or frozen over night, which, of course is why we have a caravan.

Although most evenings have organised entertainment (bingo or even a disco!), many groups resort to drinking sessions or just watch TV or listen to the *wireless*. And this is where the difficulties start and I get to the point of this short piece.

Very seldom do we have problems receiving either analogue TV or radio. However, digital TV and radio just don't reach the parts promised.

I know that we are promised *improvements* once the old TV system is switched off, but that doesn't excuse the poor coverage of Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) when there are lots of spare frequencies available. Did you know that even France still has the old 405-line

television system in use - maybe because it actually works! - while we discontinued it over 20 years ago.

What other disadvantages are there? Well, *high*

quality digital sound is actually nothing of the sort. Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) has managed far better sound quality although DVB pictures leave a lot to be desired mainly because, in the haste to get *unrequired* frequencies into the additional revenue pot, the system will be out of date before the final changeover in 2012. Even DAB uses an obsolete system and naturally, if they change, all our new equipment will need replacing as it is totally incompatible with the better standards being introduced in the rest of the world.

I bet the consultants are rubbing their hands with glee and we end up paying - again, for exactly what?

Please sir, can I be a consultant?

ED: Set top boxes are simply not an option for radios. All analogue radios, including car radios, will have to be scrapped. and Radio 4 long wave is an indispensable part of a European holiday.



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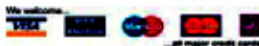
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review Northchurch & Wigginton

Titles and Rank

- Do They Matter?

**The Revd
Jonathan
Gordon asks**

quite an impressive array of titles encompassing: Council Chairs, Members of Parliament, visiting bishops, High Sheriffs, and Lords Lieutenant. The timetable suggests that the grand entry should take close to 45 minutes and then everyone will be in place to welcome Bishop Alan officially to the diocese.

The beginning of a new school term and year provides a good time to think about themes for assemblies and the invitation letter inspired me to focus on the titles that were given to Jesus. The children at a local school very quickly made a list that included: Lord, Son of God, Son of David and Christ. The Gospels suggest that Jesus made a huge impact on the regions he visited and the disciples were aware of the diverse reactions to what he said and what he represented. When questioned directly by Jesus on what others thought and more importantly what their opinion was, it was Peter who confessed that Jesus was the Christ or the anointed one. As a title it was associated with a diversity of beliefs. To some it may have implied kingship and power, to others a saviour who would bring reconciliation, forgiveness and peace. What was hard for the disciples to understand was the interpretation of Jesus. He starts to use words such as

The invitation to the inauguration of Bishop Alan as the tenth Bishop of St Albans came in the post a few weeks ago and included a long list of those who will be taking part in the procession into the Cathedral. There is

cross, suffer, rejected and killed. The Christ or the Messiah will be vulnerable and suffer. He then calls on them to follow his example.

There are hard sayings in the Bible and following Jesus by taking up a cross has to be in the top five. Jesus seems to be suggesting a path no-one would want to take, as it would be a heavy burden and most likely we would say we would not be able to take the load. Despite the hesitations, there are important themes being presented that can speak to human experience. The world seems to put a great emphasis on success and fame; the words of Jesus suggest that weakness and failure need not be a disaster. The thing that really strikes me is that in the course of parish ministry you meet people every day who do manage to carry heavy burdens and somehow find the strength to do this. There are many who for various reasons have to dig deep and keep going. Jesus was providing a tough saying, but at an important level it was a realistic one. The important truth his words imply is that whatever burden we carry, we do not do so alone. ❖



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Louis Braille was born in 1809 at Coupvray near Paris. His father was the village saddler.

One day, at the age of four, Louis crept into his father's workshop to play. He picked up an awl, it slipped and pierced his eye, damaging it forever. Soon his other eye became infected by the first and he lost his sight altogether. Despite his difficult start in life, Louis was intelligent and excelled at the local school. Noticing this, the local landowner offered to arrange a scholarship at one of the blind schools for the blind, in Paris. Reluctant to send Louis away but worried about his future, his parents agreed. Aged ten, Louis left for the *Royal Institution for Blind Youth*.

Life at the school was hard, the building was damp and the discipline severe. Pupils were taught practical skills like chair caning and slipper making so that they could make a living when they left school. They were also taught to read using a system called *raised type* where letters were created by pressing shaped copper wire onto a page. Louis learnt quickly but found the system frustrating. It was impossible for people with sight loss to write using *raised type* and it could take months to read a book.

Still at the Institute in 1821 Louis was introduced to the idea of a coded system of raised dots. **Charles Barbier**, a former captain in Napoleon's army, visited the school to demonstrate his *night writing*. This was a tactile system designed for soldiers to send and receive messages at night without speaking. It used raised dots and dashes. Louis realised how useful this could be, but thought the system too complicated. Over the next few years he developed his own version, using just six dots to represent the standard alphabet. By 1824, aged just 15, Louis had found 63 ways to use six dots in an area no larger than a fingertip. He also perfected his

LOUIS BRAILLE

A bicentenary

Adapted from *Outlook* - the magazine for RNIB supporters



planchette or writing slate, which allowed precise placing for the dots when writing braille. He spent his life teaching the system, first to fellow students at the school and then later as a teacher

there. He translated many books into Braille and despite encountering resistance he never stopped believing in his system.

In his twenties he contracted tuberculosis, probably because he spent so much of his life in the damp and unhealthy school. He battled with the illness for the rest of this life dying on 6 January 1852, just two days after his 43rd birthday. He must have wondered whether his

reading and writing system would die with him, but within two years, braille was adopted as the official communications system for blind people in France. While the use of braille spread to many countries, it did encounter resistance, perhaps because it didn't look like print, and wasn't easy for sighted people to read. In the UK a small group of blind people helped overcome this resistance. **Thomas Rhodes Armitage**, a wealthy physician who had sight problems, brought together a group of blind people to found the *British and Foreign Society for Improving the Embossed Literature for the Blind*. They tested different communication systems and in 1870 made the decision that braille would be best. This group later went on to become the RNIB

Today Louis Braille is celebrated as a hero for all blind and partially sighted people. He gave the gift of independence and the joy of reading to thousands of people around the world. In 1952, his accomplishments were finally recognised by the French government. His body was exhumed and reburied in the Pantheon in Paris, with other French national heroes.

We, the blind, are as indebted to Louis Braille as mankind is to Gutenberg.
Helen Keller ❖



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review notes¬ices

HOSPICE OF ST FRANCIS

Thursday 1st October 2009 at 7:30pm at Walton's. Fashion Show, £5. Proceeds to the Hospice.

Sunday 18th October 2009 - *Go Ape* in Wendover Woods. Raise £150 in sponsorship and take a turn on the high level adventure course - rope bridges, swings and zip slides. For details phone 869555.

VOICES FOR HOSPICES

Saturday 10th October 2009 at 7:30pm in the Centenary Hall, Kings Road. *Songs for Life*: harmony singing by The Knights of Harmony, Amersham A Capella & Kings Langley Community Choir. £12, Senior Citizens, Children and Dacorum Card £10 available on the door.

BERKHAMSTED JAZZ

Saturday, 3rd October 2009 at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. *Michael Garrick Evening*. Tickets Members £8, visitors £12, students and children half price available on the door.

TAD-RAIL 2009, ASHLYNS

Saturday 10th October 2009 from 10:30am to 5:00pm at Ashlyns School. The local model railway club's big annual show which usually boasts up to 25 layouts representing many gauges. £4.50 (juniors £2.50)

FRIENDS OF ASHRIDGE

Wednesday 14th October 2009 10:30am *Gentle Stroll* with **Brian & Seán Barton**. Meet B4506 by Monument Drive.

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BERKHAMSTED FILM SOCIETY

Monday and Tuesday 12th and 13th October 2009 at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. *Mostly Martha* directed by **Sandra Nettlebeck**.

Monday, 19th October 2009 at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. *O'Horten*: Appealing quirky comedy. Directed by **Bent Hamer**.

Monday and Tuesday, 2nd and 3rd November 2009 at 8:00pm *Last Chance Harvey* with **Dustin Hoffman** and **Emma Thompson**.

Visitors £5 at the door. For details of membership ring 863155.

BERKHAMSTED AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Thursday 22nd October 2009 at 7:45pm at Newcroft, Mill Street. *The Mary Rose Story* **Edward Sutton**. Visitors £1.50 on the door.

BERKHAMSTED ART SOCIETY

Thursday 15th October 2009 at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. Demonstration of *Making a Picture in Textural Collage* by **Sarah Janavicius**. Visitors £2.

ASHRIDGE

Saturday, 24th October 2009 from 2:00 to 4:00pm at Ashridge Monument. A talk about the estate and the deer that have lived there for 600 years followed by a country tea. £15.

BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Wednesday 14th October 2009 at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. **Roy Craske** *Redbourn: Then and Now*. Visitors £2.50 at the door.

BERKHAMSTED MUSIC SOCIETY

Saturday 10th October 2009 at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. **Badke Quartet**. Haydn: *Quartet Op 76 No 5*, Bartok: *String Quarter No 3*. Annual Subscription £37. Visitors £12, Dacorum Card £10, Under 18s free at the door.

TUESDAY CLUB

On **Tuesday 1st September 2009**, we welcomed back **Jill Carey** who gave us another of her lively and entertaining talks with slides. She told us the story of the early nomadic people and later the Navajo Indian settlers who lived in the Grand Canyon area of the USA and how they built their villages inside the canyon walls. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 6th October 2009**, when **Eve Davis** will speak to us about *Period Costumes*.

BERKHAMSTED THEATRE COMPANY

Wednesday – Saturday 28th to 31st October 2009 at 7:45pm in the Civic Centre. *Strictly Love*. A journey of love through song, dance and laughter. £10-£12 at the door.

OXFAM, GRAHAM GREENE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

What do Climate Change and **Graham Greene** have in common? The answer is Oxfam.

During the *Graham Greene Festival* from **1st to 4th October 2009** the Berkhamsted Oxfam shop will be featuring a window display of **Graham Greene** books. **Graham Greene** wrote a novel called *The Comedians* which is set in the Caribbean island of Haiti.

Haiti has been seriously affected by major

review notes¬ices

climate change-related events such as hurricanes. Oxfam's work on the disaster-prone island will be the focus of attention as Oxfam shops across the UK put on special events to raise funds for the charity's programme of disaster preparedness. Poverty is rising with over 80% of those living in rural areas suffering extreme poverty, making them even more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

In 2008 Haiti was hit by a series of hurricanes killing 1,000 people and affecting over 165,000 families. Oxfam is seeking to bring in disaster preparedness measures and ensure that early warning networks are in place as well as building more life-saving emergency shelters. These can reduce death tolls significantly.

BERKHAMSTED ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET

Saturday 3rd October 2009 9:30-4:30

Saturday 7th November 2009 9:30-4:30

Sunday 15th November 2009 9:30-2:00

Saturday 5th December 2009 9:30-4:30
Christmas special

Sunday 13th December 2009 9:30-2:00
Christmas special

All in the Town Hall - What sort of stalls will there be? Jewellery, ceramics, quilts, woodcraft, balloons, artwork, recycled bags, photography, cards, alternative and complementary health, gardening, children's clothes, glass, beauty products, candles, clock repairs, handknits, toys, gift bags - Not necessarily all on one day!

<http://greatmarkets.vpweb.co.uk>

Christmas Market Special

Claire who organises the markets is looking for individuals or groups who would like to sing or play an instrument for ten minutes or longer at the Christmas

markets - if you know of anyone please get them to contact Claire asap on 07951 943 101 or e.claire@artbyclaire.com

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS

The combined charity sales will be held on the following dates in The Court House, Berkhamsted, from 9:15am to 3pm:

Fri 30th October, Sat 31st October,

Sat 14th November, Sat 25th November 2009.

Many national and local charities will be represented, and there will be a wide selection of charity Christmas cards, wrapping paper and Christmas accessories.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



There was a feel of Autumn in the air for our September meeting when **Joy Lovell**, joint President, welcomed us with three amusing poems for us to listen to and then, together with **Janet Mitchell**,

Secretary, reported on events attended by them in the past month.

Our speaker this month was **Barbara Owen**, whose subject was *No Time on our Hands* - such an amusing speaker, who advised us on how to re-arrange our kitchens to save time by having items such as the china next to the tea and coffee and not situated at four ends of the room! Her last words were organize - with a minute to spare. A vote of thanks was given by **Judith Lowther**.

We next meet on **Tuesday 2nd October 2009** at the Court House, Berkhamsted, at 2:00pm, when our speaker will be **Julia Marriage**, her talk being *White Dresses and Panama Hats*. Why not pay us a visit and join us for a cup of tea and cakes for an enjoyable afternoon?

BOOK FAIR

Saturday 3rd October 2009 10am-4pm
The Court House. For details 862011

October

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

All services at *St Peter's* 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 rd Mon	GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP 7:45pm					<i>Court House</i>
	Contact June Haile (873087), Angela Morris (866992) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)					
Tue	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</i>					<i>Court House</i>
	Contact chairman Barbara McKenna (871159)					
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: 2:30pm					<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) Penny Nash (865217)					<i>The Court House</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	BELLRINGING: 8:00pm Helen Ruberry (890949)					<i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-11:30am					<i>Court House</i>
	Weekly meetings with a short service 1 st Fri in St Peter's (10am)					Tracy Robinson (863559)
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>

reviewdiary

Please see opposite for regular Sunday & weekday services at St Peter's and All Saints'

October/November

OCTOBER

Fri	2	10:00am	Little Fishes Service.....	St Peter's
		1:00pm	Cowper Society presents <i>The Rainbow Quintet</i> with Schubert's <i>Trout Quintet</i>	St Peter's
Sun	4	9:30am	Harvest Festival Sung Eucharist.....	St Peter's
			followed by Parish Harvest Lunch	The Court House
Tue	6	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Joseph and his Rainbow Coat</i>	All Saints'
Sun	11	6:00pm	Choral Evensong.....	St Peter's
Tue	13	8:00pm	Parochial Church Council.....	The Court House
Sat	17	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast.....	Sunnyside
Tue	20	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Jacob and his Ladder</i>	All Saints'
Sat	24	7:00pm	Bellringing – District Bellringers (9:00pm)	St Peter's

NOVEMBER

Mon	2	8:00pm	All Souls' Solemn Requiem with Duruflé <i>Requiem</i>	St Peter's
Fri	6	10:00am	Little Fishes Service.....	St Peter's
Tue	10	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Joshua and his Trumpet</i>	All Saints'
Fri	13	1:00pm	The Cowper Society presents: Recital Anna Markland <i>piano</i> , Catherine Van der Geest <i>violin</i>	St Peter's
Sat	14	7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents: Bridgewater Sinfonia.....	St Peter's
Sat	21	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast.....	All Saints'
		8:00pm	Cowper Society presents: Berkhamsted Music Society: Steven Osborne <i>piano</i>	St Peter's
Sun	22	6:00pm	St Cecilia Choral Evensong	St Peter's
Tue	24	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Elijah and the Still Small Voice</i>	All Saints'
Sun	29	6:00pm	Advent Carol Service.....	St Peter's
Mon	30	8:00pm	Consecration of the New Lady Chapel Altar.....	Lady Chapel, St Peter's

reviewregisters

Baptisms (St Peter's)

16 th August	Aimée Sophia Everitt
23 rd August	Dylan Isaac Harman, Evelyn Rose Liddle, Phoebe Alice Helen Bax
6 th September	Jacob Alfie Rogers

Weddings (St Peter's)

8 th August	Craig Keith Collard and Caroline Frances Wheelton Thomas Andrew James Bayram and Danielle Victoria Hughes-Berry
14 th August	Edwin Alexander Senior and Anna Marie Forsyth
15 th August	David Elliott Jones and Kirsty Louise Titmuss Michael Adam Timoney and Natalie Claire McCoy
21 st August	Stephen Paul Maskell and Jane Elizabeth Martell

Funerals

10 th August	Hugh David Woodward	Chilterns Crematorium, Memorial at All Saints'
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ASSOCIATION OF BERKHAMSTED CHURCHES

Telephone numbers to ring for times of services, etc.

Northchurch Baptist	Revd David Russell	877001
	Barry Cook	877001
St Mary's Northchurch	Revd Jonathan Gordon	871547
All Saints'	Revd Dr Michael Bowie	864194
	Revd Caroline Weaver	866324
	Mr John Malcolm	874993
	Mrs Ida Rance	865829
Sacred Heart (RC)	Fr John Bolam	863845
	Mr Frank Furlong	862768
Society of Friends (Quakers)	Moirra Tomson	871347
	Sandra Bryant	862957
Kings Road Church	Pastor Ray Toms	864393
	Dr Richard Walker	875614
St Peter's	Revd Dr Michael Bowie	864194
	Mrs Jean Green	878227
Berkhamsted Baptist	Mrs Pat Ginger	865817
St Michael & All Angels,	Revd David Abbott	865100
Sunnyside	Mrs S Bright	875025
St John the Evangelist,	Revd David Abbott	865100
Bourne End	Revd Dick Clarkson	873014

Been to the
Post Office?

<http://wayinn.com>

Next stop
the Bookshop
then coffee
to recover



WAY INN

A Christian Centre at 268 High Street

Telephone: Coffee Shop 864751, Bookshop 870768



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 Sevens 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)
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: **David Pearce**, 15 Park View Road (878809)
Philippa Seldon, 1 Fieldway (871534)
Michael Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way, (863559)
 All Saints' Representatives: **Jenny Wells**, 57 Meadow Road (870981)
 Parochial Church Secretary: **Julian Dawson**, 62 St Edmunds (871614)
 Council: Treasurer: **Rachel Below**, Hillcote, Doctors Commons Rd (862316)

St Peter's

Director of Music: **Adrian Davis** (875674)
 Asst. Director of Music: **Jean Wild** (866859)
 Organist: **Jonathan Lee** (0794
 1113232)

<http://stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk>

Weddings and Funerals,
 Banns of Marriage and
 Baptisms:

Fr Michael Bowie (864194)
 Bellringers (St Peter's): **Helen Ruberry** 22 Brook Street, Tring (890949)

All Saints'

Choirmaster: **Peter McMunn** (874894)
 All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist
 Local Ecumenical Partnership.
 Minister: **The Revd Caroline Weaver** (866324)

<http://allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk>

Personalities in the Parish



Answer next month

Last month's Personality



Ted Lewis in 1989 running a pensions evening



Some entries for the Petertide Fair bag competition
Results will be announced on Back to Church Sunday