

Berkhamsted *review*

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for Town and Parish

30p



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

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

Autumn is upon us. The dictionary begins quite poetic - *The third season of the year when fruits are gathered in*, but soon it turns to darker themes ... *a season of incipient decay*. And this is the way with autumn. Poets are divided. Some love the autumn best. For **Shelley** *There is a harmony in autumn*; and for **Donne**, *No spring, nor summer beauty hath such grace, As I have seen in one autumnal face*. Others see only the foretaste of decay. Among them **Arnold** - *Coldly sadly descends the autumn evening. The field strewn with its dank yellow drifts of withered leaves*; and even more sombrely **DH Lawrence** *Now it is autumn and the falling fruit and the long journey towards oblivion*. For **Tennyson** autumn is a season of nostalgia - *Tears from the depth of some divine despair rise in the heart and gather to the eyes in looking at the happy autumn fields and thinking of the days that are no more*. So too for **John Clare** - *Summer's pleasures they are gone ... and the cloudy days of autumn and of winter cometh on. I tried to call them back but unbidden they are gone*.

And for you?

Christopher Green

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Cover: *Inns of Court War Memorial on
Berkhamsted Common* (see pages 9 & 17)

photo: Christopher Green

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Next copy dates (all Fridays)

6 Nov 4 Dec 1 Jan



In our Father's House

Fr John Pritchard
writes about
stewardship

review leader

I was reminded recently by a colleague of some words of **Gerard Hughes** where he realises that we can *be at home in our Father's house*. We have spent some time over the past months talking about

stewardship and how we need to *mind the gap* between our income and expenditure to manage a growing deficit of about £17,000. I suppose we rely in a small way on our memories which reasonably convince us the church has always been there, so it will always be there. This is of course true, because when two or three of us gather and are seeking to meet in the name of Jesus, yes, there the Church is alive and purposeful.

But our present reality has to talk about the structure - our support for our unavoidably wonderful, but significantly expensive building, for the clergy and for the mission of the Church; they are inseparable. It's not just the bricks and mortar, or keeping the candles alight. It is mission, making sure that we have clergy for the town here and now, making sure that the Church has clergy for the future, not just here in Berkhamsted but in other places. Remember, you are preparing me to go to another place to be a good priest (I hope).

So how can we be at home in our Father's house if we cannot, all of us take responsibility for it? We have dressed up the issues in words and in images. The Stewardship Committee has been creative and amusing; it has drawn on professional men and women to help us avoid being offensively demanding. But perhaps we too are experiencing a climate of openness where the political talk of financial

responsibility is slowly affecting how we think as a modern church. Our present deficit is not the end of St Peter's, but without committing to the future, we are heading into a dark and difficult place.

So, here goes... please, if you or your children attend St Peter's Church, or if you have an association with the Church which means something important to you, could you change how you contribute to us. We can plan much better if we have a reliable income, because all we have ever had comes from you, the people of the parish, and all of this is yours, it is your home, your Heavenly Father's House, and we all have a responsibility to maintain it, and help it flourish. The Rector pays through a monthly **Standing Order** to help us function, I pay a lesser amount through a monthly **Standing Order** to help us function and many parishioners pay through monthly **Standing Orders** to help us function in ministry and in mission and pay the bills.

I ask you this... if you haven't reviewed your financial commitment and **Standing Order** to the Church in **the past three years**, confidentially through **Miles Nicholas** (our Stewardship Recorder), give him a call. Please contact him and do something. If you normally put money in the collection plate each week, change what you do and set up a monthly **Standing Order** for the amount you would normally give in a month. If you presently do not give financially to the parish, to support the running of your church, please, think, pray about it, and then act... we are all in this together, all of us are committing one by one to secure the future of this amazing house of God, your Father's House in which you should feel at home, so please can we all do something, and do it now. Pray about this, then contact the clergy to talk about it or contact **Miles Nicholas (871598)**. ❖

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Where are you planning to be when you celebrate the birth of the Christ Child this year? Will you be joining family and friends in Berkhamsted? Or perhaps, like me your family lives in another part of the country and you have to be prepared for a journey or you will even be celebrating Christmas in another country?

As we approach the season of Advent, there will be many journeys planned, some real and some spiritual, and we all need to be prepared.

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

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.

This cannot have been a very comfortable journey for the Holy Family. Travel was not easy in the first century AD. 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. The journey of the Holy family must have

THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

Jenny Wells writes

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

<http://themothersunion.org>



been filled with anxiety and we know that when they finally arrived at Bethlehem, there was ... *no place for them at the inn.*

However, once again this year the Mothers' Union is going to make sure that they will not be left without accommodation on the road to Bethlehem. On Advent Sunday (November 29th), two travelling cribs will set out, one from All Saints' Church and one from St Peters' 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 they are very child friendly. They travel to their destination in a padded basket. The Holy Family 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 8th and 15th 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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Until a few years ago we a l l thoughtlessly placed all our waste in black bin bags, and before that, when there seemed to have been a lot less waste, in *dustbins*. The rubbish was collected once a week by a *dustman* and that was that. Now we have to

separate out waste paper, bottles, plastics, metal cans and anything that can be composted, and only what remains – usually plastic wrapping of one sort or another – goes into the black (ie dust) bin, which is only collected every second week by teams of refuse collectors. Now as much of our waste as possible is recycled, since incineration and landfill are last resorts, and separation and sorting are the key to recycling. Virtually everything we discard can be reused by somebody for something, if we can separate it from the rest in sufficient quantities. Plastic cups can become pencils, shredded cardboard can become animal bedding, and crushed glass can be used as hardcore under road surfaces. Recycling has become big business and this has become possible because of clever machinery and sorting techniques that can now take raw rubbish and draw it out into streams of glass, plastic, steel and aluminium, which can then be baled up and sent on as raw material. We start this process off with the separations that we do before collection.

We think of recycling as a recent innovation, but it has a history. The use of the word *dust* to describe what was discarded and had to be collected implies that very little was actually collected by the bin-man. The rest would have been reused one way or another. There has always been a market not just for second hand goods but for waste materials. The

Ian Reay's &news &views

Whatever Happened to Dustbins

Ian Reay looks at the
history of recycling



rag and bone man could always find value in discarded matter such as iron, steel, paper, bottles, rags and animal skins. At one time up to 60% of a *new* suit could be made of reprocessed material. But sorting rags, which we now call textiles, takes a lot of labour – there are 130 different grades of wool, and many more of man-made fibres to be separated out for reprocessing. The biggest use of such material was for roofing felt.

Also waste paper has been big business for some time. In the early 1970s the amount of waste paper that was pulped and reused was equivalent to £250m of wood pulp each year. At that time, due to a shortage of pulp, the price of waste paper rose from £4.50 a ton to £20.00 a ton and charities and clubs such as scout groups started to raise cash by collecting waste paper. By the mid 1990s over 3m tons of paper was being recycled every year in this country. But there are also different grades or qualities of paper, which need to be sorted out for reuse if the best value is to be obtained. Waste paper can be used, for example, to make tissues, packaging, newsprint or cardboard.

Because of the current recession the value of raw recycled material has fallen but it does still have a value. In fact in, Australia in particular, there is talk of *landfill mining* – using mining techniques to extract raw material from landfill sites in much the same way as metal is mined from the ground. This is not likely to be popular though with those people who having lived near a landfill site for many years, and having seen it closed and landscaped over, discover that someone has reopened it and lorries full of debris are passing in front of their house again, but now going in the opposite direction! ❖

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In my editorial in the November *review* in 2007 I touched on **Laurence Binyon's** poem *For the Fallen* which contains the familiar lines

*At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Now I am writing again about remembrance and take my title from another poem, *Recessional* by **Rudyard Kipling**. It was written in 1897 for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, at a time when Britain was unchallenged as the dominant world power, with an Empire extending across five continents.

But Kipling wrote:

*Far-called our navies melt away -
On dune and headland sinks the fire -
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet
Lest we forget - lest we forget!*

Within twenty years Kipling's dark vision became reality. Britain was plunged into a terrible war - a war in which Kipling's son died and which weakened Britain's global standing irrevocably. Kipling's words - *Lest we forget* - took on a new meaning as communities struggled to cope with the appalling loss of life.

The idea of permanent memorials to those who fell in battle was not new. Regimental memorials began to appear in the second half of the nineteenth century to regimental members who died in the various colonial wars of that period. Memorials put up by communities to commemorate local men who died fighting for their country seem first to have attracted widespread support following the South African War (1899-1902). In St Peter's Church there are two such memorials, which perhaps suggests that the decision to erect a memorial was not coordinated at community level. Eight men are commemorated. It was a war in

LEST WE FORGET

Christopher Green writes

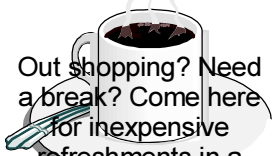
which 5,774 British soldiers died in battle ... and a further 16,000 perished from disease

The carnage of the First World War was on a different scale altogether. Nearly 900,000 members of the British armed forces perished. Almost every community in the country was affected. In the immediate aftermath, there was a determination that it must be *The War to End All Wars* and that its awfulness must never be forgotten. In response, in nearly every community, memorials were put up to those who died - in churches and chapels, in town and village centres, in public parks, in schools, in individual streets, in factories and offices, in fact wherever there was a communal sense of loss. But it was all in vain. Between 1939 and 1945 the Second World War claimed the lives of a further 383,000 British servicemen.

In Berkhamsted there are at least six war memorials. The town's memorial, originally in the High Street by the corner of Water Lane, now stands by the west door of St Peter's Church. It bears the names of 185 servicemen who died in the First World War and 96 who died in the Second. In St Peter's Church there is another First World War memorial in the north aisle. This was the work of the sculptor Nathaniel Hitch (1846-1938) and was unveiled on 30th January 1920 by General R M Foot. On the Common, where the Inns of Court Regiment trained during the First World War there is a memorial (see front cover) to the 2,000 men of the Regiment who died in that conflict. In Berkhamsted School, old boys who died in the two world wars are commemorated on two fine bronze plaques. The First World War memorial was unveiled on Founder's Day 1922 by the Dean of Lincoln. There are also memorials in Ashlyns School and in the NatWest bank. There are probably more. Perhaps readers are aware of them. Please let the *review* know. ❖

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Bridgewater Sinfonia opened its new concert season on September 26th 2009 with a full house. A strong combination of Mendelssohn, Richard Strauss, Mozart and Brahms produced a very popular and extremely enjoyable first programme, and reinforced the orchestra's growing reputation for excellence.

The concert opened with Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream Overture*, which started perhaps a little tentatively, but the strings soon settled into a polished negotiation of the intricate patter of fairy feet, and the donkey braying – always my favourite bit – was produced in fine form. There is a striking overall warmth of tone in this orchestra, and the ability to sit near the performers and see as well as hear them in close-up is one which not many concert goers can enjoy. The piece admirably performed the function for which it was designed, opening the programme and warming up the audience, and was received with enthusiasm but perhaps slightly less applause than it deserved, as all eyes turned to look for **David Campbell** and his clarinet.

Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto* is a work everyone knows and no-one tires of listening to. **David Campbell** said that his record was a total of 29 performances of it in one year; in spite of this, his performance was as fresh and sparkling as ever, and the orchestra quite obviously loved it just as we did. What is it about Mozart? A combination of infinitely singable tunes with a rich beauty of harmony interspersed with moments of that shiver of surprise when something unexpected squeezes the pattern into a new shape...

A WEALTH OF TALENT

Kate Perera reviews
Bridgewater Sinfonia



Mr Campbell's speciality (his *forte*?) is his *ppp* playing, and one can imagine that in a large concert hall and with a larger orchestra the faint whisper of sound at the end of the second movement might be lost. In the intimate surroundings of St Peter's church it was spellbinding.

David Campbell came back after the interval to conduct Richard Strauss's *Suite for Thirteen Winds*. Various wind-players have commented that it is a piece which is more fun for the players than for the audience, and this may indeed be the case. Parts were more reminiscent of the lengthy discursions of the *Alpine Symphony* than of the liveliness of *Fledermaus*, but it was interesting to hear something relatively unknown among the more familiar works of the evening. The fugal section in particular demonstrated just

what a wealth of talent exists in this wind section, and it was very enjoyable to hear it being given an opportunity to shine.

The final work of the evening was Brahms' *Variations on a Theme by Haydn*, another very popular piece. It can suffer from over-ponderous rendering, or equally from being taken too fast. **Adrian Davis** chose tempi which appeared slow at first, and may have been difficult for some of the less practised players to maintain. However, they allowed him to exploit the intricate cross-rhythms and to bring out the different melodic lines which interweave and are sometimes lost in the complexity of the overall sound. It is one of those pieces where one can hear something new each time, and this performance was no exception. It provided a wonderful finale to an extremely enjoyable evening. ❖

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Dulce et Decorum Est, Exposure and Spring Offensive - all are great war poems that explore the harsh realities of the First World War and were written by the famous war poet **Wilfred Owen**. In October, along with 37 other Ashlyns School A-level English students, I visited the battlefields of France and Belgium. There, we hoped to gain a real insight into what he was writing about.

The two-day tour was conducted by *Anglia Battlefield Tours*, who specialise in trips round the battlefields, while also offering a tour with special relevance to the war in literature.

An early start meant leaving Ashlyns at 5:00am, however we were across the English Channel by 10:30. We went straight to Belgium and the Essex Farm cemetery with a dressing station where those who were injured were brought. Even 90 years on, the conditions were awful with small, confined spaces for casualties to be dealt with. In a day with large numbers of casualties, there was never going to be space to deal with everyone.

The rest of the day saw us visit Langemark German cemetery, Tyne Cot cemetery and a preserved trench system at Sanctuary Wood. However the most poignant moment of the day for me was visiting the smaller Artillery Wood cemetery. It was there that I became the first member of my family to visit my Great Great Uncle **Ernest Limbert**, who died at Ypres in 1917.

This made the trip more personal, and brought poems that had only been words

WAR POEMS

A-level English in the trenches

Sam Limbert writes



Sam Limbert and Jack Ryan lay a wreath at the Thiepval Memorial.

photo: M Tincombe

on a desk in a classroom into perspective.

Unfortunately, due to a delay at dinner, we missed the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. We also experienced a problem in Belgium that may not have affected the soldiers. Our chicken at a restaurant in the centre of Ypres was slightly undercooked. To say mine looked like the Pink Panther is putting it mildly.

Despite the dodgy chicken, everyone made it through the night at the hostel in France. The Friday saw us based around the Somme. We

experienced the freezing wind around the village of Serre, nearby cemeteries and the Newfoundland Memorial Park, where we walked from the British frontline, across no man's land to the ground where the Germans had been positioned.

We finished the day at the Thiepval Memorial to *The Missing*. This has thousands of names of those who weren't found after the battles of the Somme. We laid a wreath on behalf of the school and held a small ceremony similar to the one we should have witnessed at the Menin Gate. It summed up everything we'd seen over the two days and how the poems we'd read had become a reality. Looking at the names allowed us to empathise with **Wilfred Owen** and probably his most famous poem.

The old lie: Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori, which translates *The old lie: How sweet and fitting it is to die for one's country*. After our experiences it is hard to disagree with him. ❖

The key details of John's life are quickly told: born in Southgate on 5th June 1939, he grew up in Manchester and then went up to Cambridge to read history in 1957. Upon graduating, he trained as a librarian at the University of London, and after a couple of shorter posts was Librarian of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies for 26 years from 1972. Alongside his full time work as a librarian, John was a military historian: his first book came out in 1970, he completed his PhD thesis on Finnish officers in the imperial Russian army in 1976, and from then on a steady stream of well-regarded books and articles on Finnish military history appeared. In 2003 John and his wife Leena moved from Edgware to Berkhamsted and rapidly put down roots in the town and at St Peter's. But these facts just touch the surface of who John was, and what this warm, private and modest man meant to others. Here we offer you our thoughts as a family, about some of the central threads of John's life.

Historical research was central to John's life. As a sixth-former, John read **Field Marshall Gustav Mannerheim's** memoirs in translation, and his interest in this remarkable man set him on the path towards his lifelong study of Finnish military history. In Finland, Field Marshall Mannerheim today is recognised as the most important Finn of all time, who was instrumental in securing Finnish independence in 1918, and subsequently led Finland in the Second World War. John's best-known work is his biography of Mannerheim, but he also published extensively on the Finnish army in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, especially after taking early retirement, when he was able to focus on his research full time. As John himself said, his books were never blockbusters, but in Finland he was recognised as the leading expert in his field, who pioneered the study of military

JOHN SCREEN

1939 - 2009

*Words written by John's family and
read at his Requiem Mass
by Father Michael*

history of this period. John's work was recognised by the Finnish government when he was awarded a Finnish decoration in 1988. He had an enormous delight in his academic work, and incredible diligence in

surmounting the obstacles his chosen subject posed – in the 1960s, he learnt Finnish, Swedish and Russian, to undertake his PhD thesis, and latterly grappled with the difficult handwritings of eighteenth-century military records to write the history of a neglected regiment.

Mannerheim brought Finland into John's personal life, too, when he married Leena in 1970. With Leena he also enjoyed intellectual companionship and discussing everything from his work on Finnish history to Middle Eastern politics, though John's analytical and historical outlook and Leena's more subjective Finnish viewpoint resulted in many lively encounters! John's knowledge of Finnish (albeit a rather specialised variety of Finnish, with better command of the words for the military ranks than the contents of the fridge) also meant that the family home was always a bilingual household, and Leena was able to pass on her love of the Finnish language to Elina and Thomas. John was very proud and supportive of his children. Elina's decision to follow him to his old Cambridge college, Peterhouse, to read history, was a particular pleasure, and he always took a close interest in her career and subsequent research, even if it was on the ninth century rather than the nineteenth. He understood when Thomas decided that two historians were quite enough in one family, and took pride in Thomas's decision to study chemistry, which took him to Oxford to undertake a DPhil, and also found him his wife Rebecca. Thomas and Rebecca's happiness together gave John and Leena enormous pleasure.

In speaking of library work, John once said that library cataloguers were born and

not made. Although we are not sure if John himself was a natural cataloguer, he was certainly naturally library and list-minded. Even in retirement, when John and Leena moved from Edware to Berkhamsted, the books all moved in perfect shelf order, ready for immediate re-shelving. As Librarian at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, John was able to draw upon his personal interests and expertise to help develop the library, and he took great pleasure in building up the collection relating to Finland in particular. His interest in the School and library never stopped, and even on his final visit to Finland he was noting down books to recommend to his successor Lesley Pitman. The university world also brought John many important friends and valued colleagues in SSEES and beyond, with many of his fellow trainees at library school becoming life-long friends.

Friends and friendship were extremely important to John and another key theme in his life. Having been an only child, he enjoyed having a large extended family in Finland. His oldest friend, Michael, knew John from primary school days, when they shared war games and adventures in Stretford. John was quietly sociable, and enjoyed returning to his old college each summer to catch up with his contemporaries. He was an active member of the Anglo-Finnish Society. He looked forward to his regular visits up to town, to meet friends over lunch or to visit exhibitions and museums together, or to pop into his club. Life in Berkhamsted added the pleasure of concerts and lectures to the list. He also made many friends through his involvement in church life, particularly at St Lawrence's, Little Stanmore, and since 2003 here at St Peter's, Berkhamsted, where he rapidly felt part of the community. John's religious faith, rarely spoken of but deeply held, was enormously important to him, and he took an active interest in theology and church politics.

John was extremely precise and meticulous. When once given a model

figure of Mannerheim by friends, he refused to paint it, because he was not certain which horse Mannerheim was riding, and therefore could not be sure to get the colour right. Although mostly enjoying and insisting upon the comforts of routine, occasionally he could break out and do something downright unexpected. Most people would not consider the independence day parade in Paraguay the perfect post-retirement holiday destination... but John and Thomas went to South America, shared a great many beef steaks, and several unusual experiences including a tour of the country's largest milk factory. John had an enormous enjoyment of the small things in life and took a childlike delight in trains, rapid take-offs at the airport and opening birthday presents – as well as having a great *un*-enjoyment of other small things, such as the tendency of door handles to reach out and become entangled in his sleeves, of tins not wanting to open, and latterly the vagaries of the London Midland train company. He appreciated wit and had a strong sense of humour, sometimes wearing family jokes a bit thin in his enjoyment of them. John had enormous knowledge of his particular field, but there were also definite limits to his interests: anything remotely scientific in the *Telegraph's* general knowledge crossword was immediately referred to Thomas and Rebecca, trees were by and large either tall or bushy-topped, in the old gunners' definition, and he was emphatically NOT a lover of the great outdoors, although his interest in military history did lead him to spend eight years in the Territorial Army in the 1960s. His ideal holiday was spent in an archive in Helsinki. Although as a professional historian John worked on the past, he was always looking to the future and his next project. He had just completed one book and once again was in Helsinki, enthusiastically starting a new project, when the unexpected and untimely end came, and he was called out of time into eternity.





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Following the publication of the October *review*, your Editor was taken to task by the clergy, and quite rightly so, for a strange error in the account of the reredos in St Peter's Church (pp.16/17).

The sixth figure from the left is not the Archangel Raphael. It is St Michael, Archangel and Captain of the Heavenly Host: *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him* (Revelations

xii.7-9). A strange error indeed. St Michael is shown in the reredos in armour and carrying a shield, fitting accoutrements for the Captain of the Heavenly Host and unlikely for Raphael, traditionally associated with healing.

While St Michael is firmly attached to the reredos, St Raphael has a more peripatetic existence in St Peter's, sometimes hidden from public gaze in the vestry, sometimes on duty in

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

The Editor and the Archangels

Christopher Green writes

the Lady Chapel with his fellow Archangel St Uriel. These figures belong with those that adorn the reredos. They all originated as an enrichment of the medieval rood screen in 1903 when they were

put in place as a thank-offering for the safe return from the South African War of Horace Smith-Dorrien and his fellow officers, A A and E Dorrien-Smith. But when the time came, during the re-ordering of the church in 1960, to put the rood screen in its present position screening off the old chancel and forming the reredos behind the main altar, there was no room for the Archangels Raphael and Uriel and they began their new and somewhat unpredictable life.❖



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St Raphael

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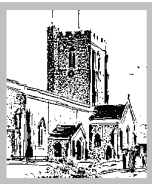
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review Northchurch & Wigginton

Determination and Resolve

**The Revd
Jonathan
Gordon writes**

At the time of writing this article the Archbishop of Canterbury, **Rowan Williams**, has given a sermon in which he expressed his unease over the lack of certainty over war

aims in Iraq.

In a world as complicated as ours has become, it would be a very rash person who would feel able to say without hesitation this was absolutely the right or the wrong thing to do, the right or the wrong place to be.

In the 2003 invasion 179 British soldiers were killed, and since then a significant number of soldiers have been killed or seriously injured in Afghanistan. The unknown figure is the loss of civilian life in the two countries. The Archbishop praised the sacrifices and the integrity of the armed forces working at the grassroots level, but the tone of his sermon expressed his deep unease with the way that war policy had been formulated and put into place.

The month of November is a time for reflection and remembrance. It is seventy years since war was declared on Germany and to mark the anniversary one of the major newspapers has been reprinting past copies from September 1939 onwards. A striking feature is the references to resolve and determination in the faith that right would prevail. The King in a broadcast to the nation stated that unless the allies challenged Nazi aggression,

*The peoples of the world
would be kept in the bondage*

of fear, and all hopes of settled peace and of the security of justice and liberty among nations would be ended.

As the war progressed and after the fall of France in June 1940 that resolve was to be severely tested, but from the early days of the declaration of war in September 1939, the reader of the papers can sense an unwavering resolution to see the cause through to the end.

Since 1945 the story of conflict and sacrifice has never been straightforward. The proliferation of nuclear weapons alongside the advancement in the technology of conventional weapons has divided public opinion and debate. I have listened to passionate denunciations of the war in Iraq; one of the most powerful being given by a mother whose 19 year old son had been killed in Basra. Likewise, I have heard sincere and reasoned justifications for armed intervention. As a Christian I know Jesus commended peacemakers and that must imply the hope that reconciliation and forgiveness is possible. The call to be a peacemaker is a demanding one. In these uncertain times it most likely requires the resolve and unbending determination that was so evident seventy years ago. ❖

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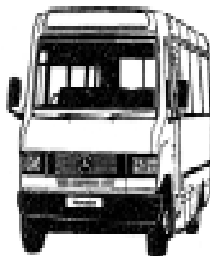


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The Sixties keep getting written about. I suppose those who were there have

the attitude that if you remember it, you weren't there. The latest one I've heard about is by **Jenny Diski** and entitled *The Sixties* - catchy or what? (Jenny Diski 2009 *The Sixties*. Profile Books Ltd ISBN 978 1 84668 003 8)

They all seem to start from the time the author started at university and promptly got into the drug culture; and then generally go into great detail on how their lives at university happened, what events they attended and who they roomed with. I get the feeling that not a lot of education went on either then or even now.

Being, (as most who know me realise) bitter and twisted and not being stupid enough to waste my time going to university, I thought we ought to start putting the record straight as far as our little town is concerned. The sixties in Berkhamsted brought big changes. Most of the town centre was knocked down and housing was springing up everywhere. This was the time when the railway was being electrified, commuter housing was going up and the town was expanding in an effort to catch up with the rapidly expanding New Town of Hemel Hempstead.

You are going to have to forgive my recollections in some areas as I got hit by a bus in 1982 which has resulted in gaps due to a bump on the bonce, so let's start with the obvious. Durrants Estate was started just after I came to the town and, naturally, my parents moved into one of the first council houses (... remember council houses?). Normal schools for us riff-raff were Chapel Street or Gossoms End, then to Park View or Victoria and then to the *bi-lateral comprehensive* school called Ashlyns at the top of Chesham Road (this was once the main road to Chesham). Choice was not high on anyone's list.

In the early 1950s most of the town had

THE SIXTIES

Norman Cutting looks back

gas street lighting, there was a Sainsbury's, but the major retailer was the Co-op. Most roads

had small grocers on the corner or little groups like Gossoms End, Kitsbury Parade, Gravel Path, Rex Parade and the Hall Walk. We had a lot of pubs, two cinemas, the KA Hall and the Town Hall. Being on the main road between London and Birmingham, the High Street was somewhat busy. Indeed, my grandfather was a chauffeur before the war, and I can recall him telling me that you always knew when you got to Berkhamsted as the roads were terrible and we had traffic lights (uncommon outside London before the war).

Before we get to the sixties, what else sticks in my mind? Well, the High Street had nasty yellow street lighting installed in the early 50s. You couldn't walk down the High Street without having to stop and natter to at least half a dozen people. Sharlands was the alternative to the Co-op, Harts and Norman Clarke were the shops for TV, radio and other electrical bits as an alternative the Co-op. On a personal front, I recall the school dinners being served at St Peter's Hall, after a long march from Victoria School, playing hop-sotch on the pavement in Holliday Street, the *Rec* in George Street, the paddling pool on the Moor, falling into the lock at Ravens Lane (mention in local press and dad got a bill from British Waterways for *saving* me), the slate to write on at Chapel Street school and the milk being warmed on the heating pipes at Victoria School (... along with the cold outside toilets).

Let's have a go at remembering just what did happen in the town after the war. I've already got my step-father thinking, as he was actually born in 5 Chesham Road and his mum ran a sweet shop near *The Court*. Any readers interested in revisiting this period could do worse than get in touch and I'm sure we can compile a few articles together (8 7 1 8 5 1 or normthesparks@aol.co.uk) ❖



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review notes & notices

BERKHAMSTED FLOWER CLUB

Thursday 19th November 2009 at 7:00 for 7:30pm in the Civic Centre. Demonstration by Anne Birch and Pamela Ferguson, entitled *The Two of us go Festive with Flowers*. Admission £10 with mulled wine and shortbread.

BERKHAMSTED JAZZ

Saturday 7th November 2009 at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. Tribute to **Campbell Burnap** with **Ron Drake & Roy Williams**. Members £8, visitors £12, concessions £6 at the door.

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Thursday 12th November 2009 at 8:00pm in the Sessions Hall *The Identification of Oriental Rugs*. **Robert Algin** of *Gallery Nomad*. Visitors £2.

BERKHAMSTED FILM SOCIETY

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

Monday/Tuesday 16th and 17th November 2009 at 8:00pm *Fugitive Pieces*. Both at Civic Centre. Visitors £5

BERKHAMSTED YOUTH THEATRE

Thursday to Saturday 26th – 28th November 2009 at 7:30pm and matinee on Saturday at 2:30pm. At Court Theatre, Pendley. *Fiddler on the Roof*. £8 Thursday, £10 other. Concessions £5. from Berkhamsted Imaging 226 High St

CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 15th November 2009 from 11:00am-4:00pm. at Ashlyns School. Over 70 stalls.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



On a pleasant afternoon **Judith Lowther** welcomed members and two visitors to our October meeting and read to us three poems relating to Autumn.

Together with **Janet Mitchell** they took us through the business matters and forthcoming events. **Joy Lovell** gave us a report of the 90th Anniversary of the WI service held at St Albans Abbey which she was able to attend on our behalf.

Our speaker this month was **Julia Marriage** her subject being – *White Dresses and Panama Hats*. It was interesting to hear of her life at her boarding school in the 1950's. The regime of teaching being so different from today's education system, and what was expected of the girls, to do with not only lessons, sport and dance, but also behaviour! We had school photos and memorabilia on show for us to view.

A vote of thanks was given by **Joy Lovell**. During teatime the raffle was drawn and the competitions judged.

Next month on **6th November 2009** is our Annual Meeting with a County Visitor at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2:00pm. New members are most welcome.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Friday 27th November 2009 from 3:00pm to **Sunday 29th November 2009**, culminating in an Advent Evensong at 6:30pm. Refreshments, Stalls. St Mary's Northchurch Entrance £1

FIREWORK DISPLAY

Saturday, 7th November 2009 at 6:00pm. (gates open 5:00pm) at Berkhamsted Cricket Club, Castle Hill. Adults £5, children £3.

review notes & notices

BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY & MUSEUM SOCIETY

Wednesday 11th November 2009 at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. **Tony Eaton** *The curious disappearance of Major Glenn Miller*. Visitors £2.50 at the door.

BERKHAMSTED & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Thursday 22nd October 2009 at 7:45pm at Newcroft, Mill Street. *Where a Queen Defied her King*. **Kevan Fadden**. Visitors £1.50 on the door.

ITALIAN FOOD MARKET



Sunday 29th November 2009 10:00am-4:00pm *Italia In Piazza* is returning to Berkhamsted with a wonderful selection of Italian speciality foods including Olives, Cheeses, Hams and much much more. Be sure to be there and stock up for Christmas Italian style.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS

Berkhamsted Combined Charities

Saturday 14th November 2009 9:15am to 3:00pm.

Saturday 25th November 2009 9:15am to 3:00pm in The Court House, Berkhamsted.

BERKHAMSTED ART SOCIETY

Tuesday 10th November 2009 at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. Demonstration of landscape painting in watercolour and gouache by **John Redfern Harris**. Visitors £2.

Monday, 30th November 2009 to Saturday, 5th December 2009 9:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday and until 5:00pm on Saturday. Art Exhibition. To view and for sale. No charge.

DACORUM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sunday 15th November 2009 at 3:30pm Centenary Hall, Kings Road. Sibelius: Violin Concerto, Tchaikovsky: Symphony no 5. Soloist **Francesca Barritt** Conductor **Thomas Loten**.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Saturday 31st October 2009 11:00am – 3:00pm: *Community Day*. This is an opportunity for local residents who may have walked past the church for years but never looked inside to see the church, enjoy coffee or tea and cakes and learn more about what goes on there.

BERKHAMSTED ARTS AND CRAFT MARKET

Saturdays 3rd October and 7th November 2009 9:30am-4:30pm

Sunday 15th November - 9:30am-2:00pm

Xmas specials: **Saturday 5th December** 9:30-4:30 and **Sunday 13th December** 9:30-2:00 All in the Town Hall

Claire who organises the markets is looking for individuals or groups to sing or play for ten minutes or longer at the Xmas markets. Contact Claire asap on 07951 943 101 e.claire@artbyclaire.com.

reviewnotes¬ices

OXFAM IN EAST AFRICA

Climate change is flavour of the month in the run-up to the international conference in Copenhagen. Oxfam and other aid agencies are already seeing its effects in many of the countries in which they work as more dramatic weather events such as hurricanes and floods take their toll.

In East Africa it is lack of seasonal rains which is disrupting normal life. In parts of Kenya there has been no rainfall for four years. The effects on livestock and agriculture are devastating. Prices for staples like maize are currently 170 per cent above normal levels. Oxfam has launched an appeal to pay for trucking in water.

With the flood of country-dwellers heading for the city, water shortages in the urban slums are becoming a serious issue. The cost of water is eight times higher for the urban poor than for their affluent neighbours.

It costs just £9 to provide clean water for 10 people. What better present could there be? Oxfam's new Unwrapped alternative gift catalogue has the details.

NATIONAL TRUST - ASHRIDGE

Saturday 7th November 2009 2-4pm.
Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre. *Badger Tea and Talk*. Learn all about badgers and how to watch them.
Adults £15.00 Booking essential
(851227) or ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

Saturday 21st November 2009 2-4pm.
Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre. *The Incredible edible Dormouse*. Tea and Talk
Join us to learn all about the edible dormouse (*Glis glis*) and discover how it was introduced in 1902 at Tring Park and how it has spread since then.

ST JOHN'S GOSPEL IN PERFORMANCE

Tuesday 3rd November 2009 at 7:45pm
in the Centenary Hall, Berkhamsted School. Berkhamsted Deanery's annual presentation on one of the Gospels continues with this performance by **Meda Stamper**. Tickets £5 from **Liz Jackson** (864382) Students free.

BERKHAMSTED WEA

Friday, 6th November 2009 12-2:30pm
at the Friends' Meeting House. *The Victorian Age: Setting the Scene* **Andrew Rudolf**. £10

Saturday, 14th November 2009 10-4:00pm. *English Oratoria* with **Jonathan Damborough** £25 (two-day school £45) Contact **Hazel Ward** (875899).

BERKHAMSTED SCHOOL

Monday, 23rd November 2009 at 7:00pm
in Centenary Hall, Kings Road, Concert for St Cecilia's Day given by musicians from the school. No charge.

TRANSITION TOWN BERKHAMSTED

Sunday 1st November 2009 10:30-11:30am At The Court House.
The Sunday Exchange

Bring along as many good quality items to swap as you want. E.g. anything locally grown, produced or homemade - fruit, vegetables, herbs, plants, seeds, cakes, biscuits, breads, jams, chutney, honey, wine, cordial; or services and advice, e.g. how to save energy, offer to do a job, swap your garden! For more information contact **Marion Baker** (874732)

November

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------|--|
| SUN | <i>St Peter's</i> | 8:00am | Eucharist |
| | | 9:30am | Sung Eucharist |
| | | 6:00pm | Evensong |
| <i>All Saints'</i> | 1 st | 10:00am | All Saints' Day - Patronal Festival Holy Communion |
| | 8 th | 10:00am | Morning Worship |
| | 15 th | 10:00am | Eucharist |
| | | 4:00pm | Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving |
| | 22 nd | 10:00am | Morning Worship |
| | 29 th | 10:00am | Holy Communion |

All services at *St Peter's* unless otherwise indicated. MP = Morning Prayer EP = Evening Prayer

| | | | | | | |
|-----|----|--------|----|--------------------|-----------|---|
| MON | MP | 9:00am | 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 |

3rd Mon PASTORAL NETWORK 7:45pm *The Court House*
Contact Philippa Seldon (871534)

Tue CHUCKLES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 10:00-11:30am *All Saints' Church Hall*
Song Time or short service as announced. Jenny Wells (870981)

Tue ST PETER'S CHOIR Children 5:15 to 6:15pm *St Peter's*
Contact: Adrian Davis (875674) or Jean Wild (866859)

1st Tue TUESDAY CLUB 7:45pm *A lively women's group with guest speaker The Court House*
Contact chairman Barbara McKenna (871159)

3rd Tue MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm.
Non-members always welcome. Contact: Kathie Lally (863526)

4th Tue MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:30pm *17 Shaftesbury Court*
Tell us if anyone needs our prayers. Contact: Jenny Wells (870981)

Wed JULIAN MEETING: meets about twice a month at Jenny's *57 Meadow Rd*
All are very welcome at 11:30am as arranged or at Ruth's *1 Montague Rd*
Contact: Jenny Wells (870981) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)

Wed PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7-8:30pm (yrs 5-8) Penny Nash (865217)
The Court House

3rd 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. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thu BELLRINGING: 8:00pm Helen Ruberry (890949) *St Peter's*

Fri LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-11:30am *The Court House*
Weekly meetings with a short service 1st Fri in St Peter's (10am)
Tracy Robinson (863559)

Fri ST PETER'S CHOIR: Children 7:00-8:30pm, Adults 7:30-8:30pm. *St Peter's*
Contact: Adrian Davis (875674) or Jean Wild (866859)

3rd Sat ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast & prayers. *Various local churches*

reviewdiary

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

November/December

NOVEMBER

| | | | | |
|-----|----|---------|---|--------------------------------|
| Mon | 2 | 8:00pm | All Souls' Solemn Requiem with Duruflé Requiem | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Wed | 4 | 8:00pm | Showing of Songs of Praise televised in St Peter's May '78 and broadcast Feb '79 | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Fri | 6 | 10:00am | Little Fishes Service..... | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Tue | 10 | 10:15am | Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Joshua and his Trumpet</i> | <i>All Saints'</i> |
| Fri | 13 | 1:00pm | The Cowper Society presents: Recital Anna Markland piano, Catherine Van der Geest violin | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Sat | 14 | 7:30pm | The Cowper Society presents: <i>Bridgewater Sinfonia</i> | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Sat | 21 | 8:00am | Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast | <i>All Saints'</i> |
| | | 8:00pm | Cowper Society presents: <i>Berkhamsted Music Society</i> : Steven Osborne piano | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Sun | 22 | 6:00pm | St Cecilia Choral Evensong | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Tue | 24 | 10:15am | Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Elijah and his Still Small Voice</i> | <i>All Saints'</i> |
| Sat | 28 | 2:00pm | Advent Workshop (until 5:00pm) | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Sun | 29 | 6:00pm | Advent Carol Service | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Mon | 30 | 8:00pm | Consecration of the new Lady Chapel altar..... | <i>Lady Chapel, St Peter's</i> |

DECEMBER

| | | | | |
|-----|----|---------|---|--|
| Tue | 1 | 10:15am | Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Christmas Story</i> | <i>All Saints'</i> |
| Fri | 4 | 10:00am | Little Fishes Service followed by St Nicholas party..... | <i>St Peter's then The Court House</i> |
| Sun | 6 | 7:30pm | The Cowper Society presents: <i>Berkhamsted Choral Society</i> | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Tue | 8 | 8:00pm | Parochial Church Council | <i>The Court House</i> |
| Fri | 11 | 9:30am | Thomas Bourne Service with Victoria School | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Sun | 13 | 6:00pm | Choral Evensong..... | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Wed | 16 | 7:30pm | Rotary Carol Service..... | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Sat | 19 | 8:00am | Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast..... | <i>St Mary's Northchurch</i> |
| | | 7:30pm | The Cowper Society presents: <i>The Gaudeamus Singers</i> | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Sun | 20 | 9:30am | Sung Eucharist with the Sunday School Nativity..... | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Wed | 23 | 7:30pm | The Cowper Society presents: <i>Chiltern Chamber Choir</i> Bach B Minor Mass | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Thu | 24 | 4:00pm | The Crib Service..... | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| | | 11:30pm | The Midnight Mass of Christmas | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| Fri | 25 | 8:00am | Eucharist..... | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| | | 9:30am | Sung Eucharist for Christmas Day..... | <i>St Peter's</i> |

reviewregisters

Baptisms (St Peter's)

27th September Archie Frederick Allington Miller, Henry Robert Jürgen Masters

Baptisms (All Saints')

27th September Teagan Lerpiniere

Weddings (St Peter's)

3rd October Duncan Stuart Walkinshaw & Sophia Desouza

Funerals

29th September John Frederick Chalkley

9th October John Ernest Oliver Screen

15th October John Lusted

Chilterns Crematorium

St Peter's Church (Kingshill)

Chilterns Crematorium

YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST PETER'S AND ALL SAINTS'

St Peter's

Sunday school and Pathfinders run from 9:30am to 10:30 in the Court House (next to the church in the High Street). Sunday School caters for 4 to 10 year olds, Pathfinders from 10 years upwards. Contact Helen Nicholls (873162) 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 children and young people 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 - Vicky Drury (384794), for Pathfinders—Penny O'Neill (843422).

Youth Groups

Pathfinders games club meets 7:00-8:30pm each Wednesday in the Court House. Contact Penny Nash (865217)

Donutz - for young people (10 years up) meeting in the Court House every third Sunday of the month after the 9:30am service. Contact Stephen Lally (863526) or Gill Malcolm (874993)

Been to the
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the Bookshop
then coffee
to recover

<http://wayinn.com>



WAY INN

A Christian Centre at 268 High Street

Telephone: Coffee Shop 864751, Bookshop 870768



Drawing by Mary Casserley, with permission

reviewcontacts

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)
The Revd Penny Nash (Youth minister) The Vicarage, Potten End (865217)
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)
 All Saints' **Michael Robinson**, 36 Trevelyan Way, (863559)
 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) <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** 22 Brook Street, Tring (890949)

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

Last month's Personality



Bill Stead at RAF Bridgenorth, 1959





BMS

The Cowper Society presents



Berkhamsted Music Society

Saturday 21st November 2009

8:00pm St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted

Steven Osborne *piano*

Beethoven

Beethoven

Beethoven

Ravel

Ravel

Bagatelles Op 33

Sonata Op 79 in G major

Bagatelles Op 119

Gaspard de la Nuit

La Valse

**Tickets: £12 (£10 concessions) U18 free
from treasurer (862798) or at the door**

The Cowper Society and Berkhamsted Music Society are members of the
Berkhamsted Arts Trust which is financially supported by Dacorum Borough Council

GOOD MUSIC NEAR YOU

bridgewater sinfonia

patron SIR ANDREW DAVIS

conductor ADRIAN DAVIS

SATURDAY 14th November

JOHN ADAMS

The Chairman Dances
(Foxtrot for Orchestra)

SHOSTAKOVICH

Concerto No.1 for Piano and Trumpet
MARTYNA JATKAUSKAITE *piano*

GILES FOWLER *trumpet*

SIBELIUS

Symphony No.2 in D



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