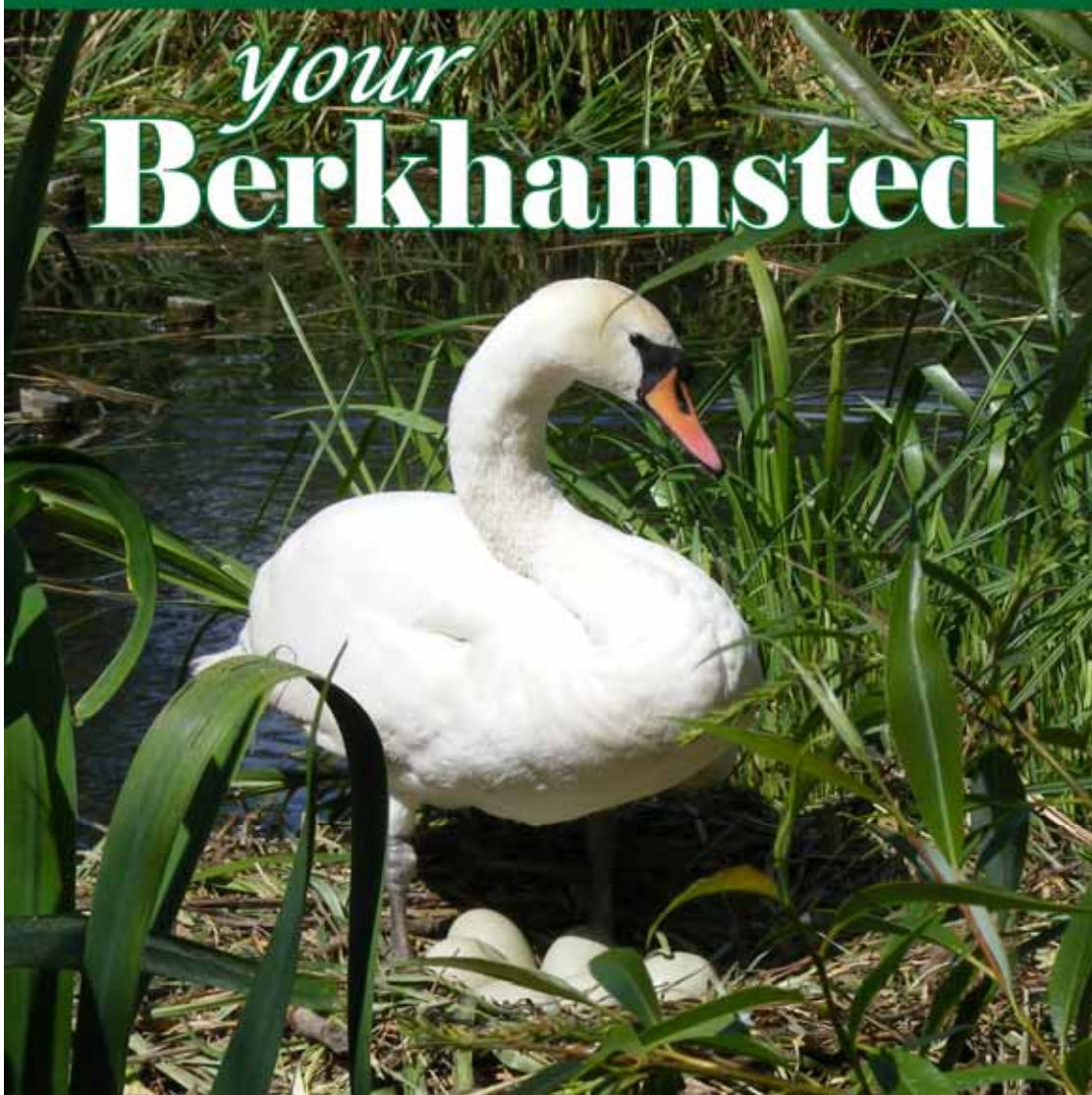


*the magazine for town and parish*

# *your* **Berkhamsted**



Walk with the Stars 2011  
Local history - Dean Incent's House  
30 years of the Petertide Fair  
News from around Berkhamsted

June 2011

50p

# *From the Editor* June 2011



*The Parish Magazine of  
St Peter's  
Great Berkhamsted*

## **Welcome to the June issue of *Your Berkhamsted*.**

Later this month Fr John Pritchard will be leaving St Peter's, and Berkhamsted, to take up a new position in London (see page 16). I would like to thank him for his invaluable practical and moral support, to me as the editor of *Your Berkhamsted*, and to the rest of the team who produce and deliver the magazine each month. We will miss him, and wish him every success and happiness in this new stage of his life.

Since our request for more written contributions from readers I have received a number of interesting articles, which will be printed in the coming months. Thank you to those who wrote in.

I would also like to thank PJ Marvell for writing an engaging serial for us over the past nine months. I hope you will enjoy the final chapter of *Little Spirit*, starting on page 14.

**Ian Skillicorn, Editor**

## *Contents*

Leader by Richard Hackworth	3
Around the town: local news	5
Hospice News	9
Sam Limbert 's letter home	11
Local history: Dr John Incent	12
Little Spirit - Chapter 9	14
Parish News - Farewell Fr John	16
Fresh from the farm	20
Difficult questions	23
Oxfam's Grow Campaign	25
30 years of the Petertide Fair	27
The local beekeeper	29
Your Berkhamsted needs you!	31

We welcome contributions, suggestions for articles and news items, and readers' letters. For all editorial and advertising contacts, please see page 18. For copy dates for July to September's issues, please refer to page 31.

Front cover: Swan with her eggs at St John's Well, Berkhamsted. Back cover: Fr John Pritchard.

*Responsibility for opinions expressed in articles and letters published in this magazine and for the accuracy of any statements in them rests solely with the individual contributor. Your Berkhamsted has no affiliation with the Save Your Berkhamsted campaign.*

## *Your Berkhamsted Leader* by Richard Hackworth



One way or another every month in the Church year is busy but this June seems especially so.

We have Ascension Day, Pentecost, Trinity, Corpus Christi and of course St Alban on 22nd June. There is a lot for the Church to focus on – lots of food for thought and sermon material. But in some ways these important and high profile festivals perhaps seem removed from everyday life – things that happen inside Church rather than outside where we live most of our lives.

We also have a new Borough Council. Sometimes politics also seems a bit removed from everyday life, but politics is about how we run our community.

Religion and politics intersect where our faith informs our social values. The great festivals of the Church are about affirming the values and principles by which we live. John Dominic Crossan has observed that everything in Heaven is fine – it's here on earth where the problems are. Practical action, whether quiet personal acts of kindness or bigger initiatives on public issues, is where faith gains traction in the world.

Our local Churches all raise funds to contribute to charities in this country and abroad and many people privately contribute substantial sums to charities. There are charitable events throughout the year – like the Berkhamsted Walk in aid

of the Children's Society, several events run for the Hospice of St Francis and, of course, the Petertide Fair run by St Peter's Church. The fair is one of a number of Petertide fund raising events. In 2010 these raised a total of £14,000 that was given to charities in this country and in India. This year the Fair will be on 11th June in the St Peter's churchyard – do please come and support it, and spend some money. If you are not currently involved with any of the charities within Berkhamsted, why not think about joining in?

We need a life in Church to strengthen our faith, so that we can act on that faith outside Church. The late Lord Soper once commented that Christianity must mean everything to us before it can mean anything to others. And for this we need strong leaders, people trained and equipped and committed to lead our churches and to inspire all of the rest of us.

We have been blessed to have two such people among us in Berkhamsted who will shortly be moving to new roles. Caroline Weaver who has been priest at our Anglican-Methodist LEP at All Saints', and John Pritchard who has been curate at St Peter's. They will be a blessing to their new roles and we wish them every success. We are privileged that talented people should spend part of their careers with us.

We hope perhaps they have learnt something from us, as we most definitely have from them. *JB*

# CONNEXKT COLOUR TECHNIK

Bringing colour to life



[www.connektcolour.com](http://www.connektcolour.com)

[www.technik.com](http://www.technik.com)



## THE OLD PASTURES

LUXURY ACCOMMODATION FOR DOGS

Icknield Farm, Icknield Way,

Tring, Herts HP23 4JX



Luxury heated accommodation for your dog

Only 8 large kennels giving your dog the extra care and attention they deserve. All dogs are walked twice a day.

Holiday homes for small animals

## DOG GROOMING

BATHING, CLIPPING, TRIMMING, HAND-STRIPPING, NAILS AND EARS. WEEKEND APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE. EASY WALK

IN, NON-SLIP SHOWER IDEAL FOR OLDER AND BIGGER DOGS. WE CAN

CATER FOR ANY SIZE DOG.

EASY PARKING.

FOR AN APPOINTMENT FOR GROOMING OR KENNELING PLEASE CALL:

**01442 824856**



Vintage finds

Architectural salvage

Bespoke furniture crafted from reclaimed timber

Mile Barn Farm, Hemel Hempstead Road,  
Dagnall, Berkhamsted HP4 1QR

[jane@serendipityreclamation.com](mailto:jane@serendipityreclamation.com) / 07779 097216

[serendipityreclamation.com](http://serendipityreclamation.com)

## Church View Funeral Service



*Independent Family Funeral Directors of Distinction*

- ◆ *Serving Tring, Northchurch, Berkhamsted & Surrounding Areas*
- ◆ *Traditional Values*
- ◆ *Fully Qualified Funeral Director*
- ◆ *24 Hour Personal Service*
- ◆ *Independent Family Business*
- ◆ *Golden Charter Funeral Plans*
- ◆ *Home Arrangements*

**Church Yard, Tring  
Hertfordshire  
HP23 5AE**

## Around the town

The latest news from around Berkhamsted

**C**ome to a unique event on Sunday June 5th 2.30 – 5.30pm and support the work of The Children's Society. A chance to see The Bothy, Berkhamsted Place, Castle Hill,



Berkhamsted HP4 1HQ. An afternoon of music and magic, artist's master classes, and games. All in the ticket price of adult £4, children £2, family £10. Peter Gardini, a member of the Magic Circle will perform at 3pm and 4pm. Artist Jan Makover will give half hourly lessons in sketching. Teas and stalls. Come and enjoy a great afternoon and help to give hope to some of the most distressed children in this country.

**T**he Cowper Society presents The Bridgewater Sinfonia with Chiltern Chamber Choir at St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted on Saturday 25th June at 7:30pm.

Vaughan Williams: A Sea Symphony, Parry Blest pair of Sirens. Conducted by Adrian Davis.

Tickets: £13, Seniors £11, U18 free, Dacorum Card 20% discount. Buy from [www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk](http://www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk); phone 01442 873205 or from Aitchisons,

Berkhamsted or Perfect Pitch, Chesham.

**W**alk with the stars on June 11<sup>th</sup> and raise money for The Hospice of St Francis. More information is on page 9.

**A**lso on June 11<sup>th</sup>, come along to the 30th annual Petertide Fair at St Peter's churchyard for stalls, refreshments, miniature railway, Punch and Judy, live music, alpacas and more! See page 27 for full details and a history of the Fair.

**T**he 11th to 12th June is a busy weekend, as a Charity Air Day will also be taking place over those two days at RAF Halton. More information is on page 7.

**Y**our Berkhamsted needs you! We are keen to hear from readers who would like to contribute articles to the magazine. In particular, we welcome submissions of short stories, poems and serials for consideration.

Are you a budding writer or journalist, or do you just have something you'd like to share or get off your chest? If so, please go to page 31 more full details. *JB*

*Please let us know your community news. Contact details are on page 18.*



# Blair Electrical Limited

Electrical Engineers & Contractors

Domestic, Commercial & Industrial installations

REGISTERED MEMBER



Blair Electrical  
- people you can rely on

Blair Electrical Ltd. Unit 11 Akeman Business Park,  
Akeman Street, Tring, Herts. HP23 6AF

Tel: 01442 827696 Fax: 01442 827698

e-mail: [info@blairelectrical.com](mailto:info@blairelectrical.com)

<http://www.blairelectrical.com>

# T.A. LINGARD MOTORS

BILLET LANE  
BERKHAMSTED

Tel: Berkhamsted 871911

- WELDING
- SERVICING
- BREAKDOWN  
RECOVERY
- BODY REPAIRS

## PETER D HANNABY

### Painter and Decorator

*Interior and exterior  
work undertaken.*

*For competitive  
quotations  
please call:*

mbl: 07765 250092  
home: 01442 288956

## Abbeyfield

Where older people find care in housing

The Abbeyfield (Berkhamsted and Hemel  
Hempstead) Society Limited

### **Independent but unhappy living alone?**

Abbeyfield provide very sheltered houses at  
Potten End  
Hemel Hempstead  
Leverstock Green

For further information contact:  
Mrs Susan Pullen 01442 217578

Registered Charity No. 262424. Registered Office 175 High St. Berkhamsted



Will Kimberley  
Garden Services  
01442 255784

- ◆ Grass cutting
- ◆ Hedge trimming
- ◆ Patios cleaned
- ◆ Gutters cleared
- ◆ All cuttings and  
clippings removed
- ◆ References available

*Why not phone  
for a quote?*

## Berkhamsted Carpet Cleaning Ltd

carpets  
oriental rugs  
upholstery

- residential & commercial
- professional • good value
- fully insured

**David Green**  
**01442 876622**  
**0788 405 8795**

PO Box 903 Berkhamsted  
Herts HP4 3ZQ

[www.berkhamstedcarpetcleaning.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedcarpetcleaning.co.uk)

## Berkhamsted Oven Cleaning Ltd

complete valet service for

**all ovens, hobs  
and extractors**

- professional • good value
- fully insured

**David Green**  
**01442 876622**  
**0788 405 8795**

PO Box 903 Berkhamsted  
Herts HP4 3ZQ

[www.berkhamstedovencleaning.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedovencleaning.co.uk)

# *Charity Air Day*

## **Stuart McKay takes to the skies**

The de Havilland Moth Club was formed in 1975, fifty years after the maiden flight of the first DH.60 Moth light aeroplane, from Stag Lane Aerodrome, North London, in the hands of her designer Captain Geoffrey de Havilland. The Club, with headquarters in Berkhamsted, is an administrative organisation providing assistance to owners, pilots and enthusiasts in 25 countries in an effort to maintain vintage de Havilland aeroplanes in airworthy condition. Through the medium of electronic communications, a quarterly glossy magazine and regular newsletters, the 1,200 Club members are provided with a constant stream of updates on changes to legislation, the availability of spare parts, cries for assistance and the organisation of events.

In 1990 the Club arranged its first 'Charity Air Day' at the former home of the de Havilland Aircraft Company at Hatfield. Under rigid guidance promulgated by the Civil Aviation Authority which set parameters for location, weather limits, pilot age and experience and maintenance standards of the aeroplanes, none of which was built after 1944, Club members were permitted to fly members of the public against a fee which was donated to charity.

Following the closure of Hatfield Aerodrome this unique activity moved to Old Warden Aerodrome near Biggleswade and to RAF Halton in 2007. To date about £150,000 has been raised and in 2011 the main beneficiaries are Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick



Children, Help for Heroes and the de Havilland Educational Trust.

The Charity Air Day has long since developed into a weekend and the fifth event at RAF Halton is scheduled for 11th and 12th June where, in addition to the Queen's Birthday Flypast on Saturday and an afternoon flying display on both days featuring the Club's Captain Neville's Flying Circus and Tiger Nine formation team, it will be possible to buy flights in a number of different aircraft types: Tiger Moth, Fox Moth, Leopard Moth, Hornet Moth, Chipmunk, Miles Messenger, Beagle Pup, SAL Bulldog and others. The Chilterns branch of the MS Society is organising a Craft Fair, trade and charity stands, amusements and refreshments.

Gates open at 10.00am on both days, flying continues until 5.30pm and public entrance and car parking is free. *yB*

*Saturday's flypast might just cover Berkhamsted between about 1.15pm to 1.30pm., although this can't be guaranteed. If you can't make the event, keep your eyes to the skies!*

# ajw home services

gardening  
building works  
plumbing  
carpentry  
electrical  
decorating

**ANDREW  
WRIGHT**

**07790 751335**

**(answerphone)**

Friendly, efficient service - over 30 years experience in property  
Work charged at £15 per hour

## FURNITURE RESTORATION

Modern & Antique  
French Polishing,  
Lacquer Finish,  
Repairs. Kids  
playhouses, Dens,  
Treehouses.  
Cabinet Making &  
Carpentry. Spray Paint.

**Phone Brendon**

**01582 842817  
07958 927806**

### BOOKS PURCHASED

HARDBACK BOOKS  
WANTED OLD OR NEW  
LARGE OR SMALL  
AMOUNTS  
HOUSE CLEARANCE  
DISCRETION ASSURED  
PROMPT PAYMENT

**01442 877757**

**D J PROCTOR**

## S.Dell&Sons LIMITED THE PROFESSIONAL REMOVERS

**NEW CONTAINERISED WAREHOUSE  
IN OPERATION & OPEN FOR INSPECTION  
BETWEEN 9AM & 4PM  
HOLDING UP TO 600 CONTAINERS**



SILVERDALE HOUSE, CANALSIDE, NORTHBRIDGE ROAD, BERKHAMSTED, HERTS HP4 1EG  
TEL: 01442 863959 or 01753 891151 FAX: 01442 862163



### **ELLIOTT FLOORING** Carpets supplied and professionally fitted

Sample service, to  
view in the comfort of  
your home/office  
Wood flooring, variety  
of woods & laminate  
Carpet maintenance  
and cleaning  
Free estimates,  
measuring and advice  
Over 20 years experience

Tel/Fax: Cholesbury (01494) 758855  
Mobile: 07836 315333

## BRIAN S GROOM MBHI



*Qualified Clock Maker*  
*(over 30 years experience)*

*Antique and quality  
clocks repaired  
and restored  
Also watches, barometers  
and music boxes*

**Telephone: 01525 872679**



# Midnight Walk 2011

**F**ire breathers, music, dancing and flashing bunny ears will help light up a night to remember as more than 1,000 people gather to take part in the Hospice of St Francis fifth annual midnight walk.

Join the party on June 11<sup>th</sup> as women and this year, men, take to the streets between Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted dressed in the much-coveted hot pink Walk with the Stars t-shirts.

There will be bacon butties at the finish line and a hot cuppa plus fundraising prizes for those who raise the most amount of sponsorship including a well deserved two-night, two person stay at Champneys Tring plus 10 spa evenings and a Quest Holiday £500 holiday voucher.

If that's not enough to entice you to come and join the fundraising fun, then a goody bag from Gorgeous Beauty for every walker should help!

For some walkers who take part in the 5 or 11 mile route, it's a time to reflect and remember a loved one. For others it's a great excuse to lose weight, get fit, or just get together with friends for a good old chat along the way.

Walk with the Stars has raised more than £750,000 since it began and has now become the Hospice of St Francis' major fundraising event.

The Hospice needs every penny to carry on giving support and care to people across the county.

If you fancy a walk, sign up at [www.walkwiththestars.org.uk](http://www.walkwiththestars.org.uk) or call



01442 869555. It costs just £15 to register which includes your t-shirt and medal.

yB

**You can now make online donations to The Hospice of St Francis using a Debit or Credit Card.**

Just visit <http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/singlegift> and complete the online form.

**£10** would pay for a week's supply of seasonal flowers in the Inpatient Unit to bring a smile to our patients and their families.

**£50** would pay for a counselling session for children suffering from bereavement, helping them to remember their loved one.

## ACHILLES FOOT HEALTH

A PROFESSIONAL  
AND FRIENDLY HOME  
VISITING SERVICE TREATING  
THOSE WITH COMMON FOOT  
HEALTH PROBLEMS  
IN BERKHAMSTED,  
NORTHCHURCH AND THE  
SURROUNDING AREA.

**NICK JOHNS**

MAFHP MCFHP

**Tel: 07739 535015**

## A B W Services Ltd Plumbing & Heating



**Are you fed up searching for a reliable Plumber  
Tired of waiting in vain for promised appointments?  
Call us now for a friendly, prompt and reliable  
service.**

We are a Studham based and registered Plumbing and Heating Company, with many years experience in the industry. If you have a plumbing and heating problem, whatever the size, we will be more than happy to help remedy it. We specialise in all aspects of plumbing and heating including new bathrooms, new boilers and heating systems, servicing, upgrades to the latest building regs, high pressure hot water systems, and not forgetting water treatment. This can be in the form of water softeners installed or replaced, to special *house filtering* systems to remove sediment and odours. This is especially important if you suffer from dry skin or eczema, these filtering systems really help.

**For any further information or to organise a  
quote, please contact Andy Warwick on:**

**07775 853448 or 01582 873448**

# little jim's

## MINI-COACH HIRE

for 15 to 27 passengers

- Nights Out
- Airport Runs
- Family Events
- Hen Parties



**07736 705520  
01442 870029**

1 Castle St, Berkhamsted HP4 2BQ

## LOCAL ELECTRICIAN "FAST"

For all types of electrical work you require. Benefit from over 40 years of experience and our reliable and friendly service. From rewires to repairs no job too small. Call today for a **FREE NO OBLIGATION** quotation.

**Freephone Anytime  
0800 169 7409**

**Part P  
Registered**

**Fully Insured**

**Emergency calls  
1 hour response**

# *Procrastination with the nation... ...and millions of others*

**Sam Limbert** continues his regular column written to us from university

I've reached that time of the year where most other things in life seem insignificant, at least in the minds of teachers and lecturers. Exams are nearing, and will be upon students at the time of reading this piece, so therefore it is time for the dreaded revision.

For some, revision isn't quite what it says on the tin. It may include actually freshly learning information not learnt in usual term time, along with all the stuff to revisit and jog your memory with. Although sometimes however hard you try to study for long periods of time, make copious notes and read numerous books, procrastination can occur.

The common meaning of procrastination is that it is putting off things you should be doing, and students regularly find different techniques for doing this with revision. However at the end of April there was the ultimate tool for procrastination; the Royal Wedding.

Whilst most would have watched the momentous occasion instead of revision, I claimed that watching the event was revision.

On the Thursday before the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton, I went and walked the route from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey to observe and soak up the atmosphere. As I'm studying Sociology, Culture and Media, this event seemed to tick all the boxes. I was able to see the

massive media presence, even a day before the wedding, as they built and were part of a massive cultural event that will be talked about for years.

It could be argued that the wedding was part of British culture as such ceremonial royal occasions have been happening for many years, however the increase in the media means that it became a global 'media event'. TV presenters throughout the occasion kept saying that there were billions watching the wedding worldwide, and I'd seen the day before the interest from those outside of Britain.

A large number of the pre-wedding campers outside Westminster Abbey and on the Mall were from America and countries from the Commonwealth. There were also reporters from TV stations from all over the world busily fighting their way through the crowds to grab a word with anyone who would make for good television. There were microphones and cameras being sent into tents as ordinary British people were bringing the Royal Wedding atmosphere to onlookers around the globe.

Obviously I don't know if I'll be able to write about the Royal Wedding and media events in my exams, however I feel well prepared to do so should the opportunity arise. Even at university, learning and revising doesn't have to be confined to books and library, especially when such a special event is taking place. *lyb*

# *Dr John Incent, Dean of St Paul's 1540-45*

**Christine Lea** tells us about the man behind the name of her home

We have had the good fortune to live in Dean Incent's House opposite the church since 1989. Sadly, the time has come for us to sell, but before leaving I have been exploring the history of the man whose name our house bears.

John Incent was a remarkable man. Although born in a small country town he rose to be a trusted aide to two of the country's most powerful men – Cardinal Wolsey and Thomas Cromwell. He was a Chaplain to Henry VIII and was later appointed to one of the most important offices in the church, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral. And he survived the politically dangerous time when Henry VIII broke off relations with the Catholic Church and ordered his clergy to follow suit. Powerful men who aroused the king's displeasure, such as Thomas More and Thomas Cromwell, were condemned to an early death. Yet Incent thrived and even found time to found a school in his home town.

John Incent was born in 1480, the son of Robert Incent, Secretary to Cicely, Duchess of York (mother of Edward IV and Richard III) who lived in Berkhamsted Castle. In St Peter's church there are brasses dedicated to Robert Incent (died 1485) and his wife, Katherine (died 1520). Tradition has it that John Incent was born in what is now Dean Incent's House, which had been built by his father around 1480.

We know nothing of John's schooling, which could have been by a member of the Duchess of York's household, but aged 20 he went to study civil law at

Cambridge for a year. He moved to All Souls Oxford and after five years was made a Bachelor of Common Law (BCL). He was by this time a Notary Public. He became a Doctor of Civic Law (DCL) in 1513, the year he was ordained. He was practising as an ecclesiastical lawyer in the Chancellor's Court in 1509 and was still there two years later.

His career was quickly on the ascendancy. The Lord Privy Seal, Bishop Foxe of Winchester, the King's most influential advisor, appointed him in 1512 to be Commissary and President of the Episcopal Consistory in his diocese. Between 1519 and 1524 Incent acquired a series of profitable positions ranging from a prebendal stall in St Paul's Cathedral and rectories and vicarages in and around Winchester to the Masterships of two Hospitals – St Cross in Winchester and Domus Dei in Portsmouth. This will have made him a wealthy man. Foxe had a high opinion of Incent describing him as "wyse, disrete, sadde" (steadfast) and praising him for his financial skills.

When Foxe died in 1529 Cardinal Wolsey became Bishop of Winchester, bringing Incent more closely into contact with this powerful man, who made him Vicar General and Administrator for the See of Winchester. But Wolsey fell out of grace with the King in the same year and was deprived of all his offices. Yet Wolsey's downfall did not touch Incent. A letter from the King in 1530 was conveyed to Wolsey "by our trusty and well-beloved Chaplain Doctor Incent." As a Chaplain to Henry VIII Incent was in royal circles at the time when the King wished to divorce

Catherine of Aragon, his wife of more than 20 years, and replace her with Anne Boleyn. A year after the King married Boleyn in 1533, the English church separated from Rome and the clergy were expected to renounce Roman Catholicism. Those who did not, suffered an early death. Incent wisely followed the King's wishes.

By 1535 Incent had become a faithful supporter of Thomas Cromwell, who in 1536 began the Dissolution of the Monasteries in England and Wales. Working closely with Cromwell it seems likely he played a part in the destruction of 825 religious houses throughout the country and the eviction of the monks, nuns and friars who inhabited them.

At around this time Incent's Mastership of Domus Dei in Portsmouth took on particular significance. The King feared war with France and was working on increasing the nation's defences. Portsmouth was a key seaport and the King wanted the site of Domus Dei to build an arsenal. Incent complied and on 2 June 1540 the hospital was surrendered to the crown.

It can be no coincidence that just eight days later the King appointed Incent to the prestigious post of Dean of St Paul's Cathedral. Yet while Incent's star was in the ascendant his mentor, Thomas Cromwell, had fallen into disfavour with the king and he was executed on 28 July.

Leading members of the clergy often made their mark by founding educational establishments and John Incent was no exception. He was President of the Brotherhood of St John the Baptist in Berkhamsted and in 1523 had asked the



Brotherhood to use the money they had previously donated to the monastic hospital (which had closed) to the creation of a school. He added his own property, including "one great house called Incent's" which he had inherited from his mother, to the endowment. In 1541 he obtained from Henry VIII a licence to erect "one chauntry perpetual and schools for boys not exceeding 144 to be called Dean Incent's Free School in Berkhamstedde". In 1544 the School's first building (now the 'Old Hall') was complete. On 23 March 1544 the new schoolmaster, usher and chaplain ("and their successors for ever") were given the deeds of the School at a ceremony attended by the "chiefe men of the Towne".

John Incent, who had spent so much time away travelling and consorting with the most powerful men in the land, had never forgotten his birthplace. He provided an outstanding legacy which continues to this

# *Little Spirit*

‘...everyone’s mission to others begins at home with the self.’

## Chapter Nine: The Fog Returns by **PJ Marvell**

‘Did you see that?’ whispered the Curate, looking down at the altar cloth as it swung out for the tenth time that morning.

‘A ghost again?’ muttered the Vicar as he broke the bread and blessed it. The young Curate stared fixedly at the altar cloth through communion until the very end of the service. Then, he bent down and lifted up the altar cloth, staring straight into the face of Little Spirit. The Curate quickly let go of the cloth not quite believing what he had seen and rushed into line with the Vicar as they proceeded out of the church followed by the choir.

A boy was under the altar! As the Curate reached the font, instead of heading out of the church with the Vicar to greet the congregation as they left the service, he followed the choir back round to the great windows. He then rushed behind the pulpit to the altar, and this time he saw the boy, the little ghost, sitting on the steps at the side of the altar, hugging a golden statue.

‘HE STOLE IT!’ shouted a man’s faltering voice. ‘The Lost Sun, he stole it from me!’

The Curate stared at the man and his pointed shoes, and then at the boy.

‘No!’ said Little Spirit trying to find the right English words to explain that he had found the statue.

14

‘Don’t let him escape! Hold him or he’ll run,’ shouted the man, his voice shaking.

‘No he won’t!’ said a determined voice. ‘His name is Little Spirit and he found The Lost Sun and has been stopping you from stealing it!’

‘Eliza Jones!’ said a woman’s voice, ‘you can’t just accuse people of stealing - how do you know all this? And can’t the boy speak for himself?’

All eyes turned to Eliza. ‘He can’t speak very good English, he’s been hiding in the church and he found the statue, but the man wanted it for the reward and tried to steal it. We’ve been trying to tell you,’ said Eliza to the Curate,’ but mum grounded me and...’

‘No!’ said the man, ‘it’s mine!’ and he moved to run forward as if he wanted to pull the statue from the boy’s arms, but something stopped him.

‘Dad,’ said a small voice, ‘you can’t tell lies.’ The man slumped down on a pew next to a boy no older than Little Spirit, but with a pinched, sunken face. ‘He didn’t mean it,’ said the boy, ‘he’s just trying to help me.’

The man hung his head. ‘My son is very ill,’ he whispered, ‘the reward money would pay for a special operation.’

Eliza whispered the words in Spanish to Little Spirit. The toy, he thought, that’s why the man was holding the toy.

‘Goodness me! Mr Farina,’ said the



Curate, 'come everyone, we must sit and discuss what is to be done.'

The Curate, Little Spirit, Mr Farina and his son, Eliza and her mother sat on the chairs by the great window. Eliza translated Little Spirit's story, helped a little by her mother, who held Little Spirit's hand as he spoke.

'Well, The Lost Sun returns,' said the Vicar who had joined the group after finishing his duties.

'What is it exactly?' asked Eliza.

'A Monstrance,' said the Curate, 'it's a statue that we sometimes use in our services, a symbol of our closeness to God. It's like a landmark, or a reminder of how close we are to home.'

'Like the letter box at the end of our road,' said Eliza.

'Just like that,' said the Curate. 'Well there's the reward to settle now,' he added looking at Little Spirit.

The boy had been clutching the statue close to him, but he had been sneaking glances at the boy and Mr Farina and he slowly got up, and walked over to them. 'Reward for you,' said Little Spirit placing the statue next to the boy.

'Thank you,' whispered Mr Farina.

'Well,' said Eliza's mother, 'we must phone your parents, they must be mad with worry. What's the number?'

Little Spirit shook his head, 'no phone,' he said. sitting down, he could hardly find the words in Spanish let alone in English to say what he now had to say. 'All gone,' he whispered. 'Mama, papa and sister, all

gone.'

'They've died?' asked Eliza.

Little Spirit nodded. He grabbed his bag made of the old curtains and held it close. He wanted to run, to run and run and run until he was too tired to think, too tired to breathe. He looked at the open door and saw it; despite the warmth of the spring day, the fog had returned, he could disappear in it, hide away.

Little Spirit looked around, the Curate, the Vicar and Eliza's mother were in deep discussion, Mr Farina was hugging his son, and Eliza was examining The Lost Sun, nobody would notice, and so, he ran.

He headed up the road, dragging himself through the thick fog to where he thought the bus shelter stood. He could hear the low rumble of a bus. He reached the stop and waited. Although he couldn't see the road, the mist curled and twined its thick fingers around him, Little Spirit thrust out his hand hoping the bus would stop. But the bus drove past and a rough hand gently took his.

'I concealed your arrival,' said Mr Farina, 'but I can't let you go.' He twisted his hands around the boy's, pressed them together and as quickly as it came the fog disappeared.

'How?' asked Little Spirit.

Mr Farina looked at the boy, smiled and stepped aside. Eliza and her mother rushed towards Little Spirit. 'Come with us,' said Eliza, 'mother said so and so do I, please come with us. Come home.'

Little Spirit looked at his friend<sup>15</sup> Eliza and smiled, 'yes,' he said, '...home.'

***The End***

## ***Farewell Fr John***

**F**r John Pritchard leaves us at the end of this month to take up his new post as Assistant Priest at All Saints Margaret Street, in London, after exactly four years as assistant curate in this parish. I know that everyone at St Peter's, and many who are not regular members of our congregation, will join me in offering him our warmest good wishes for this new beginning, but it is also important to record our thanks for all the imaginative hard work he has done while he has been with us in Berkhamsted.

First-post curacies are for a period of three to four years, but very rarely last longer than three; there is also an expectation that most of that time will be spent in training rather than independent work, so that the new priest will be ready to take on a task of his or her own at the next stage. In John's case, however, he very quickly began to pick up new tasks and make his own contribution alongside the training he was receiving, and by the time John Kirkby retired from Potten End he was well able to look after that parish in the vacancy. Similarly, I was more than happy to leave St Peter's in his care while taking my sabbatical last year. Among many other things he has achieved, the creation of a vital link for the parish with Thomas Coram School is especially valuable to the parish; he has also helped us to be more a sociable church community in a number of ways, not least at his own dining table. His apparently endless exuberant energy and good humour have lightened many a dreary meeting. In short, he has been exactly what I believe a priest must be, a visible and welcome presence in the wider community, a 'walking sacrament' of the church, which has been invaluable in

continuing to build up St Peter's as the open and welcoming parish church we want it to be for this town. John's contribution has gone far beyond these things – not least in his faithful observance of the core priestly duties of prayer and presiding at the Eucharist. But he has also been, from my perspective, a loyal and supportive colleague, which has made lighter the responsibilities of my additional roles as Team Rector and Rural Dean. In addition, he has been happy to remain here for the full four years allowed to a training curate, and we have been happy for him to stay. I suspect very few of you realise how rare that combination of circumstances is in the life of a training parish and a training incumbent!

All these qualities will make John an extremely valuable addition to the staff of All Saints Margaret Street, a wonderful church where many of us will no doubt be visiting him over the next few months. It is good that we are able to farewell him at one of the focal services of our parish year – St Peter's Sunday – and to combine his farewell with our Patronal lunch.

We thank God for his ministry here and pray God's blessing on his future.

### **Fr Michael Bowie**

**F**our years ago I joined you for the first time as you kept The Patronal Festival which celebrates our Patron, St Peter and his faith in Christ. Then I had only just been made a Deacon, a year later, on the same feast day, I presided at the celebration of the Holy Eucharist for the first time. Now, three years later, I am preparing on June 26th, our Patronal

Festival to leave you as my licence in this Diocese comes to an end and I take up a new appointment. On July 20th at the Old Deanery, (somewhere in London), I will be Licensed by The Bishop of London to undertake the work of Assistant Priest at All Saints, Margaret Street.

This magazine is not big enough to do justice to the influence so many of you have borne upon me over the past four years. As Fr. Michael has written, “When he came to Berkhamsted I reminded you that the title parish has a unique privilege in helping to form a priest for the church. All Saints Margaret Street will benefit from that formation which you have helped to give...” and many of you, if not all of you have shared in that “unique privilege” in preparing me for a lively ministry away from Berkhamsted. You have supported me and given me confidence to try my best and fulfil part of this vocation to serve God in his church.

Formation and learning are the key markers of the time I have been able to share with so many of you. I cannot say loudly enough or clearly enough what a privilege and blessing it has been to work with Fr. Michael over the past years; to share in his ministry in this place, and benefit from his company and learning. Like many in this parish, I have shared in his discipline of prayer and benefitted from his kindness, generosity and his clarity of vocation. Perhaps this article should really be about him as first amongst many who have taught me so very much. But I know that Fr. Michael would be embarrassed by my honesty. So I will leave that there...

I cannot begin to list the things and experiences that I am most grateful for, or start to apologise for some of the mistakes I have made. But I can simply say “thank

you” and mean it!

Before I was ordained, I was reminded that “to be ordained is to have a place in the community; you become someone who almost guards a place where people, events and God meet.” As your Assistant Curate, I hope that I have honoured that unique “place” and respected the “holy space” in our town. This has been my intention. I pray over the coming years, you will continue to prosper in your own faith and Christian discipleship. And please pray for me as I become embedded for a little while in another community. This has been an extremely privileged place for me. Your friendship, honesty and the occasions that I have shared with most of you, from the serious intention of offering worship to Almighty God, to the modest humiliation of Mrs Bowie’s Easter Sketches... it has been fun, it has been good.

I suppose like a first love, I will never forget you. But perhaps you will allow me one indulgence, that is to name Thomas Coram School. This is one of our church schools, a fantastic place of learning, with tremendous children and equally tremendous staff. I have received so many happy days and hours being involved with Thomas Coram School, perhaps some of you will pick up some of the work that I have supported in the school, and in helping them remember their Christian identity you will encourage them to remember their membership of the wider St Peter’s Family.

“Before me, even as behind, God is, and all is well” – John Whitter

With love, and thanksgiving, 17

**Fr. John Pritchard**

# June Parish Diary

Sat 4th		Church Walk led by Jo and Danny Bonnet, <i>All Saints'</i>
Sat 11th		Petertide Fair, <i>St Peter's</i>
Sun 12th	9.30am	Sung Eucharist with Confirmation, <i>St Peter's</i>
Sat 18th		St Albans Festival Pilgrimage
Sat 18th	8.00am	ABC Prayer meeting, <i>Sunnyside</i>
Sat 25th	7.30pm	Cowper Society presents Bridgewater Sinfonia with Chiltern Chamber Choir concert, <i>St Peter's</i>
Sun 26th	9.30am	Patronal Festival Eucharist, followed by Patronal Festival lunch, <i>St Peter's</i>
Sun 26th	6.00pm	Patronal Festival Choral Evensong, <i>St Peter's</i>

## Registers

### Baptisms

3 April Marty Ian Purton, *All Saints'*

### Funerals

15 April— Martin Andrew Judd, *All Saints'*

Parish Office, Hilary Armstrong and Kate Perera, Court House, 878227.  
Fr Michael Bowie, 864194 (day off Fri). Team Rector, St Peter's.  
Fr John Pritchard, 870016 (day off Thurs). Asst Curate, St Peter's.  
The Revd Caroline Weaver, 866324 (day off Fri). Methodist Minister, All Saints'.

## Your Berkhamsted editorial contacts

**Editor:** Ian Skillicorn, 862628, [editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk)  
**Advertising:** John Gerry, [advertising@yourberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:advertising@yourberkhamsted.org.uk)  
**Circulation:** Sheila Miller, 31 Lincoln Court, HP4 3EN (864277)

### Further information available from our church websites:

[www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk](http://www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk) and at [www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk)

## ***Regular Church Activities***

3rd Mon	Pastoral Network, 7:45pm, The Court House. Contact Philippa Seldon 871534
Tue	Chuckles Parent & Toddler Group, 10-11:30am. All Saints Church Hall. Song Time or short service as announced. Contact Jenny Wells, 870981
Tue	St Peter's Choir, Children 5:15-6:15pm. St Peter's. 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 Barbara McKenna 871159
3rd Tue	Mothers' Union, meet in members' houses at 2.30pm. New members always welcome. Contact Kathie Lally, 863526 <b>**Please note new meeting time**</b>
4th Tue	Mothers' Union Prayer Group, 2:30pm. 17 Shaftesbury Court. Tell us if anyone needs your prayers. Contact Jenny Wells 870981
Wed	Julian Meeting, meets about twice a month. 11:30am. All welcome. At Jenny Wells, 57 Meadow Rd, 870981 or at Ruth Treves Brown, 1 Montague Rd, 863268
Thu	Home Group, 8pm on 2nd and 4th Thurs.
Thu	Bellringing, 8pm, St Peters. Contact Helen Ruberry, 890949
Fri	Little Fishes Parent & Toddler Group 9:30-11:30am. The Court House. Weekly, with short service on 1st Friday in St Peter's (10am). Tracy Robinson 863559
Fri	St Peter's Choir, Children 7-8:30pm, Adults 7:30—8:30pm. St Peter's. Adrian Davis 875674 or Jean Wild 866859
3rd Sat	ABC Prayer Breakfast, 8am for breakfast & prayers. Various local churches.

<b>Sunday Services</b>	<b>St Peter's</b>	<b>All Saints' - June</b>
	8:00am Eucharist	2nd 8:00pm <b>Ascension Day</b>
	9:30am Sung Eucharist & Sunday School	Holy Communion
	6:00pm Evensong	5th 10:00am Morning Worship
		6:00pm United Youth Service
		12th <b>Pentecost</b>
	<i>First Sunday in month Family Service at 9:30am</i>	8:00am Holy Communion
		10:00am Morning Worship
		19th <b>Trinity</b>
		10:00am Holy Communion
		26th 10:00am Holy Communion

## ***Fresh from the farm***

**Fiona Hinton** reviews local farm shops and pick your owns

**O**ver recent years interest in eating local food has skyrocketed, with consumers questioning the provenance of the produce on their plate and keen to reduce food miles to benefit the environment and improve food quality. Buying at least some of our food from farm shops brings these benefits, and so much more. As well as a more satisfying shopping experience, there's the chance to get to know the grower, to pump money into the local economy, and to keep in touch with the seasons through eating food at the peak of its ripeness. Children love picking berries at a pick-your-own farm; this, like eating eggs from chickens or ducks they have seen, helps cement the concept that food comes from animals and the land, and not always packaged and cling-filmed in supermarkets. Added to this, many people feel that food grown locally tastes better than that trucked in from across the country or shipped across the world.

Here are a range of local farm shops and pick-your-owns. The farm shops close to home can be regular stops, while the pick-your-owns are a little further afield and can either be a destination in their own right, for a seasonal fruit and veg picking outing, or a quick farm-shop stop if you happen to be passing close by.

Their beauty is that you can spend as little or as long as you want picking berries (don't eat too many before you pay for them) or broad beans, with a tour past the shop or farm stand for any other produce you need.

### **Rumblers Farm Shop**

Potten End Hill, Water End, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 3BN

Phone: 01442 256788

Open 8.30am to 7.30pm every day

My children were intrigued by Rumblers farm shop. Where was the shopkeeper? Why was a basket of money left out? The concept of an honesty box amazed them, and weighing the produce, totting up the bill and figuring out the change provided a great maths lesson. It's the type of shop where you always leave with more than you knew you wanted, from plants in spring and Halloween pumpkins in autumn to a small fossil the children couldn't resist. There's fruit and vegetables, local meat, breads, plants and a range of preserves. All you need for a delicious meal.

### **Sunnyside Rural Trust**

Upper Allotments, New Road, Northchurch, HP4 1NJ

Phone: 01442 872114

Open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm during July, August and September, with a stall on Berkhamsted High Street outside the Town Hall most Thursdays plus some Fridays in high season.

[www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk](http://www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk)

Buying from Sunnyside Rural Trust brings an extra reason for a warm inner glow – the Trust provides training and experience for adults with learning disabilities, and profits go back into keeping the operation afloat. And it is quite an operation. A visit to the farm shop reveals a hive of activity, with scores of chickens, polytunnels of seedlings, a farm shop and a plant shop.



Unlike some other farm shops, the Trust only sells what it produces. This means that the farm shop shelves are barer in winter and early spring, but eggs, apple juice and home-made preserves are always on sale. As the season progresses more homegrown fruit and veg will fill the shelves.

### **Dunsley Farm Shop**

London Road, Tring, HP23 6HA  
(opposite the entrance to Tring Tesco)  
Phone: 01442 823357

Open Monday to Saturday from 8am to 6pm, Sunday 8am to 4pm  
The first thing that strikes you driving into Dunsley Farm is the multitude of ducks and chickens their eggs come from, from tiny Bantam eggs to big duck eggs. The compact shop purveys a wide variety of food, from the great selection of local meats to sausages and baked goods produced by the family, plus preserves and a range of fruit and vegetables. And if you time your Spring visit well you might catch the local asparagus and strawberry harvests.

### **Grove Farm Pick Your Own**

Great Gap, Ivinghoe, Leighton Buzzard,  
LU7 9DZ

Phone: 01296 668175

Open again from mid-June, 10am to 7pm through the summer, with earlier closing times as the days shorten  
[www.grovetarmpyo.co.uk](http://www.grovetarmpyo.co.uk)

You can pick what you need here, or just pick a little if you're short of time and buy the rest from the farm's produce stalls. You can even have a little picnic on the tables provided. The feature here is the wide range of produce to be picked, going beyond the usual berries to include gooseberries, sunflowers, potatoes and much more. In fact over 30 different fruit and veg are available over the season, with wheelbarrows, digging forks, etc.



available to help you harvest their bounty.

### **Peterley Manor Farm Shop and Pick Your Own**

Peterley Corner, Peterley Lane, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire HP16 0HH  
Phone: 01494 863566

Open 8.30am to 5pm Tuesday to Saturday, 9am-1pm Sunday, closed on Monday

[www.peterleymanorfarm.co.uk](http://www.peterleymanorfarm.co.uk)

Peterley Manor Farm provides the best of both worlds: a range of seasonal fruits, berries and vegetables available to pick yourself alongside a year-round farm shop serving up a variety of fruit, veg and meats, plus lots of extra goodies such as cut flowers and local ice cream. There's also a plant nursery so you can grow your own after picking your own, and even

Christmas trees in the festive season. *yB*

For Personal Attention from Berkhamsted's  
only independent family business

# J. WORLEY

(FUNERAL DIRECTORS) LTD  
344 High Street, Berkhamsted  
**FUNERAL DIRECTOR and  
MONUMENTAL MASON**

• GOLDEN CHARTER PRE-PAYMENT PLANS • 24 HR EMERGENCY  
SERVICE • COMPETITIVE PRICES • PRIVATE REST ROOM

Telephone Day/Night Berkhamsted 870326

## MCLEAN DECORATORS

INTERIOR AND  
EXTERIOR

ESTABLISHED 1985

EXCELLENT LOCAL  
REFERENCES

FREE ESTIMATES AND  
ADVICE

PHONE 01582 696032  
MOBILE 07957 848222

## DAVID GIDDINGS

### LANDSCAPES

Qualified Plantsman  
Garden Construction  
Planting Aftercare

**4 Kingsley Walk,  
Tring, HP23 5DN  
Tel: 826628**

## The 50plus

- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Handyman
- On-line
  - fixed prices
  - helpful advice
  - discounts
  - articles

- Locally based
- Free estimates
- NICEIC & Gas Safe personnel



**0845 22 50 495**

**www.the50plus.co.uk**

By the 50plus for people of all ages

## *Norman Cutting Electrical*

- *Free Advice*
- *Inspections*
- *Installations*
- *Fault Finding*

All work complies with Part P of  
the Building Regulations

**01 442 871851**

[normthesparks@aol.co.uk](mailto:normthesparks@aol.co.uk)  
[www.normancutting.co.uk](http://www.normancutting.co.uk)

## Computer Consultancy and Repairs

*Getting your PC up and running again*

Software installation & configuration  
Basic and intermediate level training  
Specialising in anti-virus, security & hardware upgrades



**Andy Robinson** 36 Trevelyan Way  
Berkhamsted HP4 1JH  
Mobile: 07885 966570  
[Andyrc@dolphin4.demon.co.uk](mailto:Andyrc@dolphin4.demon.co.uk)

## CG HOLDER PLUMBING & HEATING LTD

For a good reliable  
installation of all  
plumbing and  
heating systems  
Gassafe registered  
with over 30 years  
in the trade

**01442 862244  
07973 144336**

# *Difficult questions*

**Carolina Bowie** reflects on answers to difficult questions

**O**ver the course of our lives so many questions to answer..... How are you? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your name? How long will you be in the United States? Why do you reside in the UK? What makes you think you are suitable for this position? How did you know the deceased? Does God suffer? The strangest question I have had to date is this one: 'Will you adopt me?'

In 1991, born again Christian Arlene Pralle and her husband legally adopted convicted serial killer Aileen Wuornos. Pralle claimed that Jesus told her to do so. She became an advocate for Wuornos and with lawyer Steve Glazer convinced Aileen to enter a plea of no contest thereby assuring that the death sentence would be pronounced on Aileen. Not one death sentence but six in total. As she herself said, "How many times are you going to kill me?"

When the moment finally came on October 9th, 2002, Aileen was executed by the state in a process of lethal injection. Her death warrant was signed by Jeb Bush the then governor of Florida, a beloved destination of holiday makers. Aileen went to her death after a lifetime of abandonment which began with her mother when she was a child. The love of her life, Tyria Moore, turned state witness, and negotiated with police to trap Aileen. Arlene Pralle, having claimed legal responsibility for Aileen, proceeded to act on her behalf with Steve Glazer who became an agent, negotiating fees for access to interviews and material about

Aileen. They too abandoned her. Aileen was not innocent nor was she very likeable. She committed terrible crimes and caused the suffering of many families. Is her terrible childhood to blame?

Many will say, she should have known better. We all know the difference between right and wrong. Or as a family member of one of her victims said, "I hope she meets with old Sparkey."

I have often been asked about my friendships with people on death row. The most common one is 'Why do you write to people like that?'

Sometimes I ask myself that question too. I ask God to help me when I am angered by what my pen friends say. I ask for the strength to accept what is being said to me and offer the only thing I can which is to be there, be present and to be a friend. As in the case of Aileen Wuornos, a common experience among my pen friends is their abandonment. And I can understand this. For the families of the guilty also suffer. They endure pain, remorse, regret, despair and humiliation by the communities they live in and by an unforgiving penal system.

One of my friends has been awaiting his execution for over 20 years. Another has a family in Central America who cannot afford to go and see him. Another, who I shall call Tom, has not received a letter from his grown children since being sentenced. Tom's wife turned state witness and denied her part in the

*continues on page 25*



- Rewires
- Replacement Fuse Boards
- New Circuits
- New Sockets, Switches
- New Light Fittings
- Downlights
- Smoke Alarms
- PAT Testing
- PAT Testing
- Periodic Inspection & Testing
- Landlords Certificates
- Power to : extensions sheds, garages, ponds, gardens, lofts workshops
- CCTV
- Access systems
- Gate automation
- Satellite systems
- Telephone extensions



Approved Contractor and  
Part P Registered

Tel : 01296 630124

Mobile : 07825 747773

Email : [steve.rozentel@circuitfix.co.uk](mailto:steve.rozentel@circuitfix.co.uk)

Website : <http://circuitfix.co.uk>

## PROBABLY THE BEST TOPSOIL IN THE SOUTH EAST

**WE DON'T SELL RECYCLED SKIP WASTE!  
WE ONLY SELL CERTIFICATED TOPSOILS!**

'Bury Hill Black'™ is our PREMIUM GRADE PLANTING SOIL. We also sell quality blended soils suitable for SEEDING, TURFING & GENERAL LANDSCAPING

**We also sell:** • QUALITY TURF • SOIL CONDITIONER • COMPOST • MULCHES • SELECTED AGGREGATES • SHINGLES • ROCK SALT **Plus** • HARDWOOD LOGS • COAL AND KINDLING

SUPPLIED IN BULK BAGS AND LOOSE,  
WE CAN DELIVER 1 TON TO 10,000 TONS!

**Tel: 01306 877540 or buy online**

**[www.buryhilltopsoilandlogs.co.uk](http://www.buryhilltopsoilandlogs.co.uk)**



*Bury Hill Dorking Surrey*  
**TOPSOIL AND LOGS**

## THE TIMBER RECLAMATION & RENOVATION COMPANY



For all your flooring and building renovations projects, look no further, we're your largest local stockist of reclaimed flooring, timber and beams. From beautiful antique wide board English oak and intricate parquet flooring, to new hardwood floors, reclaimed pine boards and bespoke furniture created to exact specification.

We are specialists in sympathetic listed building renovations using reclaimed materials that comply with local authority regulations, as well as building projects of every other shape and size - from extensions and barn conversions, to solid oak hunting lodges, timber frame garden buildings and landscape design.

We pride ourselves on a long and happy client list.

**[www.timberreclamation.co.uk](http://www.timberreclamation.co.uk)**

Call today on **01442 843710 / 07774 757200**  
to discuss your next project.



## True commitment

**...Bailey & Sons**

**BERKHAMSTED'S JEWELLER SINCE 1872**

**9 Lower Kings Road  
Berkhamsted  
Herts HP4 2AE  
01442 863091**



murder which has led to his death sentence. I did not warm to Tom. His views, particularly about women are starkly in contrast to mine. He has no belief system and little education. He tends to laugh at me and call me quaint. My initial reaction was to ask him not to write anymore, however, prayer and perseverance have helped me to build a friendship with Tom in which we can share our two different stories.

Tom has asked his lawyers to stop the process of appeal but this may be hard to do and may be part of his bravado, which is ever present. I have found it difficult to see beyond this bravado until I heard what he was trying to say. Typically he expressed it bizarrely,

'Would you come and visit me?'  
'Will you adopt me?'  
'Keep writing...please...?'

There is a hymn which I like. Tom would call it quaint but I will send it to him all the same.

Come as you are: that's how I want you.  
Come as you are, feel quite at home,  
close to my heart, loved and forgiven.  
Come as you are: why stand alone?

I came to call sinners not just the  
righteous;  
I came to bring peace, not to condemn,  
each time you fail to live by my promise,  
why do you think I'll love you the less?  
JB

## ***Oxfam's Grow Campaign***

### **Audrey Hope gives us food for thought**

"A hungry mob is an angry mob" wrote Bob Marley in one of his protest songs. The President of the World Bank has warned of the threat of social instability as a result of rising world food prices (up 36% in a year) which have already pushed an extra 44 million people into extreme poverty. The "Arab Spring" was triggered initially by food issues in Tunisia.

World food supplies are at a historically low level, close to the 2008 shortages which caused food riots from Haiti to Bangladesh. Any disruption to this year's harvest, especially in the United States, could be disastrous. The World Food Programme, normally the lead agency for food supply, does not have enough food

for the refugees fleeing into Liberia from the conflict in the Ivory Coast.

This month Oxfam is launching its "Grow" campaign to draw attention to the situation and examine what needs to be done to address it. The causes are many and complex – climate change, rising living standards in emerging economies like India and China, demand for corn to make the petrol substitute ethanol, poor storage facilities, commodity speculation, lack of investment in agriculture – the list could go on.

To learn more, watch out for details of the Oxfam campaign and remember<sup>25</sup> – don't waste food, it's precious JB

# One to One PC Tuition

*Computer help tailored  
to fit your needs*

- Internet and e-mail
- Word and Excel
- Technical problems explained and resolved
- PC maintenance — backups, security, housekeeping

**Call Roger Blunt**  
**01442 896041**

[roger@121pctutor.co.uk](mailto:roger@121pctutor.co.uk)  
<http://121pctutor.co.uk>

## Design Workshop

Soft Furnishings & Gifts

- ♦ Curtains / Blinds made to measure
- ♦ Poles / Tracks supplied & fitted
- ♦ Fabrics & Wallpapers
- ♦ Gifts for all occasions including an extensive range of Lolita Glassware
- ♦ Gift vouchers available

[www.designworkshopuk.com](http://www.designworkshopuk.com)

Design Workshop, 53-55 The High  
Street, Kings Langley, WD4 9HU

**01923 260990**

[design.workshop@hotmail.com](mailto:design.workshop@hotmail.com)



**ERS** EGERTON ROTHERHAY SCHOOL  
DURRANTS LANE, BERKHAMSTED, HERTS

## Why Egerton Rotherhay?

We offer

- An inclusive, caring, educational environment
- Additional specialist support for everyone
- Non selective entry, ages 5-16
- A school where your child can flourish

For more information contact Liz Martin on  
01442 877060, [liz.martin@eger-roth.co.uk](mailto:liz.martin@eger-roth.co.uk)

For details of our  
Open Mornings  
visit our website:  
[www.eger-roth.co.uk](http://www.eger-roth.co.uk)





# *30 years of the Petertide Fair*

**Prunella Murray** celebrates 30 years of the Petertide Fair this month

On Saturday 11th June 2011, the 30<sup>th</sup> Petertide Fair will be held at St Peter's church. This great community event which brings together Berkhamsted residents and the congregation of the High Street church is a firm fixture in the town's calendar.

What started as a church focused fundraising initiative to raise funds to extend the Court House has grown to become the major focus of St Peter's outreach programme. In the past three decades, the Petertide Fairs have raised in excess of £150,000 for charity and supported more than thirty causes at home and overseas. These have included:

The Church Urban Fund, Berkhamsted Youth Centre, Swan Youth Project, Children in Distress, Albania, Chernobyl ChildDren Lifeline, Gossoms End Elderly Care Unit, Hospice of St. Francis, Berkhamsted patients medical fund, HOPE Africa, DENS, Dacorum Home Start, Water Aid, Send a Cow, Leprosy Mission, Coram Foundation, ReachOut, Foundation Juconi, Mexico, BerkoAstro and Karanashrya Hospice, India.



*Fancy dress competition 1982 Petertide Fair*

Last year's Fair and related events raised over £14,000 and the Fair's organisers are quietly confident of exceeding this figure in the 30<sup>th</sup> year.

In 2011 all proceeds from the Fair will be going towards two charities – the local

*Sunnyside Rural Trust* and overseas, the *McCabe Educational Trust*. The *Sunnyside Rural Trust* helps local adults with learning difficulties learn valuable life and employment skills, especially through the medium of horticulture, whilst the *McCabe Educational Trust* funds projects to help disadvantaged children in places like Nepal, the Holy Land and India. The organisers hope to use proceeds from the Fair to purchase a people carrier for the Sunnyside Rural Trust and contribute towards a school library in Nepal to assist the work of the *McCabe Educational Trust*.

Highlights of this year's Fair includes music by the local Berko Big Band and popular group Freedom Express, displays from the two local church schools – Victoria and Thomas Coram – plus a huge variety of refreshments from Pimms to candy floss and Petertide Ale to coffee.

*continues overleaf*

Children will delight in rides from a miniature train across the churchyard, a traditional Punch & Judy show and the chance to meet some friendly alpacas. There will also be the usual sideshows and popular stalls including plants, cakes and bric-a-brac.



*Last year's Petertide Fair*

Judith Limbert, Petertide Fair Chairman, comments, "I am extremely excited to be in charge of the 30<sup>th</sup> Fair. I have attended many of the previous Fairs at St Peter's and have always been delighted to see so many people enjoying themselves and raising money for charity at the same time. I am hoping that we can raise a very significant sum for the 30<sup>th</sup> year and my only hope is that the weather is kind to us and the sun shines!"

### *A brief history of the first Petertide Fair*

The inaugural Petertide Fair was held on 2nd July 1982 and was conceived by long term Berkhamsted resident and regular churchgoer Angela Morris. She was responsible for serving coffee and cakes on Saturday mornings in the car park during a particularly hot 1981 to raise money to extend the Court House building; however she felt that something

more could be done to bring in some additional income to fund the works. She raised the idea of an annual fete at a PCC meeting and it was suggested it would be a good idea for it to coincide with St Peter's Patronal festival in late June/early July.

The first Fair was organised in a modest way

and the committee comprised Angela, Neil Cowan, Beryl Langley, John Cook, Joan Morris and Jim Pullen. The first event had an emphasis on handicrafts. There was a display of embroidery in the north aisle from local craftswoman Daphne Brookes plus lace making demonstrations with church needlework and wooden sculptures on view.

Outside the church there was a selection of games plus a cake and plant stall and grand raffle. One of the other highlights was trips up St Peter's tower. In the days before health and safety, reels of remover's tape were tied around wooden stakes bolted to the parapets to ensure no one tipped over the edge! In total, the 1982 Fair raised £1,850 for the Court House funds which was slightly exceeded the following year when there were also displays of Parish records over the centuries and church vestments in the church which attracted huge local interest.

# *The local beekeeper*

**Crispin Baker** continues his monthly beekeeping diary

Last month we talked briefly about swarming and about how the old colony was left with nurse bees and queen cells after a swarm had departed. So what happens next? The queen will hatch from her cell about 16 days after the egg was first laid in it and she will straight away gorge herself on honey and pollen, however she quickly learns how to solicit food from the workers who will continue to fuss over her for the rest of her life.

As soon as she has adjusted to her new life she will embark on her one mating flight, providing the weather conditions are clement. Abnormal weather may mean several flights to ensure success. The virgin queen mates on the wing with several drones, sometimes up to about 30 of them, at a height of between 10 to 30 metres from the ground. She derives sperm from each separate mating and stores it for future use. For the drones however it's a one way ticket, for they die immediately after mating – their job is done. The drones life is a short but happy one and a subject we will hear about again in the future. The queen now navigates back to her hive (a feat in itself considering she may have only left it once), and installs herself as the single breeding member of what may become a



very large colony.

She will start to lay eggs 2 or 3 days later, slowly at first then more and more each day. She can now look forward to an egg laying life of 2 to 3 years reaching peaks of up to 1500 each day! And so the circle is complete and the old colony is able to continue with a new queen.

Now here comes an interesting bit, the queen lays fertilised eggs that will

always hatch into females (remember they are the workers) but the colony also needs drones – no drones no mated queen, so how does each egg know what to make? It doesn't. To make a drone the egg the queen lays has to be unfertilised. Before each egg is laid the queen fertilises it with her stored sperm (from her one mating flight), inside her abdomen before she lays it. She can decide the outcome of each egg at the flick of a biological switch – fertilised or unfertilised, a female worker bee or another drone, depending on the needs of the colony - clever isn't it!

That's all folks, next time we'll hear about the summer honey crop and how we harvest it.

To have a swarm collected ring 07984 072666.

**MRS DOOLITTLES  
EXPERIENCED  
ANIMAL CARE**

Whilst on holiday  
At work or during  
Illness at your home

- All animals
- Fully insured
- References available
- 4½ years of veterinary nursing experience

Ring Beverley Cornthwaite  
on 822191 or 0796 7019031

**ROBIN RILEY**  
**HOME MAINTENANCE**



**WINDOWS - DOORS - CONSERVATORIES  
FASCIAS & SOFFITS**



Tel/Fax: **01582 485643**

Mob: **07730 361671**

26 Crosslands, Caddington, Beds



**John Cossins & Co.  
Chartered Accountants**

A friendly and professional  
accountancy and taxation service for  
individuals and small businesses offered  
by a Chartered Accountant in Berkhamsted  
with over 30 years experience.

**Competitive fees.**

**Free initial consultation**

01442 863231

email: [johncfca@gmail.com](mailto:johncfca@gmail.com)

**GROVE FARM PYO**

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3.....

1. Select and pick your fruit and veg fresh from the field
2. Weigh and pay for it at the PYO kiosk
3. Take it home and enjoy eating the fruits of your labour!

**Grove Farm PYO, Great Gap, Ivinghoe, LU7 9DZ**

For info go to **grovefarmpyo.co.uk** or ring **01296 668175**

Open every day from approx. <sup>30</sup>mid-June to October

# ***Your Berkhamsted needs you!***

**The editor of Your Berkhamsted is actively seeking new contributors for the magazine.**

Did you know that everyone who works on bringing Your Berkhamsted to you each month is a volunteer? We would extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us, whether you would like to contribute on a regular basis or just write a one-off article.

## **Features**

We are always interested in discussing ideas for features about Berkhamsted life. These could be about the town's history, interesting modern day developments or local people of note (past or present).

## **Local groups**

Bringing news from local groups to our readers is an important function of Your Berkhamsted. If you belong to a local group please let us know about your latest news and events. Please consider sending us an article about what your group does. Articles should be 500 to 900 words in length.

## **Fiction**

Are you a budding writer of fiction or poetry? We want to showcase local writing and are looking for poems of up to 200 words and short stories between 500 and 1000 words.

## **Arts and culture**

Would you like to write a review of an arts event taking place in or nearby to Berkhamsted? Let us know!

## **The last word**

The last word is available for readers to send in approx. 500 words on a topic of their choice, and one that may stimulate debate in further issues.

Please email the editor for more details at [editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk). *yB*

## **RODERICK WILSON**

Fully qualified  
TREE SURGEON and  
FORESTRY CONTRACTOR

07795 481946  
07768 937138  
01442 842716 (eve)

## **THE ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE**

with  
**Trevor Allan Davies (STAT)**  
*To book a free introductory lesson  
in Central Berkhamsted:*

**(07963) 642844**  
**[info@trevorallandavies.co.uk](mailto:info@trevorallandavies.co.uk)**

**Copy Dates:**

3 June

8 July

5 August



**Farewell and good luck to Fr John  
from everyone at Your Berkhamsted**