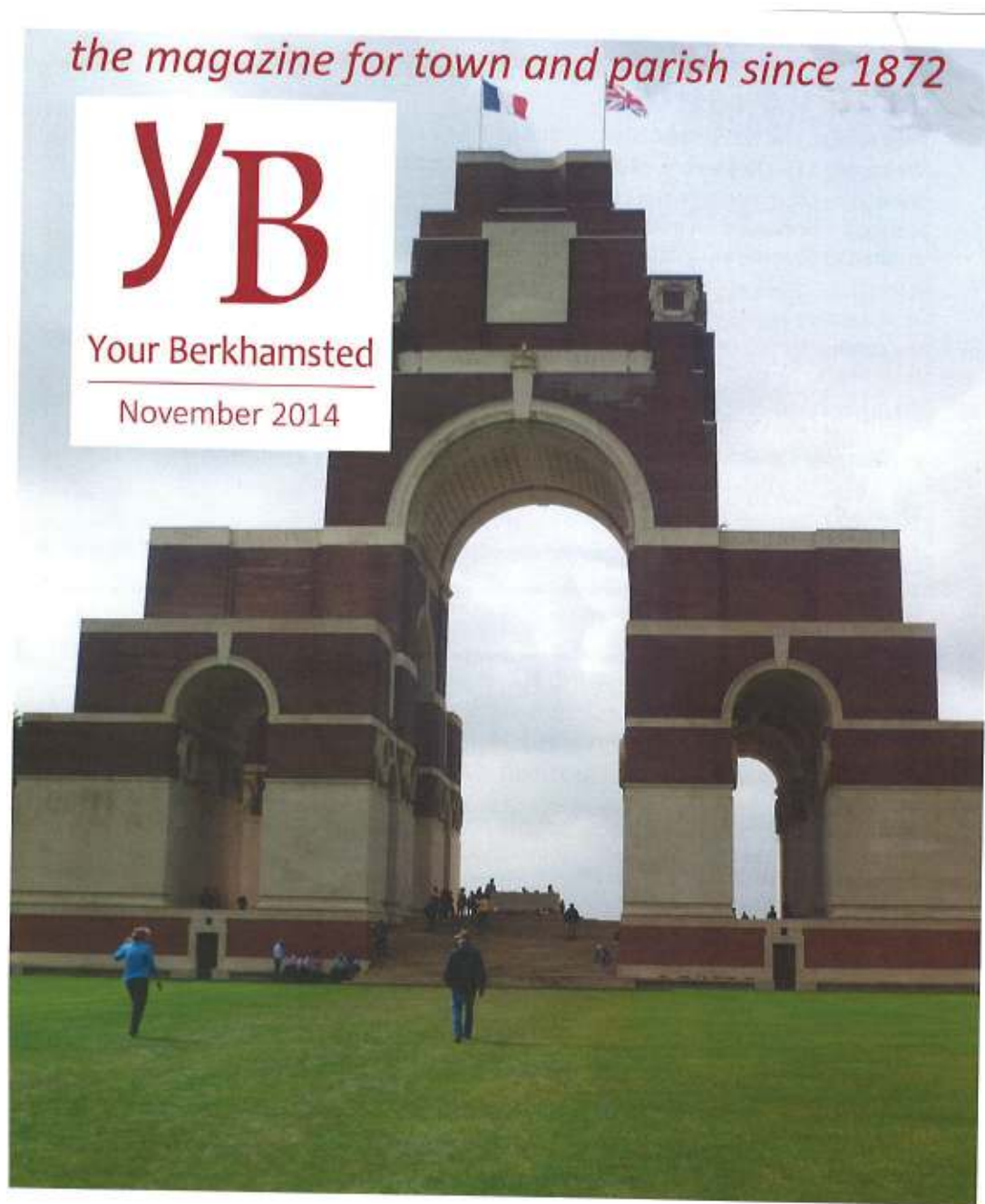


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**yB**

**Your Berkhamsted**

November 2014



**Forthcoming events in Berkhamsted**  
**New Dar Papillon Comedy Club**  
**Ashridge News**

**50p**

Exploring the past, reflecting the present and looking to the future in Berkhamsted

# *In this issue...*

## **Welcome to the November 2014 edition of *Your Berkhamsted***

Welcome to the November edition. *Your Berkhamsted's* aim is to include something for everybody and cover all tastes and we have a wonderful team who work hard on a voluntary basis to achieve this. As I write this in late October we are getting the darker nights but we are still having warm days, so what to wear each day can be a conundrum. What to do on the colder nights is not such an issue as there is an abundance of activities in store in the coming months – some are featured in this edition and also look out for YB tweets on @yourberkhamsted.

*Jacqueline Hicks*, Editor



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Front cover image: The Thiepval Memorial, designed by Lutyens, dedicated to the missing 70,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers killed at the Somme. Photographed taken and kindly supplied by Matthew Dawson.



## ***The Town and Parish Magazine of St Peter's Great Berkhamsted***

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.

# Berkhamsted in the News

Julian Dawson reports on our own Downton, and flies the flag for the school librarian



Well, after the hysteria of Lidgate, the borough planning committee approved the development with very little fuss. A letter from Berkhamsted resident Peter Morgan on [tringtoday.co.uk](http://tringtoday.co.uk) gives a considered view of the whole affair, accepting the need for competition, but voicing concern on traffic congestion and hopes that plans for the road infrastructure past muster. Before long I am sure that large towns and cities are going to have to take a more vigorous stand on traffic congestion, and thoroughly dissuade the motor car. There is definitely room for the driverless cars currently being tested in Milton Keynes. We need an open mind on such matters. Vernon Mildrew, we stand tall with you.

The press both in the UK and Malaysia has been following the tawdry tales of the inhabitants of Rossway Park, our very own local Downton. You can even read about it in Welsh. Indeed Ireland too is entranced. [irishexaminer.com](http://irishexaminer.com) takes an Imelda Marcos stance reporting that Ms Chai, *the estranged wife of [Malaysian] multi-millionaire Laura Ashley boss told a judge how she owned 1,000 pairs of shoes*. The couple's divorce case has been rumbling on for some time, the former lovebirds not even agreeing

whether the case should be held here or in Malaysia. A UK court is likely to take a more sympathetic view towards Ms Chai in the division of spoils. Earlier in the summer other papers listed her husband Dr Khoo as one of the many wealthy inhabitants of the UK who somehow avoid paying tax. So far the legal case has cost £2 million, making many lawyers very happy and providing a sequel to *Bleak House* in the process.

This month's Graham Greene corner is provided by [korrektivpress.com](http://korrektivpress.com), a blog site for *bad Catholics, blogging at a time near the end of the world*. Sounds a bit like a novel Greene would have written in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Anyhow, Jonathan Potter gives a potted (ahem) biography of Greene, quoting the author's self-deprecation "I have no talent; it's just a question of working, of being willing to put in the time." Oh, you and me both Graham.

Talking of working, with my librarian's hat on it is good to see Berkhamsted School Library's own blog in action. [berkschlibr.wordpress.com](http://berkschlibr.wordpress.com) reports on activities involving National Poetry Day, the European Day of Languages and Bookbuzz.

(Continued on page 5)



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(Continued from page 3)

The school librarian is an underrated species, who can do so much to help mould the minds of young people for the better. The renaming of 'library' to 'learning resource centre' in many schools has given some education authorities the excuse not to employ qualified librarians at all. I am glad to say that Ashlyns' own learning resource centre is looking for a new librarian. Let us wish them well in their search.

And whilst we are celebrating less well-known heroes, do remember that Berkhamsted is the home to top tier football. Berkhamsted FC hosts the FA Women's Super League, with Watford playing their home matches at Broadwater. [oxfordmail.co.uk](http://oxfordmail.co.uk) is one of many local papers that will slip such information into the hidden corners of their sports pages. This is a wonderful opportunity to watch top flight sport for a bargain price.

Drawings of Berkhamsted by  
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# What's on

**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday** at 12.30pm to 1.15pm:  
Lunchtime concerts – St Mary's Church,  
High Street, Hemel Hempstead.

Berkhamsted Artisans, Arts & Crafts  
Market (**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday every month**)  
10am to 4pm. The Town Hall, 196 High  
Street, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 3AP  
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berkhamstedmarket@hotmail.co.uk;  
website:  
[www.greatmarkets@vpweb.co.uk](http://www.greatmarkets@vpweb.co.uk).

Tring Farmers Market (**Alternate  
Saturdays**) The Marketplace, Brook Street,  
Tring 9.00am–12.15pm  
Tring Farmers Market promotes local food  
for local people and offers a full range of  
produce including: meat, eggs, bacon,  
cakes, biscuits, preserves, pies,  
vegetables, cheese, fish, plants, jewellery,  
crafts and much more. Email:  
[enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk).

## November

**Saturday 1st Nov: 5pm.**  
Berkhamsted Cricket Club,  
Castle Hill, Berkhamsted.  
Details



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

**Sunday 2nd Nov: 5pm–7pm.**  
Firework Display – Friends of Little  
Gaddesden School, October House, Little  
Gaddesden.

**Wednesday 5th Nov:** Fireworks, mulled  
wine, soft drinks and hotdogs. On the  
Glebe, next to the Green, Ashley Green.  
[www.ashleygreen.org.uk](http://www.ashleygreen.org.uk).  
Fire at 6pm; Fireworks at 7pm. Adults £6;  
children £3; family £18. Pay on gate.

**Sunday 9th Nov: 3.30pm.**

Centenary Theatre, Berkhamsted School,  
Kings Road. Dacorum Symphony Orches-  
tra – Beethoven, Overture 'Leonara' No 3,  
Haydn Symphony - No 104, 'London',  
Dvorak – Cello Concerto. Soloist Benja-  
min Hughes.

**Tuesday 11th Nov: 8pm**

'Architecture Painting in Line and Wash'.  
A demonstration by Jonathan Newey.  
[www.berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk) Visi-  
tors on the door £3.

**Weds 12th November: 8pm.** Berkham-  
sted Local History and Museum Society  
'O! What a lovely Berkhamsted! The Dev-  
il's Own WWI Training Garrison'  
Norman Groves, Society member and  
Trench Mapping Project Co-ordinator.  
Please note that all meetings take place in  
the Wellcome Great Hall, Berkhamsted  
Town Hall and start at 8pm.

**Thurs 13th November: 8pm.** BCA -  
"Berkhamsted Conservation Area" Ses-  
sions Hall, Berkhamsted Town Hall. An  
illustrated talk by Dr James Moir, DBC  
Conservation Department and local resi-  
dent, on the recent expansion and chang-  
es. No charge to members. Non mem-  
bers £2, Dacorum Card Holders £1.  
[www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk](http://www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk).

**20th Nov: 8pm.** Pepper Event - Berkham-  
sted Live – Leggatt's Community Choir  
sing hot gospel, community art with Jo  
Kidd/Mary Ann Robbins, poetry from  
Sunnyside Rural Trust. Free, with a collec-  
tion for Pepper nurses who support sick  
children. Dar Papillon 360-364 High St  
Berkhamsted HP41HU. Info: [suehamp-  
ton@btinternet.com](mailto:suehamp-<br/>ton@btinternet.com) or 01442 877052.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 7)

**Saturdays 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th Nov:**  
**9.30am to 12.30pm.** Charity Christmas Card Sale. In aid of national and local charities. Court House, Berkhamsted.

### **All Saints Christmas Tree Festival**

The All Saints Christmas Tree Festival programme will be launched, appropriately, with a coffee morning on All Saints Day, Saturday 1st November. From that date the admission programmes (price £1, children free) will go on sale. Forty Christmas trees with lights will fill the church, sponsored by local businesses and decorated by local organisations. It promises to be quite a spectacle. Proceeds from the Festival will be divided between the Hospice of St Francis, Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter, Foodbank and church funds.

There will be a full programme of musical entertainment throughout the three-day event which opens with a short service at 9.30am on Friday 12th December.

The church will be open from 10am-5pm on Friday and Saturday, and from 2pm-4pm on Sunday. Thomas Coram & Greenway Schools are singing and there will be craft and cake stalls and refreshments throughout. For full details please visit:  
[www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk/festivals.htm](http://www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk/festivals.htm). Do put the dates in your diary and bring your friends.

### **Future Dates:**

#### **Amersham and Chesham Bois Choral Society - Classical choral concert on Saturday 6th December**

Amchor will be performing Haydn's 'Te Deum in C' and Beethoven's 'Mass in C' together with a performance of Mozart's 'Symphony No 29' at St. Mary's Church Old Amersham starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £15, students £7.50; available from Janie Taylor 01494 721466 or [www.amchor.com](http://www.amchor.com).

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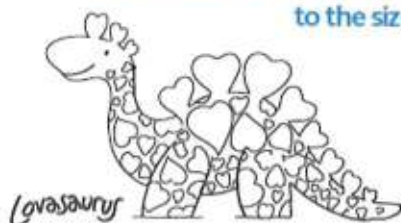
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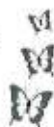
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# Dar Papillon Comedy Club



The new Dar Papillon Comedy Club is in action on November 27<sup>th</sup>. As a first for the town, the club promises to

bring to Berkhamsted the best up-and-coming comedians performing today. The hand-picked acts have been chosen by the organisers, local comedian Tom Mayhew and author Leslie Tate.

Tom said, "We're going for difference. Anything quirky, offbeat, tongue-in-cheek, as long as it's funny."

Leslie said, "I love crazy comedy and acts that make you think. Some of the performers still make me chuckle even when I watch them a third or fourth time."

When asked about reaction to the club, Leslie said "People are keen. Within three hours of posting, the club's Facebook page had 50 likes."

Tom added, "There are so many amazing acts out there. This is a chance to see some of them before they become household names."

At first sight Dar Papillon is a surprising place for a stand-up club. It's a health food shop and a vegetarian/vegan café run by Salva Malik, a devout Muslim.

Salva said, "Dar Papillon means butterfly house. I see it as a place where people of all faiths and cultures can spread their wings. We have health and lifestyle classes, live shows with local musicians

and writers, and now the Comedy Club. We want our butterfly house to be a creative centre for the community." Perhaps most surprisingly of all, there will be no alcohol at the Dar Papillon Comedy Club. Instead Salva will serve her own homemade non-alcoholic cocktails and the performance space will be decorated with multi-coloured streamers and Chinese lanterns.

In the words of Leslie Tate, "On Nov 27<sup>th</sup> we're aiming for a carnival feel. I've seen Tom in action and I know as MC he'll make sure we keep the fun and energy levels high."

The Dar Papillon Comedy Club will be headlined at 8pm on Nov 27<sup>th</sup> by prize-winning comedian Tom Appleton.



Entrance, which includes a free non-alcoholic cocktail, is £3.00/£1.50 concessions.

Dar Papillon is at 360 High St Berkhamsted HP41HU; for info/booking ring 01442 877052 or email [lstate@btinternet.com](mailto:lstate@btinternet.com).



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# Your Garden

Adventures in Boots from Helen Reeley

Envelopes are a feature of my working day during October and November. This year I bought a variety of flower seeds from seed merchant Ben Higgledy in Cornwall which cost a few quid so I'm protecting my investment with some careful seed collecting and some envelopes; decent envelopes with no sneaky gaps. It's a satisfying activity knowing I've got seed stock for myself and some to share with others.

Two of my favourite annuals this year have been Calendula 'Indian Prince' a fabulous hardy annual with bright orange flowers superb for cutting and Ipomoea 'Heavenly Blue' more commonly known as the Morning Glory climbing plant. Both have produced fabulous blooms all season, in fact 'Indian Prince' are still producing small flower heads. Good value these two.

I have a Yew hedge planting project to undertake soon. The soil will be prepared beforehand with well rotted farmyard manure and then we'll excavate one long trench and plant the small 60cm shrubs about three per metre. We expect the hedge to fill out quickly as it's in full sun but we'll need to keep a watchful eye on watering next spring if it's dry. The hedge will line the front of a fabulous period building and will look well groovy with lights draped across the front for events and advent.

Garden exploration once again becomes a (quieter) delight as visitor numbers diminish and light levels drop making photography easier for me.



I ventured out to Gloucestershire the other week and persuaded my friend to nip up to the Rococo Gardens at Painswick. As it wasn't muddy she kindly agreed and we had a very satisfactory couple of hours meandering around the grounds and amusing the inner child in ourselves getting lost in the maze. Titter we did. <http://www.rococogarden.org.uk>.

I leave Tulip bulb planting until November when the soil is cooler and the risk of the fungal disease Tulip fire is reduced. If you had Tulip plants this year with distorted and twisted stems with brown spots on the leaves, I should dig them up and chuck them out and don't plant Tulips in the same spot for at least three years.

If you're planning any changes in your garden do feel free to call to arrange an informal garden chat.

TTFN Helen 07708 643313  
[helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk](mailto:helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk)

# Your Community



## Festival of Light

November 30th is this year's date for Berkhamsted's Festival of Light. The lights themselves will be formally switched on around 5.15 which will be the signal for Santa Claus to begin his promenade along the High street.

Well before then, from 3.30, the High street will be throbbing with the traditional range of stalls and entertainment, lots of mulled wine to be sipped and chestnuts to be eaten! The Elves will be in the Civic Centre waiting for the children to write their Father Christmas letters and post them in the special Elves Posting House.

The best dressed shop window competition will be judged as will the "young Entrepreneur" stalls, developed and manned by pupils from Ashlyns and Berkhamsted School.

New this year, on the stage will be a children's drama group, Rock Chorus and an ecumenical carol service bringing together all the denominations in Berkhamsted. Altogether, not to be missed!!

\*\*\*

## Oktoberfest Review

St Peter's Berkhamsted hosted a German cultural weekend to mark both the First World War Centenary and the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The first St Peter's kulturelles Oktoberfest was held on 4th and 5th October.

The emphasis on Saturday evening was cultural with a talk by Dr Alix Green from the University of Hertfordshire on how German history is remembered and represented in the present day. The talk was followed by a Song Recital given by the superb London-based music charity 'Song in the City', and was entitled On the Western Front: 's ist Krieg! 's ist Krieg! Singers Adam Sullivan (tenor) Joseph Padfield (baritone) were accompanied by Gavin Roberts (piano). The songs were interspersed with the letters home from the front (on both sides) being read out by young members of the community: Jake Groet, Joe and David Grego; these young men are about the age of the teenage soldiers called up in 1914. Members of the audience were treated to a moving performance of the highest quality from this group of young professional soloists.



The talk was followed by German wine tasting with Swabian Maultaschen (similar to ravioli). The wine was supplied by drinks wholesaler and wine merchant Reiner Ackermann, a friend of organiser Uli Grego, who also travelled from Stuttgart for the event, and who runs such festivals in Germany for a living. The wine tasting was guided by well-known local expert and WSET tutor Mike Eggleton who is both very knowledgeable and entertaining. Most tasters left the evening having ditched their views on German wine as being sweet, insipid and like Liebfraumilch, and instead walked away with a new appreciation for the quality of German wine - particularly the reds.

On Sunday, the German cultural celebration continued. Music at our morning Eucharist borrowed from the powerful and rich Lutheran tradition: harvest was celebrated using good (well-known) German hymn tunes, with full preludes, and featured a performance, from the balcony at the back of the church, of a Buxtehude cantata by members and friends of St Peter's church choir and Bridgewater Sinfonietta. The normal organ voluntary was replaced with a Handel organ concerto.

Our Sunday morning celebration was continued with the key elements of any Oktoberfest - beer and sausage! Members of the congregation and guests from the town (and Germany!) were treated to a traditional Bavarian breakfast with Weiswurst (white sausage) and, of course, wheat beer, Oktoberfestbier and beer from our fantastic local Haresfoot Brewery. It was all accompanied by atmospheric 'oompah' music. The number of smiles were very evident, and

at peak time we had attracted over 100 people sitting at trestle tables or leaning against communal beer tables.

We were particularly favoured by the good weather on Sunday in contrast to the previous day. This along with a great team of helpers helped to make the weekend a great success. It was such a joy to see so many people from inside and outside the church community enjoying themselves so much... so much so that those who attended have demanded that it is run again next year... Watch this space.

Jonathan Lee

## HOST Request

HOST is looking for kind, friendly, hospitable people of all ages whose imaginations are caught by the idea of welcoming an international student at university here, far from his or her own family, to their home. This could be for a day, a weekend or at Christmas, and you don't need to live near a university, as students will travel for the privilege of meeting you, learning about real life in this country, and sharing their own culture. HOST is a voluntary activity which makes ambassadors for international goodwill of us all.

Please see [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call Sandra Purrett 01296 681625.

# Your Berkhamsted Clergy



Who has authority? A tricky question for us Brits nowadays. The old authorities have fallen into disrepute – the bankers in the financial crisis; clergy, media figures and even social services in sexual scandal; politicians in both of the above and more. We're rapidly becoming a country that doesn't trust any authority at all.

The Russians, in contrast, have fewer doubts, according to a recent poll asking them to name their highest moral authority. At the bottom, about 1 percent named a revered journalist, a Soviet hockey star, a Chechen leader and the Russian Orthodox Church's Patriarch Kirill. Next up the list came the Defense Minister, scoring 5 percent. In second place, with 9 percent, came Russian cultural figures, such as the novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn. But guess who came top of the list? With 36 percent of the vote, none other than that beacon of morality and personal integrity, President Vladimir Putin. Russia, amazingly, puts a great deal of its trust in the authority of her political establishment.

I want to argue that neither of these positions, whether British scepticism or Russian nationalism, answers the authority question. But for now, let's wind back two thousand years and focus on the situation Matthew describes in Jerusalem.

Jesus has just entered the city. The crowds have welcomed him with palm branches and clothes thrown at his feet, proclaiming him the son of David. He's been into the Temple and caused catastrophe, turning tables and casting out the sellers of sacrificial doves. He has healed the blind and the lame there. The priests are not pleased. They'd managed to get rid of him overnight, but now he's back causing trouble again. So they ask a question, a question of our times just as much as theirs: "what is your authority for doing these things?" You're not one of us, you haven't got the authority of the priestly bloodline. You're not sent by the Romans, you haven't got the imperial authority of Caesar. You're not a demagogue, leading a political body, you haven't got the authority of the people. So whose authority have you got to do these things?

And these of course are questions that we still ask. A lot of people don't trust bloodlines and birthrights; people don't much trust the democratic process or believe that politicians really represent their interests. Sure, a certain level of cynicism is a sign of a healthy society, but it seems nowadays that whenever anyone tries to do anything, the initial response is one of scepticism and distrust. What's in it for you? Why should we trust you? And then scepticism turns into anger and self-righteousness, like the self-righteousness of the priests in the Temple. We get defensive. Who are you to preach at me? It's easy to see why we want to ask these questions. But the obvious problem with our attitude is that society cannot function without some sort of authority.

Where old authorities are thrown away, new ones quickly arise to fill the vacuum. At an extreme level, we can see this happening in countries like Iraq where old and oppressive political structures are destroyed, and Islamic radicalism comes in with the resources to take over — the so-called Arab Spring is part of the same story. But it happens here, too. Where people come to believe nothing, they will start to believe anything. There are all sorts of people and organisations offering easy answers to difficult questions. You can find your own preferred authority on the Internet, on soap operas, in celebrities, in Tarot or horoscopes, in the BNP — in short, in anything which offers a message conveniently conforming to one's particular prejudices. If nobody's opinion has any authority any more, my opinion is just as valid as anyone else's, no matter how ill-founded and unexamined it might be.

Jesus in the Temple does not offer an easy answer to the question of authority. In fact, when the priests ask him whose authority he works under, Jesus refuses to answer. Instead, he asks them a question about John the Baptist: by whose authority did John baptise? Not from a birthright, not from the Temple, not from Caesar, that much is clear. The priests have accused Jesus of expelling demons using the power of the Devil before, but they are sensible enough not to say that in front of his followers. Nor, though, can they possibly admit the truth, because that would be too much of a challenge to them. The truth is that John baptised by the authority of the one he baptised, Jesus the Messiah. And so it follows that Jesus is acting on no other authority than his own.

That seems straightforward. But before we start thinking that the authority of Jesus gives us an easy solution to the problem, let's think about what Jesus' authority involves. It's the authority of a God who empties Himself of His divinity to be born a baby in a stable. The authority of a God who rides into the city on a donkey, who teaches but never coerces, who refuses to assert that authority but invites us to join Him in His weakness, His self-giving, His humble service to others. The authority of a God crucified who even then makes no show of power but the power of forgiveness and the saving grace of love. It's not the sort of authority the world is looking for, not in ancient Jerusalem, not in sceptical Britain or nationalist Russia. It isn't the authority of a Putin, and it undercuts scepticism with its humility. But it is the authority the world sorely needs.

– This is the authority Jesus has given the Church in its action and teaching. It doesn't come from being the Established Church of this country — we can't rely on the gift of Caesar, or rest on our laurels like the priests of the Temple. It doesn't come from the number of bums on pews every Sunday, or the percentage of people who identify themselves as Christian. It's the same authority by which John the Baptist baptised, that is, the paradoxical authority of Christ Himself, the humble authority of self-sacrificial love, of surrendering our lives so that Christ might live in us — the authority of a crucified God: and it is by letting Him act in us and through us that people will see and know and trust Him.

Fr Tom Plant, Assistant Curate, St Peter's,  
Great Berkhamsted T: 01442 382633



## ***Regular Church Activities***

- 3rd Mon Pastoral Network, 7:45pm, The Court House. Contact Philippa Seldon 871534.
- Tues Chuckles Parent & Toddler Group, 10–11:30am. All Saints' Church Hall. Song Time or short service as announced. Contact Jenny Wells, 870981.
- Tues St Peter's Choir, Children 5:15–6:15pm. St Peter's. Adrian Davis 01296 632263 or Jean Wild 866859.
- 1st Tues Tuesday Club, 7:30pm A lively women's group with guest speaker. The Court House. Contact Jean Bray 864532.
- 3rd Tues Mothers' Union, meet in members' houses at 2.30pm. New members always welcome. Contact Kathie Lally, 863526.
- 4th Tues 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, 3 Sherwood Mews Park Street, Berkhamsted HP4 1HX
- 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 01296 632263 or Jean Wild 866859.
- 3rd Sat Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast, 8am, The Way Inn. Rachael Hawkins 866324.
- 1st Sun Sundays Together Lunch 12.30pm, Court House. For anyone on their own on a Sunday. Liz Jackson 864382.

## ***Regular Church Services***

### **St Peter's**

#### **Regular Sunday services**

8:00am Eucharist

9:30am Sung Eucharist with crèche, Sunday School and Pathfinders

6:00pm Evensong

#### **Regular weekday services**

Morning Prayer Monday – Friday 8am; Saturday 9:30am.

Eucharist Monday 5:15pm; Tuesday 9:30am at All Saints' Shrublands Road; Wednesday 8:30am; Thursday 12:45pm at Thomas Coram School (St Peter's during school holidays)

No Friday Eucharist; Saturday 10:00am

Evening Prayer Monday – Saturday 5:00pm

## ***This Month's Diary***

**Events at St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, presented by The Cowper Society supported by the Friends of St Peter's**

**Sun 2nd Nov at 6pm:** Solemn Requiem for All Souls

**Mon 10th Nov at 8pm:** ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church – Simon Pusey, St Mary's, Old Hemel Hempstead (until Sept 2014). Free entry. Retiring collection

**Sat 15th Nov at 7pm:** CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Bridgewater Sinfonia.

Ravel Le Tombeau de Couperin; Elgar 'Cello Concerto in E minor, Matthew Sharp violin; Vaughan Williams Dona Nobis Pacem, Elizabeth Roberts soprano, Christopher Foster bass and Chiltern Chamber Choir. Tickets: [www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk](http://www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk), 873205, Aitchison's High St, visitors £15, U18s free

**Fri 21st Nov at 1pm:** LUNCHTIME RECITAL in the Lady Chapel, St Peter's Church – Simon Hayne piano. Free entry. Retiring collection.

**Mon 24th Nov at 8pm:** ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church – Ryan Leonard, Berkhamsted. Free Entry. Retiring collection

**Mon 8th Dec at 8pm:** ORGAN AND TRUMPET RECITAL in St Peter's Church – Adrian Davis organ and Giles Fowler trumpet. Free Entry. Retiring collection

### **All Saints'**

**Nov 2nd:** Fourth Sunday before Advent, All Saints' Day, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Barrie Allcott

**Nov 9th:** Remembrance Sunday, 8am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins; 10am Morning Worship Revd Rachael Hawkins

**Nov 16th:** Second Sunday before Advent, 10am Morning Worship, Revd Rachael Hawkins; 4pm Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group

**Nov 23rd:** Christ the King, 10am Morning Worship, Susie King & Rob Wakely

**Nov 30th:** Advent Sunday, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins; 4pm Healing Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins, Jenny Wells, Tracy Robinson, and Audrey Cox

### **Registers**

#### **All Saints'**

#### **Baptisms:**

14 September - Annabel Eve French

#### **Funeral:**

6 October - Peter Meyer

### **Key Church contacts:**

Parish Office, Hilary Armstrong & Kate Perera, Court House, 878227.

Fr. Tom Plant, 382633 (day off Fri) St Peter's, Curate, St Peter's;

### **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).

# News from the Hospice of St Francis

Fundraising News and Dates For Your Diary

Over the past year your local hospice, The Hospice of St Francis, has cared for just under 2,500 patients and has also been out in the community making 4,259 visits.



Yvonne Roberts from Berkhamsted receives visits from Community Nurse Liz Duro on a regular basis. She says, "Liz helps me with my illness and I look forward to her visits immensely. She offers total reassurance, cheering me up and making me feel positive about life." We need to raise £4.7 million each year to fund our services and help people like Yvonne, of which only 20% comes from the NHS, and we rely on the support of our community to achieve this. There are so many ways local people can support us over the next few months:

## **Diet, dance or dash for us!**

We're looking for dieters and dancers for our two New Year challenges – Strictly Learn Dancing and Biggest Loser 2015, starting in January! If you fancy being motivated by a good cause to learn to turn your two left feet into fancy footwork, or would like to be spurred on to lose weight early in the New Year with a dedicated health & fitness programme

at Sportspace then do visit our website to find our more –[www.stfrancis.org.uk/events/](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/events/)

We're also looking for Santas to dash around Hemel Hempstead for us on Sunday 14 December 10am as part of our seventh annual Hospice Santa Dash to raise funds! Registration costs £15 for adults, £5 for children and £35 for the whole family, including dogs!

## **Shop with us!**

Do visit our Hospice Love to Give shops in the run up to Christmas for party wear, toys or gifts. We are holding a Christmas shopping evening on Thursday 13th November 5:30pm – 8pm at our popular Number Twenty gift store on Lower Kings road, Berkhamsted HP4 2AB; and at pre-loved homeware and furniture store Returned to Glory, on the Northbridge Road, Berkhamsted HP4 1EH, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 5pm – 8pm, to give shoppers the chance to browse, with a complimentary glass of fizz. There will also be a 15% discount at Number Twenty on that evening.







Another way to support your local Hospice at Christmas time is by buying charity Christmas cards. We have some beautiful designs this year, featuring some local scenes, and 100% of the profits come to the Hospice. Card available at all our Hospice shops and online at [www.numbertwentyonline.co.uk](http://www.numbertwentyonline.co.uk).

### **Light Up a Life**

As we approach Christmas, it's a time when we celebrate, remember and give thanks for family and friends we have lost. At the beginning of December, we 'Light up a Life' by illuminating the lights on our Remembrance Tree, which stands in our beautiful Hospice grounds. This year, we are also having an online dedication page on our website, featuring a special starry night Hospice Christmas scene. You can make a personal dedication here and your star will shine brightly, in memory of your loved one, for

the whole of the festive period. It costs nothing to dedicate a star, but if you'd like to remember someone or even just make a donation to help ensure that local families facing loss receive the care and support they need, not just at Christmas, but all year round, please visit [www.stfrancis.org.uk](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk). Thank you for your support.

### **Other dates for your diaries:**

(All take place at the Spring Centre at the Hospice.)

#### **Hospice Film Forum – Wed 5th**

November 7pm. Regeneration, a First World War film seen through eyes of Siegfried Sassoon. Wed 3rd December 7pm. Singin' In the Rain, a Christmas classic. Doors open 6:45pm. £5 donation. Hospice Spring Centre.

**Art at the Heart** – showcase of work from local artists at our Spring Centre – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>, 10am–5pm and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>, November 12pm–4pm.

#### **Hospice Coffee morning – Friday**

28<sup>th</sup> November 10:30am – 12pm. Open to all. Free. Hospice Bistro.

#### **Hospice Running Club – every**

Wednesday at 9:30am, front of the Hospice, suitable for all abilities.

Find out more at:

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

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## In memoriam

"Although you are given a free hand as to method this telegram is not intended to convey the impression that I am not anxious for you to carry out the retirement and you must make every endeavour to do so".

Thus in this notorious telegram replete with double negatives did Field Marshall Sir John French, commander of the British Expeditionary Force communicate his wishes to Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien commander of his II Corps. Yet Smith Dorrien was determined to make a stand, and so it was that the Battle of Le Cateau took place on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1914, considered the last battle to take place in the tradition of Waterloo. One day later Private Ernest Wonnacott, died, at the age of 19.

Ernest had joined the army in Exeter in the years before the war. He was a private in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and was attached to 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment when war broke out. Thus he found himself at the centre of the first engagement by British soldiers with the Germans, at the Battle of Mons. The battalion held the station, using their

.303 Lee Enfield rifle to put 15 shots a minute into the equivalent of a two-foot circle of a target 300 yards away. It was no surprise that the Germans thought they were facing machine gun fire. Nevertheless, against the onslaught of the huge

German fighting machine Ernest must have found himself very busy in the hot days of August.

Smith Dorrien pulled back from Mons and in the hope of striking "a stopping blow", made his stand at Le Cateau.

So it was that I, with my wife Sarah, and our two boys Matthew and James, found ourselves in the peaceful quietude of Bethencourt Communal Ceme-

tery at Private Wonnacott's grave. Ernest was the brother of Sarah's great uncle by marriage, so we particularly wanted to mark the exact day one hundred years earlier that he met his death. In this relatively small plot set amidst the family graves of the village, 80 Commonwealth soldiers lie buried. Some from this early



(Continued on page 25)



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battle, others from October 1918 as the tide of war had turned and it was the German's turn to retreat. Bethencourt, became the site of a German hospital and lies just north of the dead straight road between Cambrai and Le Cateau, north of the more substantial village of Caudry.

As with so many war cemeteries, this is an incredibly peaceful place, only interrupted with the sound of birdsong. Indeed its size and situation makes it perhaps even more affecting than the far larger cemeteries of the Western Front. We certainly found the occasion very moving, just the four of us entirely alone, sharing some words and thoughts about the death of such a young person, one amidst so many.

As for Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, he has a strong link with Berkhamsted. He is buried in the Three Close Lane Cemetery, and his granddaughter is patron of the Friends of St Peter's.

Although Sir Horace was undoubtedly right to make his stand, and was congratulated by French, the Field Marshall was ultimately never happy with the decision, and Smith Dorrien's dismissal in 1915 was influenced by the battle. If you want to find out more about Mons and Le Cateau, I recommend the appropriate chapter in Richard Holmes' *Complete War Walks*.

Julian Dawson



## The Castle Street Singers



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# The Travelling Crib

There is an old Mexican custom, where, during Advent, people dressed up as Mary and Joseph travel around their villages knocking at peoples' doors to see who will give them hospitality.

The Mothers' Union has adapted this custom through the idea of a Travelling Crib.

Our branch of The Mothers' Union has, for many years, provided two Travelling Cribbs for the parish, one for each church. The knitted

figures of Mary and Joseph were made by our members in order to provide a 'child friendly' crib so that no one will have to worry young children might damage them. Each year they are mended or replaced, as necessary.

The figures have a special basket to travel in and are taken on to their next resting place by the family who gave them shelter the night before. Each family they visit is asked to prepare a special place in their home for them to rest for the night. When they arrive at each home, there is a short welcoming prayer for the two families to use.

If you would like the Travelling Crib to spend a night in your home during

Advent this year please sign up on the list which will be in church on Sundays 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> November and, in between at Chuckles on the Tuesday and Little Fishes on the Friday. Make a note of the dates and bring your diaries! To avoid disappointment, sign up on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>.



The cribs will be blessed and sent out from each church at the morning services, on Advent Sunday,

30<sup>th</sup> November with the first of the families on the lists who have offered their homes as a resting place on their journey. Each night they will stay with a different family before returning to church, with the last family, at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve at All Saints' and on Christmas Day at St Peter's.

If you have any queries please contact Tracy Robinson (863559) for All Saints' or Margaret Burbidge (862139) for St Peter's.

# Ashridge Estate Winter News



Ashridge is a perfect location for a walk on a beautiful winter's day. Wrap up warm and take in the stunning

surroundings of the National Trust's Ashridge Estate at this magical time of year. The leafless trees give you a great chance to spot deer and flocks of birds roaming the woods looking for food. If you would like some inspiration on a new walk route pop into the Visitor Centre and we can point you in the right direction.

## News from the Estate – Juniper Propagation

Juniper is a native conifer species that is now very rare in the South of England. We have only two mature bushes and two young bushes on the estate. The plant itself provides vital habitat for different species and a food source for migrating birds.

We are undertaking a project to restore the current population and make it sustainable and healthy. This is vital for the biodiversity of the estate and the survival of the species in the South East. We are doing this by using the existing plants as a source of seeds and cuttings.

In October the rangers collected 50% of the viable berries from the one fertile female on the estate to be propagated and grown in the tree nursery currently under construction. This is a long term project as juniper berries take two years to mature then the seedlings will be grown for two years in a greenhouse and for a final year in the tree nursery before being planted out.

Early next year we will also take cuttings from both the male and female bushes which will be grown on for 2 years in the greenhouse and a further year in the tree nursery before being planted out. This method is quicker than



collecting seeds; however the new plants will be genetic clones of the parent plant, leaving the population susceptible to infection and disease.

Hopefully through the two methods we can create a sustainable population within 15 years.

Pete Mills – Ashridge Ranger

# Stuck for Christmas Present ideas?



## **National Trust Shop -**

Enjoy a spot of Christmas shopping in the National Trust Shop, which is open 7 days a week 10am – dusk right through until Christmas Eve. There is a great range of gift ideas; pop in for a stress-free shopping experience. We will also be open all winter from the 27<sup>th</sup> December onwards.

## **Ashridge Christmas Fair -**

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Dec: 10am – 3.30pm. Fill yourself with festive cheer and your bags with festive goodies at our annual Christmas Fair. Stalls packed with unique Christmas present ideas and a great Christmassy atmosphere. Free Entry.

## **National Trust Gift Membership**

Or for an original gift idea that gives for a whole year, why not buy someone special a year's membership to the National Trust? The membership pack can be easily wrapped and is the perfect size for posting too. You can also enjoy 2 months free membership when you pay by direct debit and all money raised from membership will be used directly to help us protect and care for the Ashridge Estate.

## **Events at Ashridge:**

### **Ashridge Uncovered – Commons**

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Nov: 1pm – 3pm

Join us to discover the significance of the commons to the shaping of Ashridge's human and environmental history, and dispel some of the myths associated with commons. The walk will finish at the visitor centre in time for a scone and cup of tea. £15 adult, £10 child. Booking required.

### **Ashridge Christmas Trail**

Every day from 15<sup>th</sup> Nov – 24<sup>th</sup> Dec

Join us for a stroll through the woodland discovering more about winter and Christmastime at Ashridge and complete some of the 50 things to do before you're 11 3/4 on route. Follow your map, answer the questions and return to collect your sticker reward. £1 per trail.

### **Visit Father Christmas at Ashridge**

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> and Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Dec, Sat 20<sup>th</sup> and Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. Sessions at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm

Each 45 minute session includes a visit with Father Christmas and a Christmas craft making. £6 child, £2.50 adult.

### **Ashridge Christmas Walk**

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Dec: 10am – 12 noon

Enjoy a scenic post-Christmas walk through the Estate at this magical time of year. End at the Visitor Centre with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. £7 adult, £5 child.

**To book your place on one of our events please contact 01442 851227 or pop in and see us at the Visitor Centre.**



# Your Charities

## Oxfam and the Ebola Crisis

The Ebola crisis in West Africa has shocked the world. Oxfam is one of many agencies working to bring the epidemic under control through improved water and sanitation and crucially hygiene training. The charity has already reached 500,000 people in Sierra Leone alone and plans to increase its efforts considerably, both there and in neighbouring countries. But funds are already stretched by the massive refugee crisis in Syria and its neighbours, South Sudan and northern Iraq.

One way to help would be to buy Christmas presents and cards from Oxfam's excellent selection or buy an Alternative Gift from the new range of Oxfam Unwrapped. There is also a delicious choice of Festive Fare so help yourself and those for whom there is no room at the inn.

Audrey Hope

## Caring and Sharing Love

Because they care passionately that 300 million children in the developing world go to bed hungry every day and 1.4 billion people live in poverty, Cherry, Sheila, Helen, Anne, Angela and Mike at St Peter's Church, and Julie and Rob at All Saints' Church feel called to do something. What they do as part of their Christian stewardship is act as unpaid volunteers for a Christian organisation which seeks to end poverty through trade, and justice for the poor.

Once a month after morning services they share their care by running a regular Traidcraft stall selling Fairtrade goods. Most of these are not found in our local supermarkets, although they hope you

will choose

Fairtrade tea, coffee and chocolate when doing your usual shop. Traidcraft is

the largest Fairtrade Company in the UK founded in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty and campaigns tirelessly for poor marginalised producers.

The teams sell a wide range of Fairtrade certified food and crafts grown and produced sustainably to exacting international standards. Other goods without the Fairtrade Mark have not yet obtained international agreement – crafts such as Gospel House jigsaws for instance.

As only 2% of all the sugar and cocoa produced worldwide is Fairtrade, Cherry, Sheila, Helen, Anne, Julie, Mike, Rob and Angela are doing their bit to increase this percentage. Will you help them? If you don't eat chocolate, you could help save the rain forests by buying Fairtrade cleaning products made with Fairtrade Palm Oil and Coconut Oil.

Traidcraft has great resources for schools, see on-line schools@traidcraft.co.uk. A competition for children to design a Christmas card with prizes for the winning school has a closing date 12<sup>th</sup> December. Thinking caps on and pencils lined up! A few years ago the Margaret Demidecki Fairtrade prize was won by Victoria First School, to date Berkhamsted's only Fairtrade School.

## Traidcraft is Fairtrade, but it is more

**than fair.** To find out more go to [www.traidcraft.co.uk](http://www.traidcraft.co.uk) or pick up a leaflet from St Peter's or All Saints churches. Or ask Angela on 866992.



## Your Berkhamsted needs a Treasurer

*Your Berkhamsted* is the monthly magazine for town and parish. It has a vibrant and varied range of writers and articles reflecting the life and interests of our town.

We need someone to take over the voluntary role of Treasurer. This includes overseeing a bank account, making payments and banking cash, issuing invoices and similar jobs. All current records are in very good shape. The Treasurer would also be a member of the *yB* editorial team and would be invited to attend monthly evening meetings when available.

Meetings are sociable and you will join a friendly and committed group of people.

If this sounds like you please contact:

Jacqueline Hicks: [editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk)



# Town Farm

# ART SHOW

Paintings, Illustration  
Ceramics, Glass, Woodcraft  
Woodcarving, Stonecarving  
Printed Textiles, Jewellery

[www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com](http://www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com)

Festive art show in Cheddington:  
hand-crafted, high quality Christmas gifts  
plus mulled wine, Christmas cake & Belgian waffles

**ONE WEEKEND ONLY**

**Friday 28 ~ Sunday 30 November**

**10am ~ 5pm**

**6 Town Farm, Cheddington, Nr Tring, LU7 0TT**

**PLEASE PARK ON HIGH STREET ~ NOT IN TOWN FARM**

Free entry - Donations for refreshments  
in aid of Rennie Grove Hospice Care

**Copy Dates:**

11 November

11 December

11 January

### Your Berkhamsted Team

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# **STRONGS PRINTING AND PHOTOCOPYING SERVICE**

## **Plan Copying**

**B/W A2 to A0)**

## **Photocopying**

**A4 - A1 colour**

### **Full Colour Digital Printed Leaflets**

#### **A4**

**x100 for £30**

**x200 for £45**

**x500 for £75**

**x1000 for £120**

#### **A5**

**x100 for £20**

**x200 for £35**

**x500 for £52**

**x1000 for £80**

### **Full Colour Digital Business Cards**

**x100 single sided £31**

**x100 double sided £46**

**x1000 single sided £79**

**x1000 double sided £113**

#### **Photocopying Colour & B/W**

*Laminating / Stapling / Hole Punching  
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#### **Design:**

*Full Apple Mac Design Studio  
Artwork / Scanning / Repro*

#### **Printing:**

*NCR Sets & Books / Letterheads  
Compliment Slips / Business Cards  
Leaflets / Brochures / Folders / Posters*

Berkhamsted  
High St.



Esso Garage

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Bank Mill Lane

Bourne End  
Hemel Hempstead

**Strong's Printing Services, Bank Mill Wharf, Bank Mill Lane, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2NT**

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