

In this issue

February 1997

**Forty days
of Lent**

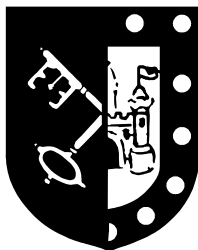
**Who's afraid
of the dark?**

**The Iain Rennie
Hospice at
Home**

**But is it
cost effective?**

**Introducing our
new clergy**

**This month's
Notes & Events**



for Town and Parish

25p



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

Welcome to the February issue of the Review.

We have a problem. We have always held the *Review's* columns open for contributions from our readers. And we get an encouraging flow of material. We never (well, hardly ever) fail to publish contributions sent to us, even if after a delay. We certainly hardly ever have to apply the editorial blue pencil on grounds of blasphemy, heresy (this is after all a church magazine!), sedition, libel, obscenity or even plain bad taste. We commission articles on topics of local interest, civil or ecclesiastical.

But we have this nagging doubt. We worry that there might be potential readers who find the present magazine irrelevant to their needs. We worry that there are topics which we should be covering which we are neglecting or under-reporting. If *you* think there is such a gap in our coverage, please tell us. Better still, send us something which will bridge the gap. This can be as simple as a letter, or if you feel like expressing your view in a bit more depth write an article - or a series! This is the best way to ensure that the *Review* really reflects what *you* want - and we'll sleep easier!

David Woodward

In this month's issue...

Forty Days of Lent

Father Mark Bonney examines *how* we should give something up for Lent.

Introductions

Rev Peter Hart, new rector of Northchurch, and **Rev Robin Figg**, soon to be priest-in-charge of All Saint's, introduce themselves.

Let there be Light!

Liz Baxendale definitely doesn't like the dark!

Local Books

Best selling local literature comes under **John Cook's** scrutiny.

The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home

Stephen Halliday describes the work of this quiet, caring local institution.

But is it Cost Effective?

Bean counters beware! **Muriel Lander** is on your case.

... plus much more, including our regular features, dairy dates and notes & notices.

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(note early date due to short month of February)*



**Fr Mark Bonney
asks how we
give something
up for Lent.**

review leader

The forty days of Lent begin on 12th February with Ash Wednesday, a period of the Christian year I love enormously as it prepares us for the celebration of the heart our faith during Holy Week and Easter. On Ash Wednesday there will be a solemn eucharist at 8:00pm with the imposition of ashes as a call to repentance and a reminder of our mortality.

‘What are you giving up for Lent?’ has become a rather out-of-fashion phrase. Certainly it’s very debased when we reply with a little grin, ‘I’m giving up chocolates’ (the unsaid part of the sentence then being, ‘I’m going to celebrate Easter with a boxful of chocolates’). More often we’re likely to hear people say ‘I’m not giving anything up, I’m taking on something’. That is, in many ways, very laudable, especially if it’s an act of charity - some good work or the like - but then do you stop when Lent is over and heave a sigh of relief?

My worry about giving something up is that we treat it as trivial. My worry about taking something on is that most people do too much already. We justify ourselves by our activity and something else to do is another burden. There is a good deal of wisdom in the advice I was once given by a confessor I went to see, who said do the things you have been doing, but just do them better.

However, I don’t want to lose sight of that very ancient and traditional idea of giving something up for Lent. Anything we do or don’t do for Lent is only of real meaning if it is a response to God’s love, and is there to enable us to come closer to

him. The traditional idea of giving something up was that you gave the money you saved to charity and the time you saved you spent in prayer. So often when we give something up we don’t get beyond stage one. Opportunities for prayer might include attending a midweek eucharist (there are going to be extra ones at St Peter’s at 8:00am on Tuesday mornings and at 12:30pm at Wednesday lunchtimes, as well as the others that normally happen). It may be that you join one of the house groups - but be careful lest prayer becomes yet another thing we do - another thing to be done in a busy world.

True prayer is an activity of the Holy Spirit within us, as St Paul says in the letter to the Romans *‘Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words’*. This kind of prayer is not about following a pattern of confession, thanksgiving, supplication or whatever. This kind of prayer is not our activity but the activity of Another, and for it we need to stop. It is very simple and very difficult. Very simple because in order to pray that is all we have to do; very difficult because stopping requires a special kind of effort for which we receive little help from our own nature or circumstances.

(continued on page 5)

Cover: Bishop Christopher visited the deanery before Christmas, calling on both St Peter’s and All Saints’ and visiting the Gossoms End Elderly Care Unit during the day. The Bishop is photographed talking to one of the residents of the unit. More photographs appear on page 13.
(*Photograph courtesy Tony Blair*)

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Metropolitan Anthony says in his book *God and Man* that we have to learn to manage time 'not when it is moving in a sluggish, meandering way, but at the moment when it is trying to rush like water from a burst pipe. It is simply a matter of saying at the moment when you are busy with something useful which must be done, "I stop doing this, I'll keep an instant and remain alone with God". Settle peacefully and say "Whatever happens, I will not budge". Say to all those, visible and invisible,

who come to disturb you, "I'm sorry; I'm here but not for you"".

By giving something up for Lent perhaps we can manage time so that there is time to stop and to let God be God and let the Spirit pray in us.

Father Mark .

BLESSINGS

I do my best to give Thee all,
But Thou giv'st more.
No matter how I fail, on me
Thy blessings pour.
The wisdom Thou reveal'st to me
I quick forget;
Thou judgest not nor blam'st me, for
Thou lov'st me yet.
This long, long span, for me a man,
On earth below,
Thou set to live for Thee, but what
Have I to show?
So generously Thou dost guide,
Nor keep'st a score,
And us'st me, tho' I know it not, -
And still giv'st more.

G.F.S.

The other morning, while reflecting, as many do, upon undeserved 'blessings received', these lines came. Should they seem to encroach upon the style of that much-loved priest and poet of the 17th century, George Herbert, it will just be because he is such a life-long favourite of the writer.



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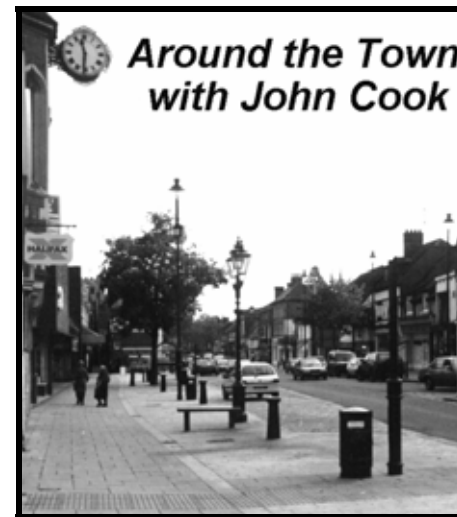
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Local Books

For Christmas many Berkhamsted people were given books of local interest, particularly two newly published ones, both of them of top quality. The Town's bookshops were selling Richard Mabey's *Flora Britannica* like hot cakes - a real best seller - and another was *A Hertfordshire Valley*, written by Scott Hastie with photographs by David Spain. If you were fortunate enough to get one of these you will not need to be told what a treasure you have acquired.

Richard Mabey - born, educated and living in Berkhamsted - has written many successful natural history books over the years, but this new one I think will be seen as his magnum opus. It received national acclaim and was serialised in the *Times*. For it he collected material from all over Britain, but much of it locally, and in the acknowledgements he records the help he received from one of our Church schools - The Thomas Coram Middle School.

The other book, *A Hertfordshire Valley*, is actually about two valleys - those of the rivers Gade and Bulbourne which come together at Boxmoor - telling their story in a concise and very readable way. Scott Hastie was educated at Ashlyns School and has books on poetry to his

credit. But this book is particularly notable for the exceptional quality of its photographs, largely taken from archives and reproduced here in a way that these days is usually only found in really high quality publications.

Many of the photographs are local to Berkhamsted: a streamlined pre-war steam train speeding through Berkhamsted Station; the Crystal Palace Pub when the front of it did look a bit like the end of the real Crystal Palace, and so on. The authors and the publishers (Alpine Press of Kings Langley) have done a splendid job.

Words

My interest in the use of names has been given several items to feed on recently.

It has taken time to master fully the geography of our fine new Waitrose, and the notices they put up don't always help. On a pre-Christmas shopping marathon I was dispatched to find some paper plates, eventually tracking them down in a shelf labelled 'table stationery'. Anything to do with the human body or bathrooms can only be found under a euphemism. It is a long time since you have been able to buy scent anywhere, and nowadays it is even difficult to find perfumes : you have to look for *fragrances*.

Gates

Fashions change for naming new property developments. 'Court' was the vogue word a few years ago; now it is 'gate'. In the 1980's I was involved in the large re-development project covering the area around Liverpool Street Station and remember the arguments about the choice of a suitable name for it. Eventually *Broadgate* was chosen. No actual gate by that name had ever existed : it was simply an artificial construction, made from the names of two streets which border the site, Bishopsgate and Broad Street. Incidentally, as part of that redevelopment the old Broad Street Station disappeared, a terminus which had had a regular train service from Berkhamsted within living memory.

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Then when I was on the Town Council a name had to be chosen for the development site off Lower Kings Road. The Bourne Centre was an early choice but this was later changed to Kingsgate by the developers, an invented name which had a fashionable ring to it but no historical basis. It could equally well have been used for a site in any other town.

Since then we have had Church Gates and Castle Gate in Berkhamsted, and now the new development in Cross Oak Road and Shrublands Road is to be called Kitsbury Gate. This name does have some historical significance. Local people still call that area Kitsbury, and there is Kitsbury Parade, Kitsbury Stores and of course Kitsbury Road and Kitsbury Terrace. In its early days All Saints' Church was known as Kitsbury Church.

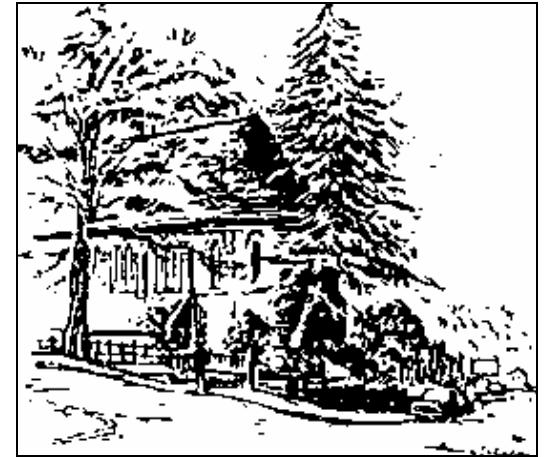
They all take their name from Kitsbury (or Kittsbury) Farm, on the land of which this end of the Town was developed about 100 years ago. Who knows, there may have been an old farm gate on the site of the new houses.

Apostrophes

Mentioning All Saints' Church, do you spell it with an apostrophe or not? What about Kings Road or St John's Well Lane or Doctors Commons Road? Berkhamsted Citizens Association decided that an apostrophe in their name was not appropriate on the grounds that the members do not own the association, they are the association, and therefore the possessive does not apply.

When some time ago one of the houses at Berkhamsted School was named after the Greene family there were differences of opinion as to whether there should be an apostrophe in the name or not. It came to be officially called Greenes House, without the funny little hanging comma which you don't find in foreign languages.

The big hall at the School is called Deans' Hall with the apostrophe where it



All Saints' Church: to apostrophe or not to apostrophe?

is because it is named after not one dean but two. The first was John Incent, the founder of the School and a famous Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, and the other Dr Fry, who moved on from being Headmaster of the School to be Dean of Lincoln Cathedral. His current successor as Dean there, the most beautiful building in England, is of course the one in hot water.

Edible Landscapes

If you were to compile a list of today's vogue words, *ecology* would be sure to be included; so I was not at all surprised to find it used in the sales patter in a leaflet which came through the door the other day, offering high standard home and garden improvements from a Mr Wyatt, who has a local phone number.

I did sit up though when I read that Mr Wyatt included, in the scope of the services he could provide, *many edible landscapes*. We have become used to seeing ornamental cabbage plants in flower beds, but the idea of whole edible landscapes does rather stretch the imagination.

Anyway, good luck to Mr Wyatt, and I would be interested to hear of any landscapes he is commissioned to construct in Berkhamsted - and perhaps be invited to join in the eating of them. ❖

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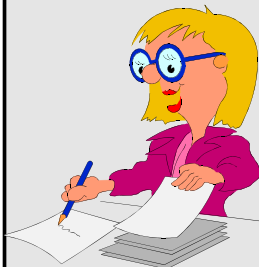
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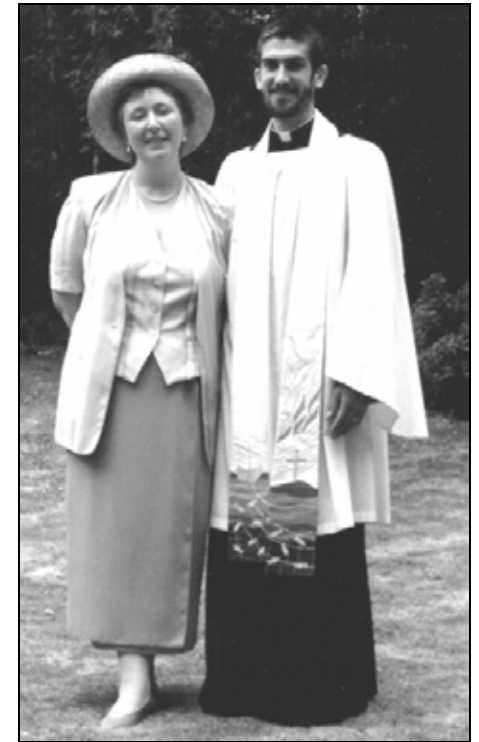
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Robin, Elizabeth,
Matthew, James
and Paul Figg

Rev Robin Figg takes up the post of priest-in-charge at All Saints' Church at Easter. Here he tells us about himself and his family.

With only a few weeks to go until our arrival in All Saints' House, we thought we would tell you something about ourselves. Where to begin? Well, we are a multi-cultural family! My roots are in Somerset, whilst Elizabeth hails from Scotland. Having gained a BSc in engineering, I served as an engineer officer in the Royal Navy. The highlight of this time was a most exciting eight month world deployment in 1986, with visits to all five continents. Elizabeth trained and worked as a nurse in the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh before becoming an officer in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. During her five years in the Army Elizabeth served in the UK and in Germany, and she was seconded to the Princess Anne Hospital in Southampton where she trained as a midwife.

How did two people from such diverse backgrounds ever meet? In the autumn of 1989 we both attended a Christian conference at High Leigh; two years and many ferry crossings later (Elizabeth was in Germany) we were married the day after I officially left the Royal Navy and just before I started ordination training at Westcott House in Cambridge. We enjoyed three busy years in Cambridge,



during which time Matthew was born in the summer of 1992 and we managed four months 'down under' in New Zealand in early 1993! Then in July 1994 we began our period in the wilds of rural West Somerset. Whilst here our family expanded with the arrival of James in the autumn of 1994 and, very recently, of Paul.

As a family we are very much looking forward to our time in Berkhamsted, joining in the life of the parish and the town and getting to know you during the coming months. ❖



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A New Window for St Peter's

David R.A. Pearce, chairman of the Cowper Society, describes the proposed engraved glass window for St Peter's church.

Readers and members of St Peter's congregation will know that the first window from the left in the north aisle of the church is in a very poor condition and will cost as much to restore as to replace (see the article in the January issue of the Review). It is hoped that we may set there a new window that will mark our own response to our Church's living history.

The accompanying sketch design by Sally Scott gives a general impression but cannot convey all the detail that will come with the full drawing stage.

The traditional Victorian stained glass of St Peter's means that we travel in the company of well-known stories, faces and images. The proposed engraved glass window will deliberately be different, but complementary, and will bring to worshippers an awareness of the world outside. We shall be able to look through the implications of the engraving to the canopy of the lime tree beyond and the sky. It is hoped that the window will speak of three sources of inspiration.

There is the inspiration of our beautiful countryside. St Peter's church can be seen nestling in the folded hills of the valley; and there are trees because Berkhamsted is a place of trees. Three trees are stark and wintry and cast their shadows towards us. They may suggest Eastertide, but with them are other trees full of leaf and colour. All seasons are blended. Animals, insects and

plants, that children will easily recognise, will be found especially in the densely worked foreground. They are part of the inspiration of nature and they speak of different qualities.



Then there is the inspiration of poets and writers. The town has many to celebrate, but in particular, William Cowper, who was a child of the Rectory, and whose gentle life had such a profound influence on the religious thinking of the 18th and 19th centuries, and whose hymns we treasure. One window already in the church recalls him but it is hidden and lost behind the high east end of the vestry. A selection of Cowper's words is used by Dr David Peace in the free flowing curves of the landscape and the shapes of the sky:

*'Let everlasting thanks be thine for
such a bright display as make a world
of darkness shine with beams of
heavenly joy'*

and,

'Every place is hallowed ground'

and,

*'To walk with God, to be divinely free
to soar, and to anticipate the skies'.*

The hares in the foreground are the hares of Cowper, full of life and vitality. Perhaps Cowper may be allowed to speak on behalf of the many writers who have found inspiration in Berkhamsted.

The third influence upon us is, of course, the divine inspiration, represented here by the Holy Spirit of the dove, but

also by the downward thrust of light through the clouds, the downward curve of the chestnut spray in the right-hand window, and in the joyous downward flight of the swifts over the church tower. This last inspiration, especially, is our cause of gratitude, and so the dove carries the little Chiltern harebell of our gift.

It is intended that the window should have some light colour tinting, perhaps of greens and blue, but this will only enhance the design and not shut out the world beyond.

Sally Scott and Dr David Peace, who specialises in the lettering, have together created many engraved windows, notably for the cathedrals of St Albans, Norwich and Leicester as well as in parish churches. They have been marvellous people to work with and have so enthusiastically combined their skills with an appreciation of St Peter's and its part in our lives. The practical problems, and the need for specially toughened glass have all been taken into account.

Now we should like your response, for it is you, today's worshippers, who must be the most involved in this venture and offering which would be our bequest to future generations. ❖



Bishop Christopher visits Gossoms End



Bishop Christopher spent time talking with Debbie Pyne, manager of the Gossoms End Elderly Care Unit and staff and residents during his Deanery Visit in December.



One of the ultimate joys of the twentieth century must be the ability to flick a small switch and fill a darkened room with light. I take 'Light' as a theme because February seems such a dismal month! The festivities of Christmas are well behind us. The lights that shone out in our town, on the

Christmas trees and from many a house window are now lying again in boxes in the lofts and attics until the next time. The long dismal days make me feel that I should not like to live where nights last for 24 hours at some times of the year. Give me the warm and cosy glow of firelight, candle light or, best of all, a 250 watt bulb!

If I was honest I might say that I am a bit afraid of the dark, and have always had sympathy for others who feel the same. You are not supposed to be, when you are grown up. In fact, once past five or six you are expected to do without the night light or leaving the door open so that other lights in the house can creep into your room and break up the deep darkness.

People have written about the 'friendly dark', but I don't share their view. So it is with a feeling of relief that I notice the

Let there be Light!

Are the dark days and nights of February taking their toll?

Liz Baxendale sheds some light on the season.

almost imperceptible lengthening of the days as February passes. It is marked by the birds who come to the table in the garden. Each day they come during the afternoon and as the days lengthen so they arrive just a little later. During the long dark days of winter I draw the

curtains and keep the dark at bay. Tea is taken in the glow of lamp and firelight... and then, suddenly, tea will be eaten while the sun is going down and the curtains will be drawn *afterwards!*

Living where I do, there is always light in my home, provided by the council in the form of street lamps. They shine in, very conveniently illuminating the upper floor so well that I scarcely ever put on a light upstairs! (a great saving on the electricity bills!). Of course, many people would complain about 'light pollution' if this happened to them. And in spite of my feelings, when I stay in a country cottage in a village without street lighting I love to go outside and look at the stars. It is amazing how bright the moon can seem in such locations.

(continued on next page)

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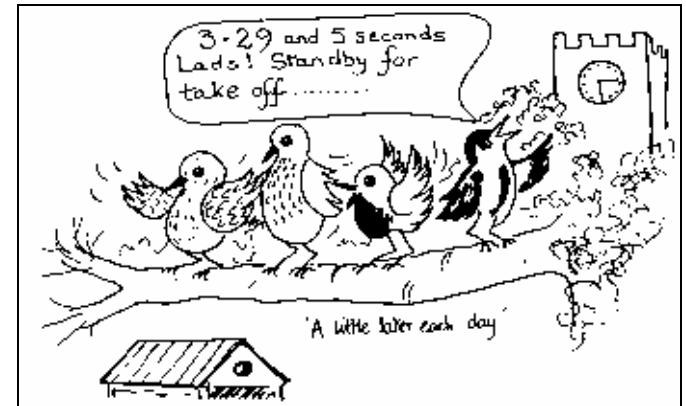
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Once, on a W.I. course on *Display*, we were shown what a difference light can make to even the most mundane objects. Window dressers and stage hands know this of course, but many other people depend on light... the dentist, artist and dressmaker to name but three. How often people say, "It looks different in this light", or, "May I take it to the light?"

Actors, models and other beautiful people use light to their advantage... it can soften ugly features, disguise blemishes and reduce the ravages of time if used cleverly. The story is told of the great ballet dancer, Robert Helpmann, who was dancing Oberon in a production of *Midsummer Night's Dream* being staged at the Hollywood Bowl, best known as a sports arena. The best dressing room on offer was a concrete cell with a table, chair and single electric light bulb hanging from the ceiling. The call boy, knocking for a fifteen minute call and getting no reply, opened the door and was horrified to see



Helpmann balanced on the chair, which was placed on the table. He was applying elaborate eye makeup, holding a small mirror towards the bare bulb. "Are you all right, Sir?" asked the call boy. "Yes, dear thing", replied Helpmann. "But I can't *imagine* how the umpire copes week after week!"

At this stage I might go on to be deep and philosophical about the light... but there are other better qualified than me to do that, so I'll leave it to them. But having said that, there is no doubt that a smile lights up a face, and may well light up someone else's day... Though they may well have it wiped *off* their face when their electricity bill arrives!

❖

The Petertide Flea Market

Spring cleaning? Finally got round to that back room, the garage, the shed? Or are you clearing a house - or know someone who is?

Well, don't forget that we need lots of good quality bric-a-brac, furniture, books, and any other saleable items for this year's expanded Flea Market at the Petertide Fair on 28th June. Nothing is too big or too small!

We can store items from now until the day of the fair - we can even arrange collection if this helps. If you can contribute to this important part of the fair, please call **Tony Blair** on 864660 who is managing the market, or **Chris Smalley**, this year's fair co-ordinator on 826821.

You've now had time to get over Christmas and the New Year and are looking forward to the next holidays, so I will bring you back down to earth with news of what your local town council has been getting up to over the past months.

You may have read in the local press that the Chairman of Finance & Policy, Terry Lundberg, had resigned last November less than two weeks before an important meeting of that committee which was to discuss the town's budget for the year beginning April 1997. Nothing had really been done to gather data for this important event. The day before the announcement, I had a feeling that something should have been happening to get the budget sorted out and, although I am not a member of that committee, I suggested I should put together some data 'just in case'.

In the event, in consultation with the Town Clerk and the independent members of the council, I managed to have a draft

CUTTING COMMENTS

Current issues in our town council's business attract local councillor **Norman Cutting's** attention.

budget ready for the committee. This involved a lot of work and I found myself making policy decisions for the council although I did my best to incorporate decisions made by the various committees over the year. As is normal, the budget had to be ratified by the full council at its

December meeting, so I used this time to check the assumptions I had made. The Finance & Policy committee had not been able to discuss the proposal to allocate £10,000 for grant aid to historic buildings. This proposal was dropped therefore from the final budget as agreed by the full council. One of the main changes I made this year was to identify exactly how all the money raised was to be spent. This was in contrast to last year where everyone wanted to know only what the *additional* monies raised were to be spent on.

The election for the replacement for Terry Lundberg will be held in early February. In line with this particular council's policy, the full council in December filled the two gaps with existing council members. Once again, as with the last by-election, no space has been left for the new member to take a full and active part in your council until the first Monday in March when the full council meets. You will be interested to know that Cllr. Duvall is now Chairman of Finance & Policy as well as Chairman of Environment and Vice-



chairman of
Planning. The

I don't remember
hearing this
particular phase until
comparatively re-
cently - but then,
perhaps I don't
move in the right
circles in which to
hear it. However,
once having heard it,
it seems to spring up
quite regularly. A

hospital was deferring treatment of the
over 70's because, apparently, it wasn't
'cost effective', and changed their tune
only after a public outcry.

The Tuesday Club had an excellent
speaker at the beginning of last November,
a policeman talking about his work. We
discussed the various ways in which we,
the citizens of Berkhamsted, might feel
safer on the streets at night in particular.
The bobby on the beat was the most
popular idea. But - wait for it - most of
our ideas would not be regarded by the
authorities as 'cost effective'.

Last November four of us from St
Peter's attended a two-day course entitled
Studies in essential Anglicanism which

IS IT COST EFFECTIVE? ...WELL, IS IT?

Muriel Lander wonders if
everything should be measured
by its 'cost effectiveness'.

Chairman of
Planning,

proved to be well
worthwhile. It was
arranged by *For-
ward in Faith* in the
St Albans diocese. A
certain canon who
was one of the
speakers has been
the incumbent of
three Bedfordshire
rural parishes since
the late 1960's.

Amongst other things he has worked with
the training and assessment of readers and
with MTS. He has many years' experience
of school and adult education. The total
number of parishioners is very small
indeed, as is only to be expected in such a
scattered area. The canon was told - yes,
you've guessed it - that his ministry was
not cost effective, and was asked if he had
thought of retirement! Fortunately for this
particular priest he holds the freedom of
the benefice, so cannot be made to retire.

But what *are* we coming to? I wonder
if you - like me - sometimes feel like
saying ... "Stop the world, I want to get
off"! ❖

Cutting Comments (continued)

Cllr. Foster, is also Vice-chairman of
Finance & Policy, so between them they
should be able to deal with just about
anything apart from social/community
matters which fall to Cllr. Sharpe.

The *Friends of the Rex* have taken to
heart the suggestion of several prominent
town council members that the borough
dispose of the Civic Centre, Gable
House/Hall and all the other council-
owned buildings, erect 'low cost' housing
and use the money left over (what
money?) to buy the Rex. The idea, it
appears, is that the friends will raise the
money to refurbish the building. The town

and borough councils will then rent space
to pay for the continuing losses.

I looked around the building with the
owners a couple of months ago, and I
agree, given enough money, it could be
put back as it was, and then probably
continue to lose money (as it did). What I
cannot agree with is the assumption that
the town or borough should just pick up
the bill, whatever the cost. My colleague,
Cllr. John Brooks, said that if a viable use
for the building were proposed, then we
are sure that both councils would play
their part. So far, this has not happened.
The town council's role in this matter
should be resolved by my proposal to

rescind the council's plan to form a limited company to Do you remember some years ago when the new whiz kids in education were all for free expression? I remember

Liz

Baxendale telling me about a school she visited in Hemel Hempstead where two small girls had opted to walk round and round the field carrying a guinea pig. The idea was that given free expression they would eventually opt to learn something of more value. I am not a bit surprised that the standard of education has sunk so low. We can hardly blame the children.

Believe it or not I do love children, having had two of my own and now grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews, but, thank heaven, none of them were allowed to behave as badly as so many children do today.

Just before Christmas I was in Woods and watched as a boy of about 10 tried very hard, and eventually managed to open a tin of chocolates. He wasn't going to buy it obviously, neither was his mother who eventually, when I glared, said, 'Put it back dear'. Some years ago a young woman called one morning, bringing her

The King Herod Society

Vera Pullen contemplates the merits of a radical way of dealing with badly behaved children.

'kick start' the Rex proposal.

two young sons with her. She and I sat chatting while the two boys rampaged over my house. I could hear doors and drawers being

opened as they went from room to room. Meanwhile their mother chatted pleasantly to me without a blink! It was only when they rushed into my father-in-law's bedroom, where he was having a quiet read, and he yelled, 'Get out' that they reappeared downstairs looking slightly chastened.

We were recently in Beverley Minster and were being shown round that beautiful church. In one part (it happened to be after a service) people were having a cuppa and there was much chatter going on. There was also a group of children rushing round near the choirstalls pulling out books and having a great old time until Jim told them to go away, whereupon they went back to their parents. We were with our niece and a friend and the friend said, "One of my colleagues at university says he's thinking of starting a 'King Herod Club'". I said, "Count me in!".

(continued on next page)

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T

here is nothing more satisfying when one is disabled than to be independent and free, so when my friend asked me if I would like to go with her for a fortnight's holiday to Lanzarote, I immediately thought

of the possibility of taking my 'legs' - my scooter, the Sungift 200. As you might know, the scooter can be dismantled and be put into the boot of a car. I phoned Monarch Airlines at Luton and they said, "No problem, so long as it has 'gel' batteries". Yippee!

The day arrived - my scooter was put into the aircraft hold. Everything was fine - at this end! At Arriçefe airport in Lanzarote it was quite a different story. I was the last off the plane and the pilot actually came up to me and watched me reverse up two ramps into an ambulance. "Watch your head". Phew. I had my legs but I nearly had no head! It was quite a tricky manoeuvre when one was tired and hot and apprehensive!

Never mind, we scrambled for a taxi. The Spanish taxi driver was very dubious about taking my scooter, plus two large suitcases and two women! I went in the back with the suitcases whilst my friend

How to Manage on a Scooter

Yvonne Rix discovers it's no problem to scoot away on holiday to Lanzarote.

quickly packed the scooter into the boot of the taxi. The driver stood with his mouth open watching two women taking charge of his taxi and shaking his head he drove us into the dark. We were on our way.

When we arrived at the villa the taxi driver dumped us and all our belongings onto the pavement! We sat down feeling like waifs and strays, but only for a few seconds. Elated that we had actually made it we gingerly lifted the scooter into the villa, not with muscle power but in a skilled way using the power of the batteries. Once my 'legs' were in, it was bed at midnight and the sweetness of sleep.

I expect many of you are asking how I managed to charge my batteries. This could have been the biggest obstacle, but in my hand luggage I had my battery charger plus an adapter and an extension lead. I was able to borrow a wooden ramp for difficult kerbs - most were ten inches high so I carried that on the platform of my scooter.

So we had two weeks of bliss - sea, sand and sangria. Everywhere I wanted to go, I could - nothing was impossible. Was it worth the effort? You bet it was!



The King Herod Society *(continued)*

Believe me I do love children, but I see no reason at all why they can't be taught to behave themselves. We were always taught not to touch things that didn't belong to us, not to rush around in church,

and certainly not to tear around someone's house when visiting. Whatever happened to good manners - which after all is only thoughtfulness for other people?



In previous editions of the *Review* I have sometimes referred to the fact that Berkhamsted and its surrounding area are exceptionally well provided with thriving voluntary organisations which greatly enhance the life of our community. To name a few, we have well-supported musical, historical and archaeological societies, the Berkhamsted-Beaune Society and, of course the *Sergeant Pepper* organisation which last year raised over £50,000 for the medical charity that I want to tell you about: the *Iain Rennie Hospice at Home*. This month I have written a short account of the origins and work of the organisation. Next month my wife, Jane, will give an account of a day which she recently spent with one of the Iain Rennie nurses.

Like Sergeant Pepper, the Iain Rennie organisation turned a tragedy into a triumph. The first Sergeant Pepper concert was organised by Robert Breakwell in memory of his wife, Karen, who died of cancer. Iain Rennie was a local chartered engineer who in 1985 died of a brain tumour. Despite the gravity of his illness he was able to live the last weeks of his life at home, cared for by a team of nurses who supported his family. Those nurses, recognising the benefits of enabling a terminally ill patient to remain at home, in familiar surroundings, amongst those he loved, resolved to create an organisation which would enable other terminally ill patients to receive similar care and support while remaining in their own homes.

The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home now employs 26 full-time and part-time nurses who, between them, now care for about five hundred patients each year. Almost three thousand patients have been cared for by the organisation since it started in

The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home

Stephen Halliday tells us
about one of our thriving
local voluntary organisations.

1985. Most of the patients are elderly (with some notable exceptions, mentioned below) and most of them suffer from cancer though patients of all ages are referred and many suffer from other illnesses, including motor neurone disease. The Iain Rennie nurses, who are specially trained in the care of the terminally ill, liaise with local general practitioners and district nurses to ensure that each patient is visited regularly and receives the appropriate care. They are supported by a small administrative staff and a large number of volunteers working from two small offices, one in Tring, to cover this area and one in Hazlemere, near High Wycombe, to cover the South Buckinghamshire area to which the organisation has extended its operations. 'Named nurses' liaise with each local GP and district nurse.

Last year the Iain Rennie organisation's income was £558,652 of which £150,614 came from the local health authority and the remainder from voluntary donations and fundraising. Almost £50,000 was earned by the Iain Rennie charity shop in Tring but over £346,000 was raised from other sources including gifts instead of flowers at funerals, covenants and, of course the *Sergeant Pepper* concerts. The proceeds from these are specifically devoted to supporting the *Sergeant Pepper nurse*, Heather Philpotts who, unlike the other nurses working from the Iain Rennie offices, specialises in the care of terminally ill children. Heather usually has eight to ten children in her care at any one time. The organisation offers a twenty-four hour 'on call' service every day of the year to patients and, of course, to their families who, faced with a crisis, may need immediate help, advice or just

reassurance. The Iain Rennie organisation is

very conscious of the critical role of families in caring for loved ones in their midst and its staff regard the families as being as much their responsibility as are the patients themselves.

The Hospice was recently awarded £195,555 by the National Lottery, spread over three years, to enable them to expand their nursing services and to recruit a volunteer co-ordinator. They are particularly interested in recruiting *clinical volunteers*: people with some nursing training who are prepared to do some voluntary work in support of the Hospice's full-time and part-time staff. They are also interested in recruiting people who can help out with tasks such as shopping and providing company for patients whose illnesses make them housebound.

Robert Breakwell has recently become the organisation's first full-time appeals director, with the aim of increasing its income so that it can offer its services to more people over a wider area. If any readers of the *Review* feel able to offer their services as voluntary helpers or have ideas for fund-raising please write to one of the addresses below. You may be able to offer some time to do administrative work, or help Robert with his fund-raising or work in the shop. I know they would be glad to hear from you. Please write to Robert or to Rowena Dean, the Director of Administration at 93 *Western Road, Tring, HP23 4BN (tel: 01442 890222)* or *Cedar Barn, Cedar Avenue, Hazlemere, High Wycombe HP15 7DW (tel: 01494 713888)*. ❖

New Homes for Seven People

Nigel Faiers describes a housing project in Shrublands Road.

A walk along Shrublands Road with its grand old houses sets one thinking about the past when such homes were occupied by a single family and their servants. Many gardens would have been a national asset in wartime with the dig for victory campaigns. Some homes must have seen many changes as the years have come and gone.

I recall my first visit to a pair of three storey semi-detached houses in Shrublands Avenue, split into bedsits and flats for the elderly. From the outside, everything appeared fine with a magnificent magnolia at the front and lovingly stocked flower borders in the rear. But appearances can be deceptive and inside the house was feeling its age far more than any of the residents, who seemed tireless to me. One lady aged 85 still kept the house spotless, and I found myself inspired by the energy of the people who were looking forward rather than back. Hightown Praetorian Housing Association were invited to take on the refurbishment of the property.

Building work was finally completed in September 1996 and new residents began to move in. One flat serves as a staff base for a team providing support to people with learning disability. Residents ranging from their early twenties to mid forties have moved in. For some it is the first venture away from family homes in Berkhamsted, for others a move from other supported housing locally. The staff team provide support to enable residents to live as full and independent lives as possible within their community.

As seven residents begin to make their flats home, the twin houses enter a new chapter in their history. Everyone involved in their past, present and future wish all living there every happiness. ❖

Nigel Faiers is the Supported Housing Manager of the Hightown Praetorian Housing Association.

Tombs in St Peter's

Harry Arnfield writes:

I write concerning the illustration on the cover of the January *Review* and in particular the footnote where reference is made to the tomb as being in its original position. Not so, evidently, as there is an earlier 1815 illustration of the tomb on facing page 44 of R A Norris's *History of St Peter's* printed 1923. The tomb is there shown on the north side of the nave between the second and third pillars from the chancel end. The illustration also shows a gallery across the entrance to the chancel. On facing page 55 there is an 1860 photograph where the tomb is tucked well into the north-west corner of the transept.

The *Review* footnote also ascribes the tomb as being the Sayer tomb. Should this not be the Torrington Tomb - reference pages 58, 59 and 60 of the Revd John Cobb's *History of Berkhamsted* (1855)? In John Cobb's history, facing page 51, there is a plan of St Peter's where the Sayer and Torrington tombs are shown in the north-west corner of the transept.

I'm no historian so I'll retire to my corner and put my money on the tomb being that of Richard and Margaret Torrington, the Sayer tomb being that with the Latin inscription.

Incidentally, Percy Birtchnell, in his book *Bygone Berkhamsted*, on page 5 shows a view of St Peter's 1817 with a cottage on the road side of the church.

37 Finch Road
Berkhamsted HP4 3LQ

Editors Note: *mea culpa, I'm afraid!* Harry Arnfield's original photograph, a part of which we used for last month's cover, shows three tombs (all in different positions to their present locations) and

Christopher Morris writes:

I am afraid that an error has crept into the description of the chest tomb shown on the front cover of the January *Review*. This tomb was for a long time considered to be that of a Torrington and his wife but, more recently, that of Henry of Berkhamsted, the Black Prince's Constable of the Castle. Be that as it may, the tomb of John Sayer it most certainly is not. The latter is the one on which the crib is placed at Christmas.

Many parishioners may be unaware of the way in which various monuments have been cavalierly shunted round the church over the years and of the way the use of space within the church has been changed. Once Henry's tomb was placed between the nave and the north aisle, under the second arch from the tower. Later, both it and the Sayer tomb were in the north end of the north transept whence they were moved to the southern part of the Lady Chapel. Very recently the Sayer tomb was moved bodily a short distance, to facilitate some other building work, by a father and daughter team - an operation that does not bear thinking about.

The vestry has also been something of a nomad. It has been in a separate building, now demolished, on the north side of the chancel, in St Catherine's Chapel, in the north transept / Lady Chapel and now in the chancel, to name but some of its locations.

17 Castle Hill Avenue
Berkhamsted HP4 1HJ

includes legends referring to the Sayer, Torrington and Cornwallis families. I unfortunately ascribed the wrong legend to the tomb in the foreground of the photograph.
CJS



***Revd Peter Hart
writes about the
complexities of
change.***

review northchurch

The unfamiliar is both fascinating and daunting, curiously attractive yet also undesirable. The possibility of discovery, of learning new things, of being amazed, resides within the unfamiliar. At the same time, the unfamiliar disturbs known routines, accepted patterns, comfortable arrangements. The arrival of a new rector is no different. A new and unfamiliar priest for the parish: fresh faces, unknown names for the rector. 'Will he change everything? Make us do things differently? Nothing will ever be the same again!' 'How do they do things here? What if I get it wrong? Have I really met that person before?!' The fascination of meeting the whippersnapper from Worcester is matched by the daunting task simply of recognising people.

Dealing with change is a complex process. It is hedged about with feelings of loss and anticipation: it is coloured by past experience both good and bad. It is heavily influenced by our own expectations of what is to come. Perspective is very important here. Firstly, the parish has got a new rector. That is all. Everything else remains the same - the gospel we preach, the love of Christ we share in worship and daily living, our interaction with God in the world. The continuing ministry of the people of God has not ceased during the interregnum, nor has the work of God's kingdom in any way been diminished. All that has happened is a change of personnel. Secondly, the ministry of God's people is forever evolving as God works out his purposes in an ever-

changing world. Part of that evolution is an exchange of personalities - people develop their spheres of interest, expand their horizons, move on to different responsibilities. The other side to the evolution is the development of ideas and activities - some expand, others get re-routed, yet more contract and come to a natural end.

The unfamiliar, however, does not remain so for very long. Human beings adapt remarkably quickly to new circumstances, and soon new faces become familiar, and new ways become the accepted pattern. Let us therefore enjoy the unfamiliar while it lasts - a different voice; wooded hills after the rolling hedgerow-lined fields of Worcestershire; fumbles with the radio microphone; flat southern vowels after the burr of Archers country; a small red car with a Droitwich number plate; two noisy little girls in the rectory garden, and much, much more. Let us also use this time of unfamiliarity to re-assess what is comfortable and accepted, and explore the excitement of different ways. Let us bring our ideas, our hopes, our long-considered schemes to the fore, to debate, to experiment and to consolidate. May we also allow God's Holy Spirit to work through this time of unfamiliarity to lead us on to the next phase of work that he would have us do in the extension of God's kingdom. ❖

The Reverend Peter Hart will be instituted as rector of St Mary's Northchurch on 7th February.

REMEMBERING THE DEPARTED AT THE SUNDAY EUCHARIST

The list of anniversaries of the departed whom we remember in prayer week by week on the pew leaflet has become unmanageable. From February we are going to start a new list and if you wish for someone to be remembered by name in the prayers at the anniversary of their death *please give the name and date of death* to Jean Green at the Parish Office, The Court House, Berkhamsted HP4 2AX. Unless you give a name in, it will not appear since the present list is going to cease.

ADDITIONAL EUCHARISTS DURING LENT

There will be extra eucharists during Lent at 8:00am on Tuesday mornings beginning on 18th February and at 12:30pm on Wednesdays beginning on 19th February in St Peter's church.

TUESDAY CLUB

We meet at 8:15pm on 4th February to welcome ladies from other churches in the town to our birthday celebration. One of our great favourites, Miss Liz Baxendale, will speak on *Signs of the Times*. New members will be warmly welcomed. Phone Thelma Harris (865785) or Rene Dunford (862420) for more information.

OXFAM JUMPERS APPEAL

Oxfam has issued an urgent appeal for knitters to make a long-sleeved version of their standard pattern for children's tops. An adapted pattern is available at Oxfam shops for the tops which are urgently needed for children in Eastern Europe where the climate is much colder and the more usual short-sleeved version is impractical. Also desperately needed is double knitting wool, ideally in bright colours, to supply pensioners who regularly knit for charity. Even small quantities can be used for multi-coloured stripes! Please bring donations to the Oxfam shop or ring Audrey Hope on 864537.

ROGER AND SARA DAVIS

Roger and Sara Davis were very pleased to have such a lot of wonderful Christmas and New Year greetings from Berkhamsted friends. They are so sorry not to have been able to send cards to everyone. Please accept this grateful appreciation.

LIFEBOAT LAUNCH 8TH FEBRUARY

As reported in the January *Review* the RNLI are launching an appeal to raise funds to provide a new lifeboat named after Berkhamsted.

The opening of this appeal has had to be re-scheduled for Saturday, 8th February in the Old Town Hall (and *not* 1st February as given last month). Please support this event which will feature stalls and the raffle of a painting with a nautical theme given by Harry Sheldon.

NATIONAL TRUST ASHRIDGE

1996 ended with a welcome increase in the amount of rain falling, much needed to replenish the resources of water after a comparatively dry summer and autumn.

A vast increase in the number of rabbits has reversed due to myxomatosis but foxes seem to abound. Our regular winter visitors, field fares and red wings, are much in evidence.

Over the past year much needed income has come to the estate through filming, notably *Ivanhoe* when it was actually quite a shock whilst walking the dogs suddenly to come across knights in armour riding through the woods. Another BBC production to be shown in the new year is about fraudulent land and bungalow speculation set in the 1920s.

Margaret Cleaver, the custodian of the monument, has retired through ill health after some 25 years in this position and will be much missed by all of us at Ashridge.

Work will start shortly on constructing an additional trail for the battery cars for the disabled. This will go in the direction of the Blue Bell Woods and around the big meadow. £10,000 has been raised for this but a further £10,000 is required to complete the task.

The education centre is going from strength to strength and volunteers are needed to help the education warden, Andy Pratt, at the centre and on the nature walks.

More volunteers are also needed for the battery cars, tea shop and National Trust shop. If you can spare a few hours please phone Stuart Downhill on 865821.

The *Friends of Ashridge* are joining the National Trust plant sale day on Sunday 18th May at the monument centre. So if you can grow a few extra plants, annuals or perennials, and let us have them labelled, boxed or potted it would be much appreciated. Contact Terry Headey on 851388. Finally, if you would like to join the *Friends of Ashridge*, membership is £5. Contact Roger Hill on 863814.

BERKHAMSTED W.I.



The December meeting of Berkhamsted women's institute was a celebration of Christmas by members.

Mrs Jill Blumson, our new president, welcomed everyone, and presentations were made to Mrs Olive Odell and Mrs June Haile, our retiring president and secretary, thanking them for their loyal and hard work during their term of office.

The prizes for the winner of the most points for monthly competitions throughout the year went to Mrs Jean Gale, with Mrs Lois Orchard as runner up.

The brief business section of the meeting was followed by the play reading group presenting a panto-minidrama *Little Red Whittington* by Richard Tydeman. This was enjoyed by both the cast and audience.

Then followed time for a chat with mince pies and coffee.

We next made our circle of friendship, each member having a lighted candle. We sang carols interspersed with suitable Christmas readings. Each member received a present from

the gift box and the president, after announcing the raffle and competition results, closed the meeting with seasonal greetings to everyone.

Our next meeting is on 19th February at 7:30pm in Gable Hall, Price Edward Street with a talk *Come into the Garden, Maud* by Inga Maidman. We have an excellent programme arranged for 1997: do come as a visitor and see what a friendly group we are.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

On one of the coldest days of the winter we were pleased to receive 21 members and one visitor to the first meeting of the new year. Our president, Liz Baxendale, and secretary, Janet Mitchell, took us through the usual business matters and advised us of some of the events to come in 1997. These will include meeting some of the local personalities who run our town of Berkhamsted.

Our town topic this month was to discuss the horrendous platforms at Berkhamsted railway station. Unfortunately one of our members met with an accident when she fell alighting from the train over the vast gap to the platform. We understand that there is a 'Helpline' on weekdays between 8:00am and 6:00pm, though two of our members said that this did not materialise for either of them. Two other members confirmed that they also had fallen from a train at Berkhamsted station, and a quarter of members said that they had had to give up using the train service because of the gap between train and platform. Berkhamsted Castle W.I. are now in combat with North London Railways!

Our speaker this month was our president Liz Baxendale who asked the audience *Are you sitting comfortably?* A most entertaining and amusing talk kept us enthralled and helped us to forget the wintry day outside. At our meeting on 7th February, Mr John Cook will be *Looking at Berkhamsted* at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2:00pm. New members and visitors are most welcome. ❖

TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING!

The Review is your mouthpiece - use it to tell people what's happening in the town. If you're arranging an event then publicise it in the magazine - and tell us about it afterwards! If you want to express an opinion, write to us - or write an article: our subject range is diverse, from church matters to the secular, serious or light-hearted. And if you can provide us with illustrations - photographs, drawings, anything you like - so much the better! (we will of course return all such materials).

reviewdiary

All services at normal times unless stated.

Feb / March 1997

FEBRUARY

1 10:30-12:30A Celebration of Christian Healing with
Bishop Graham Dow *St Alban's Abbey*

1 7:00pm- *Showtime at Shrovetide* - a Parish Event *Town Hall*
10:00 (arrive from 6:30pm)

8 3-8:00pm Bellringers District Meeting *St Peter's*

ASH WEDNESDAY

12 8:00pm Liturgy of Penitence, Sung Eucharist &
Imposition of Ashes *St Peter's*

14 PCC Meeting (changed from 7th February)

16 9:30am Preacher - The Revd Dr Jeffery John *St Peter's*

16 8:00pm Taizé-style service *All Saints'*

MARCH

7 10:30am Service for Women's World Day of Prayer *St Peter's*

7 Annual Parochial Church Meeting *The Court House*

16 9:30am Preacher - The Rt Revd & Rt Hon.
The Lord Runcie *St Peter's*

reviewregisters

Baptisms (*St Peter's*)

15 December Matthew James Alexander, George Mitchell Ramsay

22 December Benjamin Mark Grindell

Funerals

30 December Doris Nevill The Chilterns Crematorium

2 January Winifred May Turner All Saints' (Kingshill Cemetery)

SundaySchool

Churches

PCC 1996/7

Contacts

Sunday Schools at St Peter's and All Saints'

St Peter's

Sunday School starts at 9:30am and finishes at 10:30, in the Court House (next to St Peter's church in the High Street). We have two schools - Sunday School caters for the 4 to 10 year olds, with Pathfinders continuing upwards from 10 years. Each school is divided into several groups (three or four).

Everyone is extremely welcome. Mums and Dads - why not leave your children with us on a Sunday morning? You'll be warmly welcome at the 9:30 service in church, or you can just return for your offspring at 10:30.

Contact Christine Tucker on 873272 for more details.

St Peter's Crèche

A crèche is available at the 9:30am Sung Eucharist for under 3's. Parents are most welcome to use this facility in the Court House. Contact Katy Bonney (864194) for more details.

All Saints'

All Saints' Sunday School is open for all children from the age of 3 to 9 years. Children from 10 years are welcome at our Pathfinders group. We begin at 9:15am each Sunday during term-time and finish at 10:15. Children join the main service in church part way through.

For more information contact Vivienne Bull on 870921.

All Saints' Crèche

We operate a crèche at the same times as Sunday School (above) for children under 3. There are toys to play with and at least two adults are there to supervise. Details from Julie Wakely (875504)



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Berkhamsted (01442) 877060

Principal J.R.Adkins BSc (Hons) PGCE

The Revd Mark Bonney, The Rectory, Rectory Lane. Tel: 864194 (day off Monday)
 The Revd Canon Basil Jones, 17 Lochnell Road. Tel: 864485
 The Revd Jim Lawrenson (Hon.Asst.Priest), Downside, 7 Torrington Road. Tel: 865999
 The Revd Preb Stephen Wells (Hon.Asst.Priest), 57 Meadow Road. Tel: 870981
 Miss Marjorie Bowden (Reader), 18 Greenway. Tel: 871283
 Mrs Joan Cook (Reader), The Gardeners Arms, Castle Street. Tel: 866278
 John Malcolm (Reader), Landswood, Shootersway. Tel: 874993
 Tom Montague (Reader), 27 Hill View. Tel: 875320
 Mrs Jenny Wells (Reader), 57 Meadow Road. Tel: 870981
 Parish Secretary: Mrs Jean Green, The Parish Office, The Court House Tel: 878227
 Churchwardens: Christopher Green, 17 Cowper Road. Tel: 863241;
 John Banks, Ladybrand, Cross Oak Road. Tel: 871195
Parochial Church Council: Secretary: Alan Conway, 7 Kilfillan Gardens. Tel: 865798
 Treasurer: Michael Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way. Tel: 863559

Director of Music: Vaughan Meakins. :01494 837412; Assistant: Mrs Jean Wild. 866859
 Organist: Mrs Jean Cooper. Tel: 874088
Sundays
 8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sun Rite B)
 9.30am Family Sung Eucharist with
 Sunday Schools (in the Court
 House) followed by coffee in
 the Court House.
 11.15am Matins & Sermon (1st Sunday only)
 6.00pm Evensong & Sermon
 (except 1st Sunday see All Saints')
Weekdays
 Holy Communion
 Wednesday 6.45am
 Thursday 11.00am
 Friday 9.15am
 Morning Prayer: Tues-Sat 7:30am
 Evening Prayer: Tues-Fri 5:30pm
 Holy Days - see weekly Notices
 Matins & Evensong said daily
Confessions: After Saturday Evening Prayer (5.00pm) or at other times by appointment.
Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Baptisms, Funerals
 Please contact Father Mark Bonney.
Bellringers (St Peter's): Miss Priscilla Watt, 9 Kings Road. Tel: 863804

Organist: Mrs Valerie McCalla Tel: 384574 Choirmaster: Peter McMunn Tel: 874894
Sundays
 8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday - Methodist rite)
 9.15am Family Sung Eucharist & Sunday Schools, then coffee in the Hall
 11.00am (Methodist Morning Service)
 6.30pm Evening Service (1st Sunday - Anglican rite, other Sundays Methodist rite)
Weekdays
 Holy Communion: Tuesday 9.30am
 Holy Days - see weekly Notices
 (All Saints' is shared with the Berkhamsted Methodist Church)

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