

Berkhamsted *review*

In this issue

September 1997

**Evolution not
revolution**

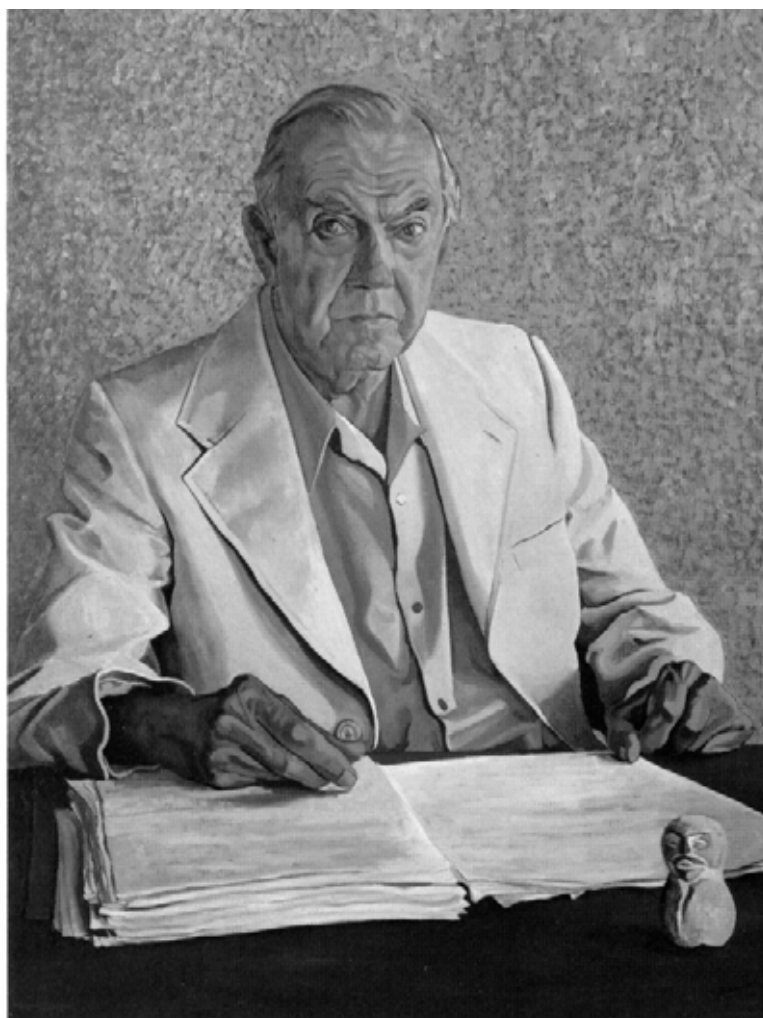
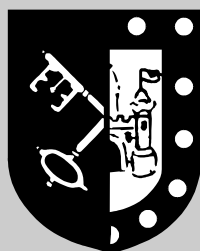
**Graham Greene
birthplace trust**

**Thoughts of
the battle**

O Venite!

**Killer birds in
Berkhamsted**

**This month's
Notes & Events**



for Town and Parish

25p



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

Welcome to the September issue of the Review.

You will see that this month we feature on our cover a picture of one of the more famous Englishmen who have a Berkhamsted connection. On previous issues we have printed pictures of local scenes, past or present, the modern ones mainly taken by Chris Smalley. We have in the recent past featured a series of excellent and evocative sketches of local significance by Harry Sheldon. We always try to impart a theme to each successive issue with our opening picture. From time to time we may even succeed!

We do however have a continuing need for good quality, interesting photographs or drawings to make our front cover what it should be: an eye-catching and appropriate indicator of an interesting set of contents.

If you have any pictures which you feel might make covers for the Review or illustrations for our inside pages, please give one of us call (see below for our numbers). We shall be very happy to extend the audience for your work and to increase the range of the contributors to this magazine.

David Woodward

In this month's issue...

Evolution not Revolution

Father Mark Bonney looks at the changing nature of our forms of worship.

Learning to Listen

How well can you listen? asks **Gillian Malcolm**. Could *you* help the bereaved?

Graham Greene Birthplace Trust

Ken Sherwood outlines proposals for a trust to celebrate the famous author.

Thoughts on the Battle

Tom Montague reflects on the 57th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

O Venite!

You thought Latin declensions were behind you? **Liz Baxendale** has news for you!

Killer Birds

John Cook gets his talons into recent shifts in the local bird population.

... plus our regular features, readers' letters, notes & notices and diary dates.

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Next Copy Dates (all Fridays): 5 September 3 October 7 November



**Fr Mark Bonney
explains the
evolution of our
new forms of
worship.**

review leader

Should you go into a bookshop and find a lovely pristine leather-bound copy of the *Alternative Service Book 1980* going very cheaply *don't buy it!* In small letters on page 1291 of the ASB you'll find the words 'The Services of the ASB ... are authorised for use... until 31 December 1990'. That date was extended by 10 years, but it's not going to be extended again beyond two or three years since a *gentle* revision of services is taking place. The Bishop has designated this parish as one with permission to use experimental forms of services, and so in the near future we will be trying out new Eucharistic Prayers, wedding and funeral services and the slight revisions of Rite A and the Baptism service.

One major change that has now been authorised for general use and which we will be adopting from the end of October is a new lectionary (*ie* the readings at the Sunday services). No lectionary is perfect, no lectionary is universal, but with the new lectionary authorised for use from this year we have a lectionary that provides a wider range of scripture than before and which is used by most churches in the Anglican communion and by the Roman Catholic Church.

The ASB lectionary is on a two year cycle and is thematically based. A predetermined theme is an improper way to use scripture. The theme too easily governs the way we approach the text and the scriptures are then not allowed to speak for themselves. The new lectionary is a three year cycle based on one of the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). In general one stays with one

evangelist throughout the year. The fourth gospel is used in all three years, and particularly in the year of Mark since that gospel is considerably shorter than the others. Outside the principal seasons the gospel will be read in a reasonably continuous fashion. The Old Testament reading will generally relate to the Gospel whilst the second reading is independent with no predetermined connection with the gospel.

From a practical point of view the readings will be printed on the pew leaflet each week so they can be followed if you wish, and also taken home to be reflected upon during the week. The readings will all come from the *New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible, and if you're contemplating buying a new Bible this would be the version I'd recommend.

As with any changes to the services there will be cries of 'Why? - Can't they leave us alone?'. The Liturgical Commission certainly recognises the importance of a degree of stability and familiarity about our liturgy and it is proceeding with a degree of caution; it also recognises that the ASB is not without fault hence the opportunity for revisions is being taken, but I can assure you that the changes to the Eucharist will not be such that you'll think you're at a different service! It is worth noting that this 'changing of services' is not a peculiarity of the Church of England. Most other denominations have been undergoing liturgical change, and the Roman Catholic Church is about to revise its Sunday Missal again after a major revision nearly 30 years ago. *(continued on page 12)*

Cover: The writer Graham Greene, whose Birthplace Trust is soon to be launched. See the article on page 11.

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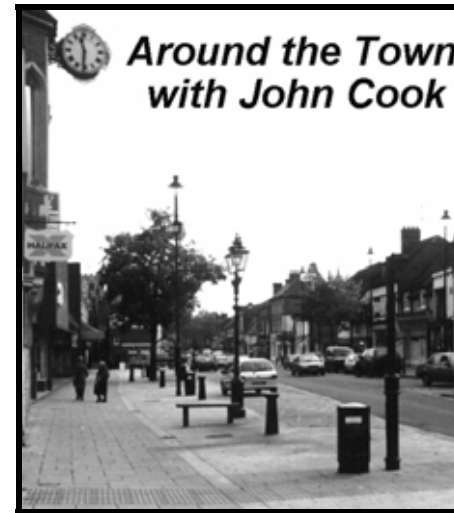
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Cooper's

By the time this issue of the *Review* is out AgrEvo will have closed all their operations in Berkhamsted, and their premises will have fallen silent.

The well-arranged exhibition in the Civic Centre, sponsored by AgrEvo and set up by the Dacorum Heritage Trust, told the story of how Cooper's came to be established in Berkhamsted in the last century and of its survival here under various names for over 150 years, finally as part of AgrEvo.

Sheep dip used to be sent from Berkhamsted all over the world, and the packing cases it was shipped in, labelled Cooper's, Berkhamsted, England, came to be used for all sorts of purposes in remote parts of South Africa, Australia and South America. At peak production 60 million sheep a year benefited from being treated with the Berkhamsted product. The number of ticks and lice it killed off - well the mind boggles.

Some of Cooper's posters and leaflets had a fanciful picture of Berkhamsted on them which gave the impression of a mighty industrial town. But Cooper's was of course the major industry not only of Berkhamsted but for miles around, at its

zenith employing hundreds of people and occupying large acreages of the Town.

Nostalgia

At the exhibition I was touched by the interest and nostalgia shown by their employees - many of them retired now - who came to look through the exhibits and books of old photographs, and to reminisce. Bill Horne who was Sir William Cooper's chauffeur told me of the occasion when he managed to knock his boss down with his own Rolls Royce - and Bill still kept his job. It was said to me more than once that even in recent years when the business was a subsidiary of successive big international companies, it still had the feeling of a family concern.

What of the future of the real estate Cooper's occupied? Some in Raven's Lane has already been sold off for rather more, I suspect, than the £192 Cooper's paid for it in 1859. It is possible that the large site between the eastern end of the High Street and the canal could be redeveloped for housing. Whatever use it is put to I do hope that the most will be made of the potential of this stretch of canalside and improve the townscape of that rather drab area.

Edgeworth House

A preservation order has been placed on the principal trees in the grounds of Edgeworth House, the mansion on the main road near the frontier between Berkhamsted and Northchurch, on the north side.

I heard this piece of news with mixed feelings because although I greatly value trees in and around the Town, particularly big ones, those which have grown up around Edgeworth House over the years now almost totally obscure this historic house from the road.

There has been a building on this spot since the 16th century, but the present house is 18th century and Victorian. Here in 1776 an Irishman, Richard Edgeworth, came to live, the husband of four wives (in

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sequence) and father of 22 children. His grew to be a famous writer.

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Maria Edgeworth's novels, largely written and set in Ireland, were very popular in the last century and one or two of them are still in print in the *Penguin Classics* series. Walter Scott was a friend and great admirer of her novels. Her books commenting on contemporary English society may well have been influenced by her early experiences in pre-Victorian Berkhamsted.

In the Writers Museum in Dublin which we visited last year much is made of Maria Edgeworth, ranking her alongside Irish authors such as Dean Swift, W.B. Yeats, James Joyce, Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw; but she can be partly claimed by this side of the Irish Sea and included in the remarkably long list of top-ranking authors who lived for at least parts of their lives in Berkhamsted.

Graham Greene Birthplace Trust

Another literary giant, born and brought up in Berkhamsted, was of course Graham Greene. On his birthday this year, 2nd October, the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust is being launched here. Ken Sherwood has taken the lead in getting this imaginative project off the ground and I am sure we all wish it success. On page 11 there is a piece which says what it is all about and inviting everyone to come to the launch.

Incidentally, it was Ken Sherwood who chaired the notable meeting arranged by the Berkhamsted Citizens Association in 1974 in the old King's Hall when Graham Greene and his brother Hugh came and answered questions.

Killer Birds

Not so many years ago the sighting of a bird of prey in or around Berkhamsted was rare - a cause of surprise and comment. Now things have quite changed.

Soon after the bypass was opened kestrels hovering over the verges of the road became a common sight; and sparrowhawks are now regularly taking titmice and sparrows from people's bird

tables. Richard Mabey who lives in Cedar Road, writing in his *Country Life* column in *The Oldie* magazine, says that he supposes he sees a sparrowhawk make a kill in his garden at least once a year.

The growth in the sparrowhawk population may be one of the reasons that common house sparrows are less common than they used to be. Sparrowhawks are perhaps also a contributing factor to the absence, at least in the central part of the Town, of the once frequent house martins and swallows.

As I write the roofs and pinnacles of the Boys' School buildings opposite are strangely silent. Is it the sparrowhawks that have eaten up or driven away all the starlings that used to roost there so noisily and in such numbers?

Kites, Hobbies and Buzzards

A bit further afield Richard refers to the red kites which have been introduced so successfully to the southern Chilterns, and to the hobbies which hawk over the Tring reservoirs and feast in the late summer on the migrating swallows and martins. I have myself seen buzzards circling over the Ivinghoe Hills, and it would not surprise me if they were to establish themselves there in view of the abundance of rabbits now running about all over the slopes for them to dine off.

Buzzards, sparrowhawks, kites and hobbies are all protected by law from being persecuted. Like James Bond, they are licensed to kill. ❖

Correction

The caption in last month's *Review* to the photograph of the mounted Home Guard detachment at Potten End should have read: *Dr (later Sir) Frank Cooper (centre) and Mr Walker-Leigh (Managing Director of Coopers at the time).* JC

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*I have just hung up;
why did he
telephone?
I don't know... Oh! I
get it...
I talked a lot and
listened very little.
Michel Quoist*

Learning to Listen

Gillian Malcolm tells of her experience of a recent bereavement visitors' course.

Have you ever wondered how good you might be at listening? Earlier this year I had reason to ask just that. I had signed up for a bereavement visitors course. I knew I had experience to draw on. I have worked with people coping with the effects of disability on their lives. I had watched two grandparents die of cancer and a stroke respectively and I know personally the importance of having someone to listen to you when facing a life crisis. But would I to listen to bereaved people?

The course was led by Wendy Godwin and ran for eight weeks. Wendy is the Bishop of Willesden's special advisor in this area. She also has a bereavement and loss training and support consultancy in Harrow. She has a wealth of experience in this field and proved to be an excellent choice as leader. Sixteen people from St Peter's, both All Saints congregations and Tring attended the course. Our reasons for attending were many and varied and we began as quite a disparate group. However we soon gelled under Wendy's skilled leadership.

We began by exploring what is meant by 'bereavement' and 'loss'. These words can cover so many changes. Trauma, disasters, divorce, redundancy, retirement, or disability, burglary, abuse or rape, infertility, abortion; all leave us feeling loss and bereavement. We need to mourn the death of a partner, parents, children (born and unborn), friends, relations, and pets. We may even feel loss in times of celebrations, such as child-birth or marriage.

We then considered how we react when bereaved. Dr Murrey Parkes suggests 'normal' patterns of grief include shock, numbness, denial, yearning, searching, anxiety, anger, guilt, loneliness, apathy, loss of identity, mitigation, stigma, depression, and then acceptance and healing. We may feel the above in varying degrees of intensity at different stages of bereavement. We may not experience them all. Some may pass quickly, some may take years to leave us. We charted our thoughts on 'bereavement journeys' and studied personal experiences of loss adjustment. Each time we found it hard to marry personal experiences with the 'normal' pattern. Our conclusions were that we each react individually to loss. Some of us may never fully adjust, some may need to seek professional help, others may rely on the support of friends and family. In all cases two very important things became obvious. Firstly *adjusting takes time* and secondly *we all need someone to listen*. This is where the bereavement visitor can be so valuable.

So how good were our listening skills? What reactions were we likely to meet and how could we respond best to them? There are some excellent ways of encouraging people to develop listening skills. Wendy seemed to know most and we spent the next few sessions fine tuning these skills. (Try listening to someone for five minutes, saying nothing, with your back towards them. It is not easy to do, is it?). Wendy reminded us that the bereaved need an ear and an understanding face so thoughts, memories and feelings can be shared. Many people do not know what they feel before they express their feelings. They need to hear themselves, to make

(continued on page 12)

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The first annual Graham Greene lecture will be given at a public meeting to launch the new trust at 8pm on Thursday, 2nd October 1997, the ninety-third anniversary of Graham Greene's birth, in Deans' Hall, Castle Street, Berkhamsted. The lecture will be given by Bill West, author of the recently published book *The Quest for Graham Greene*. The meeting will conclude with a dramatised reading of Graham Greene's short story *The Innocent* which is set in Berkhamsted.

The trust is being formed as an educational charity by various local bodies including the town council, the collegiate school, the Citizens Association and the town hall trust. Its main object is '*...the education of the general public in the life and works of Graham Greene...*'. The town council has given £500 as a pump priming grant.

Those members of the Citizens Association who lived in Berkhamsted in 1974 will recall the visit by Graham Greene and his younger brother, Sir Hugh Greene to a special meeting of the association to talk about their schooldays in Berkhamsted. The *Gazette's* front page headline was '*Famous Greene Brothers give school heads a tanning*'. It proudly continued, 'For the BBC to screen two of the famous Greene brothers on the same programme would be regarded as a major achievement. But Berkhamsted Citizens Association, without any fuss, got Graham and Sir Hugh to chat and reminisce to a rapt audience'.

Perhaps the most memorable incident of the evening was when Mrs Enid Wales, a contemporary of Graham's, whose father was headmaster of the junior department, challenged Graham's description of the great Dr Fry as a sadist. 'Would my father

GRAHAM GREENE BIRTHPLACE TRUST

One of Berkhamsted's celebrated past citizens comes under the spotlight in October.

Ken Sherwood tells us more.

have accepted that appointment if Dr Fry had been a sadist?'. The argument between the Greenes and Mrs Wales went on for some time as they all relived incidents of their youth.

Now more than twenty years later Ken Sherwood who was the Citizens

chairman at that meeting is involved with others in establishing the new trust. There are a number of ideas as to how the trust might operate. Many of these aim to interest those who want to find out more about the influence Berkhamsted had on Graham Greene's life and works.

One idea is to hold an annual lecture. If there were sufficient demand this could be expanded into a day conference. Alternatively the lecture could be linked with a film festival, showing films scripted by Graham Greene or based on his books. A second idea is an audio-visual presentation. If suitable facilities were available it might be possible to link it with a related exhibition. Another suggestion is a town trail of places mentioned either in Graham's autobiography *A Sort of Life* or in his fictional descriptions of Berkhamsted. Many will recall the Berkhamsted scenes in the film *The Human Factor*.

The trail might start at Graham's birthplace, St John's in Chesham Road. If in the future St John's were no longer needed by the school, it could become the home of a Graham Greene museum.

Other ideas include a booklet *Graham Greene and Berkhamsted*; and literary and travelling scholarships for young people. Why not come along on 2nd October and find out more? ❖

Graham Greene is pictured on the cover of this issue

review leader (continued from p3)

Come the year 2000 or just after it is hoped to have a 'core' Sunday book with Rites A and B, the Book of Common Prayer Eucharist, the psalter and forms for Morning and Evening Prayer. The Sunday readings are *not* going to be written out in full as they are now - another good reason for investing in a new Bible, especially if you're on the readers rota!

I apologise that this leader hasn't been the most gripping of reads, but I think it's important that everyone has an opportunity to know what's going and the reasons for changes and alterations that will be happening here and in the Church of England at large. They are important because they are about our worship which is the principal activity of the people of God. So that we can look together at some of these changes I plan to give two talks about Liturgy in the Lady Chapel at 8:00pm on 1st and 15th October. The talks will focus on the Eucharist and what we do, why we do it and what is important about the forms of words that we use. Nothing too heavy, but I'm sure it will be very instructive and enable us to have informed opinions about the services rather than judgements simply based on personal preferences - we could probably manage over 200 different such judgements which wouldn't be very illuminating!. Everyone and anyone will be most welcome. ❖



Berkhamsted Choral Society

After a very successful year, which included Haydn's tuneful *Nelson Mass* in May, the choir now looks forward to a new season of music-making. The first rehearsal will be on Tuesday 9th September at 8:00pm in the music room of the Collegiate School, Castle Street.

Perhaps you have heard the choir sing and thought you would like to take part in the next concert? Now is the time to discover (or continue) the joys of choral singing with a well-established local choir which has a reputation for presenting fine music. All that is asked for is a modest annual subscription, regular attendance at rehearsals, enthusiasm - and the ability to sing in tune!

A full programme of concerts is being arranged. As well as the *Voices for Hospices* concert detailed on page 23, something to look forward to in the new year is a concert at St Peter's church on 24th January which will include Mozart's *Missa Solemnis in C* and Vivaldi's *Magnificat*. The season will end with Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at St Peter's church on 13th June.

For further details, ring Pat Hearne (871270) or Hazel Sansom (865479). ❖

Learning to Listen (continued from 9)

sense of what is happening to them. Once the feeling is expressed in words it loses some of its power. It would be our job as bereavement visitors to allow people the time to do this, to wait... listen... and respond. Our visits would need to be confidential to gain trust. Our approach non-judgemental and empathetic, respecting their values and beliefs. We would not be there to give advice but to listen and reflect. 'Role-playing' different

scenarios, putting into practice the skills we had gained proved to be essential.

I have been amazed how many people have opened up and talked to me about their own experience of loss simply on being told I had attended the course. There is clearly a great need out there! ❖

To receive a bereavement visit or find out more about visiting please contact Joan Cook (866278), Sylvia Banks (871195) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268).

Somewhere in the south of Italy, in a museum which has the treasures of the ancient civilisations of that country, there is a case. And in that case is a golden vase, not many inches high, but very ancient; something over 2,000 years old. It was made by a craftsman

of a people called the Atroscans who were famous goldsmiths. If you look at this little vase you will realise that it is unique, because unlike most golden objects it has a quality which cannot be matched. It is rather like a peach! In other words when the craftsman had made this golden vase, he didn't polish it like the other craftsmen. He had a technique which put a kind of blush on the surface of the pure gold, like a peach. That vase is terribly valuable and most beautiful to see, because the man who made it, when he died, took his secret with him. And for nearly 2,000 years the goldsmiths of the world could not discover how that man, that ancient craftsman, put onto that gold surface the lovely furry look we see on a peach. I believe I am right in saying that it is only during the last few years that modern goldsmiths have at last found some way of imitating what that ancient, primitive, uneducated, unskilled (if that's the word) technician, could do with a little golden vase.

This month of September, on the Sunday nearest the 3rd, it was customary up to a few years ago to celebrate that great battle of the skies between the British and German airforces, the battle subsequently named *The Battle of Britain*. There is still a generation living in this country who remember those times when so much of life, as we knew it to be, was at stake - our very freedom, our families

Thoughts on the Battle of Britain

Tom Montague reflects on what might have happened had so many young men not lost their lives 57 years ago.

and friends and indeed the freedom of western civilisation itself.

Today, its memory is forgotten and we're left with but history of that great battle fought over the skies of this country by young men who literally gave their lives

knowing the task before them seemed hopeless. But they won a victory we, as a nation, should never forget. And there is something else. Because we are a Christian community, we should ask God in his mercy to remember them because we believe that He holds all souls in life. These men who gave their lives in fire and torment and great pain, they are held in the hands of God.

I come back to that little Atroscan vase. When we look at the treasures of the world there isn't a country which in its museums and art galleries has not a wealth of superb artistry, and yet, nobody was able to do what the Atroscan craftsman did. And so perhaps on this 57th anniversary of the Battle of Britain it would not be inappropriate to offer to God what those young men might have done had they lived. The Atroscan craftsman might have set up a factory and the world could have been flooded with beautiful vases, but something happened, and it wasn't, and it didn't.

We are left wondering what those young men would have made of the world if they had survived in it. Men of great courage who went out not counting the cost, took their chances, who in the end lost everything; humanly speaking, because they saw a greater need that their own advancement - and they met it! ❖

review letters

High Wall

Bert Hosier, tongue firmly in cheek, writes:

I see that in *Around the Town* in July John Cook points out that 'the road which runs alongside the railway on the castle side was officially called High Wall. Now a new street name announces White Hill'. So the town has lost another link with the past with another road renamed.

I find words and names can be bridges to memories of places and people, eg 'High Wall'. My father worked for the Berkhamsted Urban District Council from the late 1930s to the early 1950s as a general labourer. He died aged 60 years in 1951 suffering from the effects of the First World War.

Bookwork and paperwork played no great part in his life. An inch stub of pencil

produced from the 'wes-kit' pocket, a betting slip, a football coupon or a B.U.D.C. timesheet were about all the writing he was involved in.

I can recall him, when in difficulty with accounting for his time and hours, putting down 'back of the High Wall'. It seems the council used this area to store road making materials which needed to be kept tidy. So the High Wall served as a time-filling opportunity for the labourer; possibly not so for the accounts department!

Could this be the reason for the council's renaming?

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very Monday afternoon for four years, in the chalky form room, at a well-worn and ink-stained desk, I wrestled with the parsing of Latin sentences. This was the

time set aside each week for the re-doing of 'returned work'. While I struggled with first declension masculine nouns in the dative plural others tackled French, maths

E

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or history. The Latin made no more sense to me at the second attempt than it had at the first, so the mark for the completed exercise would be two out of ten as it had been the first time round!

Therefore, it may seem strange to you that, 45 years later, I chose to enrol at Dacorum Annexe for beginners' Latin in response to a small poster in their window asking 'Are you interested in Latin?'. I suppose it offered a challenge. I had once failed - but now a second chance was on offer. I joined - Tuesdays 7:30-9:30pm - and what *fun* it has been. No more parsing, no recitation of verbs or chanted declensions of nouns, no boring dusty book where every chapter began '*Discipuli, spectate pitcuram*' (pupils,



Horatia urnam
portat.

O Venite!

Remember those Latin declensions you learnt at school?
Don't worry - **Liz Baxendale** has help at hand!

look at the picture - but you could work that out for yourself!). None of that - but a jolly book with coloured cartoons introducing us to Quintus and his family - including naughty dog Argus who rolls in the mud - and, in English, the highly readable and informative history of Roman life and times. Our lessons are interspersed with chat, discussion and laughter and the odd 'Roman feast' from time to time - fruits, nuts and with grape juice (we haven't caught any dormice yet!).

We want to carry on to year II and will only be able so to do so if there is a substantial year I, so we need more people who are interested in Latin. Some might feel able to come in at the second level. It's amazing how much you remember when teacher jogs your mind! And, of

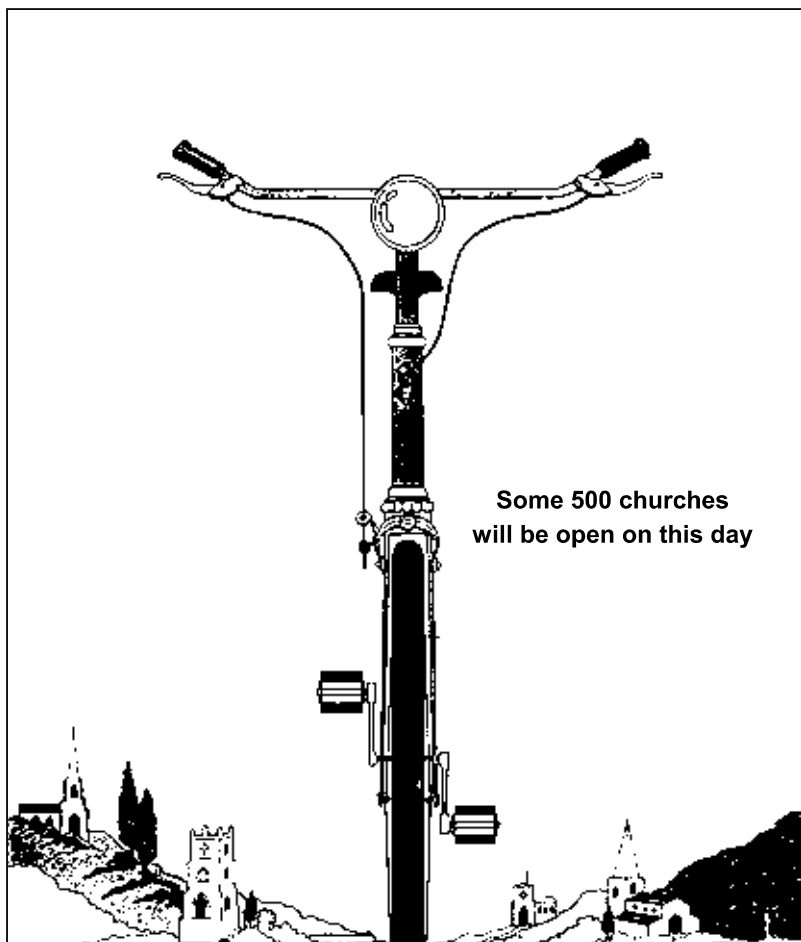


Quintus puer
Romanus est.

course, everyone already knows some Latin - In Memoriam, Caveat Emptor, Cave Canem, Nota bene, for example. The classes are not dry and boring, not over laden with grammar, and we make considerable progress in a fun way. So why not come and join us? You'll find it's a great help with those crossword puzzles too! ❖

Classes start on 30th September. This is the first time Latin has been offered at adult classes in Hertfordshire, seat of Verulamium.

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I was under the impression that the 'summer' months were the quiet ones for all levels of local government. As usual I got it wrong again. We had yet another by-election to replace three members of the town council. I had the leader of the borough council writing to ask for an assurance that I did not divulge Part II information about a court case connected with the Tring Tesco planning application. We have a borough member of the town council divulging Part II information, supplied in support of a grant application to the council, to the local press for the only reason that I can think of - an election was imminent. Who said politics had no place in the town council?

Before I go much further, I'd better explain what a Part II item is. As you all know, the affairs of local government are public. There are however times when we have to have a certain amount of additional knowledge in order to make a considered decision, or perhaps we need to know about or discuss matters that affect a particular person or organisation. Under these circumstances the information is private and confidential to the members and should not be divulged to anyone outside the council, other, of course, than the person who supplied it.

Meanwhile, back in the real world, I have once again been accused of misleading you by inferring that the town centre car parks will have two and four hour parking in them. Having read my copy for the umpteenth time I did say that Water Lane will have dual rates and St Johns Well Lane will have a number of all day parking spaces. Just to clarify the matter, Water Lane and Lower Kings Road will have two and four hour parking, while St Johns Well Lane will have two hour plus all day. The penalty for

CUTTING COMMENTS

Local independent councillor
Norman Cutting casts his eye
over recent council events.

overstaying will be raised from £5 to £10. On the other hand, the car park in Canal Fields is still free and often has lots of vacant places.

Ian Johnston and myself had a wander round the town with Mr Petts of the

borough council in late July to look at possible sites for the CCTV cameras. Due to the season, leaves appeared on trees just to make life very difficult and short of chopping large numbers down, one position had to be abandoned and some of the others relocated slightly to ensure the best view. We are hopeful that a scheme to meet both the town's concerns and the technical requirements of the borough will be the outcome of our meeting.

Just in case you have been away, we now have a second conservative member of the town council in the guise of Dr I Reay. He is joined by Gerald Lanchin (a Liberal-Democrat) who got in with the support of the Labour party, and a Labour representative by the name of Paul Dyett who had the support of the Liberal-Democrats. The town council now has six Independents, four Liberal-Democrats, two Conservatives and one Labour (according to Cllr Sharpe). On the other hand, we could have six Independents, five Liberal-Democrat-Labour and two Conservatives (according to just about everyone else). Whoever is right, the next 20 months are going to be very interesting, judging by what's been happening over the past two months or so.

Things started to happen with the almost unheard-of debate over who would be mayor for the coming year, this being rapidly followed by the resignations of three councillors. In order to reduce the expenditure on yet another election, (it

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would have been the third), I suggested that we co-opt a Conservative, a Liberal-Democrat and an Independent. Reflecting the success of alliances in County Hall, the Liberal-Democrats suggested a similar scheme, but proposed replacing the Independent by a Labour representative. This was rejected by the Conservatives and an election was called. The result you now know and you can make your own mind up on whether it was worth it. Even the borough returning officer got the figures wrong, so there's hope for me yet!

The council meeting of 28th July should, once again, have been a fairly straight forward affair of allocating the three new members, committee memberships. A little shuffling around would have sorted it out until next May when the new year starts. I even drafted a suggestion, but it was pointed out by another member that I was leading the council with pre-conceived ideas, so I dropped it. Lo-and-behold on the appointed day, that very same member presented a scheme totally to re-arrange the council under the guise of sharing the work out differently. Needless to say, we spent the best part of two hours arriving back almost where we started and as a result an extraordinary meeting had to be called to finish business that should have been completed without difficulty. That meeting took place on 18th August prior to the finance and policy meeting scheduled for that day. By necessity, the finance meeting had to be shortened to ensure that all the business planned, actually got completed.

The new council did make a couple of decisions on 28th July. The first was to reject the spending of around £500 on modifying the wall near the bottom of Durrants Lane. You may remember it was planned to form a small flower bed to make an attractive feature and we even got the approval of the borough landscapes department. The other item which I also mentioned last month was the finance for the town warden van. My committee did reverse the previous decision not to take the money offered by borough. The message will now go back to the borough budget and asset management committee that we are prepared to accept the money for a van in borough livery, provided it also has an indication that it is the town council's warden van. I have spoken to the chair of that committee, Cllr Keith White, who assures me that it will be thought about. I got the feeling we are not his favourite local authority!

Just another reminder that all council meetings are open to the public and generally meet in the Civic Centre on a Monday evening starting at 7:30pm. We often allow you to voice an opinion on any subject on the agenda (posted in a display case outside the Civic Centre or ring the town clerk on 228945). I will even make the promise that if more of you come on a regular basis, I will see about providing tea and biscuits. After all, it is your council and all of us would like to see more of you attending as members of the public. As a regular visitor told me, 'so many things go on and the first you know about it, is when it happens, and that's too late'.



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Last month I wrote about my visit to London's sewers. After that visit I was given a tour of the sewage treatment works at Beckton, near Barking, also built by Sir Joseph Bazalgette. It is the largest installation of its kind in Europe. It was built in the 1860s and is complemented by another on the south bank of the Thames at Crossness, near Plumstead. The system of treatment and disposal at present in use is still substantially that bequeathed by Bazalgette but it is about to undergo a dramatic change.

When Bazalgette originally designed the system the treatment works simply stored the sewage until high tide, at which point it was released into the Thames to be carried out to sea by the ebb tide. This system worked well for some years until London expanded to a point where both Barking and Plumstead themselves became heavily populated and the local inhabitants, unsurprisingly, began to object to the process. The problem was

From Sewers to Breeze Blocks

Continuing last month's theme, **Stephen Halliday** explores further the achievements of Sir Joseph Bazalgette.

the river at the very moment that the sewage was being discharged into the river.

Bazalgette therefore modified the system and built settlement tanks in which the small amount of solid matter in the waste was separated, loaded on to sludge boats, and taken out to be dumped in the North Sea. The remaining liquid was treated with chemicals to remove the smell before it was returned to the river. This system remains in use to-day except that the liquid is treated biologically, bacteria being cultivated to consume the impurities in the liquid.

However, I witnessed the commissioning of a new process which will, within the next few months, render the sludge boats redundant. Having

dramatically illustrated in September 1878 when a pleasure steamer called the *Princess Alice* collided with a freighter in the vicinity of Plumstead and sank, plunging its unfortunate passengers into

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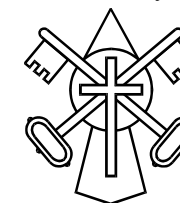
separated the solids from the liquids in settlement tanks, the solids are fed into a machine which looks like a huge accordion. This is then compressed, removing further quantities of liquid which is channelled away for biological treatment through what is known as the 'activated sludge process'. Simply stated, this involves introducing quantities of oxygen to the liquid which promotes hyperactive bacteria to consume the remaining impurities in a matter of hours. After treatment the liquid is not clean enough to drink but it is clean enough to be returned to the Thames which is now one of the cleanest major rivers in the world. The solids are then fed into an incinerator where they are heated to a temperature of 850 degrees, thereby being reduced to ash. It is planned that the ash will be used in the manufacture of breeze blocks for the building industry.

One of the things that most impressed me was the enthusiasm of the young engineers who run the whole system. They are committed to what they do and have no doubt about its value. I asked one of them, a young woman with a degree in chemical engineering, what she tells people when they ask her what her job is. She replied: "I tell them I prevent epidemics".

In the early nineteenth century four cholera epidemics killed almost forty thousand people in London, the infection being fatally transmitted to the population in a water supply that was polluted by leaking sewers and cesspools. Bazalgette's system eliminated cholera, typhoid (which killed Prince Albert and nearly killed the Prince of Wales) and other water-borne diseases from London. That is his lasting monument and he would be glad to know that his young successors know it.



The PCC meeting on 25th July hosted the usual lively discussion on matters concerning our two churches and concerns from wider afield.



The council noted the appointment of the Rev Dick Clarkson as Rural Dean of Berkhamsted with effect from 1st October, taking over from John Payne Cook who has served in the post for the last five years. His commissioning by the Archdeacon of St Albans, the Ven Philip Davies, will be on Sunday, 12th October at the 6:30pm Evensong at St Michael's, Sunnyside.

The October meeting of the PCC is dedicated to the visit of the diocesan stewardship advisor, Mr Nigel Guard.

Following the appointment of Christina Billington as the parish youth worker, the PCC heard that she is to start her work in September.

Alan Conway

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Bellringers mark Victoria First School Centenary

On 5th July the following ringers took part in a quarter peal of 1260 changes Grandsire Triples at St Peter's: Mary Sansom 1, Margaret Burbidge 2, Judith Burbidge 3, John Sansom 4, Martin Macdonald 5, David Burbidge 6, David Sheppard 7, Michael Hart 8.

Many events have been organised in the last six months to celebrate 100 years in the life of Victoria School, including a visit by the Bishop of St Albans in June. Michael Hart retires on 31st August 1997 after 36 years in the teaching profession, 22 of them as head of Victoria School.

As both the headteacher and chairman of governors are ringers, in addition to a number of former pupils, parents and governors, it seemed very appropriate to ring a quarter peal at St Peter's to mark the centenary and as a retirement compliment to Michael. A musical composition was chosen, and a good quarter peal rung.

Mary, who is an old pupil and infrequent ringer these days, rang very well. Her father, John, came out of quarter peal retirement to take part! The band extends compliments to Judith, also an old pupil, on her graduation from York University this summer with an upper 2nd class degree in biology. Mary is also a York graduate. David Sheppard started his education at Victoria. Margaret and David Burbidge are parents of Judith, and Martin is the auditor of the school's trust funds. Appropriately the quarter was conducted by the chairman of governors!



Voices for Hospices 1997



Verdi *Requiem*

It is now nearly three years since the last *Voices for Hospices* event in which concerts are put on all over the country, and indeed the world, in aid of local hospices. In 1991 a performance of Haydn's *Creation* raised over £6,000 for the Hospice of St Francis and in 1994 a somewhat smaller performance of Handel's *Messiah* raised about £2,000. Both of these were 'bring it and sing it' performances open to all who were interested in taking part.

This year the Iain Rennie and St Francis hospices are joining forces to put on a concert performance of Verdi's *Requiem*. This will be in the Berkhamsted Collegiate Schools Centenary Hall and the singers will be restricted to members of the Berkhamsted Choral Society, the Chiltern Chamber Choir and the Tring Choral Society. The orchestra will be conducted by Adrian Davis and the soloists will be Diane Mansfield (soprano), Marion Rowlatt (mezzo), Graham Wili (tenor) and Peter Hine (bass), all of whom are well known locally.

The date is Saturday 18th October and the time 7:30pm. Tickets will be available from mid-September from either of the hospice offices or from members of one of the choirs. Tickets will cost £7.50 (no concessions) inclusive of commemorative programme and you are urged to act quickly if you want one as this is expected to be a 'sell-out'.

Further information may be had from Robert Breakwell on 890222. ❖



***Doreen Knapp
looks forward to a
church restored
with energy after
the holidays.***

review northchurch

One of the highlights of my family holiday in Cornwall was the discovery of a beautiful garden in the village of Creed.

Like the nearby Lost Gardens of Heligan of television fame, the Old Rectory garden at Creed is one that has been rediscovered, restored and renewed and is now open daily for visitors to enjoy. The restoration of this five acre Georgian garden has been carried out over the past 23 years by the work of one family. Photographs can be seen on display in the old stables showing parents and children hard at work uncovering and restoring such treasures as a cobbled stable yard, as well as ponds, paths, water troughs and many other valuable garden features. To maintain the restored life and beauty of the garden, work of renewal carries on today as before.

On returning from holiday in Cornwall I am reminded that at the beginning of September the many activities which make up the life of the church will be restored and hopefully re-vitalised after the summer holiday rest. Like the family who were challenged to restore and renew the garden at Creed, we as a church family and community will be challenged to work together to preserve, restore and renew our shared life of worship and activity together. As we plan ahead with sensitivity to the

creative opportunities of the coming harvest, then Advent and Christmas we will be challenged to discover and put to good purpose the hidden gifts and talents that are amongst us. As we look at the overall pattern of our life together we will also be challenged to discern those areas that need to be reshaped or changed, so that by letting in new light, fresh growth can take place elsewhere.

As with the work of discovering, restoring and renewing an ancient and beautiful garden our greatest challenge as a church family and community will be to give visible witness to the timeless beauty of the love of our Creator God. It is this aim which must surely stir us all to persevere as a family in our work for Christ so that the sharing, the caring, the welcoming can carry on as ever before. ❖

Doreen Knapp is a parish reader at St Mary's, Northchurch.



The Couper Society presents:

***'Songs and Sweet Airs'* CANTELLO**

Kate Semmens, soprano

Mary Harris, 'cello

Adrian Davis, harpsichord & organ

programme includes music by

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and Rubbra*

***Sunday, 14th September at 7:00pm
in the Lady Chapel, St Peter's church***

Retiring collection in aid of the St Peter's church window fund.

review notes & notices

TUESDAY CLUB

Our first meeting of the new session will be at 8:15pm on 2nd September. It is entitled *I Remember When*. Members will recall a happy holiday or occurrence to share with the group. New members will be very welcome to join our friendly and informal group.

WEA AUTUMN COURSES

The WEA is offering three courses this autumn.

Fungi: Advanced and Beginners is a 16 session course on Wednesday evenings at 8:00-9:30pm, starting on 10th September. The meetings are in Berkhamsted library; the fee is £38 and the tutor is Alan Outen.

Contemporary Literature is a 10 session course on Monday evenings at 8:00-9:30pm starting on 29th September in Berkhamsted library. The fee is £28 and the tutor is E. Hutton.

Art: Italian futurism to abstract impressionism is a 10 session course on Wednesday mornings from 10:30-12noon starting on 10th September. This course meets in the Friends meeting house; the fee is £28 and the tutor is A. McCleod.

For further information please contact Ann Gurney on 865445.

OXFAM CHILDREN'S WEAR EVENT

Tots to teens will be catered for at Oxfam's forthcoming children's wear event on Thursday, 11th September at Berkhamsted Civic Centre from 9:30am to 12noon.

All the autumn and winter stock, including 'back to school' uniforms and a selection of 'festive season' outfits will be available. Going abroad for the half-term? That is no problem as late summer stock will still be on sale.

So come and join the ever growing ranks of our devoted bargain hunters for a rummage among the rails of really useful additions to your children's wardrobes.

Everybody is welcome. A selection of children's books and toys will also be on sale and whether you come early or mid-morning

you will not be disappointed.

And here is another date for your diary - Oxfam will be staging one of its popular fashion shows at the Civic Centre on Thursday, 30th October. Watch this space for further details.

FR MARK'S DAY OFF

From September to April 1998 Father Mark is changing his day off to *Saturday*. Due to some extra work he is having to do for a course in July 1998 he will be taking *Mondays* as study days and will not normally be around during the day.

CONFIRMATION 1998

The confirmation in 1998 for this parish will take place at 8:00pm on Thursday 23rd April by the Bishop of Hertford - probably at All Saints'. Preparation for Confirmation will begin at the end of October and if you would like to join a group please give your name to Father Mark or Father Robin, or to Marjorie Bowden as soon as possible. Young people should be aged at least 12 during the academic year. An adult group will meet separately, but please give your name in.

ALPHA COURSE

If you wish to learn about the central teachings of the Christian faith, or to be refreshed and renewed about those things you learned about years ago this course is for you. It begins on Monday 29th September and runs for ten weeks. Contact John Malcolm on 874993.

SEPTEMBER SALE

On Saturday, 20th September from 10:00am to 3:00pm there will be a September Sale in All Saints' Hall. Books, plants and bric-a-brac will be on sale. There will be coffee throughout the day and ploughman's lunches at lunchtime. All proceeds will be in aid of Marie Soper house. Please come if you can.

GET IT TAPED!

Audio tapes of readings from the Bible and other helpful books, talks and music (including Taizé chants) will be available from St Peter's bookstall on Sundays starting in September. Orders and enquiries welcome. Contact Marjorie Bowden (871283).

THE MOTHERS' UNION

It was one of those beautiful summer evenings when we set off for our July ramble. Starting at Little Gaddesden church, we climbed our first stile and were at once among wild flowers and birdsong. Walking beside cornfields and, of course, encountering the odd stinging nettle, we all appreciated the chance to unwind after a busy day in such lovely surroundings. I was reminded of that prayer that begins, 'Slow me down, Lord!'

We do not have a meeting in August as it is the holiday month for most of us, but on 4th September we shall be in St Albans for our festival service. An almost endless procession of Mother's Union banners is an impressive sight. Ours will be one of them. It shows that someone cares for family life, doesn't it?

The following week, four of us will be back at the Abbey, dressed in blue gowns and acting as welcomers. If you come on a visit you will see us as the west door. Then the same evening (10th September) we shall all be sharing holiday experiences at our monthly meeting. Do join us if you can.

If you would like to know more about the MU contact Jenny Wells on 870981.

BERKHAMSTED W.I.



The coffee morning held at the home of Mrs Jill Blumsom on 26th June was a happy social occasion and raised £84 towards the bursary fund for a member to attend a course at the institute college at Denman.

At our July meeting Mrs Jean Gale was our speaker. She brought with her a few personal treasures, together with flowers and foliage from her garden. Then whilst telling of the history of the treasures and details of the flowers she used them both to make artistic designs, picking up the colours in the treasures with the flower arrangements. The results

brought many questions from the members and great delight at the beauty of the finished designs.

After refreshments members formed small groups and discussed what they enjoyed about the institute meetings, what suggestions they had for improving future meetings and what topics they would like to be included in future programmes. They considered how they thought the institute could attract and interest new members to join. All this information would help the present committee in programme planning for 1998.

The craft and play reading sections of the institute continue to meet each fortnight. Both meetings are relaxed and happy occasions.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in The Gable Hall, Prince Edward Street, Berkhamsted and our next meeting is on 17th September when Mrs June Douglas will talk about *Portraits of Women*. New members will be very warmly welcomed.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

It was lovely to see so many members at our August meeting and our president Liz Baxendale was pleased to welcome a visitor to join us in our activities for the afternoon.

During business matters it was announced that the coffee morning and tea afternoon held in Liz Baxendale's pretty garden raised a sum of £100 for our funds. The competition game for naming the 'Pusscat Doorstop' made by Sue Bull which continued at the meeting was won by Jane Caull. The name chosen was 'Minnie'.

The bookbag made by the craft group which was given to the reception class at Victoria School was really appreciated by the little ones. We received thank-you letters from them with some very nice drawings as well!

Our speakers, Mrs B.M. Hulbert, making a welcome return to our institute, gave us a most interesting talk with beautiful slides of the Lake District. Her photographic shots of birds, wild flowers and also the wild life to be found in this scenic part of the country were remarkable. An appreciation was given by Susi Davidson.

During teatime the raffle was drawn and the competitions judged. Why not pay us a visit? Our next meeting is on 5th September at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2:00pm when Mrs Joyce Donald takes us on a *Drovers Route to Dorchester*. ❖

reviewdiary

All services at normal times unless stated.

Sept / Oct 1997

SEPTEMBER

11		All Saints' Area Committee	
12		St Peter's Area Committee	
14	7:00pm	<i>Songs and Sweet Airs</i> Recital by Cantello - Adrian Davis, Kate Semmens, Mary Harris	<i>St Peter's</i>
20	8:00pm	Ecumenical Breakfast & Prayers at Kings Road Evangelical Church	
26		Standing Committee	
27		St Peter's Harvest Supper	<i>Court House</i>
28	3:00pm	Way Inn service of thanksgiving	<i>St Peter's</i>
28	8:00pm	Taizé style Evening Worship	<i>All Saints'</i>

OCTOBER

1	8:00pm	Fr Mark talks about the Eucharist & ASB revisions	<i>St Peter's</i>
5	9:30pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist	<i>St Peter's</i>
	3:00pm	Hospice Thanksgiving Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
10		P.C.C.	
11	7:30pm	Chiltern Chamber Choir concert with visiting Dutch Choir <i>Cantemus Dominum</i>	<i>St Peter's</i>
12	6:30pm	Appointment of Dick Clarkson as Rural Dean at St Michael & All Angel's, Sunnyside	
15	8:00pm	Fr Mark talks about the Eucharist & ASB revisions	<i>St Peter's</i>
17		All Saints' Harvest Supper	<i>All Saints'</i>
18	8:00am	Ecumenical Breakfast (Court House) and Prayers (Lady Chapel)	<i>St Peter's</i>
19	10:00am	Joint Harvest Thanksgiving Service	<i>All Saints'</i>
24		P.C.C. - extra meeting	

review registers

Baptisms (*St Peter's*)

20 July Luke Dominic Gurney, George Samuel Dalziel
27 July Robert James Fordyce Clarke

Weddings (*St Peter's*)

19 July Michael James Ruby & Martine Noëlle Burford
2 August Brian Verney & Janey Hazel Oliff

Blessing (*St Peter's*)

1 August Roderick Beaton & Rosalind MacEwan

Funerals

24 July	Madeleine Jean Barlow	The Chilterns Crematorium
7 August	Edith Rose Stevens	St Peter's (The Chilterns Crematorium)

Due to lack of space the Review FactFile could not be included this month. It will be back next month.



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Principal J.R.Adkins BSc (Hons) PGCE

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Contacts

The Revd Mark Bonney, The Rectory, Rectory Lane. Tel: 864194 (day off Monday)
 The Revd Robin Figg, All Saints' House, Shrublands Road. Tel: 866161 (day off Monday)
 The Revd Canon Basil Jones (Hon.Asst.Priest), 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), 16 Broadwater. 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 Secretary: Alan Conway, 7 Kilfillan Gardens. Tel: 865798
Council: Treasurer: Michael Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way. Tel: 863559

St Peter's

Assistant Director of Music: 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, 11 Cavalier Court, Chesham Road. Tel: 863804

All Saints'

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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