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December 1997

A very material fact

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Advent waiting

This month's Notes & Events





for Town and Parish

25p



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

Welcome to the October issue of the Review.

From time to time I and my fellow editors hear a Review reader comment on an article they have just read expressing surprise, frustration or even slight anger at something the writer has said. Well, that in itself is good - we'd hate the *Review* to be too staid and uncontroversial. The magazine exists at least in part to provide a platform for differing views from across the town and parish. Editorially we take an impartial line, and will consider almost any contribution for inclusion in the magazine. However, to get the right balance we depend on a broad range of views being represented in those contributions.

One of the more effective forums for debate - though somewhat underused - is our letters page. This month we have an extended letters section, and we're keen to encourage this. After all, the *Times* is renowned for its letters pages - why not use the *Review* in the same way to air local issues?

So, if you feel strongly about something you see in the magazine don't just tut-tut and turn the page - write in and let's have your views as well.

Chris Smalley

In this month's issue...

Retreat to Listen

Father Mark Bonney invites you to take a vacation with the Lord.

Whatever happened to childhood?

Vera Pullen pleads for children to be taught to feel responsible for their own actions.

Weeds or Wildlife?

A radical new scheme for the management of our old cemetery is proposed by **Stephen Halliday**.

Light Story

Norman Cutting laments the trials of organising Christmas lights in the town.

Save the Green Belt

Join the struggle to save the Green Belt, urges Alan Fantham (see letters).

The Weight of the Press

John Cook considers the weighty problem of our local papers.

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

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Responsibility for opinions expressed in articles and letters published in this Review and for the accuracy of any statements in them rests solely with the individual contributor

Next Copy Dates (all Fridays): 3 October 7 November 28 November

(note early copy date for December issue due to Christmas)



Fr Mark Bonney invites you to take a vacation with the Lord.

review leader

Just over twenty years ago I made my first visit to St Francis House at Hemingford Grey near Cambridge. St Francis House is a retreat house owned by the

Community of the Resurrection (a monastic order based in Mirfield, Yorkshire), situated in a quiet village alongside a beautiful river. I went with a group of twenty other students. I was slightly apprehensive since a retreat wasn't anything I'd experienced before. I came away from those few days refreshed in a way that was new and exciting - and ever since then, both before and since ordination, a retreat has been an important part of my spiritual life.

In the fairly busy round which is the lot of so many of us, there is enormous value in taking a step back from the rush in being in a place of tranquillity, a place where prayer is the focus, a place where our material needs are taken care of by someone else for a few days, so that in the space we can be with God and gain a fresh perspective, a new insight, a renewed vigour. A retreat is just that, a time for those things. Perhaps not aptly named, because it shouldn't be any kind of running away - very often it has more to do with facing up to rather than retreating from since the rush of daily life doesn't always give us the space and time to look at 'things' properly.

There's an opportunity for twenty people to join me on a retreat at Hemingford Grey from the evening of Friday 21st November to Sunday afternoon, 23rd November. I will be leading the weekend which will have a pattern of worship, talks and times for

prayer, relaxation and walking. We go on retreat to be with and to listen to God, and so silence is an important part of the weekend. This is nothing to be afraid of. It may seem a little odd to be told that there's no talking at meal times for example, but it's amazing how much pointless chatter we indulge in, and it's equally amazing how close we become to the other people on a retreat even though we haven't been talking to them. In the deep silence of retreat we have the opportunity to listen more deeply to God.

The weekend costs £55. This includes accommodation and all meals (retreat houses always feed you well!) If you'd like to come please give me a cheque for the full amount (payable to *The Parish of Great Berkhamsted PCC*). If you're interested but would like to know more please have a word, or come to a short meeting I will be holding about the retreat in the Lady Chapel at 8pm on Wednesday 29th October.

One book I have describes a retreat as a Vacation with the Lord and that's rather a good description. And I would like to invite you to come and have, if not a full vacation, at least a 'weekend break' with the Lord!

Father More.

Cover: A Man for All Seasons! The parish rounders afternoon and barbecue in August was a rather wet affair though nonetheless enjoyable for the hardy souls who took part. Some, of course, were better prepared than others!

Photo: Barbara Northcott

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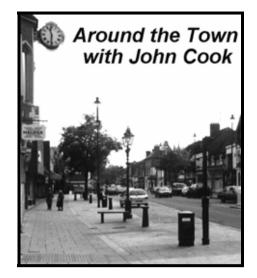
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Living Memory

It is always a pleasure to receive recollections from people who have lived in Berkhamsted for a long time, particularly if they come in written form. Mrs Barbara Ross has drawn up a record, compiled from memory, of what the Town consisted of in the 1930's, listing all the shops, pubs, churches and so on. This is pretty comprehensive but only covers the eastern half of the Town. Mrs Ross is an east Berkhamstedian, and never had too much to do with what went on west of the traffic lights.

In the last 60 years or so certain things have remained remarkably constant. For example there are still four places of worship, four hairdressers and two dental practises, as there were then. One school has gone but two new ones have come. In other sectors, though, the change has been dramatic.

The number of pubs has about halved-down from 15 to eight - and more spectacularly the number of grocers has fallen from 14 to just two. There were four shoe shops, now there are none (remember this is just for the eastern half of the Town), and our dairies, men's outfitters, coal merchant, wet fish shops and cinemas are all gone, not to mention

the rag-and-bone man. But on the plus side, where in the 30's there were just three fish-and-chip shops and one cafe we now have a variety of restaurants and takeaway outlets catering for all tastes. If you include the pubs, all of which provide food of one sort or another, these now total about 18 - and that is in only half the Town.

Mrs Ross's interesting list I shall copy and pass the original to the local history society. In the heritage store behind the civic centre a team is busy cataloguing the items of historic interest that have been collected over the years and arranging the storage of them in the excellent facilities they have there.

Mail Drop

Anyone who has had to deliver things through Berkhamsted's letterboxes will know what a variety of them there is. Some are wide and easy; others are miserably small and nearly impossible. Some are low and backbreaking. Some have vicious springs and bite your fingers. Some have a further hazard - a second flap on the inside intended to keep out draughts but another barrier to be penetrated by the deliverer.

Pity the poor postman or postwoman, and pity too those who take on the delivery of the only surviving free paper we get at all regularly, the *Herald and Post*. This can have up to 112 pages, plus inserts, sometimes four or five, that drop out all over the doormat - that is if indeed the deliverer manages to squeeze the paper into your letter box and you manage to pull it through on the other side.

We have only two local papers left, one you pay for, one you get for nothing. They are both owned by the same company; in fact they each refer to the other as *our sister newspaper*. (Is there no masculinist in Berkhamsted prepared to contest this blatant sexist language?). They both follow the pattern of local papers throughout the country with 90 per cent advertisements, and in our case a

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disappointingly sparse coverage of Berkhamsted news. What can be said in favour of the local press is that the news it does manage to squeeze in between the advertisements is to a higher standard of accuracy and fairness than the national papers are able to manage.

Precious Glass

In a recent Review I mentioned one of the treasures that was auctioned off when all the contents of Ashridge House were sold by the Brownlows

between the wars. Another was the stained glass from the magnificent chapel there. It was all taken out and replaced with plain glass.

This stained glass was made in Germany in the 16th century and is of top quality. It was bought anonymously from the Brownlow estate and donated by a Mr Cook (not me!) to the Victoria and Albert Museum, where it is now well displayed with back lighting in its own little gallery. It really is worth going to see; in fact in my opinion it is one of the few things which justify a visit to that museum these days, now that you have to pay to go in and most of its riches have been hidden from view in the cellar.

Each panel of stained glass is based on a story from the Old or New Testament or the Apocrypha. A particularly charming window shows Tobias and Sarah in bed with nothing on but their night-caps. Their dog, later to be adopted by Punch and Judy as Toby, is curled up on the counterpane and Tobias's slippers are by the side of the bed. [Slippers of almost exactly the same design are still available in Marks and Sparks.]



The east end of Berkhamsted High Street - many changes over the past 60 years.

You may recall that Sarah had had seven previous husbands, each of whom had died on their wedding night; so for Tobias this occasion must have been one with more than the usual touch of excitement to it.

Ashridge Chapel

There is no chance of the stained glass being restored to Ashridge Chapel, but even without it the chapel is a jewel of a building and in a way benefits from the light that the clear glass allows in. It is not often open to the public

but every now and then a Sunday evensong is held there to which the public are invited. This gives the opportunity not just to worship in uplifting and aristocratic surroundings but to hear the fine organ and admire its other treasures, like the beautifully carved stalls.

Herons

When I talked about killer birds last month I left out herons. Are herons strictly speaking bird of prey? Whether they are or not they are increasingly to be seen on the canal and what is left of the Bulbourne right in the centre of Berkhamsted, and the moats of the Castle.

The other evening as we were walking along the tow path by the *Crystal Palace* one was circling, waiting for us to pass before alighting to attempt to make a snack of one or two newly hatched ducklings from a late brood. Anyone in the Town with a goldfish pond is well advised to keep it covered.

Herons, like the other common inland fish-eating bird, the cormorant, it seems are growing not only in numbers but also in boldness, as though someone had told them that they too are protected species and nobody can legally harm them.

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The sun lit up the
great west window
of St Albans Abbey
on 4th September, as
Mothers' Union
members from across
the diocese gathered
for their triennial
festival service. The
banner procession
led by the dean,
Bishop Christopher,
Bishop John and the
clergy with the

Abbey Girls' Choir

looking stunning in their scarlet tabards, wound its way round the Abbey.

About 90 banners were on show; traditional and modern designs were held high and then placed around the sanctuary. Margaret Barnard and Anne Stead carried the St Peter's banner. The service to celebrate and give thanks for the work of the Mothers' Union in the diocese was tinged with sadness as we also remembered the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The lesson was read by the diocesan president, Jane Drew, the

The Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival

Margaret Burbidge describes the recent festival service at St Alban's Abbey. act of dedication. Frances Prockter, the president of Canterbury province, led the congregation in the Mothers' Union prayer. The singing was uplifting and the girls' choir touched all with John us Rutter's Gaelic Blessing, 'Deep peace of the running wave

intercessions were led by members and in an

to you'.

As the banners left the abbey and members chatted and met with old friends, the words of Bishop Christopher in his sermon will stay with us. In a world where image seems to be so important, he reminded us of the need for gentleness in our lives, but a gentleness that was tough and strong, so that our work in the diocese and worldwide for the vulnerable, weak and disadvantaged would be effective and to God's glory.

Maxims S G Dollimore

I remember smirking inwardly
When as a lad at my fathers knee,
His maxims for life he gave to me.
Over the years I have learnt to rue
The times they have forgotten been,
For they were few, but how true.

Never let the sun set on your wrath,
For rancour taken into the night
Can be carried all through life.
Do not be a stranger to the truth,
Even with the devil at thy elbow,
For every small lie breeds another.

Learn to turn the other cheek,
Even if you think you are in the right,
For it takes two to start a fight.
Bid 'Good day' to the passing tramp,
Clasp the hand of the stranger,
For that guise may mask your Saviour.

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ast night I saw on TV that they have just discovered that watching violence on the screen does cause some people to do violent acts in real life. What a waste of money on a lot of research when I, and I am sure you, would have been happy to pass on that piece of knowledge for noth-

ing? You cannot say that TV, computers and films are useful for teaching children other subjects and then deny that sex and violence on the screen has no effect on them.

I was slightly amazed that at some seaside resort this summer young children were being handed condoms - in the hope of furthering their sex education, I gather. Do you think they will shortly be given away in cereal packets? Sex education has been taught in schools for well over 25 years now, and I'm sure similar information has been exchanged behind bicycle sheds too. Anyone able to read cannot be ignorant in these days when such information is displayed in every newspaper, magazine or book you pick up.

Advertisements apparently have to have a sexual content to sell even ice creams these days. Only this week we hear of a 15 year old girl having been made pregnant by an 11 year old boy, and, in spite of all the information available in this country we have more under age girls producing babies than any other western country. What has gone wrong?

Some years ago I was listening to some women chatting and was surprised to learn that the women with daughters were anxious about them becoming pregnant whilst still at school. On the other hand a mother with sons said she wasn't at all worried about what her sons got up to as they, at least, couldn't bring home an unwanted baby!

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO CHILDHOOD?

Vera Pullen reflects on the pressures on modern children and disappearing childhood.

I'm afraid I'm back on my old soap box for goodness' sake whatever else we fail to teach our children we must teach them that responsibility for their actions is the most important lesson to learn. There would be far less misery, poverty and abortions if they were able to learn that they alone

are responsible for their actions, and for the effect of those actions on themselves, their families, friends and other people.

It seems to me that except for those very fortunate children whose parents really are doing their job properly - and that has nothing to do with money - the rest are in for a very unhappy time. Children today suffer more from neglect, both physical and mental; from the trauma of parents with little time to spare for them: the break up of marriages with all the misery that brings, than ever before. Well meaning parents try to fill every moment of their children's lives with meaningful experiences, coaching for this, that and the other, summer camps and so on. When my daughter was young she always had to have what she called 'time to be me'. I knew exactly what she meant. We all sometimes need time to potter, to think, to dream and just 'have time to be me.'

Carefree childhood seems to be a casualty of the age in which we live, and I'm afraid the blame rests with us, the adults, who have robbed our children forever of the innocence, the freedom the sheer joy of being able to wander where they want without fear, which earlier generations have enjoyed as their right. They have watched violence of all kinds on TV and if they think that is the norm who can blame them? It is time we helped to get the balance right once more.





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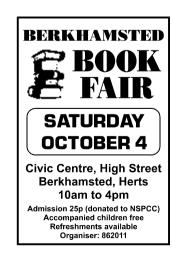
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I magine that you have leprosy. Imagine that you are walking barefoot in the African bush, or perhaps in the hills of northern India. The thorns and the stones are sharp - but you can't feel them because leprosy has left your feet numb to sensation and pain.

Without realising it, you start to

develop an ulcer on the heel or sole of your foot. Or perhaps you stub your toe and cut it. The wound festers in the dirt and the heat. If it isn't treated properly, septicaemia sets in or even gangrene. The whole limb may have to be amputated. You are left permanently disabled, carrying the visible stigma of leprosy for the rest of your life...



On Saturday, 8th November The Leprosy Mission will be holding its Christmas coffee morning and bring and buy sale in the lower room, All Saints' Church between 10:00am and 12noon. Donations of items suitable as Christmas gifts for the bring and buy stall would be much appreciated, as would cakes and produce.

Our new area organiser, Rev. Graham Wright, will be present bringing with him Leprosy Mission goods for sale, including Christmas cards, calendars and gifts.

Please note this date in your diary and support this essential work.

Meg Harper and May Kempster

The Leprosy Mission was one of the key charities supported by the late Princess of Wales.



Gossoms End Elderly Care Centre was presented with one of two new electric pianos on 13th September. Some £3,000 was donated to the centre from June's Petertide Fair, which raised more than £6,300 (the remainder is to be donated to the Chernobyl Children Life Line.

Pictured left is Fr Mark Bonney who presented the instrument, with residents of the centre while members of the fair committee look on.



1997 - 1998 Concerts & Recitals at St Peter's



7:30pm Saturday 11th October 1997

Chiltern Chamber Choir present Cantemus Domninium (CCC are doing a choir exchange with this Dutch choir)

7:30pm Saturday 25th October 1997

Mendelssohn Evening
London Concertante directed by Chris Grift,
concert in aid of the Macmillan Charity

7:30pm Saturday 22nd November 1997

Song & piano recital Katy Carver (piano) & two voices including Graham Wili (tenor)

7:30pm Saturday 6th December 1997

Vaughn Williams *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and more The Purcell Singers directed by Graham Wili

7:30pm Tuesday 23rd December 1997

Monteverdi: *Vespers*Chiltern Chamber Choir & Orchestra directed by Adrian Davies

7:30pm Saturday 24th January 1998

Mozart: *Missa Solemnis in C*; Vivaldi: *Magnificat* Berkhamsted Choral Society directed by Graham Wili

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One of my chief pleasures in the summer months is cycling around the Chiltern countryside for exercise and entertainment. With the assistance of Ordnance Survey maps and a few

guidebooks it is very easy to find interesting buildings and other objects in the most obscure places. Sometimes I go further afield. I put the bicycle on the bootrack and drive off to the area around Oxford which, being relatively flat, is much easier on the legs and lungs than the Chiltern hills. Last week, in a forgotten corner north-east of Oxford I found myself on a path that runs through the grounds of Leatherslade Farm, temporary hideout of the great train robbers more than thirty years ago.

I always visit the churches of each village through which I pass because every one contains something of interest about the history of the village. The village of Sutton Courtenay has a churchyard which contains the graves of Eric Blair (alias George Orwell) and the Liberal prime minister H.H. Asquith. St Michael's, Stewkley, is one of the finest Norman churches in the land and the nearby church of Wing, which has Saxon origins, is of equal interest. On the same ride that I saw Leatherslade Farm I visited the tiny village of Stanton St John and I was intrigued by a notice that I saw in the churchyard. Many mediaeval churches have large churchyards and this was no exception. The notice explained that a decision had been taken to cut the grass immediately surrounding the church while allowing the other areas of the gravevard to grow undisturbed. Some wild flowers had been sown in the hope that this policy would promote a habitat for birds, butterflies and ladybirds, species which had seen much of their natural habitat disappear over the last

Weeds or Wildlife?

Should a cemetery be left to nature? **Stephen Halliday** considers the benefits.

forty years because of intensive agricultural cultivation.

The notice set me thinking about the condition of the cemetery in Three Close Lane, about which I have written in the past. Once a

week I go round the cemetery with a carrier bag collecting litter - cans, bottles, food packets, waste paper and those polystyrene containers in which take-away food is served. Normally, the litter is confined to the pathways and, particularly, to the area around those three hideous metal seats that were placed in the cemetery about eight years ago. I am sure they were installed with the best of intentions, in the belief that the elderly and the devout would sit on them to contemplate the beauties of the cemetery. However, judging from my own observations and from the litter they collect, they are mostly used by youths for drinking, smoking and the consumption of other narcotic substances.

Occasionally the parish council pays a contractor to cut the grass around the graves. This does nothing, in my opinion, to improve the appearance of the cemetery. Instead of long, wild grass, the graves are covered with dead, cut grass. Moreover, when the grass is cut I have noticed that people take short cuts across the graves instead of sticking to the footpaths, thus scattering their litter (and the unmistakable traces of their dogs) over a wider area and making it harder for me to collect. I think we would do better to copy the example of the parish of Stanton St John: keep the footpaths clear of litter and let the rest of the cemetery grow in its own way to the benefit of wildlife rather than providing an unofficial refuse tip. Perhaps the parish council could take note and, in the process, save the money we the pay contractor. *

We have just started the latest cycle in the council year. This is the one where we tidy up the remnants left over from the summer and look forward to formulating spending plans and policies for the year 1998/9. The most pressing matter

that has reared its ugly head again is the Christmas lights. This seems to have been a thorn in the side of just about everyone who has been involved over the past years.

The town council had a go a few years ago with the idea of Christmas trees being hung on little holders over shops and lights being attached via a plug and socket. Then the chamber of commerce was convinced it was in the interests of the town (and traders) to organise the display and this has, to a greater or lesser extent, worked reasonably well.

Last year the chamber applied for, and was granted, funds to improve the Christmas lights in the High Street. This included the additional lamp-posts in phase III of the 'enhancement works'. They asked for only £12,000 out of an expected cost of £12,159; I understand they managed to spend exactly the £12000, so the borough was right.

The chamber applied for a grant to the

CUTTING COMMENTS

Local independent councillor **Norman Cutting** on the track of our Christmas lights.

town council earlier this year to cover the cost of electricity and replacement bulbs and so on. My predecessor requested a few more details before going to council (after all, it is your money), whereupon the chamber informed the

council that they were not prepared to continue organising the lights and that was the end of the matter. The council asked Cllr Sharpe and myself to have urgent talks with the chamber in an attempt to resolve the matter. Following this meeting, we understood that the arrangements agreed met with the approval of the chamber's executive committee, even to the extent that the chamber applied to borough for additional funds to extend the lights and replace some wiring that had been found to be dangerous last year.

The borough requested additional information (as we had done, if you remember). The same day that the chamber provided that information to borough (in support of their grant application), they sent a letter to the town council stating that they had changed their mind and did not wish to be involved (apart from a little fund raising), as the town council had refused to underwrite the



SARAH DAVEY MSTAT

Teacher of the Alexander Technique

Phone (01442) 250712

revenue costs to a level the chamber considered necessary. This I take to indicate a requirement for a blank cheque which the council is unable to provide anyway. The town council has agreed that we should do what we can to ensure the display of Christmas lights this year. Efforts are being made to arrange an urgent meeting with the chamber to this end. We have a plan to resolve the matter for years to come. But as I write this, almost three weeks have passed since our request for an 'urgent' meeting, and due to holidays on the part of both the chambers' secretary and chairman it appears we will not be able to meet until mid-September. However. I live in hope.

The grant application came before borough on Wednesday 3rd September and although both Cllr John Lythcoe, who is a member of the committee, and myself (as a representative of Berkhamsted), made a plea for at least the part of the application which concerned replacing the dangerous wiring to be approved, the committee took the view that Berkhamsted had had a large sum last year. Furthermore no-one else normally receives a large grant towards their Christmas lights. So the

application was turned down. Members did recommend that the town centres committee should take the subject on board for future years, but that does not help us this year. It was pointed out that the chamber in Hemel Hempstead pay for the lights in the town, and asked why the Berkhamsted chamber did not pay for ours. (Come to that Tring has the same problem!) At the time of writing, it could be that the lights in Berkhamsted this year might leave a lot to be desired unless the chamber changes its mind once again. But I hope in future years a scheme will be in place so that we don't have to go through this process every year or two.

Just in case someone out there is wondering just why the town council seems to be avoiding getting involved, it is largely due to the way local government finances work. For the council to organise the lights, a specification would have to be drawn up, tender documents prepared, advertisements to tender placed, tenders inspected and put before council and so on. We don't even know where the lights are or what condition they are in, so we must be looking at two or three months as the shortest time scale without anything

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would be illegal.
Now you know. ❖

HARRY SHELDON

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17

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If you have a son aged $6\frac{1}{2}$ + and you would like him to be considered for the choir please bring him to St Peter's church any Tuesday at 5:15pm. If you are an adult who enjoys singing and would like to be a member of the choir please come to the church any Friday at 7:30pm.

Or contact:

ADRIAN DAVIS Director of Music Tel: 01442 864722 JEAN WILD Assistant Director of Music Tel: 01442 866859



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review letters

De Gaulle, Northchurch and the Green Belt

Alan Fantham, chairman of the Northchurch Parish Council, writes:

I always grab my wife's copy of the *Berkhamsted Review* as soon as it arrives to catch up with John Cook's views and, indeed, the column on local councils written by Norman Cutting.

John Cook's interest in President de Gaulle reminds me of what may well be an apocryphal rumour in that de Gaulle attended a Remembrance Day service in Potten End and, because that village did not have a readily available tricolour, he went back to Rodinghead. Incidentally, Rodinghead has been the home of another famous man, Francis Johnston, who has been president of Northchurch Cricket Club for 50 years, who also lived there when he moved from Lagley.

In his column, Norman Cutting indicated that the town council is confused in its knowledge of where Northchurch ends and Berkhamsted begins. Norman is quite correct in his view that the flint wall is not exactly on the boundary line between the two electoral divisions. If the wall were to be on the boundary, it would be sited exactly between The Meads and Midcot Way. At this point, the boundary runs from behind Bell Lane, takes in Northchurch and The Bentons. The Meads, part of Valley Road and Shaftesbury Court before pursuing its way behind Northchurch New Road and on over Berkhamsted Common, most of which, incidentally, is in Northchurch.

At the other end of the village, Northchurch officially starts on a line taken from Wigginton across the old A41 at a point in the Cow Roast Inn garden. The Cow Roast Inn is therefore in Wigginton with its garden in Northchurch. The County Council, however, decided that they would erect the Northchurch sign, *ie* the brick wall, near the junction with Hamberlins Lane in the forlorn hope that this might slow traffic entering the more inhabited area. Some hopes!

Your readers might also be interested to know that the boundary between the civil and ecclesiastical parishes of Northchurch are somewhat different in that the Valley Estate and Tunnel Fields are in the ecclesiastical parish whereas they do not have the privilege (?) of being in the electoral parish. For that privilege, those in the electoral parish pay several pounds less each year in rates!

It might also be of interest to your readers to learn that Egerton Rothesay School (and part of its grounds), Berkhamsted Golf Club (and part of its greens) and Coldharbour Farm are also in the civil parish of Northchurch.

One further point which is worthy of note is that the suggested Dacorum Borough Council attack on green fields in and around Berkhamsted is on lands invariably situated in Northchurch. The potential Shootersway site, the Bell



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review letters

Lane/Durrants Lane site and, of course, the Lock Field site are all Northchurch properties.

Can I suggest that your readers should do their best to involve themselves in the Green Belt attack. Any help in the shape of letters, telephone calls, faxes or whatever in support of Berkhamsted, Potten End and Northchurch councils' efforts to defend the Green Belt would be very welcome. Letters should be sent to the chief executive at Hertfordshire County Council at Hertford and to the chair of Dacorum Borough Council's planning department at Hemel Hempstead. When the developers move in, it will all be too late

Gable House Shootersway Lane Berkhamsted HP4 3NW

Why no Poems?

Mr & Mrs R.D. Pickering write:

We would like to express the very keen interest which we take in your monthly periodical, the *Berkhamsted Review*. Although not ourselves residents of Berkhamsted we do visit the town twice annually, and are afforded regular news of

local events by our dear friend, Miss Doris Woodstock, by whom we send you this missive.

While highly impressed by the diversity and relevance of all your articles, our favourite items have always been the poetic contributions of S.G. Dollimore, which we frequently share with our friends, to the great pleasure of all concerned. Why, therefore we ask, have there been no such contributions in recent issues? We note the absence most keenly and would be delighted if the author would care to respond to our present entreaty.

Yours in anticipation of further literary delectation.

11 Palm Lane, Fulwood, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S10 3PJ

The last poem of Mr Dollimore's to be included was in December last, though one appeared in February by another author. I agree this is too long a gap and Mr Dollimore's Maxims appears on page 9 of this issue.

HDW









Kites, Hobbies and Buzzards

Richard Mabey writes:

Since John Cook was kind enough to quote from one of my recent articles, I felt I should reassure him about the likely impact of the increase in bird of prey numbers.

It is one of the rules of ecology that populations are driven from below. So, birds of prey only prosper when the numbers of their prey species are high. If they were then to substantially reduce these numbers - that is, reduce the availability of their food, they would of course be signing their own death warrants. So some kind of balance is usually reached, with the predators surviving off the 'surplus' young songbirds.

The reasons for the declines in many species noted by John Cook are to be found elsewhere in the indirect effect of the farm chemicals with which our countryside is regularly drenched. House sparrows (and many other finches) are suffering from the lack of weed seeds. starlings from the decline in soil invertebrates, and swallows from a great reduction in flying insects - all the result of indiscriminate spraying. As for house martins, this is the first year when I think not a single pair nested inside the town boundaries. They too have been hit by the decimation of farm insect populations, but also by so far elusive changes in their wintering habitats in Africa. Woodland and garden birds like tits are doing splendidly by comparison - hence the increase in the birds that prey on them.

> 10 Cedar Road Berkhamsted HP4 2LA

High Wall

Mary Davis writes:

Bert Hosier's letter in last month's *Review* referred to the 'High Wall'. I vividly remember when I was very young, our very own council, the Berkhamsted Urban District, storing quite a lot of their equipment in that area. Things such as steam rollers, used for rolling in the shingles after the roads have been tarred (lovely smell!), the shingles themselves in heaps, and a red gypsy-type caravan which I think housed the shovels, spades and so on plus the workman's lunches.

My dear dad who was employed as a council labourer called the lunches 'beavers', I don't know why. And the last, but not least of the things I remember being stored there was a large pile of large lumps of coal to fuel the steam rollers.

Pushing one of the younger members of our large family in a pram past this coal heap one day (and knowing that there was very little stock in the coal cellar at home), I put several lumps into the pram and took them home thinking mum would be very pleased. Was she? No! Instead I got what was then called a clip round the ear for stealing. Then I was made to take the coal back where I got it from. The worst blow of all was that it would not have burned in our stove anyway: it was steam coal! How was I, at the age of six, to know that?

43 Durrants Lane Berkhamsted HP4 3PL

Have you got a point you'd like to make? Something to get off your chest? Or something you think readers would like to know?

Then write to us! Send your letter together with any illustrations, photographs or other material to:

David Woodward, 3 Murray Road, Berkhamsted HP4 1JD (862723)



review northchurch



Revd Peter Hart reflects on the burden on third world countries of debt. How do we react when painful circumstances are brought to our attention through the media, and yet there seems to be no immediate way

of addressing those circumstances? Famine and natural disaster stalk our planet, and we respond when we can in emergencies, but it seems so little, and the problems appear so large. Is there a way of making a lasting difference, or is all aid simply to deal with short-term crises?

One way is to address the underlying causes of poverty and deprivation in our world, not just responding when a crisis occurs. Amongst the major problems facing developing countries - health. education, transport, social care, environmental depredation and so on is the serious issue of debt. National debts to western financial institutions so reduce the available capital for spending on these problems that illiteracy, ill-health and social development are neglected. Cashbut environmentally-damaging farming methods and logging are looked to as quick solutions. The more a country can spend on itself in terms of education, health and transport systems, the more able it is to cope when sudden disaster strikes.

What is the source of national debt? Historically, it has been caused by unbalanced post-colonial development, frequently involving large-scale armament purchases and western-sponsored energy programmes. Other causes are the worldwide lowering of mineral prices, affecting a country's export earnings, restrictive trading practices, and multinational exploitation through low wages and lax health and safety

regulations. The benefits of manufacturing are not felt within the host nation, as profits are exported by the multinationals.

Can this issue of debt be dealt with? The answer is ves. but it has to be addressed globally, not simply by one nation. A world-wide organisation has been established called Jubilee 2000 in response to calls from the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury and other church leaders for the year 2000 to be a vear when a percentage of the debt burden of developing countries is simply written off. The campaign takes many forms, but the simplest way to be involved is to sign the petition which is to be presented to the leaders of the G7 nations when they meet in Birmingham in May 1998. This petition will be available in St Mary's all through October. Take a copy home and get your neighbours to sign as well. Petitions like this do make a difference, as it comes within the context of further actions and campaigns. In Berkhamsted, the churches will be co-operating on action to bring this issue to the attention of business and public alike - the petition is the first step.

Direct action like this is part of the church's response to Jesus's mission statement in Luke 4 - to preach the good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to bring freedom to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and delivery to those who are oppressed. Remission of debt would bring good news to the poor, would enable health programmes to be extended and education to be brought to those who need it, open eves and lift the oppression of injustice and external domination. This petition and subsequent activities call us to act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). May we not neglect this opportunity to be a part of making a difference.

reviewnotes¬ices

ST PETER'S WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We meet on Wednesday, 22nd October at 2:30pm in the Court House when our speaker will be Vivienne Heyward who will talk to us about *Fans*, and bring some of her collection to show us. Visitors are always welcome. Do come and join us.

THE HOSPICE OF ST FRANCIS

On Saturday 11th October there is to be a grand clearance sale of our remaining 1997 nearly-new stock organised by *Friends of Fashion* from 9:30am to 1:00pm in the Sessions Hall (Town Hall). Come early for some real bargains.

BERKHAMSTED & DISTRICT RNLI GOLDEN JUBILEE APPEAL

The next important dates for the appeal are 8th October at 8:00pm at the Centenary Hall, Kings Road when we will hear a talk by that well known BBC broadcaster Raymond Baxter. He will talk about the Dunkirk evacuation and the setting up of the Association of Little Ships that took part in this historic event. Please pass the news around as we would love to fill the hall. Tickets are available at Travel the World, Lower Kings Road.

A month later on 8th November there is in

the forenoon the viewing for the Little Gaddesden auction at the Village Hall, followed by lunch and the auction in the afternoon. In the evening there is the barn dance to be held at the Potten End Village Hall at 8:00pm. Tickets priced at £10 are available from Juliet Rinkel (866580). Items are still needed for the tombola and also suitable pieces for the auction.

TUESDAY CLUB

On 7th October we look forward to welcoming Mr Rodney Sims who will talk to us about *Cacti and Succulents*, hopefully not a prickly evening!

Tuesday Club meets in the Court House at 8:15pm on the first Tuesday of every month. New members will be warmly welcomed.

A BALKAN EVENING

The Berkhamsted branch of Save the Children is holding a Balkan evening on Saturday, 4th October in Berkhamsted Town Hall at 7:30pm for 8:00pm. There will be an exhibition of Balkan dancing and a chance to join in! Please do support this excellent charity and have what promises to be a very entertaining evening. Tickets are £7.50 and include refreshments. They are available by calling 865138 (Berkhamsted) or 862230 (Northchurch).

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OXFAM FASHION SHOW

Oxfam is staging a fashion show of quality clothes on Thursday 30th October at the Berkhamsted Civic Centre at 8:00pm. Tickets (£3) are on sale at the Oxfam shop at 202 High Street and include Fair Trade refreshments. All clothes modelled will be on sale on the evening. There will be stalls for accessories and jewellery and a recorder band will provide interval music. And look out for a lively finale!

For further details ring Audrey Hope on 864537 (home) or 864225 (shop).

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Charity Christmas cards will be on sale in the Court House on these dates:

Friday & Saturday 24th/25th October Friday & Saturday 31st Oct / 1st Nov Friday & Saturday 21st/22nd November from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

BERKHAMSTED W.I.



Members were 'quizzed' on their knowledge of Berkhamsted, cooking, gardening and history at our August meeting. Mrs Ann Parson, leader of W.I. Group Seven was our guest and quiz

master for the evening. Members were in groups of four and the results were very close only $2\frac{1}{2}$ marks separated the teams at the final score.

The craft section of the institute meets every fortnight and are currently making articles for the Festive Fair in November. Also meeting fortnightly, the play reading section have completed two three-act plays and will now visit county library in Hatfield to choose further plays for future meetings. Members also join with the Berkhamsted Castle W.I. to play bowls each fortnight. Several members are visiting the waste disposal and re-cycling plant at Hertinfordbury, an outing organised by the county federation.

We have arranged two 'Knitting Bees' to make teddies for children in hospital in the third world, including a bag for each teddy so the children can take them home with them when they leave.



Golfing Glory for Berkhamsted!

Father Mark Bonney won the Kilvert Cup as the individual champion of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group Inter-Diocesan Golf Tournament, held at Frilford Heath Golf Club near Oxford, for the third time in four years. Father Mark is pictured receiving the cup from John Coates. *Picture: See Round*

Our next meeting is on 15th October in Gable Hall, Prince Edward Street, Berkhamsted at 7:30pm when Mrs R. Bannister will give a talk entitled *Did I say that?*

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

At the start of our September meeting members stood for a one minute silence in respect for Diana, Princess of Wales.

After business matters we were introduced to our speaker, Mrs Joyce Donald who took us along the *Drovers Route to Dorchester*. Carrying the bare necessities and a small tent on her back she met many characters in the towns and villages she passed through and was offered innumerable cups of tea! An appreciation was given by Margaret Rainey.

A sum of £15 was given from our tea fund to the Macmillan Nurses biggest coffee morning appeal.

On 1st October Mrs Janet Mitchell, our secretary, will give us a talk entitled *Malaysian Love Affair* at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2:00pm.

Please join us and bring a friend.



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All services at normal times unless stated.

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1	8:00pm	Fr Mark talks about the Eucharist & ASB revisions	St Peter's
5	9:30pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist	St Peter's
	3:00pm	Hospice Thanksgiving Service	All Saints'
10	•	P.C.C.	
11	7:30pm	Chiltern Chamber Choir concert with visiting	
	1	Dutch Choir Cantemus Dominium	St Peter's
12	6:30pm	Appointment of Dick Clarkson as Rural Dean at	
	1	St Michael & All Angel's, Sunnyside	
15	8:00pm	Fr Mark talks about the Eucharist & ASB revisions	St Peter's
17	•	All Saints' Harvest Supper	All Saints'
18	8:00am	Ecumenical Breakfast (Court House) and	
		Prayers (Lady Chapel)	St Peter's
19	10:00am	Joint Harvest Thanksgiving Service	All Saints'
24		P.C.C extra meeting	
25	7:30pm	Mendelssohn 150th Anniversary Concert in aid of	
	•	the Macmillan Charity - London Concertante	St Peter's
NC	OVEMBER		
2	9:30am	Preacher: The Revd Canon Stephen Pedley	
		(Durham Cathedral & Chaplain to the Queen)	St Peter's
	10:00am	Joint Patronal Festival Service. Preacher: The Revd	
		Canon Dr Anders Berquist, Diocesan Ministerial	
		Development Officer	All Saints'
13		All Saints' Area Committee	
14		St Peter's Area Committee	
15	8:00am	Ecumenical Breakfast & Prayers	All Saints'
16	8:00pm	Taizé style Evening Worship	St Peter's

Weddings (St Peter's)

23 August Christopher John Wilmerson & Christina Jane Barrett 30 August Peter Michael Millward & Juliet Alison Clarke 6 September Daren Gordon Norris & Justine Dawn Kettle

Funerals

14 AugustVera Maud WilliamsThe Chilterns Crematorium21 AugustLawrence Sidney George BoydenAll Saints' (The Chilterns Crematorium)3 SeptemberEileen Amy LeatherThe Chilterns Crematorium

Registers

review factfile

SundaySchool

Churches

PCC 1997/8

All Saints

Contacts

CONTACT LIST

Names and local telephone numbers for jobs, rotas and information (for clergy, parish officers, music, bells and banns etc. see back page). Parish Office in the Court House (sec: Jean Green, 878227) is usually open 9:30-5:30 Tues/Wed, 9:30-1pm Friday (ansaphone other times). Changes from the last list are shown in *italics*.

	St	Peters
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Altar service Chalice rota Sunday school Youth activities * Church maintenance Church cleaning Flower arrangements Sunday morning coffee Service recordings Intercessions Epistle Readers Electoral Roll Pathfinders Sidesmen Social events Catering Hospice contact

Keith Middleditch (862423) Martin Macdonald (872002) Julie Kemp (872576) Carole Dell (864706) John Cook (866278) Jean Green (863241) Gwen Beddall (862845) Rene Dunford (862420) Tony Blair (864660) Rev. Mark Bonney (864194) Joan Cook (866278) June Haile (873087) Stephen Lally (863526) Christopher Green (863241) Angela Morris (866992) Val Atkinson (866792) Bervl Langley (863692)

Doug Billington (866038)
Doug Billington (866038)
Carol Newcombe-Coetsee (863452)
Christina Billington (866038)
Mike Limbrick (384682)
Sylvia Banks (871195)
Jayne Harris (873974)
Pam Rushton (384431)
Ian McCalla (384574)
Jenny Wells (870981)
John Banks (871195)
Pat Hearne (871270)
John Malcolm (874993)
John Banks (871195)
Pam Rushton (384431)

Pam Rushton (384431)

May Kempster (863037)

* Christina Billington (866038) is now operating as parish youth worker.



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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

Assistant Director of Music: Mrs Jean Wild. 866859 Organist: Mrs Jean Cooper. Tel: 874088

Mrs Jean Cooper. Tel: 874088 Sundays Weekdays Holy Communion (1st Sun Rite B) Holy Communion 8.00am Family Sung Eucharist with Wednesday 6.45am 9.30am Sunday Schools (in the Court Thursday 11.00am House) followed by coffee in Friday 9.15am the Court House. Morning Prayer: Tues-Sat 7:30am 11.15am Matins & Sermon (1st Sunday only) Evening Prayer: Tues-Fri 5:30pm Evensong & Sermon Holy Days - see weekly Notices 6.00pm (except 1st Sunday see All Saints') 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

Organist: Mrs Valerie McCalla Tel: 384574 Choirmaster: Peter McMunn Tel: 874894 Sundays

8.00am Holy Communion (lst 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)

Western Insurance

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