

Berkhamsted *review*

In this issue

Make the
difference in '98

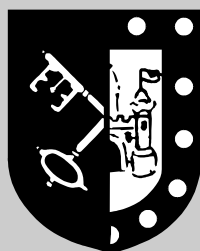
Surveillance
and crime

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Stepping stone,
not millstone

This month's
Notes & Events



January 1998



for Town and Parish **25p**



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

Welcome to the January 1998 issue of the *Berkhamsted Review*.

There are still two whole years before we must stop writing 19- and must instead start using 20-. This gives us plenty of time to improve your magazine before the millennium!

However, looking not quite so far ahead there are three immediate things we would like to invite all those who live in our parish to do straight away:

1. Resolve to let us know what is happening, particularly if you are running an activity which needs support, whether in the church or elsewhere.
2. Let us have some pictures! We would like to increase the variety of illustrations on our cover and elsewhere in the magazine.
3. Finally, renew your subscription. This easily represents some of the best value for money for local news and articles, with a whole year of the review costing only £2.50 - a figure which we have held for at least ten years.

We will endeavour to keep you up to date with events in the parish and the town, but don't forget we need *your* help to do this.
David Woodward

In this month's issue...

Make the difference

Fr Robin Figg suggests three ways to make a positive difference in 1998.

Surveillance and Crime

As the location of cameras is agreed, **John Cook** muses on crime in our town.

Walking sticks by the dozen

One of life's mysteries causes **Vera Pullen** to ponder. Where *do* all her spare walking sticks come from?

FOCUS in Berkhamsted

Sarah Francis looks at a local initiative helping those with drug and alcohol abuse problems and asks for your help.

Why not in Berkhamsted?

The town needs a good second-hand bookshop, says **Stephen Poxon**.

Stepping stone, not millstone

Revd Peter Hart urges us to go with the flow of time and the calendar before us.

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

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Next Copy Dates (all Fridays): 9 January 31 January 7 March



***Fr Robin Figg
urges us to make
a difference in
1998.***

review leader

Happy Christmas! Yes, we are still in the season of Christmas and continue to celebrate God's gift to us of himself as the Christ-child, God with us; we continue to reflect upon the meaning of God coming amongst us with great humility, in the tiny child, born of a young unmarried woman. Through all the 'nice' comfortable trappings of our Western approach to the Christmas season God speaks to the world simply and quietly, yet with a message that challenges many of the values of our present day individualistic, materialistic culture.

As we look ahead to 1998, through the hurly-burly of the New Year sales to the forthcoming G7 Summit to be held in Birmingham in May, and further ahead to the year 2000 with the highly commercialised millennium celebrations, we would do well to remember that from the basic surrounding of the stable God says that it is often the seemingly least significant parts of life that are of greatest value. With the Christ-child at the forefront of our minds we are led, amongst other things, to think about the position of the children and young people in our world.

As a local community we will have opportunities in the coming months to play our part in making a difference to the lives of young people; let me mention just three. Firstly, you will have read in last month's *Review* of the plan to bring a group of Chernobyl children here. This will be funded by part of the proceeds from last year's Petertide Fair (see notice on page 24 of this issue).

Second, on Saturday 16th May the eyes of the world will be focused on Birmingham as the leaders of the world's most powerful nations meet for the G7 summit. The Jubilee 2000 Coalition charity plans a massive lobby of the Summit. This group is campaigning for the cancellation of the backlog of unpayable debt owed by the world's poorest countries. You can play your part by signing the petition and, if possible, going to Birmingham in May. Think of the difference it would make to young people in the developing world if their governments were able to use the interest they at present pay to first world countries, to improve education and health care!

Thirdly, close to home again, I would encourage you to support the Swan project which aims to help some of the young people in our area; its good work is often ignored in favour of alarmist headlines. Why not drop in for a coffee and see for yourself. I know you will be made most welcome.

Back to Christmas: the Gospel may have come quietly, wrapped in swaddling cloth, but it is not a passive Gospel. The message that God speaks to us demands a response and it should lead us to action. Each of us, in some appropriate way, is able to do something to make the Kingdom of God more of a reality. May we be enabled to look on the children of the world with the compassion, love and gratitude with which we would like to believe we would greet the child Jesus.

May the Christ-child continue to speak to you in power and simplicity this Christmastide and always. ❖

May the Christ-child continue to speak to you in power and simplicity this Christmastide and always. ❖

Cover: A sunny interlude on the Grand Union canal. Photo: Chris Smalley

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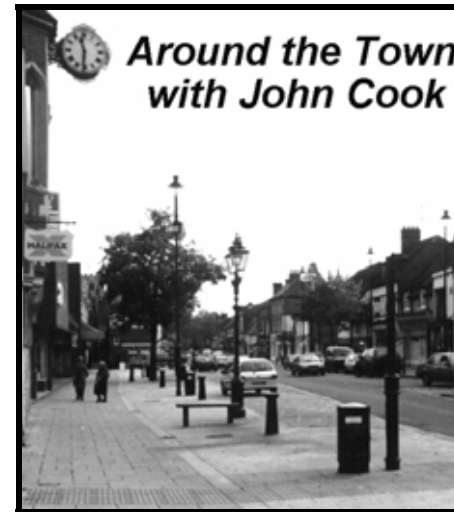
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Local Films

It was disappointing that the film of the building of our bypass attracted an audience of only 16 people when it was shown recently in the Gable Hall. It is called *A Road Through History* and was produced by H. H. Movie Makers, a Hemel Hempstead company, which made a remarkably professional job of it.

The film starts off with Roman soldiers marching along what we came to know as the A41, and finished up with shots of traffic bypassing Kings Langley and Boxmoor and Berkhamsted which until then, for 2000 years, had been on one of the major roads from London to the north and west.

The film puts on record what the countryside was like before the bulldozers started their work: a reminder that to the south of Berkhamsted before the arrival of the tarmac and noise there was a serene valley, which as a boy living nearby Richard Mabey thought gave the most achingly beautiful view he had ever seen.

It records too the efforts that went into trying to landscape the roadworks and blend the bypass into the countryside. Thousands of trees and shrubs were planted (most of which seem to have survived) and sackfuls of wildflower seeds

were sewn, very largely without any success at all, or so it seems.

The showing of the film in Berkhamsted coincided with the exhibition in our Civic Centre to mark the 50th anniversary of Hemel Hempstead New Town. At this exhibition a newly-made video called *Bygone Hemel Hempstead* was shown. This too was well put together and is on sale to the public. Let's hope that the excellent film of the making of the bypass will also be transferred to video and put on sale, so that anyone with an interest in local history may buy a copy.

Surveillance and Crime

After what seems to have been years of arguments and problems the locations where Berkhamsted's close circuit surveillance cameras will be sited, with possibly one exception, have been decided, and we can expect to see them being installed before too long. The decision has been taken by the borough council after consultation with local people and organisations like the town council and the Citizens Association.

With only limited funds available it was not possible to cover all the areas of the town which people would have liked, and there are still strong feelings that the most effective sites for the cameras have not been chosen in all cases. But the main objective in the choice of the sites seems to have gone undisputed: that the aim should be protecting people rather than property.

It might seem odd that this objective should have been so unquestioningly accepted, since in Berkhamsted the overwhelming majority of crimes that are committed are against property.

Hertfordshire has the lowest crime rate in England and Wales, and within the county Berkhamsted must be one of the safest areas. Recently released statistics of reported crimes show that in September and October in Berkhamsted there were 37 burglaries (13 of dwellings), 15 thefts of motor vehicles and 31 thefts from motor vehicles; but in those two months there

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improve the generally very pleasant experience of living in this town.

Winter Reading

In John Betjeman's book *First and Last Loves* - an endearing collection of essays - he wrote that every winter he read *The Task* by William Cowper, and two or three times those wonderful sections of the poem in which the poet describes a Winter Evening, a Winter Morning and a Winter Walk at Noon.

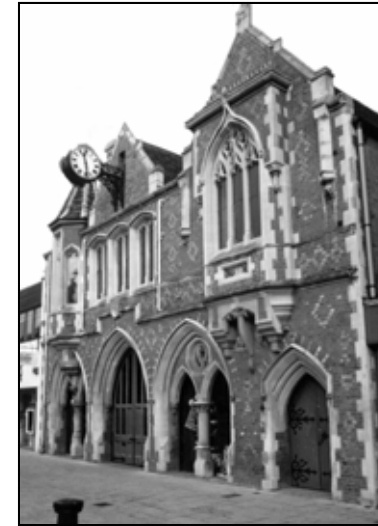
Betjeman went on to write: 'The Frost blades, the snowed-over woodlands, the dog that gambolled in the snow, the post horns, the cups of tea - melted, dead, silenced, evaporated for nearly 200 years - come to life again. And if the next morning was nippy and white with frost, then Cowper's magic power of description gave an eternal look to the cold and sparkling scene'.

When a year or two ago David Pearce organised the reading of *The Task* in the grass quad of Berkhamsted School, it took a series of 56 readers five hours to get through it. *The Task* was not only the Berkhamsted-born writer's most important poem but also his longest, and books of selections of his poems tend not to include it in full.

But if you have access to them I do recommend dipping in to the three parts Betjeman refers to; and while doing so you might well be reminded of the beauty, in all seasons, of the countryside round about Berkhamsted where Cowper lived as a boy and which left such a lasting impression on him.

Publications

Having passed comment on all the bits and pieces that come through the letter box these days, particularly those that fall out



of the free paper, I recommend that before you throw them all away you do just glance through them : there is occasionally something worth reading.

For example, the *Dacorum Digest*, produced by the borough council at our expense, turned out to be a well produced document (if in a rather tabloid sort of style) with a good deal of information in it about what is going on in the borough.

However hard they might try, though, the powers-that-be in the borough cannot get away from giving the impression that Dacorum is Hemel Hempstead with a few comparatively unimportant places tacked on.

I bristled a bit to read in the Digest references to *The Old Town Hall* as though there was only one in the borough, and that was in Hemel Hempstead Old Town; whereas, as all Berkhamstedians know, the one there is smaller and less important historically and architecturally than ours. ❖

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It is not always possible to go away to one of the very beautiful retreat centres that there are up and down the country, to make a retreat. Yet all of us need to give ourselves space and time to re-think our attitude to God, to events, to the people in our lives.

An 'open door retreat' is one way of providing the 'tools' for this essential reflection and evaluation. A 'retreat' made both on one's own and with others in an everyday context.

What is involved in making this retreat? A two-hour session once a week for nine consecutive weeks, meeting together with others who wish to do the same; a commitment to fifteen minutes of personal reflective prayer each day and to sharing something of the experience of prayer with the group.

The weekly sessions are led by a team of two people who have made such a retreat and have been trained in the leading of open door retreats. They too are committed to making the retreat with the group, endeavouring to be in touch with all that is happening so as to lead sensitively. They share with the group from their own personal experience of prayer and the challenge of living according to the Gospel values of Christ. The team undertake to be available and on call to help, to listen and to encourage.

OPEN DOOR RETREATS

Jenny Wells introduces an opportunity for us to reflect on our attitudes.

As well as the team being committed to sharing from their own experience, much of the material for prayerful reflection during each week is given also in written form. Those making the retreat go home armed with handouts - scripture texts and other writings to ponder. A contribution

is asked to cover the cost of materials and travel expenses.

Open door retreats have been found to be of tremendous value, resulting in a deepening of prayer and a growth in awareness of God's presence and love, in our ordinary world. The sharing of experiences of prayer with others has been a source of new insight and inspiration.

The session in the first week is an introductory one, and during the seven days which follow, reflection and thought can sometimes tell a person that this sort of commitment is not for them at this time - and that is all right. The very purpose of that first week is to give everyone time to reflect and the freedom not to continue if they feel it is not for them.

Starting in January there will be two Berkhamsted groups - one on a Monday afternoon beginning on 19th January, and the second on a Tuesday evening beginning on 20th January. If you wish to know more please ring either Jenny Wells (870981) or Rae Moyise (862285). ❖



Subscribe to the review in 1998!

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My father-in-law and I are both keen spotters of secondhand books, and shops which sell them. We recently spent a week together in Felixstowe, and passed most of our time in the very suitably named *Treasure Chest* - an emporium of delights featuring 'at least 40,000 secondhand books'. Quite a treat for us both.

The week in Felixstowe enabled me to bolster my collection of secondhand books, much to the chagrin of my long-suffering wife, Heather, who seems strangely immune to the charm of first editions and the like, despite my efforts at conversion in three years of marriage.

It's great to spot just the book you want or need, and then to haggle over the price with a shopkeeper who looks nearly as old as some of his stock. It's great just to wander around such places, savouring the atmosphere, and teasing the proprietor by pulling books from the shelves whilst giving every impression of wanting to make a purchase, and then not doing so.

Thanks to such places as Felixstowe's *Treasure Chest* (just opposite Tesco's, by the way, and well worth a visit), I now have enough books to keep me going until Heather releases some more pocket money. My eyes can feast on the *Illustrated History of Hartlepool United Football Club*, or *My Life with Groucho* (Marx), written by his son, Arthur, or

Why not in Berkhamsted?

Even Felixstowe has a richer vein of secondhand book emporia than Berkhamsted. **Stephen Poxon** asks why.

Wodehouse on Wodehouse (P.G., not Barbara, I hasten to add), and so on....

The thing is, it grieves me to have to go out of Berkhamsted for such purchases, just in case you were wondering what the actual point of this article might be. No offence to Felixstowe,

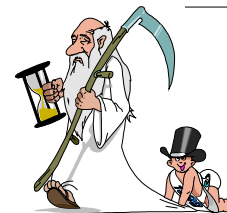
but it's a fair old journey every time one feels like a bit more Wodehouse, or even more info on Hartlepool United. In short, why isn't there a good secondhand bookshop in Berkhamsted?

Sure, the visiting booksellers do their best, with book fairs in the Civic Centre (which are always very good), and *Castle Street Antiques* make a stab at bookselling, but it would be lovely for our town to have something like the *Treasure Chest*, I feel. Of course, Heather would probably block any planning application, but just think of all those people who don't know anything about Hartlepool United! I rest my case!

Why not a secondhand bookshop for Berkhamsted? I for one would promise to browse and buy on my day off.

And finally, please may I have my first edition of *Three Men in a Boat* back? I lent it out ages ago, but ain't seen it since. Got that for 25p, would you believe, in a bookshop in Morecambe, and would quite like to see it again... ❖

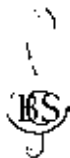
Stephen Poxon is a Lieutenant with the Salvation Army in Berkhamsted.



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Christian Bookshops

David Simmons writes:

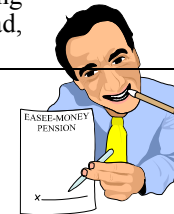
It is very sad that Crown Books in Hemel Hempstead is closing. This removes the only sizeable public retail outlet for Christian literature in an area with a large population. Useful though it is, for practical reasons the *Way Inn* cannot be an adequate alternative. Neither can church bookstalls provide a witness to the general public.

If enough people care, could not the churches in Dacorum investigate the possibilities of opening a welcoming bookshop in Hemel Hempstead,

preferably where people walk by, and where they could feel comfortable, 'browsing' (with seats!) and where helpful contacts could be made? Obviously there would be financial sacrifices to be made, but would not this be a great opportunity to witness to the world in a practical way? There are signs we may be on the verge of a renewed interest in spiritual matters. This seems to be a very wrong time to be 'hiding our light'.

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*What's Stopping You
Becoming Wealthier?*



Vera Pullen is both
miffed and flattered
by junk mail.

Every day we get all sorts of requests in the post - mainly from charities of one sort or another, and whilst I am happy to give to charities I want to support, the rest normally go into the bin. However, this week I had a very impressive letter from The Equitable Life Assurance Society. This came addressed to Ms V Pullen. I hasten to add I have been 'Mrs.' for 59 years and felt a bit miffed at Ms. Enclosed is a smart folder entitled '*What's stopping you becoming wealthier?*'

They obviously think I am a director of a firm and that I am unfamiliar with their specialist service for directors - hence their writing to me directly! At this point I began to feel flattered that anyone should think my financial circumstances are such that I need advice. I can tell you more or less to the

nearest penny exactly how I stand. After explaining how they work and assuring me that they have persuaded '72 of *The Times* Top 100 UK companies to have some kind of pension arrangement with them', they go on to offer me the opportunity to put their service to the test: 'the result may surprise you'. It would certainly surprise them!

What a waste of money and paper. I do wonder how many other people received one. The only comfort is that although they may have my name and address on some computer they are unaware of my financial position. I am perfectly happy as I am financially and otherwise. I never have hankered after being rich - what a headache it could be. I'm afraid I am not another Nicola Horlick, much as I admire the woman, and this elegant package will go into the bin after all.



Early in October, the Chiltern Chamber Choir played host to thirty-five members of the Cantemus Dominum Choir from Lemmer in the Netherlands. During their stay as guests of members of the C.C.C. the choir gave two concerts under the direction of their conductor, Klaas Hoekstra, one in St Peter's Church and one in Windsor Parish Church. They also sang two motets at the parish eucharist on the Sunday morning. Their fine voices helped to swell the congregational singing considerably!

On the wettest Saturday of the year, they visited Oxford for a tour of some of the colleges, spending half an hour in Keble College chapel, where they sang several items from their concert programme. Returning to Berkhamsted and drying out, they then presented their first English concert in St Peter's Church. Their *a capella* singing was enthusiastically received by a good audience, impressed by their controlled, quiet singing and beautiful clear tone. After the concert, the choir were entertained at a reception party in the Court House, where the town mayor, Cllr

Cantemus Dominum

John Gausden explains the circuitous links between one of our local choirs and a Dutch counterpart

Peter Such welcomed them to Berkhamsted.

Klaas Hoekstra, the conductor, is a music teacher, well known in his local region of Friesland. There he conducts four choirs, two of which have combined together to produce a CD of church music.

The Chiltern Chamber Choir will make a return visit to Lemmer in June where, with the Chandos Ensemble, they will perform Bach's *Mass in B minor*.

During his recent trip to Friesland, Adrian Davis, as director of the Chiltern Chamber Choir, took part in a concert given by one of the other choirs directed by Klaas Hoekstra. He also visited the cemetery in Lemmer, where many British and Polish airmen, shot down over Lemmer during the second world war are buried.

On the evening of 11th October 1997 when the two choirs sang in St Peter's Church, Adrian Davis introduced the evening by saying that the event and the coming together of the two choirs had been by means of a circuitous route. But he didn't explain the 'circuitous route', largely I suspect because he didn't know the circuit! So here is the explanation and the story.

The connecting links are rather surprising: they are 8th November 1941 and the loss of Sergeant John Bell's Whitley V bomber; Wim Stienstra, a local historian; myself; and supper with Klaas Hoekstra.

As I write this, 56 years ago exactly, in the early hours of the morning, the bomber piloted by Sgt John Bell was attacked and shot down by a German Messerschmitt fighter. John Bell and his crew of four had been on a bombing mission over Berlin. They were returning from their objective when they were attacked and all lost their lives.

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Weather predictions had been less than favourable for the night of the operation, and strong winds and icing were forecast for large areas of northern Europe through which the bombers would have to pass. However, the Commander-in-Chief at High Wycombe, was adamant that the mission go ahead. The operation was a failure. Emerging from debriefing statements was a depressing picture of aiming points being obscured by cloud and thus preventing any clear bombing results. More alarming was the fact that thirty-seven aircraft were missing. Never before had Bomber Command been notified of casualties of this magnitude. Reaction to the night's losses was swift; the War Cabinet and the Prime Minister became involved and on 8th January 1942, Air Marshall Sir Richard Peirse,

Commander-in-Chief, High Wycombe was dismissed from post.

John Bell drowned in the IJsselmeer (Zuydersea). He was 21 years old and had been married just six weeks. His mother (I am afraid that his father Reg Bell died a few years later, broken by the loss of his only child) was my great aunt and when I was born, two years later, I was named after John. There developed a very special bond between Great Aunt Winnie and myself until she died in 1994, aged 91.

As a young teenager, Wim Stienstra was always curious and interested by a group of some 26 young English and Commonwealth airmen laying at rest in a corner of the cemetery of Lemmer. Wim now in his thirties, has become something of a local historian, researching wartime air crashes in Friesland. He knew that John Bell had lived near Lowestoft so he arranged for an article to appear in the *Lowestoft Journal* explaining that he was searching for relatives and hopefully more information about the pilot. My parents

became involved and corresponded considerably with Wim.

All this led to my visit to Lemmer in October 1996, visiting Wim Stienstra and being shown John's grave and those of his crew. Wim has built up quite an amazing small museum dedicated to the airmen: who they were, their uniforms, military documents, and the planes they flew. Wim says, "It is out of sincere interest for those who gave their lives for our freedom that I am doing this research. This has now become part of our local history and I think it is important to record this history before it is too late".

On the last evening of our stay in Lemmer, my wife and I were strolling around the town and were attracted by the lights and sound coming from the beautiful church. We entered the church and stumbled across the practice night of Cantemus Dominum. Slightly extrovert by nature, when the choir had obviously stopped for a coffee break I addressed them all (seemingly all Dutch people speak English), saying who we were, why we were here, and thanking them for indirectly looking after John Bell and his colleagues. Choirmaster, Klaas Hoekstra, strode across, welcomed us, invited us to stay for coffee with the choir. During the coffee break he asked us to stay for the rest of the rehearsal and to then join his family for supper at his home.

Talk turned to the possibility of choir exchanges. My wife and the wife of the Chiltern Chamber choirmaster, Adrian Davis, are teacher colleagues... and hence the exchange was born.

Out of initial tragedy, darkness and pain, I feel moved to think that there is now flowering a partnership that will give pleasure, joy and sharing...

❖

the focus project

Locally as well as countrywide drug and alcohol use and misuse are on the increase. Statistics for the years 1993 to 1997 show a 12% rise in the recorded number of drug or alcohol misusers*, and these figures only show people who have contacted local agencies. By 1994 Druglink had identified a need for a community based day service for Dacorum as an alternative to residential rehabilitation.. The FOCUS Project was the answer. Premises were found in Berkhamsted High Street and the project opened in October 1994, initially for three days a week.

The project got off the ground - slowly at first - and in October 1996 expanded to open five days a week. Since then the number of regular clients has nearly trebled. Responses to the service have been overwhelmingly positive: clients report that there was nothing like the FOCUS project available before, they feel safe and comfortable here and their views

The FOCUS project is part of Druglink, the Hemel Hempstead based drug and alcohol service, and provides advice and counselling. **Sarah Francis** tells us more.

and needs are listened to.

FOCUS is managed by a qualified addictions counsellor and is open weekdays throughout the year including some evenings. We run a flexible programme to respond to clients' changing needs: these may be for information about the effects and dangers of drugs and alcohol and ways to cut down or stop using, support to get back to work, referral for medical help, practical advice, self-help in a supportive group, or just someone to talk to.

The main work of the project is individual counselling. Often people need to work through deep emotional issues which underlie their drug or alcohol misuse, and need the space and safety to do this. Our counsellors all work within national BAC guidelines, are qualified to diploma level and receive ongoing training in drug and alcohol issues.

We hold both day and evening groups, where clients can share experiences and look at common problems such as anger,

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stress, relationship breakdown and depression. Clients come from all walks of life, but all have something in common in their addiction, whatever stage they may have reached in their recovery.

We also have a group for 'Friends and Family'. Parents or partners who first discover evidence of drug misuse are often shocked, worried and don't know where to turn for help.

Addiction can bring with it many associated practical problems, such as homelessness, sickness, legal and financial difficulties. We can help by providing information and liaising with housing agencies, the Benefits Agency, CAB and other professionals.

Once a week at FOCUS an hour is set aside for quietness. Here clients can learn techniques to help them relax and become more self-aware. This relieves day to day pressures and leaves the body and mind recharged to face another week.

The heart of the FOCUS project is its team of loyal volunteers, without whom we could not stay open. The premises are no palace but with the help of volunteers all the rooms have a homely feel. Tea and coffee are plentiful as is a warm welcome. We always need more help and welcome enquiries from potential volunteers with an interest in drugs and alcohol.

Confidentiality is a prime concern at FOCUS. Clients may have worries about being recognised, meeting someone they know or disclosing very personal information. A strict code of confidentiality is in place for all staff, volunteers and clients who work at or visit the project.

If you want to know more, please contact us during office hours on 876255.

** Figures in this article are taken from the North Thames Regional Drug Misuse Database 1997, compiled by the Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour.*



**Hoodwinking Hitler
(The Normandy Deception)**

William B Breuer

I can't remember when I last read a book which had me so enthralled. It doesn't glorify war or play down the awfulness of war, but it shows the extreme lengths to which the Allies went to defeat Hitler and to mislead him as to where our troops would land. Truly, 'truth is stranger than fiction'. The hoaxes, false information, double agents, 'phantom' armies and so on, plus rubber planes and tanks which appeared genuine from the air; these and many other devices were used to mislead the enemy.

The bravery of civilians and the forces was unbelievable. So many unsung heroes and heroines. And of course Bletchley

Park played an enormous part in breaking the German code. Alongside all this, as we all know, there were many very brave Germans trying to kill Hitler - without success, as we know to our cost. And for this they paid with their lives. I was 19 when the last war broke out and to read this book brought back many memories. But of course most of us living through those dark days had no idea of the enormous planning to fool Hitler which was going on.

Those dreadful days are behind us and those of us who are Europeans have a very happy relationship. But it is good that we should remember we have much for which to be grateful. It would be interesting to hear from anyone reading this who was intimately involved. I would repeat - if you want a good read, a really *really* good read, then don't hesitate and go to the library.

Muriel Lander

The editors have done it to me again. Moved the deadline so it comes just before important town council meetings and it becomes difficult to make comments on meetings that have not yet taken place (*sorry*,

Norman - we tried moving Christmas instead! - Ed). This time, the first Monday in December has the finance & policy committee discussing the 1998/9 budget. On the second Monday the full council meets to ratify all the decisions made in the cycle. This means you will just have to wait until the next issue to read all about it.

Never mind, the borough council still has things going on that rarely get reported in the local newspaper for some reason, so on with the usual mix of news and views from over there about over here.

Salt bins. The very words to get you all wondering what the fuss is all about. It appears that everyone thinks they know where they are and who looks after them. At the borough works committee on 21st October it was reported that there were 72 bins and it would cost the borough council around £4,000 to take them over. The town

CUTTING COMMENTS

Local independent councillor
Norman Cutting highlights
recent activity at our councils.

much salt goes on residents' drives! At the full borough council meeting on the 19th November it was clear that the borough control many of the 72 mentioned (at least 63), leaving just 6 or so which the county pays for. Cllr Coxage, the chairman of the works committee promised to get a definitive answer and guess when the next meeting is? Correct - the second Monday in December so once again you will have to wait for the correct figure. I presume the town council will make its final decision once this is sorted out, as if there are only 6 bins that county pay to look after, what are we doing considering 20 odd?

Still at the borough council, recent applications for major(ish) developments in Berkhamsted that you may have missed include the eight houses proposed for the old Sunnyside Social Club site in George Street and six flats in Bedford Street. Hang

council asked the borough how many of that total were in Berkhamsted. It seems we have 20 or so, and after getting alternative quotations, it could cost us between £1,000 and £2,000, depending on the weather and how

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on: both these are off the unmade part of George Street. I'm not sure it is such a good idea to add another 14 dwellings which will need to use the local very crowded narrow roads to gain access. Both developments will have to use unmade private roads and the borough missed the opportunity to obtain some form of development gain prior to approval. You may remember that Waitrose were required to make some improvements as part of their planning conditions. But when it comes to part of the conservation area in Berkhamsted, not a dicky bird. I realise that perhaps the residents do not want their roads resurfaced, new fangled street lighting and road drainage installed, but to be asked would be nice.

The town council environment committee met on 27th October and it was decided to recommend that the management of the Sunnyside allotments should remain with the town council for the time being. It was also resolved that parking spaces should be created on two allotment plots and, no doubt, planning applications will be made in the fullness of time for this change of use.

The routine matter of low/nil water flow in the Bulbourne was also dealt with and I trust it will be brought up at the next environment forum held at the civic centre at Hemel Hempstead in the new year. I mean, if the problem of the Gade can be discussed, then why not the Bulbourne?

You may have already read in the local press that the canal & riverside partnership (C.A.R.P.) scheme for Berkhamsted could easily cost over half a million pounds and with the Berkhamsted urban design study (B.U.D.S.) also looking for funds, we can all look forward to an exciting year or three ahead.

The community action committee met recently and concern was expressed that we may have to put our hands in our pockets to replace the trees in the High Street which had been damaged largely

because the intended protection had not been installed. It appears that county has done all this work in the High Street and walked away as quickly as possible. Tring have found this out to their cost. When some of the street furniture was damaged county informed them it was tough that the special furniture was just that, special. The borough tree officer has suggested that bigger trees should be used for replacements and that the town council should apply for a grant towards this work.

You may be interested to know that when the Berkhamsted town centre advisory forum met recently, as many as six members of the public attended. This was an initiative of the new borough council and is an ideal place to ask all those questions about the relationship between Berkhamsted and the borough. At the October meeting, the conservation officer gave a detailed report on the activities within the conservation area. Town maps, parking charges, town guide, the old Waitrose site, CCTV and recycling were all subjects discussed. If you wish to get answers to questions that the borough are best placed to answer, then make a note in your new 1998 diary that the next meeting will be held in the Sessions Hall (at the rear of the town hall) on Wednesday, 7th January at 7:30pm.

To finish on a light-hearted note, at the borough council meeting on 19th November the leader of the council, Cllr Julia Coleman, defended the proposed grant of £1,000 as a contribution towards an Eastern Region Brussels office as a cheap price to pay in return for the monies that Europe had already provided in grants to the borough. I suppose we can all expect an announcement that the borough council will be buying lottery tickets on our behalf due to the various lottery-funded grants that have been awarded.

❖

Recently I cleaned our porch - not before time I hasten to add and to my astonishment discovered I possess ten walking sticks. Where had they all come from?

When I was eighteen I had septicaemia in the lymph gland and was extremely lucky to escape with my life, but with a weakened leg. From then on I have at intervals needed the help of a walking stick, but surely not ten? I looked more carefully and discovered one that had belonged to a great grandfather, which I had had with me in Fiji many years ago. I remember we were awakened at 6am to the sound of a large hollow tree being beaten with enthusiasm by school children, this acted as a bell to call us to the service in the Baker Church. Baker had been a missionary eaten by the locals in earlier times, and the church consisted of an open building with seats for the congregation. On the way we had to cross a deep gully by a plank and I, not being the most nimble of people, landed down in

Walking Sticks - By the Dozen!

Walking sticks may not grow on trees, but **Vera Pullen** finds they multiply anyway.

the gully. In actual fact I wasn't hurt as it was full of vegetation of one kind and another and as we'd just had a torrential tropical storm I quite enjoyed the experience. The walking stick was broken but our kind host managed to repair it and it lasted until we got to New Zealand. There I had great difficulty in buying a replacement and was finally directed to a

junk shop in Auckland, where I thankfully bought the only one available.

The collection consists of those I've had to buy in a vast number of places because somehow I'd forgotten to put one in the car before leaving on holiday. Only this year I had to buy yet another in Hexham, where the helpful assistant produced a saw and proceeded to cut it down to size for me on the counter.

So, if you are desperate and need one, just give me a ring, and I'll gladly pass one on.




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***Revd Peter Hart
suggests we use
our new diaries
as stepping stones.***

reviewnorthchurch

hood: this is frequently the way we feel in January. We have done a lot of celebrating, spent a great deal of time with friends and family, and now the year opens up before us in all its inevitability.

The Church's year grinds on inexorably too. Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent, Easter; all lie before us, set out in our diaries and in our consciousness, half-planned already, just as a summer break in the sun is already firmly booked. Our celebrations of faith are as regimented as our social calendar, as they are inextricably linked. A certain weariness with the constant roll of the seasons can easily settle, and a desire to break out, or break off from this forward march of time wells secretly inside. A diary was such a good idea for Christmas, but look at the results of having one!

It is not feasible to step off the progression of time, but it is possible to ignore what is going on around us, or remain indifferent to the changes that time brings. It is equally possible to pay no heed to the direction in which the Church's calendar is taking us, and muddle along as we think best. However, the reasons for the calendar leading us so carefully in a certain direction are all too clear as well - it is good to be taken from manger to cross, from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, from

Presents unwrapped, food consumed, decorations beginning to wilt, guests gone for another year, the prospect of a return to work a distinct likelihood:

Nazareth to resurrection, as it instils the basis of the story of Jesus deep within our souls, and enables the imagination to work with a longer rein. The nuts and bolts of the story are freely available; it is the filling in of the detail which takes more work.

Resolutions are pernicious things, especially when taken in the fug of end of year celebrations. However, this year, why not resolve to go with the flow of the calendar, accept its direction, and then range with greater liberty within the subjects that it places before us. Thus, the physical changes to the world around us that each month brings can be the foundation for a broader reverie on the cycle of life and death. So too, the movement from the Christ-child to the Son of God, crucified, resurrected and glorified can take us much further into the nature of God and his dealings with his people, our response to that as exemplified by our lifestyle and our commitment to worship and service.

View your shiny new diary as a stepping stone, not as a mill stone. ❖

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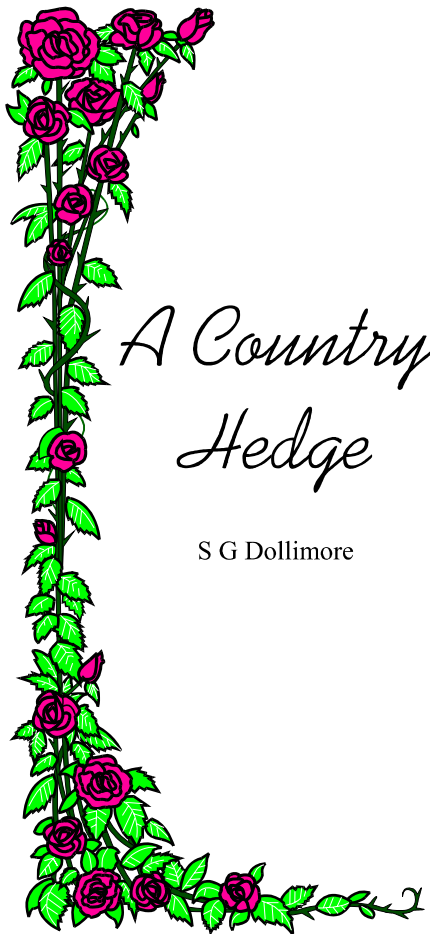
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A Country Hedge

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*Laid down by a yeoman's hand,
To protect, and define his land,
With a ditch his side for drainage.
Planted it with native woods,
Hawthorn, Hazel, Beech, Ash,
Hornbeam, Blackthorn, Holly,
Sapling Oak, and Cherry.*

*It is still healthy, thick, and strong,
Dressed with Rose, and Bramble.
Honeysuckle is its crown,
Travellers Joy its mantle.
Lady Lace clothes its feet,
Catkins adorn it in their season.
With Hips, Haws, Sloe, and Bramble,
Free feast for bird, and mammal.*

*Birds nest within it deep,
Insects along its branches creep.
In its tangle are the house,
Of hungry Shrew, and busy Mouse.
Badger, and Fox live in its roots,
Hare, and Rabbit crop its boughs.
Bees seek nectar from its flowers,
All nature dwells within its bowers.*

*If well kept a natural barrier,
Giving summer shade, and winter shelter.
Natures gift to man, and beast,
Of beauty, fruit, and fragrant scent.
Part of our country heritage.
Must it fall to the farmers hand?
To provide him with a bit more land.*

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SUNDAY	<i>St Peter's</i> :	8:00am	Eucharist			
		9:30am	Sung Eucharist, crêche, Sunday School & Pathfinders followed by coffee in the Court House			
		11:15am	Matins & Sermon [1st Sunday only]			
	<i>All Saints'</i>	6:00pm	Evensong [except 1st Sunday]			
		8:00am	Eucharist [except 1st Sunday]			
		9:15am	Sung Eucharist, crêche, Sunday School & Pathfinders followed by coffee in the hall (<i>All Saints' is shared with the Methodists and this service will sometimes be replaced by a 10:00am United Service</i>)			
		6:30pm	Evensong [1st Sunday only]			
	MONDAY	NONE				
	TUESDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:30am	Morning Prayer (MP)	5:30pm	Evening Prayer (EP)
		<i>All Saints'</i>	9:30am	Eucharist		
WEDNESDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	6:45am	Eucharist	7:30am	MP	5:30pm EP
THURSDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:30am	MP	11:00am	Eucharist	5:30pm EP
FRIDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:30am	MP	9:15am	Eucharist	5:30pm EP
SATURDAY	<i>St Peter's</i>	7:30am	MP			5:00pm EP
1st Sunday	SUNDAYS TOGETHER LUNCH: 12:30pm in the Court House <i>For anyone on their own on a Sunday. Contact: Joan Morris 863780</i>					
3rd Sunday	OPEN HOUSE: 11:30am - 5:00pm with the Macdonalds (384953) 9 Hall Park <i>Stay for five minutes or five hours; unlimited coffee; lunch; tell a friend, bring a friend.</i>					
2nd/4th Monday	BIBLE STUDY/HOUSE GROUP: 8:00pm at the Macdonalds (384953) 9 Hall Park					
1st Tuesday	TUESDAY CLUB 8:15pm in the Court House <i>A lively women's group with guest speaker.</i>					
2nd & 4th Tuesday	PRAM SERVICE at All Saints': 10:00am: Children's Activity; 10:30am: Pram Service; 10:50am: Activity & Coffee. <i>Children aged 0-4 years welcome.</i> Gillian Malcolm 874993					
Tuesday	MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:15pm third Tuesday at 3 Nightingale Lodge. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981					
Tuesday / Wednesday	MEDITATION GROUP: meets first and third Wednesdays at 8:00pm at Jenny's 57 Meadow Road, and second and fourth Wednesdays at 2:15pm at Ruth's 1 Montague Road. <i>Everyone is very welcome to join us for about half an hour of quiet prayer.</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981 or Ruth Treves Brown 863268					
Wednesday	PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7:00-8:30pm in All Saints' Hall. Contact Chris Billington 866038.					
2nd Wed	MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981					
4th Wed	WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: meets 2:30-4:00pm in the Court House. The meetings are usually addressed by a guest speaker and the group attracts senior members for whom lifts can be arranged. <i>New members and visitors always welcome.</i> Contact: Vera Pullen 862196					
Thursday	BELLRINGING: 8:00pm at St Peter's. Contact: Priscilla Watt (Captain of the Tower) 863084					
Thursday / Friday	THURSDAY / FRIDAY STUDY GROUPS: 9:30-11:30am. Two separate weekly meetings for informal Bible study and support. <i>Young children welcome.</i> Contact: Kate Semmens 866531 for Thursday or Gillian Malcolm 874993 for Friday					
Friday	LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-1:30pm in the Court House. Weekly meetings with a short service on 1st Fridays in St Peter's. Katy Bonney: 874194					
Friday	CHOIR: Boys 7:00-8:30pm (& Tuesday 5:15-6:30pm), Adults 7:30-8:30pm. Contact: Adrian Davis 864722 or Jean Wild 866859					
1st Saturday	JOINT BREAKFAST & PRAYERS: 8:00am for Prayers followed by breakfast at All Saints' <i>All very welcome.</i> (subject to confirmation - see pew leaflet)					
3rd Saturday	ECUMENICAL PRAYER MEETING: 8:00am for breakfast followed by prayers. Share the concerns of individual churches and of our town. All will be very welcome. Meetings rotate between local churches.					

THE MOTHERS UNION



At the time of writing we are still in the midst of Christmas preparations.

We met in November to discuss an M.U. document on euthanasia. The evening was led by Margaret Burbage. Many points were raised on this difficult subject but in spite of this those present agreed that they were not in favour of a change in the law.

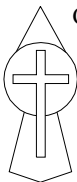
At our Advent meeting we shall have had a service of light - looking forward to welcoming the Christ Child into our lives.

Once again we have been responsible for two travelling cribs, one at each church. We always get very positive comments about this from both parents and children. It certainly seems to add to the little ones understanding of Christmas. Last year, one little boy went to fetch pasta for Mary when she arrived at his house. He remembered that his own mother had been very hungry when pregnant. Later in the week he was delighted to meet up again with Mary, Joseph and the donkey at a friend's house!

We shall meet again in the new year for an informal meeting entitled *Memories are made of this*. Do feel welcome to join us any time. Enquiries to Jenny Wells 870981.

A NEW TODDLER GROUP AT ALL SAINTS

Come and meet Chuckles bear! The new Chuckles toddler group starts on Tuesday, 13th January from 10:00-11:30am in All Saints' church and hall. There will be a pram service and music time on alternate weeks, starting with a pram service on 13th January. Activities, play and refreshments will be provided. If you are interested please contact Gill Malcolm on 874993.



HOST FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN FROM CHERNOBYL WANTED

One of the causes supported by last year's Petertide Fair was the Chernobyl Children Life Line - a charity helping children whose health is still badly affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The proceeds from the fair will pay for a group of 10 or 12 children to visit the UK for a month in the spring. This gives these children an opportunity, albeit briefly, to escape the still heavily polluted environment in and around Chernobyl and to recuperate from the effects of the radiation.

We would like to continue our involvement by hosting the group in the parish.. To do this we need host families and volunteers to help with activities, and in particular we are looking for someone to co-ordinate the project. If you would like to be involved in this very rewarding initiative please contact Chris Smalley on 826821.

TUESDAY CLUB

A happy new year to all readers! We meet on 6th January at 8:15pm to be warmed and delighted by a talk, given by Mr Neil Shacklock, on India. New members will be welcomed at any of our monthly meetings.

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FASCINATING IDEAS FOR ADULT COURSES FROM THE WEA

Stimulating and rewarding educational studies are again on the menu from the Berkhamsted branch of the Worker's Educational Association.

The WEA is an independent, voluntary national movement, run by its own members. It is non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion. Its purposes are the promotion and provision of adult education through the community in response to changing social needs. It believes that there is a key place in our society for small groups of active people, who pursue educational activities which take time, require effort, lead to no material rewards and raise standards of understanding and appreciation.

The association runs courses in a wide range of subjects, arranged in such a way as to involve students in the conduct of the class rather than expecting them merely to sit and listen. Field trips, outings and museum visits, in connection with studies, are made by many classes, and in breaking through the confines of books and classroom walls, they effectively bring the studies more into the context of the real world.

If you would like to extend your educational horizons in an informal atmosphere, in the company of welcoming, friendly groups of adults - and incidentally become part of a great national movement - then WEA is for *you*. Two topics are on offer in the spring of 1998:

Love Life and Landscapes

Popular Themes in Art through the Ages

Tutor: Judi Rich

Wednesday mornings from 14th January for 10 weeks 10:30am-12:00 at Friends Meeting House - £28.00 (free to reg. unemployed)

The History of Brewing

Tutor: George Crutcher

Monday evenings from 19th January for 10 weeks 8:00-9:30pm at Berkhamsted Library - £28.00 (free to reg. unemployed)

For more information telephone 865445.

BERKHAMSTED W.I.



The meeting in November opened with the president, Mrs Blumsom, paying a warm tribute to Mrs Eunice Willett who died at the beginning of November. Before moving to Berkhamsted, several years ago, she was president for over thirty years of the W.I. in Gentleshaw in Staffordshire. She was a very loyal member of our institute, always totally involved in all W.I. activities. Members stood in silence for a short while remembering her with affection.

The autumn fair on 8th November had raised over £500. Reports were given on a lecture at the V&A museum; the Lit. Fest afternoon with Richard Widmore at Bovingdon library; a day shopping in Cambridge; and on the county federation autumn council meeting.

At the conclusion of the normal monthly business, we moved on to the annual meeting. The treasurer reviewed the financial statement for the year which was satisfactory. There were full reports from the craft, homes and gardens, and play reading sessions and the secretary gave a comprehensive report of the year's activities. All these reports were unanimously accepted. The president thanked everyone for the tremendous support she had received throughout the year and especially thanked those members of the committee who were resigning: Mrs Val Atkinson, Mrs Daphne Brookes, Mrs Jean Gale and Mrs Mary Watson.

Our guest, Mrs Pearson, a member of the county executive, guided us through the election of ten members to the institute committee and Mrs Blumsom was re-elected as president for a further year. Mrs Pearson reported on future county events, particularly the planting of three woods in Hertfordshire to celebrate the millennium.

There was an exhibition of knitted teddies for children in the Third World and also a display of members' hobbies.

Our next meeting is on 21st January 1998 in Gable Hall, Prince Edward Street, Berkhamsted when Mrs Wendy Austin will be speaking on *Royalty on our Doorstep*. ❖

reviewdiary®isters

There is Eucharist every Tuesday (9:30am) at All Saint's and every Wednesday (6:45am), Thursday (11:00am) and Friday (9:15am) at St Peter's. At St Peter's there is 7:30am Morning Prayer and 5:30pm Evening Prayer every weekday and 7:30am Morning Prayer and 5:00pm Evening Prayer on Saturdays.

January / February 1998

JANUARY

- | | | | |
|----|--------|---|--------------------|
| 6 | 8:00pm | Solemn Mass for the Epiphany
Preacher: The Revd Dr Dick Clarkson, Rural Dean
of Berkhamsted | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| 11 | 8:00pm | <i>A Passion for Jesus</i> - Speaker: The Revd Rob Frost | <i>All Saints'</i> |
| 15 | | Induction of The Revd David Abbott at
St Michael & All Angels, Sunnyside | |
| 16 | | St Peter's Area Committee | |
| 22 | | All Saints' Area Committee | |
| 23 | | Standing Committee | |
| 24 | 7:30pm | Berkhamsted Choral Society
Mozart & Vivaldi Concert | <i>St Peter's</i> |

FEBRUARY

- | | | | |
|----|--------|--|--------------------|
| 1 | 8:00pm | Taizé style Evening Worship | <i>All Saints'</i> |
| 13 | | Parochial Church Council meeting | |
| 15 | 8:00pm | <i>A Passion for Unity</i>
Speaker: The Rt Revd Robin Smith | <i>St Peter's</i> |
| 25 | 8:00pm | Parish Service - Solemn Eucharist with
Imposition of Ashes | <i>St Peter's</i> |

Registers

Baptisms (*St Peter's*)

16 November Harry Picco Barnes

Funerals (*St Peter's*)

21 November David de Horne Cooper



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SundaySchool

Churches

PCC 1997/8

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*.

	<i>St Peters</i>	<i>All Saints</i>
Altar service	Keith Middleditch (862423)	Doug Billington (866038)
Chalice rota	Martin Macdonald (872002)	Doug Billington (866038)
Sunday school	Julie Kemp (872576)	Carol Newcombe-Coetsee (863452)
Youth activities	Carole Dell (864706)	Christina Billington (866038)
Church maintenance	John Cook (866278)	Mike Limbrick (384682)
Church cleaning	Jean Green (863241)	Sylvia Banks (871195)
Flower arrangements	Gwen Beddall (862845)	Jayne Harris (873974)
Sunday morning coffee	Rene Dunford (862420)	Pam Rushton (384431)
Service recordings	Tony Blair (864660)	Ian McCalla (384574)
Intercessions	Rev. Mark Bonney (864194)	Jenny Wells (870981)
Epistle Readers	Joan Cook (866278)	<i>Jenny Wells (870981)</i>
Electoral Roll	June Haile (873087)	Pat Hearne (871270)
Pathfinders	Stephen Lally (863526)	John Malcolm (874993)
Sidesmen	Christopher Green (863241)	John Banks (871195)
Social events	<i>Chris Smalley (826821)</i>	Pam Rushton (384431)
Catering	Val Atkinson (866792)	Pam Rushton (384431)
Hospice contact	Beryl Langley (863692)	May Kempster (863037)



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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 & Area Youth Worker, Christina Billington, 13 Ashlyns Rise. Tel: 866038
 Parish Secretary: Mrs Jean Green, The Parish Office, The Court House Tel: 878227
 Churchwardens: Christopher Green, 17 Cowper Road. Tel: 863241;
 John Banks, Ladybrand, Cross Oak Road. Tel: 871195
Parochial Church Council: Secretary: Alan Conway, 7 Kilfillan Gardens. Tel: 865798
 Treasurer: Michael Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way. Tel: 863559

St Peter's

Director of Music: Adrian Davis 864722 Asst. Director of Music: Mrs Jean Wild. 866859
 Organist: Mrs Jean Cooper. Tel: 874088
Sundays
 8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sun Rite B) Holy Communion
 9.30am Family Sung Eucharist with Wednesday 6.45am
 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
 6.00pm Evensong & Sermon Holy Days - see weekly Notices
 (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: 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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