

***In this issue***

**February 1999**

**Both caught  
and taught**

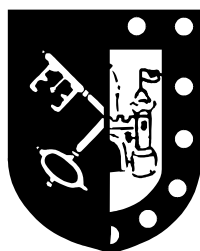
**Welcome back,  
Bulbourn!**

**Precept realities**

**A twenty-five  
year walk**

**Volunteering for  
OXFAM**

**This month's  
Notes & Events**



***for Town and Parish***

**Bigger issue  
- 32 pages**

**25p**



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

### **Welcome to the February issue of the *Berkhamsted Review*.**

January and February is, even more than in other months, the period of the year when the *Review* is particularly indebted to its 35 or so distributors. At this time of year the weather is likely to be bad, so tramping around the town delivering magazines involves a certain degree of commitment. Then of course the subscriptions have to be collected (£2.50 for a twelve month subscription is, we believe, extremely good value for money - especially so given that the price has remained stable since 1986 and we have recently been able to publish some 32 page issues, this one included).

So let us give a big thank you to those often unsung heroes and heroines of our enterprise, without whom we very likely would have no magazine. The underlying truth is very simple: no distributors means no subscriptions; no subscriptions means no advertisers or direct income; no income means no magazine. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen!  
*David Woodward*

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*Cover: The yew tree in St Peter's churchyard overshadows Castle Street. See Christopher Green's article on page 9.*  
*Photo: Chris Smalley*

### ***In this month's issue...***

#### **Both Caught and Taught**

**Christina Billington**, our parish youth worker, wants to see faith both caught and taught, especially for the young.

#### **Welcome back, Bulbourne!**

**David Simmons** welcomes the rains which have revived our River Bulbourne.

#### **Precept realities**

Local finances come under the scrutiny of **Norman Cutting** and **Stanley Sharpe**.

#### **Twenty-five year walk**

About to hang up his boots, **Ian McCalla** describes the pains and rewards of the annual Berkhamsted Walk.

#### **Volunteering for OXFAM**

For **Christine Dipper**, volunteering in the OXFAM shop has been eye-opening.

#### **A strategy for the year**

**Revd Peter Hart** urges us to take a fresh approach to our Bible reading.

*... 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): 5 February 5 March 6 April\* (Tuesday)**  
**\*the previous Friday is Good Friday**



## *review* leader

I have been here just over a year, a year in which the events in my life have severely affected my capacity to get on with what I and others have thought necessary. But I have had plenty of time to think. In thinking about the youth and children's work my aim in overseeing it is to give young people the opportunity to hear about the Christian faith from people who are committed to their faith, whom they trust within a safe, unpressured situation.

This means in practice that with young children we are making sure they have a good knowledge of faith stories from both the Old and New Testament. We are also making sure that they have the opportunity to experience God through prayer and answers to prayer within the range of their ability. Young children often seem to have a natural faith and can develop a trust in God, but they have to be taught the reasons for this. So we use mainly story, with drama, song and craft and lots of fun in the Sunday Schools, Little Fishes and Chuckles groups.

With older children the same principles apply but with much more open discussion and room for doubt. With this age group the faith is much more caught than taught. The leaders have to be willing to be open and vulnerable to the often very personal inquiries of the youngsters, and to get alongside them in a way that is very different from a teacher or parent relationship. This can be highly rewarding - and quite disappointing on occasions. The leaders need to be resilient and supported by others in the team and also, very importantly, by the parish.

In the long term I hope to see training sessions for all the leaders set up as a regular thing with everyone attending as a matter of course. I should like there to be midweek clubs for the children, and games as well as teaching evenings for the older ones. I would also expect to see the older ones running most of their evenings with perhaps a prayer meeting or bible study occurring on a different night, with adults not invited. And most importantly we must aim for the full integration of children and adults into the worship and life of the church.

The one thing I have noticed both at my previous place of employment and here is that it is particularly difficult for teenagers to choose between a multitude of different options as to how to spend their spare time. There is so much for them to do. The idea of a youth group or Pathfinders is only one thing amongst so many attractive alternatives. But it is my firm belief which has been tested over many years of experience that it is the friendship of peers that make or break young people in their search for faith. The old adage that bad company spoils good habit is very true. So if you as parents have any sway at all with your children please encourage them to come to these groups. Christianity provides so much in these days of insecurity of belief and morality. It is a firm rock in a shifting culture. I would like to see the youth of the parish having this firm foundation in their adult life. Life has more to offer than material gain. Without a spiritual dimension it is a hollow mockery a mere shadow with no substance. The young people of our parish deserve more than this.



*Christina  
Billington  
describes her  
aims as parish  
youth worker.*

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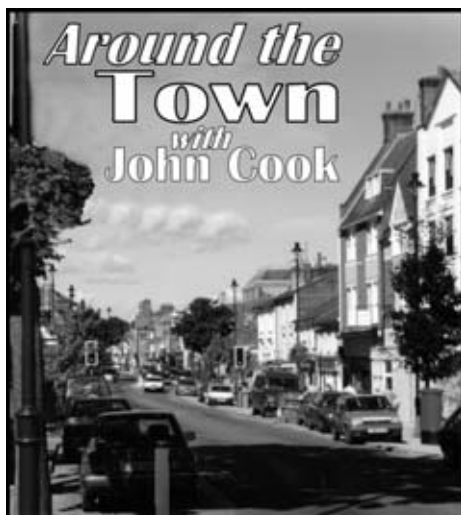
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### **The American Axtells**

A couple of *Reviews* ago I mentioned the Axtell family of Berkhamsted, and how a certain Thomas Axtell emigrated to America from here in 1642. He settled in a place called Sudbury in the colony of Massachusetts, and although he only lived to the age of 27 himself Thomas's descendants thrived and multiplied. Today there are at least 2,600 of them in the USA bearing that surname. They have become something of a clan and their genealogy has been well researched. The first member of the 14th generation of Axtells in America was born on 19th September, 1984.

Surfing the Internet is a good way to waste both your time and your money; but if you want to know anything about the USA in particular it is an abundant source of information. There is a surprising amount about the American Axtells on the Net. One website gives a summary of the reasons - political, religious and economic - that may have prompted Thomas to leave 17th century Berkhamsted with his wife and young children to seek a better life in the American colonies. (If they had known the hardships they were to face they might well have chosen not to go.)

There are coloured maps, one of which shows how the family expanded across the States in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, and another map of England with just three places named on it - London, Sudbury and Berkhamsted - for the benefit of Americans. There is the family coat of arms and synopses from several books that include references to the Axtells and their English town of origin. All this information you can print out if you want, just for the cost of a local telephone call. Nine populated places are named Axtell in the USA (that is as many as are called Smith), including four 'cities'. There are eight Axtell telephone exchanges, 32 Axtell roads, an Axtell hospital and an Axtell school.

### **The Axtell roots**

When the monastery at Ashridge was closed down in 1534 the monks were pensioned off and scattered. One of them, John Axtyll, renounced his vow of celibacy, married and had children. In the next century a descendant of his, William Axtell, was to become a prominent Berkhamsted citizen, holding several offices including that of town clerk in 1639. William had two sons who were to leave their marks on history: Daniel, who signed the death warrant of Charles I and was later hanged for it, and Thomas who founded the vast American family.

Apart from one Indian family that adopted the name it seems likely that all the Axtells in the USA are descended from Thomas. There have been at least 14 generations since he left Berkhamsted, and it is calculated that some two million descendants of his may be alive now.

### **Cobb's Book**

Someone was telling me how in a far away second-hand bookshop they came across a work called *History & Antiquities of Berkhamsted* by Rev. J Cobb. This little book was written by a rector of Berkhamsted and first published in 1855. A revised edition came out in 1883 and this

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was reprinted in 1988 by the *Bookstack* where copies are still available.

In the early years of the Berkhamsted Mechanics' Institute Cobb delivered a series of lectures about the history of the Town, and this formed the basis of his scholarly little work. It is still well worth reading by anyone at all interested in the subject.

As an appendix to his book Cobb included a list of 50 different ways of spelling the Town's name that he had collected in the course of his researches. (Later Percy Birtchnell was to add to it). At the bottom of the list Cobb commented "The Railway Company, the Post Office and all the parish authorities have now adopted the spelling 'Berkhamsted'".

Well, over a century later, not quite. We all get mail with the Town's name spelt wrongly. That is understandable from people who don't know, but there is not much excuse when official bodies do it.

Outside the old main Post Office building until recently there was a sign that read 'Royal Mail: Jobs available now in the Berkhamstead area'. Now in the newly opened sub post office in *Bobbies* opposite *The Goat* there is an official sign directing people needing certain services to the main Post Office 'at 268 High Street, Berkhamstead'. It may make you smile but such sloppiness on the part of the Post Office of all people must be something of a cause for concern.

There are several signposts on roads and footpaths around the Town with different spellings – Berkhamstead, Berkhamsted, etc – and in this case it is the county council that is responsible. Perhaps, though, these signs are mostly so



Col. Daniel Axtell, Captain of the Parliamentary Guard at the capital trial of King Charles I at Westminster Hall, 1649, hanged for treason in 1660.

old now that they have become curiosities and should be preserved as such.

### Another Restaurant

The spelling of our latest restaurant, *Caffé Uno*, has also been got wrong in one or two references to it in the papers.

When the idea was first mooted a number of voices were raised against converting the ground floor of the Town Hall into a single tenancy, particularly another restaurant. More than one citizen asked what was wrong with the arcade that it could not be kept going ('All it wanted was better management!'); and weren't there enough restaurants in the Town anyway?

It is true that the arcade was quite a success to begin with, but the retail scene has changed since it was opened in the 1980s, and the Town Hall trustees were professionally advised to seek a single tenant for the ground floor. As is plain to see, restaurants are very much in vogue at the moment, particularly in Berkhamsted, so that is what we have ended up with.

Now that the *Caffé Uno* is open all the comments I have heard, even from those who were sceptical of the idea in the first place, have been favourable. The conversion has been well done with good quality workmanship and materials; and sitting in the restaurant you can once again appreciate the bold robustness of the Victorian architecture of the old market house.

After the works to the roof and façade have been completed we can look forward to the removal of the scaffolding to reveal a much improved historic feature of the High Street. ❖

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In 1991 I wrote in the *Review* about the possible age of the yew tree in St Peter's churchyard. My suggestions at that time were the result of counting the annual growth rings in a cross section of a large branch blown down in January 1990. There were 178 annual growth rings which placed the initial growth of the branch in 1811. From an examination of photographs, paintings and engravings showing the tree in the 19th century, I concluded that they show a tree growing to maturity during the 19th century and suggested that the date of 1811 might be within the first few years of the tree's life.

That view now requires modification.

The yew tree is probably older than I suggested - perhaps by as

much as a hundred years.

Firstly, when the churchwardens' accounts were loaned back to St Peter's from the county archives for the Petertide Fair in 1995, I was able to look at the record back to 1747. In that year the sexton, George Hollis, was paid two shillings and ten pence (about 14p) 'for cutting the yew and for beer', and payment for cutting the yew is recorded in several years in the period 1747-1765. It seems very likely therefore that the present tree was already in place in 1747, but of a size to make regular trimming a realistic possibility.

My interest was rekindled recently by an article and ensuing correspondence in



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The Times newspaper. This was concerned with the estimation of the age of yew trees from the measurement of their girth and diameter. At a height of 3 feet (0.9m) above the ground, the churchyard yew has a girth of 12.11 feet (3.69m) and a diameter of 3.86 feet (1.18m). Measurements of yew trees in various places in Britain have shown that it takes between 50 and 85 years to add a foot (c30cm) to the diameter of a yew tree. These rates of growth would see the churchyard yew planted at some time between 1664 and 1801. The mid-point in that period is 1732. Such a date, in the early years of the 18th century, seems consistent with the trimming of the yew, recorded in the

where the yew now stands. The *History* was published in 1820, and it is unlikely that the drawing, by Clutterbuck himself, was made more than a few years before the date of publication.

Did the planting of the yew tree in St Peter's churchyard mark a special occasion like the scheme being promoted at the present time to encourage the planting of yew trees in our churchyards to mark the millennium? Perhaps our yew tree was planted to mark the accession of King George II in 1727. It might even have been planted to mark the new century in 1700. The answer may yet come to light. The churchwardens' accounts for St Peter's for



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churchwardens' accounts until 1765. If this conclusion is correct, then the pictorial record of St Peter's churchyard is misleading - in particular, the view of St Peter's in Robert Clutterbuck's *History and Antiquities of the County of Hertfordshire*, in which no tree is visible

the period before 1747 are preserved in the British Library and they may contain a record of the planting of the yew tree.



*This month's cover shows the yew tree which is the subject of this article.*

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hy join the Mother's Union? Why indeed!

When I was a young mum, I must admit, the idea appalled me. Those M.U. members I came across were of the elderly hat wearing variety and their church involvement seemed to be confined to pouring out cups of tea and making cakes. I got quite the wrong idea of the ideals and work of this Christian group of women.

Then I joined a group in a neighbouring parish. The oldest member was 90, the youngest just turned 20 and the last two leaders, whilst I was there, had babies during their term of office. The whole movement came to life for me as it was meant to be. I went with a friend - she pestered me to go - but when I found out what the Mothers' Union was really about I was caught, and soon became enrolled as a member.

I was a young working mum then and since that time the good work of the M.U. has continued and grown and the image of the organisation has been updated. We are ready for the millennium! If you would

like to know more about it why not visit our website:

[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org).

I am sure you know by now that we involve ourselves in all that affects family life. By becoming members we can achieve collectively what is not possible alone. We have many projects supporting family life and helping families in adversity. Through these projects, and the voice of 140,000 members in Britain, we can speak to the government about such social issues as abortion, adoption, euthanasia, prostitution and welfare provision for families. The M.U. is often asked for its views.

With all of this, as a Christian group in Berkhamsted we are able to share an understanding of God's love for us in fellowship.

Our meetings are open to all. Men can be members too these days! We meet in each other's houses on a Tuesday and the venue is always published in the pew leaflet. You are welcome to join us at any meeting. If you need a lift please ring me - Jenny Wells on 870981. ❖



W

## THE MOTHER'S UNION

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**Jenny Wells** explains why she was attracted to the Christian group of women.

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### LENT TALKS AT ST PETER'S

WEDNESDAYS 8:00PM IN THE COURT HOUSE

We are very fortunate to be having a series of five talks from Steve Moyise entitled *The Bible in the Modern World - Interpreting the Scriptures Today*. Steve is vice-principal of the St Albans and Oxford ministry course (on which Luke Geoghan and Martin Macdonald are training for ordination). Steve has recently had a book on scriptural interpretation published to rave reviews and his talks will use some of this material illustrating issues from the gospels and inviting us to share in the interpretation. We

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I have been following with some interest the Today programme's poll for the English person of the millennium. The final shortlist consisted of William Caxton, Winston Churchill, Oliver Cromwell, Charles Darwin, Isaac Newton and William Shakespeare. There are no great religious leaders since none of the great religions have come into existence since 1000AD though one contributor suggested William Tyndale in recognition of his early translation of the Bible into English.

If you accept that, to qualify, the person must have achieved something which would not otherwise have occurred, then it is hard to see how a political figure would win on other than sentimental grounds. Churchill and Cromwell were both towering figures but they were highly dependent upon the work of others: statesmen, generals, public servants and ordinary soldiers. Their contribution was critical but they didn't do it all, or even most of it, on their own. One possible exception was a candidate suggested by a mischievous Frenchman: William the Conqueror. As a result of William's invasion in 1066 to assert his hereditary claim to the crown, England's destiny was linked with that of the continent for almost five hundred years: an allegiance to which we have recently returned. Without William the Anglo-Saxon kingdom's links with Norway and Denmark, through the Viking settlements, could have prevailed. England might well have become an extension of Scandinavia.

Shakespeare's claim is presumably based upon the fact that he is the most celebrated writer in the language which has become the world's lingua franca and Caxton's position is, I suppose, similarly derived. But it couldn't be argued that either of them is primarily responsible for the ascendancy of English as the world's principal language. They helped a lot but English is widely spoken for reasons of empire and commerce rather than literature.

That leaves Newton and Darwin. They were both, of course, steeped in the work of their predecessors and they both evolved highly original theories which revolutionised the way we think about the world and which overturned previous ideas. Darwin made himself ill with worry about the impact that his theories of evolution would have upon his contemporaries. In developing his theories he made use of the scientific method which Newton had deployed to such devastating effect in suggesting how the universe works. Newton observed, gathered evidence, devised theories to explain what he saw, tested the theories through further observation, and finally showed how the universe works. In the process he removed the magic from the universe and substituted reason and observation. When Voltaire asked Newton how he had come up with the laws of motion, the great man replied, "By thinking on it continually".

Newton was not a pleasant man (as Darwin was), pursuing furious and pointless feuds with contemporaries like the German mathematician Leibnitz and using some very questionable tactics in the process. But without his individual contribution we would have had to wait a long time before understanding the laws of motion and the laws which govern the behaviour of light. And Charles Darwin might not have had Newton's scientific method to govern his own work. Newton gets my vote. Who would get yours? ❖

## Englishman of the Millennium

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Who would get your vote?  
**Stephen Halliday** pits science  
against literature.

---

ell, now we know the worst.

The Berkhamsted precept is £117,000, up by £43,000 over last year. This is the money the town council raises for its own purposes in an effort to carry out the wishes of residents. The Independents have been criticised

for trying to achieve the impossible and the Conservatives have been vocal in their condemnation of the increase. With my extremely selective memory, according to Conservative councillor Peter Ginger, did I imagine it was a Conservative who was in charge of finance and policy this year (and at the vital vote promptly abstained) with the Liberal-Democrat mayor giving his casting vote in favour of the increase. I also suppose that the Mayors Walk (now the Heritage Walk) and the C.A.R.P. project, thought about during the previous Conservative council, would have happened using monopoly money, as they had no real money to pay for either project. Just remember the current increase is larger than the total precept just four years ago and the town council, and thus the town, is only just starting to reap the rewards of many years of neglect.

Those of you who attended the town centre forum on Wednesday, 6th January would have seen the start of the Berkhamsted election campaign by the major players. The 'road works' and the Kingsgate development dominated the last election; this one will be fought over parking and the Rex. The attitude of the borough council over the Rex has not changed. It appears that it is OK to subsidise venues in Hemel Hempstead to the tune of over £500,000 a year (as in the case of the Pavilion) but anything else, if outside Hemel Hempstead, has to be self-supporting. There was also a suggestion that before the end of the year the whole matter could be academic anyway as a

## CUTTING COMMENTS

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**Independent councillor  
Norman Cutting scrutinises  
the new town precept and  
other local matters.**

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proposal to turn the whole area into housing is well advanced, although, as always, time will tell. Lots of claims were made about how much use will be made of the building if it was restored as an arts and conference centre. The problem, as I see it, is

that if all this pent-up demand is there, just why is the town hall so under used? After all, within the year, at least three functions will be able to take place in the town hall at the same time with more to come. It's in the middle of town and available now. The idea of two similar venues offering similar facilities within half a mile of each other and in a commuter town of less than 20,000 residents really makes me wonder if either would succeed.

That brings me nicely onto the other minor difficulty - parking. Following the logic of the above argument, the town hall is in the centre of town, with short term paid-for parking facilities for shoppers rather than visitors. The Rex site, on the other hand, has its' own parking. Once again, trolling through my selective memory to when the motor car was not quite so popular as today, I remember you could not move in the cinema car park when a popular film was showing. So what chance today? The town is the only one in the borough that has its' railway station within spitting distance of the town centre. Railtrack has thoughtfully provided parking facilities for its passengers right next to the station. Also, thoughtfully, it has sought to maximise its money-making operation by franchising the facility and letting market forces lead. Neither the borough nor town councils have the luxury of being able just to walk away from the problem. Thereby lies the difficulty: we have more demand than the borough council has land to satisfy this demand.

Without a decent integrated public transport system, the argument is proffered that what else can the car owner do other than to use it. The fly in the ointment is that the county council controls the public transport system and the roads, and they are on the other side of the county. Indeed, their efforts can be seen throughout the town, some good, mostly unpopular and generally not quite working as intended. Parking facilities however are a different matter. The borough council, in consultation with the police and other interested bodies, can do almost as they like on non-trunked roads. The town council is currently involved in a study to bring forward proposals to improve on-street parking within the town, and also to examine residents' parking in the conservation area.

Complaints have been received by both councils that commuters and other all day parkers are clogging up side streets. Areas such as Kings Road and Charles Street are

occupied by the cars of shop and office workers, or even pupils attending a well known school (according to whom, this doesn't happen). At the town centre forum the borough officers admitted that mistakes had been made with the St Johns Well Lane car park and alternative schemes will be presented to the borough environment committee in late January. In the best tradition of local government, the town council was not even advised of the change of heart. The idea is to increase the number of all day parking spaces in that car park, but would you pay to park all day when you have just found a nice area for free? I think that just tinkering will not satisfy us. More imaginative schemes must be found and they will not be cheap.



*Councillor Stanley Sharpe writes about the new town precept on page 19 of this issue.*



The prevalence of the Internet today will have escaped few people's attention. Indeed, a recent survey found that the volume of communication by 'electronic mail' (e-mail) by businesses in the UK overtook that by telephone for the first time in 1998.

Well, not to be outdone the parish is now 'on the Net'! We have equipped the

clergy and the parish office with links to the Internet, so now the clergy and Jean Green (our parish secretary) can all be reached by e-mail. Their addresses are as follows:

**Fr Mark:** [m.bonney@c-of-e.freemove.co.uk](mailto:m.bonney@c-of-e.freemove.co.uk)

**Fr Robin:** [r.figg@c-of-e.freemove.co.uk](mailto:r.figg@c-of-e.freemove.co.uk)

**Parish Office:** [j.green@c-of-e.freemove.co.uk](mailto:j.green@c-of-e.freemove.co.uk)

**Review:** [review@c-of-e.freemove.co.uk](mailto:review@c-of-e.freemove.co.uk)

We will be launching a website for the parish in the coming months: a working party will be meeting to consider how best to use this important way of communicating our mission, work and activities to a broader audience. If you feel you would like to contribute to this exercise please feel free to call Chris Smalley on 826821.

## ***Twenty-five years of the Berkhamsted Walk***

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**Ian McCalla** looks back on his long association with this popular annual event.

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We moved to Berkhamsted in 1973. All of you will know that if you settle in Berkhamsted you get roped in to doing things pretty quickly. Well, I was asked to help with the 1974 walk, and have been involved with it ever since.

For the first few years we got ourselves sponsored and did the walk as a family while the children were small. The route then was an only slightly modified version of the original one. After we had followed that path for a couple of years, I got the urge to do what I have been doing ever since - to change the route!

In those days the last few miles were along the canal towpath from Tring station. After the rest of the walk this was an anti-climax. Not only that but the stones on the towpath were hard on tired, sore feet. So the first change was made. We found a new way, north of the railway and closely parallel to it, from the foot of Aldbury Nowers to Dudswell canal bridge, thereby eliminating two miles of towpath. In subsequent years we've changed various bits of the route but retained the basic shape including the Clipper Down -Pitstone Hill - Aldbury Nowers section.

In making these changes and inviting comments afterwards, we learned that there were rules to be obeyed in planning sponsored walks. They were:

1. Follow clear, well defined paths - with easily described landmarks wherever the route changes direction.
2. Avoid woods with many more paths than are shown on the map with none having any distinguishing features.
3. Avoid brambles, thistles and, above all, stinging nettles.
4. Choose a route that is attractive and scenically varied.

Rule One prevented our first attempt to shift the outer section of the route away from a stretch from Pitstone Hill to

Ivinghoe Beacon. We looked at the footpath from Beacon Road opposite Ling Ride car park, through Ward Hurst's Farm to the Beacon, but ruled it out because it certainly was not well defined and in places was not at all clear. So we abandoned the idea.

Three years ago we walked that section with complete confidence because it had become part of the Ashridge estate boundary trail, and was waymarked by the National Trust. It was then that I learned the profound effect that waymarking can have on a footpath.

Rule Two prompted us to abandon the original walk between Ling Ride car park and Clipper Down. It also made us very wary of going through the area between Beacon Road and Monument Drive. Sallow Copse is very attractive but has a lot more paths than landmarks.

Rule Four meant we stopped using the canal towpath altogether.

So the years rolled by fairly uneventfully (except the year when it rained for several days before the walk and all day on the day itself, when there was a competition among the children to see who could come home the muddiest). But in 1987 the crunch came. Remember that evening in 1987 when Mr Fish said we were not going to have a hurricane? The next day there were 500 mature trees down in Ashridge. By the following February it was clear that most of our route was still blocked. We had the choice: either to abandon the walk or to find a new route, walk it, write a completely new set of instructions and re-draw the map; and all this in one month!

We got out the Ordnance Survey map and contemplated it. Suddenly a clear circular route stood out. The Studham route came into being.



The new path cuts across Ashridge, thus through a relatively tree-free area. How would people like it? It went through farms and fields and was very different from the traditional way passing through 'fresh fields and pastures new'. Well, people loved it. It was just over seventeen miles, whereas the original distance was only fifteen. So we pointed out that they had had too easy a time in the past. One variation we did make was to move the first check point half a mile along the route. That is how we learned Rule Five.

Rule Five: The first check point *must in no circumstances be more than three miles from the Court House.*

Newcomers to the walk judge the whole thing on how they find the first section. If it is three and a half miles it seems to go on interminably. They think they have been going on for ages and only done one-sixth of the walk, and that they might as well give up (and, of course, complain). In 1991 some of the walkers did both. So we made the *Alford Arms* the first check point, a mere two miles from

created new paths in places where there had never been paths before, as in the eastern end of Golden Valley. To my mind this is the best route ever, so we plan to do it again this year.

So what about the people involved in the Berkhamsted walk. The organisation is large and complex. It will start to grind into action in February as you read this.

There is all the printing to be done: sponsor forms, posters, instructions, maps, waymark cards (memo to the committee: we need more waymark cards!).

There are the people who man the checkpoints, supplying drinks and logging all the walkers as they pass through (we then know when everyone has got through and whether anyone is lost).

Last but very definitely not least are the folk at the Court House who check all the walkers in and then back, and in between times sort out a mountain of paperwork so that they know how many have walked (and who they are) and how much they are sponsored for. And they see that afterwards everyone gets tea and cake.

I have been actively involved in the walk for 25 years. This year will be the twenty-sixth and last. I am giving up! I can't think of any way of changing the three routes we now use so it is time to let someone else have a fresh look at them. ❖



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the Court House. There was not another murmur after that!

The last new route to be invented was the boundary trail route in 1996. When the National Trust created the Ashridge Estate boundary trail as part of their centenary celebrations we just had to use it. It

Readers in Berkhamsted itself may find this title somewhat strange, for as far as Billet Lane, the Bulbourne has been visible for many months now, where it is not hidden underground. But north of Billet Lane it has been a different story. It made a brief,

almost shy appearance in June and July but soon vanished again under the little sun and dryness we had in the late summer. But then came three months of high rainfall and it peeped above ground again. Then, quite suddenly it seemed, it burst into full flow at the end of November, and by mid-December it was flowing from about 50 yards short of the gardens in Dudswell. The water was only two metres below ground level by then compared with over 81 metres at the end of 1997, and is now nearer the surface than at any time since April 1996. Provided we have a reasonably wet winter the Bulbourne should be back in Dudswell by the time you read this.

On a mild 'autumnal' day in mid-December it was flowing at a jaunty rate through the Bulbourne Meadows, clear as a chalk stream should be, and bringing back life to that naturally damp area which has been starved of water for over three years. 'Bulbourne Meadows' is the arguably optimistic name given by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust to what is more often described as 'that bit of scrub land by the canal, next to the field set aside for housing development'. It features several times in the trust's excellent draft *Biodiversity Action Plan* produced for the Dacorum borough council in 1998. This is an important wildlife area and in great need of preservation. Before it became degraded it

## WELCOME BACK, BULBOURNE !

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Our missing river has  
reappeared. **David Simmons**  
takes a closer look.

---

supported a large number of bird species. Even without the river it is a very good site for butterflies and other winged insects. Wetlands like this are under serious threat from development and over-abstraction of water all over the country.

The return of the Bulbourne along its entire length in the Berkhamsted area during 1998 is primarily the result of high rainfall in almost every month since October 1997. But it has been helped by a steady reduction in abstraction by Three Valleys water company at their Berkhamsted pumping station, and by Thames Water at Newground, over the past few years. Unfortunately, reduced pumping at Newground has been partly offset by increased pumping by British Waterways at their Cow Roast and Northchurch pumping stations over the last three years to supply water for the canal. This matter is currently a concern of, among others, the Chiltern Society and the Environment Agency, and hopefully a more satisfactory arrangement can be agreed. Watch this space!

In the meantime we can share the enthusiasm of the mallard, moorhen and other less visible wildlife which have already found their way back to the river. It may not be long before there are fish again. Talking of what might be - in my last *Review* article I mentioned that red kite could be seen again in the southern Chilterns, but not yet in this area. The latest issue of *Ashridge News* says that a red kite was seen over Clipperdown near the northern boundary of the estate, in September. So keep your eyes skinned for a first sighting over Ashridge itself.



# review letters

## The Town Precept

*Councillor Stanley Sharpe writes:*

There has been some comment in the local press and in the *Review* about the precept set by Berkhamsted town council. The purpose of this letter is to put the matter into its correct perspective.

The town precept represents about 1½ percent of the council tax paid by the 7,200 householders in the town. The majority of the tax - 86 percent - goes to the county council and to the police; the remainder - 12½ percent - goes to Dacorum borough council.

The town precept currently amounts to £10.24 for a Band D tax payer - 20p a week. Next fiscal year it will be £16.20 - 31p a week. The reasons for the increase are many and varied. The final budget was determined as a result of decisions taken at the various committees of the council and, of course, these decisions are fully minuted and are available for tax payers' inspection at any time.

This letter is being written at the beginning of January. By the time you read it, the borough and county budgets will be nearing completion. It is understandably much more difficult to examine these in detail but your borough

and county council representatives should be able to help you.

There will, inevitably, be political comments for and against. It will be over to you to determine whether the resulting services give good value for money. Above all, it should be borne in mind that the majority of the money spent on local government services comes from central government. The amount of money allocated by Westminster is insufficient to cover service needs, let alone improve them.

That is why our roads and pathways are in such a bad state, why the elderly and infirm are not getting sufficient help from Social Services, why our libraries are denuded of new hardback books, why fire services are barely adequate.

When you get your council tax bill, you may well have legitimate grumbles about it, but bear in mind that the major problem stems from Westminster.

Central government should be the main target for your dissatisfaction with local government services and expenditure.

*12 Alyngton, Northchurch  
Berkhamsted HP4 3XP*



*The Bulbourne in full flow.  
See Welcome back, Bulbourne!  
opposite.*

*Photo: David Simmons*

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Recently evening television news showed enormous wooden crates, stamped OXFAM, and smaller crates being packed with emergency feeding kits and sealed with OXFAM tape. Their destination was

Nicaragua, but their current location was OXFAM's emergency store in Bicester and I knew that they would be on a plane within twelve hours. I had been there, seen that (and a great deal more), and would have bought the T-shirt had there been one.

When I volunteered 18 months ago to work a shift in our local OXFAM shop, I hoped I might be useful and perhaps quite like it. I was unprepared for a number of things, chief among which are the opportunities which the organisation offers to inform and train those who work for them. OXFAM's ethos filters right down to the lowliest of volunteers such as myself, and the effect is to inspire, enable, and value us all.

The people of Berkhamsted are generous and donated goods pour through our door. The onus is then on us to ensure that every single item makes a valid contribution to the fund. Absolutely nothing is wasted and I find it fascinating to discover how items move through the system - some selling within days in the shop they were brought to, others supplying less well-endowed shops, some going to low-cost inner-city outlets, and some eventually landing up at OXFAM Wastesaver in Huddersfield, the charity's own textile recycling plant. It is all so interesting!

There are dozens of jobs to be done in our OXFAM shop. Everything must be

## VOLUNTEERING FOR OXFAM

**Christine Dipper** describes  
the appeal of volunteering to  
help our local OXFAM shop.



sorted, and volunteers with particular expertise oversee the pricing of glass, ceramics, clothing, books, toys, jewellery, and a whole lot more! Qualified electricians check electrical goods, those with financial skills administer

accounts; whatever your skills or interests and however little or much time you have to spare OXFAM can use you. Age, gender, fitness are all irrelevant; there is more than enough work for us all. Currently we are desperate for someone to run the shop rota - you don't need to be mobile for this one, just some time to spare and a persuasive telephone manner!

I love working in the shop. Fair Trade goods bring more and more customers through our door and requests range from optimistic to bizarre; "Do you have this in a size twelve?", "Something to turn my seven year old into a bat?", "A dress suit for a school dinner dance?". You would be amazed at what we can find.

Funny thing this - it's so easy to become involved and for people in our parish it's ridiculously easy - just talk to Audrey Hope who manages our shop, or to me and I'll make the necessary introductions. Soon I shall be learning how to value books from OXFAM's Book Executive. Now where else am I going to learn that, and know that I am being enabled at the same time the better to serve - albeit in a very small way - those in such desperate need? ❖

*This article first appeared in the All Saint's newsletter and we felt it deserved a wider audience*

## *Exceedi ngly Odd*

(anon.)

Exceedingly odd are the means by which God  
Has provided our path to the heavenly shore.  
Of the girls from whose line the true light was to shine,  
One was an adulteress, one was a whore.

There was Tamar who bore - this we all must deplore  
A fine pair of twins to her father-in-law.  
And Rahab the harlot; her sins were as scarlet,  
As red as the thread which she hung from her door.

But alone of her nation she came to salvation,  
And lived to be mother of Boaz of yore.  
And he married Ruth, a Gentile uncouth,  
In a manner quite counter to biblical law.

And from her there did spring blessed David the king,  
Who walked on his rooftop one evening, and saw  
The wife of Uriah, from whom he did sire  
A baby that died - oh, and princes a score.

And a mother unmarried it was too, who carried  
God's Son, whom she laid in a cradle of straw,  
That the upright might wait at the heavenly gate,  
While sinners and publicans go in before,  
Who have not earned their place, but received it by grace,  
And discovered a righteousness not of the Law.

It's tough to be an alto when you're singing in the choir.  
The sopranos get the twiddly bits that people all admire.  
The basses boom like loud trombones, the tenors shout with glee.  
But the alto part is on two notes (or if you're lucky three).  
And when we sing an anthem and we lift our hearts in praises  
The men get all the juicy bits and telling little phrases.  
Of course the trebles sing the tune - they always come off best;  
The altos only get three notes and twenty-two bars rest.  
We practise very hard each week from hymn book and from Psalter,  
But when the conductor looks at us our voices start to falter.  
"Too high! Too low! Too fast! - you held that note too long!"  
It doesn't matter what you do-it's certain to be wrong!  
Oh! Shed a tear for altos, they're the martyrs and they know  
In the ranks of choral singers they're considered very low.  
They are so very 'umble that a lot of folks forget 'em;  
How they'd love to be sopranos, but their vocal chords won't let 'em!  
And when the final trumpet sounds and we are wafted higher,  
Sopranos, basses, tenor - they'll be in the Heavenly Choir.  
While they sing "Alleluia!" to celestial flats and sharps,  
The altos will be occupied with polishing the harps.

## *The Alto's Lament*

(source unknown)



Exceedingly Odd was contributed by Muriel Lander.  
The Alto's Lament was contributed by Rosemary Armstrong.

In October I was driving slowly out of a friend's driveway in Northwood and, stupidly, backed into a small car parked on the other side of the road. The damage to the stationary car was a broken nearside mirror and a shallow bump in the car door. There was no one in the car so I parked my car and went to the house opposite to discover to whom the damaged car belonged. Its owner was visiting so I took her out to see the damage, did all the right things, apologised, exchanged names and addresses, name of insurers and so on, and then looked at the damage to my car. This was a mark on the rubber part of the bumper and broken red plastic at the top of the light unit on the offside.

Next day we took the car to the garage

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# WHY IS IT SO EXPENSIVE?

**Vera Pullen** has a nasty  
surprise after a little prang  
with her car.

from which we had bought it. Someone examined the damage and after some time came back with an itemised list of repairs amounting to over £700 BUT if we didn't go through the insurers they could buff up the rubber and put in a new light unit (cost £38); total cost of repair £150! We said we would think it over. When we got

back home I rang our insurers, explained what had happened and asked if they had an approved garage. They asked me to 'phone a garage in Luton in an hour's time (after they had faxed the information to them) and arrange for the car to be collected for repair. I was also asked if the car was driveable! I assured them the damage was slight and having painted the bulb red we could drive it. Because we were going up to Derbyshire to a wedding soon after the accident we were lent a courtesy car for the week they kept our car.

After the car had been repaired and returned to us I asked how much the repair had cost and was told over £600. The repair to the other car was in the region of £300, I was told by the owner.

Since then I have sent all this information to our insurers and to the solicitors of the other insurers, because I just cannot imagine why it was so expensive. I await with interest their comments! No wonder we all pay so



## WAY INN - A Christian Centre at 268 High Street

Come to the **Post Office** for foreign currency, travel insurance, passport applications and forms E111 - and for everything else a main **Post Office** provides. Come through to our **shop** which sells greetings cards, Christian books, stationery and many gifts. **Upstairs** you will find our **coffee shop** serving lunches, teas, snacks or just a cup of coffee.



much for car  
The year has  
started with a  
surge of activity,  
and now that we  
are well into all  
things new, it is  
wise to assess the  
general strategy  
that lies ahead of us. New Year's  
resolutions have either been forgotten or  
become so ingrained that they are no  
longer remembered as resolutions. New  
patterns of living due to a new timetable,  
new circumstances or the change in the  
weather are becoming second nature -  
adjustments have been made, and all  
becomes normal once again.

For many of us, the major strategy for  
the year is to bring under control all that is  
different, to make it comfortable and  
normal, part of the routine. We are  
creatures of habit, and change disturbs  
habit, so the only way to deal with change  
is to make the new habitual. We are  
usually successful with this strategy, as  
most change is a once for all event, so is  
easily mastered.

Faith and the living out of faith are  
slightly different, as we are encouraged to  
grow, to develop, to be different, more  
mature, as year succeeds year. Our  
strategy here cannot be one of controlling  
the difference, but of making the  
difference count. If our faith develops,  
then it should be revealed in new areas of  
our lives, of our worship and of our  
Christian service. We are more confident,  
more demonstrative, more effective.

One area of our faith where there is  
always room for growth and development  
is in our knowledge and understanding of  
the Bible. Old stories can gain new  
relevance, unknown sections of both Old  
and New Testaments can come alive

insurance. ❖  
through discovery and close attention.  
Passages can chime with each other, cross-  
references can only be made when both  
texts are known and appreciated.

Reading the Bible is the first part of  
this growth, reading the stories and  
wrestling with the arguments. With  
reading will come the second stage of this  
growth, which is understanding - going  
beyond the stories to the message, linking  
Old Testament sayings with New  
Testament perspectives, determining the  
purpose of the writer for the reader,  
hearing God speak through His word, once  
it is understood. This can be hard work, or  
it can be a great pleasure, but the rewards  
are obvious, and the opportunities for  
sharing and faith development manifold.

Let's make it part of our habitual  
actions not simply to read the Bible, but to  
understand it, to study it, to wrestle with  
its obscurities and logic, to make the  
connections it calls us to, and to see God,  
His Church and ourselves in a new light. ❖





The trust is sponsoring an interesting programme for February.

On Monday and Tuesday, 8th and 9th February Berkhamsted Film Society present *Smilla's Sense of Snow* (directed by Bille August), a German / Swedish / Danish production from the Peter Hoeg novel, at the Civic Centre at 8:00pm. Non-members tickets £3 from the library.

On Sunday, 14th February Dacorum Symphony Orchestra play at the Centenary Hall, Berkhamsted Collegiate School, at 3:30pm. The programme includes *Fingal's Cave*, the *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* and the *William Tell Overture*. Tickets from Berkhamsted Arts and Crafts, 258 High Street or at the door are £7 (£4 concessionaires).

On Saturday, 20th February Berkhamsted Music Society present a dynamic duo on two pianos, *Jennifer Micallet* and *Glen Inanga* in the Civic Centre at 8:00pm. Tickets to non-members cost £7 at the door (£4 to concessionaires).

On Sunday, 21st February Berkhamsted Jazz presents the *Echoes of Ellington* orchestra directed by Pete Long in a programme of music by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn at the Civic Centre at 7:30pm. Tickets, from the secretary (01525 220894), the Civic Centre or at the door, cost £7 to non-members (£3.50 for students and children).

On Monday and Tuesday, 22nd and 23rd February Berkhamsted Film Society present *My Best Friend's Wedding* at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. Non-members tickets £3 from the Library. This is a romantic comedy where Rupert Everett steals the show.

On Wednesday, 24th February Berkhamsted Local History Society present Scott Hastie talking about his book *Berkhamsted: An Illustrated History* at the Civic Centre at 8:00pm. Admission to non-members is £1 at the door.

On Thursday, 25th February Berkhamsted Archaeological Society have Peter Houldcroft, author of a recent book on the subject, talking about *The Royston Cave: Who Built It and When?* at the Newcroft wing of Berkhamsted Collegiate School, Mill Street at 8:00pm. Admission to non-members is £1 at the door.

On Thursday, 25th February Berkhamsted Citizens Association present a talk by local solicitor Graham Spittle on *The Lighter Side of the Law* in the Great Hall, Berkhamsted Town Hall at 8:00pm. Admission to non-members is £1 at the door.

On Saturday, 27th February the Cowper Society present the Bridgewater Band with a programme of orchestral classics in St Peter's church at 7:30pm. Tickets from the Bookstack, 248 High Street or at the door cost £7 (£5 to concessionaires).

On Sunday, 28th February the Friends of Berkhamsted Town Hall hold a spring concert by the Dacorum Sinfonietta in the Great Hall, Town Hall at 7:30pm. Tickets from the trust office in the Town Hall (mornings only) or at the door cost £5 (£4 to concessionaires).

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## ALL SAINTS' SERVICES

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The experiment last year in using the first Sunday morning each month for a joint Anglican-Methodist all age service has now concluded. In the immediate future the pattern of services will resume its form as in March 1998. Further ideas for joint worship are being debated in the context of the review being conducted of the working of the LEP and details will be announced shortly.

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**BOURNE AND SALTER  
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS**

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If you are a student and under 25 years of age, preparing to embark on a period of extended study at college or university and would appreciate some financial help towards the cost of equipment or books, why not apply for a grant from the above foundations?

If you live in the ecclesiastical Parish of Great Berkhamsted or attended Victoria Church of England school you are eligible to apply for a grant. Although there is not a huge amount of money at the trustees' disposal, every little helps.

The trustees meet on 16th March 1999 to consider applications for grants.

The necessary forms are available from Mrs B Johnson, the clerk to the trustees. Please telephone her on 864453 for more information.

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**THE SALVATION ARMY**

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The Salvation Army warmly invites you to the following events.

*Saturday, 6th February:* Berkhamsted Town Hall, 7:00pm, Leighton Buzzard Salvation Army Band (concert in aid of The Salvation Army in Brazil).

*Saturday, 13th February (all day):* Christian literature stall on Berkhamsted market.

*Sunday, 14th February:* Berkhamsted Town Hall, 10:30am, 'Valentines Day Special' with Captains Peter and Lynda Hancock.

*Friday and Saturday, 19th and 20th February:* two day 'mini-mission' with Bob Telford, culminating in a meeting in Berkhamsted Town Hall on Saturday, 20th February at 7:00pm.

*Sunday, 28th March:* Berkhamsted Town Hall, 10:30am, guest speakers Will and Lynne Andrews.

For more information about any of these events please contact Captains Stephen and Heather Poxon on 876024.

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**NATIONAL TRUST ASHRIDGE  
JANUARY 1999**

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The Ashridge visitor centre has been a great success over the past year, with both the shop and the refreshment centre reporting a considerable increase in customers.

The parking area on Barrack Square has been enlarged with hard standing. Unfortunately, with all the heavy rain over the last six months the younger morons have taken advantage by ripping up the grass on the green and at the sides of Monument Drive, using it as a race track, usually at 10pm or later.

Also whilst mentioning vandals, it is sad to report that the battery cars shed at the centre was broken into and all the battery chargers were stolen.

The National Trust flock of sheep are busy on Ivinghoe Beacon grazing the grass down to a reasonable length, thereby helping the growth of wild flowers.

Last October died a man of 90 years, Jim Fleckney, born in Aldbury and living most of his life in Ringshall and Little Gaddesden. He joined the National Trust in 1930 as a woodsman and retired in 1973. After 43 years service to Ashridge he received a silver medal from the Queen Mother in 1970 for service to the countryside. It is said that he could split a match with his axe - no chain saws in those days. I am sure he will be missed by the older residents.

*Terry Headey*

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**TUESDAY CLUB**

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We welcome members from other women's church groups in the town to our birthday celebration on Tuesday, 2nd February in the Court House at 8:00pm. The speaker this year will be Mrs Nicky Evans who will talk to us about her life as a JP. This will be followed by refreshments.

Our March meeting, on Tuesday 2nd March, is our AGM.

## TRUSTEES FOR THE SWAN YOUTH PROJECT

In 1993 an ecumenical charity was formed to acquire the derelict Swan Inn to refurbish it as a centre for homeless young people and an alcohol free meeting place for young people.

With grants from Dacorum, the lottery, other trusts, churches, organisations and individuals the project got underway. Aldwyck Housing Association runs the residential part of the scheme and the Swan Youth Project charity is responsible for the day to day running of the young peoples' meeting centre.

We have been open for eighteen months and we need to set the direction of the Inn for the next two years. A number of the original trustees wish to retire. We need to replace them. If you are interested in providing services for young people in a Christian context and have some time to spare we would like to hear from you. We need trustees who can help with the management, fund raising, publicity, ideas, prayer support and so on.

The last meeting of the PCC considered a diverse range of topics. The first of these was that of the PCC meetings themselves,

and those of the associated committees. It was generally felt that much of the work of the PCC and its committees fell on a smaller number of people that should be the case; this tended to involve those people in more meetings than was thought reasonable. A discussion paper suggesting a streamlined pattern of committee meetings and proposing that their work should be spread more evenly with greater delegation was considered and universally accepted.

The meeting then turned to the subject of outward giving. With the end of the year in prospect (at the time of the meeting) the outward giving committee was due to meet to finalise how some £17,500 would be distributed. This year a new pattern of distribution would see large donations going to several carefully

If you are interested and would like to hear more please contact either Richard Tregoning (871701) or Anthony Culley (865713). We look forward to hearing from you.

## URGENTLY NEEDED! CAR DRIVERS AT ST PETER'S



We have a number of people who would like to attend St Peter's regularly but are unable to reach church under their own steam.

We are in desperate need of a few willing car drivers to provide occasional lifts to and from church (usually the 9:30 Eucharist) - the more people who come forward, the less frequent this can be.

If you are able to help with this important activity then do please contact Keith Middleditch on 862423.

## NEWS FROM THE

## P • C • C



selected causes, both local and overseas, with the aim of supporting these causes over several years with similar donations.

Smaller donations would be made as in previous years to a diverse range of other causes.

The latest design for the replacement window in the north aisle of St Peter's was discussed and would be made available for viewing.

Christine Dipper's retirement as a governor of Victoria School was noted, with a vote of thanks for her time as governor. The meeting agreed the nomination of Sheila Dawkins as a new governor for the school.

With the approach of the millennium the Association of Berkhamsted Churches had begun to plan the form celebrations to mark the event should take across the churches in the town. Rob Wakely had volunteered to represent the parish in these discussions.



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## BERKHAMSTED CASTLE W.I.

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At the last meeting of the year we were pleased to welcome a new member and guests from Group 7 to join us at our Christmas meeting and tea. Our speaker was John Smith who gave us an excellent talk entitled *Festival*. He had wonderful slides together with accompanying music to illustrate the theme of his talk which kept the audience enthralled as we travelled through the seasons of the year. Just wonderful!

An appreciation was given by Joy Lovell. During a festive teatime the raffle was drawn and presents distributed to all our guests and members who then left for home after an entertaining and enjoyable afternoon.

We met again on Friday, 8th January at the Court House, Berkhamsted.

Why not make a point in these early months of 1999 of paying us a visit? We will make you very welcome.

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## NORTHCHURCH W.I.

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Our president, Mrs. Joan Hollingdale, welcomed members to the January meeting with a special greeting to a visitor. After mentioning and discussing a number of forthcoming events, pointing to some very busy times ahead, the speaker for the evening was introduced.

Mrs Mavis Taylor, who described herself as a Rolls Royce lady chauffeur, spoke of her ten eventful years as the owner driver of a Rolls Royce Silver Shadow giving excellent reasons for not describing herself, as one would expect, as a chauffeuse.

Mrs Taylor is a Yorkshire woman who, having raised her family to maturity, decided to seek an outlet for her enterprising and energetic disposition. She hit upon the idea of driving overseas visitors, especially Americans, around her beautiful native countryside with which she was closely familiar. She was determined to do this in style which involved acquiring a Rolls Royce which she calculated would give maximum comfort and viewing opportunity to

potential passengers. Her quest for a suitable vehicle was a long one, and not without incident, but eventually she and her husband found the very thing, a sand-coloured Silver Shadow at a price somewhat above their means. Nothing daunted they made an offer which got a haughty reception (they were not typical Rolls Royce customers), but patience and perseverance paid off and the limousine was hers. It was delivered with the boot full of flowers. Beautiful glossy brochures were prepared and strategically distributed.

What she had not calculated on was that the economic climate in this country was not attractive to visitors at this time, and not a single response came from her extensive advertising. Mrs Taylor gave no hint of the despair she must have felt at this lack of success in such a huge endeavour. She had just about reached rock bottom when she was asked if she would assist at a wedding, a chance she jumped at. Her career had taken off.

She drove passengers of all kinds in her beloved Rolls Royce all over London to all kinds of functions but most of all she enjoyed the time she drove in and out of the gates of Buckingham Palace with royal passengers and their bodyguard. Her cheerful philosophical disposition permeated her whole talk ending on a high note when she finally sold her treasured vehicle for the price she had paid for it. Her down to earth approach and engaging personality made for excellent listening as Mrs Wyn Prout-Jones acknowledged when she rose to express the meeting's thanks.

Some unusual and attractive key rings were displayed for the competition won by Mrs Irene Helm and an exquisite arrangement of primroses in a bed of moss lifted the spirits and won the competition for flower of the month for Mrs Sheila Gilbert.



Organising an event? Let our readers know what's going on... send full details to **David Woodward, 3 Murray Road, Berkhamsted HP4 1JD (862723)** (copy dates inside front cover)

|                  |                    |   |   |         |                     |        |    |
|------------------|--------------------|---|---|---------|---------------------|--------|----|
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | <i>St Peter's:</i> | 8:00am  | Eucharist   |         |                     |        |    |
|                  |                    | 9:30am  | Sung Eucharist, crèche, Sunday School & Pathfinders followed by coffee in the Court House   |         |                     |        |    |
|                  |                    | 11:00am   | Celebrate Together (2nd Sunday only) - A service for all ages   |         |                     |        |    |
|                  |                    | 6:00pm  | Evensong [except 1st Sunday]  |         |                     |        |    |
|                  | <i>All Saints'</i> | 8:00am  | Eucharist [except 1st Sunday]   |         |                     |        |    |
|                  |                    | 9:15am  | Sung Eucharist, crèche, Sunday School & Pathfinders followed by coffee in the hall ( <i>This service will be replaced by a family Eucharist or, All Saints' being shared with the Methodists, a 10:00am United Service as announced</i> ) |         |                     |        |    |
|                  |                    | 6:30pm  | Evensong [1st Sunday only] Other Sundays Methodist service  |         |                     |        |    |
|                  | 7:30-9:30pm        | Youth Fellowship ( <i>contact Christine Billington 385566</i> ) |   |         |                     |        |    |
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | <i>St Peter's</i>  | 7:30am  | Morning Prayer (MP)   | 5:30pm  | Evening Prayer (EP) |        |    |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   | <i>St Peter's</i>  | 7:30am  | MP  |         |                     |        |    |
|                  | <i>All Saints'</i> | 9:30am  | Eucharist   |         |                     |        |    |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | <i>St Peter's</i>  | 6:45am  | Eucharist   | 7:30am  | MP                  | 5:30pm | EP |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | <i>St Peter's</i>  | 7:30am  | MP  | 11:00am | Eucharist           | 5:30pm | EP |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | <i>St Peter's</i>  | 7:30am  | MP  | 9:15am  | Eucharist           |        |    |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>  | <i>St Peter's</i>  | 7:30am  | MP  |         |                     | 5:00pm | EP |

|                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>1st Sunday</b>           | <b>SUNDAYS TOGETHER LUNCH:</b> 12:30pm in the Court House<br><i>For anyone on their own on a Sunday. Contact: Joan Morris 863780</i>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Mondays</b>              | <b>GRIEF &amp; LOSS SUPPORT GROUP</b> 8:00-9:00pm in the Court House as announced.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>3rd Sunday</b>           | <b>OPEN HOUSE:</b> 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>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Mondays (except 1st)</b> | <b>BIBLE STUDY/HOUSE GROUP:</b> 8:00pm at the Macdonalds (384953) 9 Hall Park  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>1st Tuesday</b>          | <b>TUESDAY CLUB</b> 8:15pm in the Court House <i>A lively women's group with guest speaker</i><br>Contact chairman Angela Morris 866992 or secretary Margaret Barnard 862794.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Tuesdays</b>             | <b>CHUCKLES PARENT &amp; TODDLER GROUP:</b> 10:00-11:30am All Saints' Church Hall.<br>Song Time 1st & 3rd Tuesdays; Short service 2nd & 4th Tuesdays. Special activity weekly.<br>Gillian Malcolm 874993 or Jenny Wells 870981.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>              | <b>MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP:</b> 2:15pm third Tuesday at 3 Nightingale Lodge.<br><i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>2nd Tues</b>             | <b>MOTHERS' UNION:</b> meets in members' houses at 8:00pm. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Wednesdays</b>           | <b>MEDITATION GROUP:</b> meets about twice a month as arranged at Jenny's 57 Meadow Road and 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       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Wednesday</b>            | <b>PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB</b> 7:00-8:30pm in All Saints' Hall.<br>Contact Chris Billington 385566.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>4th Wed</b>              | <b>WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:</b> 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 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Thursday</b>             | <b>BELLRINGING:</b> 8:00pm at St Peter's. Priscilla Watt (Captain of the Tower) 863804   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Tuesday / Friday</b>     | <b>TUESDAY / FRIDAY STUDY GROUPS:</b> Tues 1-3pm / Fri 9:30-11:30am. Two separate weekly meetings for informal Bible study and support. <i>Young children welcome.</i><br>Contact: Kate Semmens 866531 for Tuesday or Gillian Malcolm 874993 for Friday                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Friday</b>               | <b>LITTLE FISHES PARENT &amp; TODDLER GROUP:</b> 9:30-11:30am in the Court House.<br>Weekly meetings with a short service on 1st Fridays in St Peter's. Katy Bonney: 864194  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Friday</b>               | <b>CHOIR: Boys</b> 7:00-8:30pm (& Tuesday 5:15-6:30pm), <b>Adults</b> 7:30-8:30pm.<br>Contact: Adrian Davis 864722 or Jean Wild 866859   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>3rd Saturday</b>         | <b>ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST:</b> 8:00am for breakfast followed by prayers. Meetings rotate between local churches.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# reviewdiary&registers

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 every weekday and 5:30pm Evening Prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; there is 7:30am Morning Prayer and 5:00pm Evening Prayer on Saturdays.

Feb / March 1999

## FEBRUARY

|    |        |   |                    |
|----|--------|---|--------------------|
| 2  | 8:00pm | Solemn Eucharist - The Presentation of Christ in the Temple   | <i>St Peter's</i>  |
| 7  | 6:30pm | Choral Evensong with the Aldwych Singers and guest preacher the Revd Dr Jane Steen, Curate of Chipping Barnet with Arkley | <i>All Saints'</i> |
| 9  | 8:15pm | Parochial Church Council meeting  | <i>All Saints'</i> |
| 17 | 8:00pm | ASH WEDNESDAY   |                    |
|    |        | Solemn Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes  | <i>St Peter's</i>  |
| 20 | 8:00am | ABC Prayer Breakfast  |                    |
| 24 | 8:00pm | First of five Wednesday Lent Talks from Steve Moyise ( <i>see page 11</i> )   | <i>Court House</i> |
| 27 | 7:30pm | Concert - The Bridgewater Band  | <i>St Peter's</i>  |

## MARCH

|    |        |  |                    |
|----|--------|--|--------------------|
| 14 |        | MOTHERING SUNDAY   |                    |
| 17 | 3:00pm | Annual Parochial Church Meeting  | <i>All Saints'</i> |
| 20 | 8:00am | ABC Prayer Breakfast   |                    |
| 21 |        | Area Elections after morning service at All Saint's (9:15am) and St Peter's (9:30am) |                    |

Registers

## Baptisms (*St Peter's*)

20 December Darius Charles Morgan

## Wedding (*St Peter's*)

12 December Gary Salterpicco and Rachel Picco

## Funerals

|             |                        |                                     |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7 December  | Irene Florence Gay     | St Peter's (committal at Kingshill) |
| 7 December  | George Edward Lloyd    | West Herts Crematorium              |
| 14 December | Dennis Batchelor       | St Peter's (committal at Kingshill) |
| 21 December | Winifred Pearson       | Chiltern Crematorium                |
| 22 December | Constance Fairbairn    | St Peter's (Chiltern Crematorium)   |
| 24 December | Godfrey Joseph Hannell | West Herts Crematorium              |
| 8 January   | Arthur Edwin Dye       | St Peter's (committal at Kingshill) |

Young people

Churches

PCC 1998/99

Contacts

## Young people at St Peter's and All Saints'

### St Peter's

Sunday school and Pathfinders run from 9:30am to 10:30 in the Court House (next to the church in the High Street). Sunday School caters for 4 to 10 year olds, Pathfinders from 10 years upwards. Contact Angela Dunford (875226) or Stephen Lally for Pathfinders (863526).

Crèche is available at 9:30am for under 3's. Parents are most welcome to use this facility in the Court House. Please contact Katy Bonney (864194).

### All Saints'

Sunday school and Pathfinders run from 9:15 to 10:15am, or at 10:00am on the first Sunday in the month. Sunday school caters for 3-9 year olds; Pathfinders from 10 years upwards. Children from both groups join the main service part way through. Contact Elizabeth Figg (866161), Kathy Beaumont (384453) or Felicity White for Pathfinders (863526). Crèche is available at the same times as Sunday school for children under 3. Please contact Elizabeth Figg (866161).

### Youth Groups

The youth fellowship meets in the Court House each Sunday 7:30-9:30pm. Contact Christina Billington (385566).

Pathfinders games club meets 7:00-8:30pm each Wednesday in All Saints' hall. Contact Christina Billington (385566).

For mid-week activities for toddlers please see page 29.



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**Contacts**

The Revd Mark Bonney, The Rectory, Rectory Lane. Tel: 864194 (day off Friday pm / Sat am)  
 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 Ashridge Rise. Tel: 385566  
 Parish Secretary: Mrs Jean Green, The Parish Office, The Court House Tel: 878227  
 Churchwardens: Mrs Barbara Conway, 7 Kilfillan Gardens. Tel: 865798;  
 John Banks, Ladybrand, Cross Oak Road. Tel: 871195  
**Parochial Church Council:** Secretary: Richard Foster, Vandykes, 29 Ashlyns Road. Tel: 863359  
 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 BCP) Holy Communion  
 9.30am Family Sung Eucharist with crèche, Wednesday 6.45am  
 Sunday Schools & Pathfinders Thursday 11.00am  
 (in the Court House) followed Friday 9.15am  
 by coffee in the Court House. Morning Prayer: Mon-Sat 7:30am  
 11:00am Celebrate Together (2nd Sun) Evening Prayer: M,W,Th 5:30pm  
 6.00pm Evensong & Sermon Sat 5:00pm  
 (except 1st Sunday see All Saints') Holy Days - see weekly Notices  
**Confessions:** By appointment 864194  
**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 Sung Eucharist with Sunday schools & Pathfinders, 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 an Anglican / Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership)



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