Berkhamsted review In this issue

Living Simple

Do you Like Bananas?

Be Aware— Be Clear

Lighting the Garden

Christingle

This month's Notes & **Events**



December 2003

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for Town and Parish

30p



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Welcome to the December 2003 issue of the Berkhamsted Review edited in England and mainly prepared by TF in Germany

As you would expect our December edition is not without mention of Christmas. Fr Martin Wright and Revd Peter Hart both, in different ways point beyond the commercial frenzy and social whirl to the deeper meaning of an event to which we can never give its proper due. We invite you to Christingle, to sing carols, watch Nativity plays and to take part in the great services the Church presents at this time of the year. The traditional and well-loved programme is alive and well and taking place in Berkhamsted.

But we have as well a variety of less Yule-oriented features. The town's conservation area may be undermined unless we take some action; the Fairtrade movement is commended to our support as a practical means of helping those less fortunate than ourselves, especially those living in the tropics. We have helpful suggestions for brightening up by lighting up the garden and we tell you the story of the building of Westminster Abbey. And we have a Christmas poem and quite a number of other goodies as well. Have a good read and if you would like to contribute to our future issues, have a good write! We are always glad to hear from correspondents, new and old.

David Woodward

Cover illustration from the Lady Chapel Reredos by Christina Billington & Tony Firshman In this month's issue...

LIVING SIMPLE

DO YOU LIKE BANANAS?

Tracy Robinson outlines the benefits of Fairtrade......p7

BE AWARE - BE CLEAR

LIGHTING THE GARDEN

Denise Gentry explains how you can extend the use of your garden and create some dramatic effects......p11

CHRISTINGLE

The young and the young at heart are all invited to take part in the service on 14 December at All Saints......p16

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

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Next copy dates (all Fridays): 5 December 2 January 6 February



LIVING SIMPLE

Commercialisation of Christmas leads to emptiness, weariness and sadness. Fr Martin Wright urges Living Simple as an alternative

Imagine the scene. The children are wild. surrounded by paper and gifts from family and friends. They ask for more, vet can't appreciate anything they already have and they don't say thank you. Shocked at their behaviour and exhausted by all the preparation. their mother becomes angry

and even thinks of

taking some of the gifts back. It is a sad ending to the most meaningful holiday. The commercialisation of Christmas is perhaps the easiest example of over-consumption to understand and visualise. We see the stores decorated months ahead of time and jammed with merchandise that must be sold. We see the car parks crammed with cars and we hear the Christmas music endlessly playing on the stores' sound systems, and perhaps listen to the kids begging for the latest toy or game.

For many, the holiday madness produces feelings of emptiness, weariness or sadness. The pressure to buy and consume takes a heavy emotional toll and it takes a financial toll as people build up staggering amounts of debt. Apparently the total amount of credit-card debt in Britain is growing at twice the rate of the rise in income.

This materialistic lifestyle has social and economic consequences. That present from the department store may also come at a high price. It may have been made with child labour or under sweat-shop conditions. It may have been produced by a company that does not pay a living wage or one that helps to prop up a dictatorship. Over-consumption is an addiction that plagues the middle-class and wealthy in the rich nations, of which we are one. It is an ethos we export to other countries through advertising, media and entertainment and it is a subtle addiction.

review leader

For some of us, the call to change comes from anger and hurt. For others, it may be the recognition that life feels unbalanced. For some, it is the recognition that they and their children are perpetually over-scheduled. Accumulation of material possessions and being constantly busy can disguise a profound emptiness, a lack of meaning in life. There is no space or silence to listen to one's heart or to God. Increasingly, people are responding by seeking simplicity. Perhaps there are some simple axioms we might use, not as rules, but as guiding principles:

- 1 Be just in our dealings with others.
- 2 Nurture people, not things.
- 3 Learn from the world community.
- 4 Cherish the natural order by caring for creation.

Some people refer to this approach as 'simpler living' because they want to stress this is a process not a destination. We can see it in people who voluntarily leave high-paying. high-pressure jobs for ones that pay less but are less stressful and enable them to have more time for family. Some people change where they live, or buy a smaller house, even moving to where the cost of living is lower. Others restructure family life to live on less income, or simply buy and consume less. The primary motivation in all these cases is happiness. Materialism is an enormous burden and there can be a sense of joy when you decide to live with less. After all, you then don't have so much to take care of, to dust, to change the batteries in, or to worry about people stealing.

Voluntary simplicity is about taking personal responsibility for the social, environmental and spiritual consequences of one's purchases and consumption patterns. We can't do what's right one hundred percent of the time, but we can wrestle. We can consider options, read labels, and do what we can. We can do this without letting the struggle consume us, but also without going about automatically doing what we've been taught and are continuously taught by the media.



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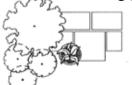
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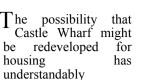
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generated something of an uproar amongst people in the town who history and cultural_

heritage. Castle Wharf, which was for thirty years and until recently the home of Bridgewater Boats, is the oldest remaining canal boatyard in south east England; it was opened in 1798 - the same year as the canal.

There is concern that, with the pressure for new houses to be built on brown field sites. planners will be inclined to allow a cluster of houses or flats to be put on this spot. In fact, although local councils are required to make the greatest possible use of brown field sites for housing and any proposal to build houses on green fields is immediately questioned on the grounds that brown field sites should be used first, there are good reasons why this particular site should not be razed and used for housing.

One very good reason is that the site lies within the Conservation Area of the town. It is difficult to see how replacing a historic boatyard, 205 years old, with new housing however carefully designed - could "preserve or enhance" the Conservation Area

The Berkhamsted Citizens' Association has been pressuring the Council for many years to fulfil a promise to prepare detailed planning guidance for the town's Conservation Area. The borough council has not been able to carry this work forward though because of staff shortages - it is difficult to recruit the people with the right skills to do this job. Now, though, there is a new threat to the completion of this task impending budget cuts. Dacorum Borough Council is required, because of the funding rules of central government, to cut its expenditure by 30% over the next few years.



Ian Reav urges readers to take action to safeguard the future of are sensitive to local Berkhamsted's Conservation Area The council has put out, for

This is of such a horrific extent that the council is having to look closely at anything it does which is not a legal requirement. The alternative is a massive increase in the council tax.

consultation, a long list of suggested ways of saving money or of increasing income to make up the shortfall. Such things as closing down the Boxmoor Arts Centre, reducing the number of bedding plants, increasing the price of Meals on Wheels and reducing grants to local charities have all been mooted. At the same time the council is committed to spending more on litter clearance and street cleansing, since this was a big issue at the time of the local elections in May.

One of the proposals up for discussion is axing the post that would prepare the planning guidance for the Conservation Area. This would be a blow to the Berkhamsted Citizen's Association, in particular, because they have been very active in helping the borough council to prepare its guidelines. The Association has sent, for example, a number of photographs of important buildings in the town to the borough council and is willing to provide further assistance by helping to put information onto a website. This can only be brought to fruition, though, if a properly qualified Conservation Officer at the borough council can complete the work and draw up the strategy. Whether this post can be saved from budget cuts depends on what the public say during the consultation on budget reductions. If you feel strongly about these issues then please write to the borough council's planning department expressing your support for a Conservation Area strategy in the town.

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Do you like bananas? Well, if you do, you are not alone! As we learned at our October meeting, bananas are now the favourite fruit in this country.

Members of our branch discovered this fact, and learned about how bananas are grown in the Windward Islands. These islands

are situated in the eastern Caribbean and comprise Dominica, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada.

Increasing competition from bananas grown elsewhere has meant that prices for the crop have reduced and are often less than the cost of production. This has meant great hardship for the farmers, for whom the bananas are their sole source of income.

Growing bananas involves very hard physical work and reducing profits from banana farming in the Caribbean has meant that many men have had to leave the farms for other work, and women have had to take over. A typical day for the farmer starts with work on the farm at 6am to 11am. She then goes home to prepare a meal for her children and returns to work on the farm from 2pm to 5pm.

However, selling to the Fairtrade market has made a huge difference to many of these farmers. Fairtrade prices guarantee to cover the cost of production and, for small farmers, this can make a difference between simply a struggle for survival and the ability to invest in the future.

In return Fairtrade bananas have to compete on quality rather than price - although the difference in the price in the shops may be quite small.

Fairtrade bananas are quality tested at the farm and again at the ripening depot. The

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Tracey Robinson explains the many benefits of buying Fairtrade bananas



committed to reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides, which is beneficial for the consumer and even more important for the farmer, exposure to the chemicals used causes many health problems. Also, the growers must adhere to Fairtrade

are

growers

environmental criteria. For banana farming this particularly means care over collecting up all the plastic bags which are used to wrap round the bananas to protect them while they are growing.

For every box of bananas that is sold to the Fairtrade market the farmers receive a *premium*. This *premium* is used by the group of farmers to pay for social benefits for their community. They decide each year how this bonus on sales is to be spent. Examples of how this money has been used include healthcare for sick farmers and education about banana farming in primary schools.

Those of us who enjoy eating bananas have a choice to make when we buy them. By choosing Fairtrade bananas we know that the growers will have received a fair price for the fruit. And the more we choose to buy Fairtrade, the more the supermarkets will stock them.

We can find Fairtrade bananas in our local Waitrose. They are also available in Coop and Sainsbury's stores. Some branches of Asda, Safeway, Somerfield, Tesco (but not our Tesco Metro), Budgens and organic food stores stock them as well.

So look out for the Fairtrade logo!

You can find it on cocoa, tea, coffee, sugar, mangoes, pineapples and oranges as well as bananas.

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F irstly, thank you to the editor for inviting me to write an article. I was approached because he learnt about my ambition of raising awareness on disability. My ambition stemmed

from being born with cerebral palsy. Although I have specific problems related to the disability, for example with speech and walking, I also find problems with society. People often see my disability rather than me, probably because they haven't come across cerebral palsy and hence form negative attitudes.

I live in Apsley and this has been my home all my life. When I was born my future did not look that rosy, and the doctors murmured that I may not be able to walk. Up until the age of 5 I attended what was then called a *spastic centre* where the emphasis was on helping me to speak and walk. Through my parents' determination (and an operation) I 'walked' out at the age of 5 and into mainstream school. My school life was up and down. Children used to laugh and call me names but I just got on with my work and did the best I could.

At school, I had one to one help from a welfare helper and at the age of 16 I went solo at college and then onto the University of Hertfordshire. In 2000 I graduated with a degree in Social Sciences. Upon leaving University I did voluntary work for Dacorum Volunteer Bureau which led to me gaining part time employment. Unfortunately, in 2002, through no fault of the Bureau, the funding stopped and hence, along with two others, I was made redundant. Looking for another job was extremely difficult, due to my communication

BE AWARE BE CLEAR

Heidi Buckell invites us to understand and come to grips with other people's disabilities



problem, but through lots of determination I am now working at Watford General Hospital. Although my current job is full time, I am still working on my ambition of creating

disability awareness. While working at Dacorum Volunteer Bureau I set up a project which I chose to call *Be Aware Be Clear'*. I must comment on how supportive and helpful my colleagues at the bureau were when I was trying to set everything up. The main

objective of the project is to go out and talk to groups of people about my experiences and portray a positive image of disability. I want to illustrate to people that, although I do have a disability, I am just another person. I work, I socialise and generally make the most of life! To date I have given over 50 talks.

I've spoken to schools, colleges, companies, churches, the Berkhamsted Castle WI, and the prison (which I was let out of afterwards!) My next challenge will be at a conference with the aim of breaking down barriers in education. My talks have had very good feedback, especially from schools. Schools are probably the most rewarding. When I walk into a class I can see that the children are very anxious but when I walk out they are all friendly and instead of seeing me as different and, to an extent, scary' they see me as one of them.

I have set up my own website which has more information about me and *Be Aware Be Clear*: the address is **www.beawarebeclear.org** - please feel free to have a look. ❖

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The clocks have now gone back and for a large number of us that means spending daylight hours away from home with very little time to enjoy the garden except for perhaps a few hours at the weekend. With

creative garden lighting the period of interest in the garden can be extended throughout the year.

The different uses for garden lighting may be divided into five areas:

- Ornamental lighting is used when garden features are lit for visual appeal.
- 2 Amenity lighting is used for the purpose of safety and practicality - to light a dining table on the patio or in the drive to light the way for yourself and your visitors.
- 3 Task lighting to make specific jobs easier when the daylight is failing for example, cooking on the barbeque.
- 4 **Access lighting** allows safe movement around the garden, by lighting paths and doors, and hazards such as steps and water features.
- 5 **Security lighting** reassures homeowners by creating an illusion of people at home and deters potential intruders,

Within this list there maybe some overlap, with one light or group of lights achieving two or more purposes.

When developing a lighting plan you need to establish the effects you would like to achieve and the areas the relevant types of lighting apply to. Where do you want to see the lighting?

- 1 Only when in the garden?
- 2 Only when in the house from which rooms?
- 3 Both inside and outside from which rooms and areas of the garden?
- 4 From a selected viewpoint inside or outside the house?

LIGHTING THE GARDEN

daylight hours away from home with very little time to enjoy the garden except for perhaps a few hours at

Using the two lists above will help establish which categories of lighting are needed and where it is required. Once the lighting required has been identified, you can begin to think of the

5 Should it provide a

welcoming view of the

different effects that can be achieved.

house?

Maybe you have a fine piece of statuary providing a good focal point, or a beautiful specimen tree. These would be ideal subjects for uplighting.

Downlighting generally uses lower power lamps with glare shields to diffuse the light and create a softer pool of light on the subject; possibly a dining table or flowering plant with upturned flowers for maximum effect.

Grazing is the term used for lighting a feature or surface and casting strong shadows emphasising the texture. This could be achieved by placing uplighters at the base of a brick wall throwing the mortar joints and imperfections into sharp relief.

Spot lighting uses a directional light to highlight a focal point against a darker background. A silhouette can be created by throwing light onto a wall or other vertical surface. The colour and texture of the subject are lost but the distinctive shape of an architectural plant or the bare branches of a small tree are highlighted.

A water feature can take centre stage in the garden lighting picture show, whether it is still or moving the effect is mesmeric. Moving water can be lit with uplighters to give a wonderful shimmering effect as it cascades into the pool; by contrast the reflection of a statue or specimen tree in the still dark waters creates a tranquil but stunning scene.

This is only a brief insight into garden lighting, which can extend the enjoyment of your garden into the dark and dreary winter months. The choice of products available today $\rightarrow p13$

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Aid

Your local Christian Aid Committee, which is composed of representatives of Berkhamsted Baptist Church, St Peter's Church, the Methodist and Anglican congregations of All Saints' Church and St Mary's Church, Northchurch, plans to recycle goats.

How, and why does one recycle a goat? Read

In a village in Burundi, in East Africa, lives Gerthrude Bukuru, a poor widow who once faced a daily struggle simply to survive and had lost count of the times her children had gone to bed hungry, until ... she and other women in her village asked CNEB. Christian Aid's partner in Burundi for help.

The women were given a loan - not of money, but of ten goats, and by recycling these goats, the women's lives have been changed forever. The milk that the goats produced meant Gerthrude's children had nourishing milk to drink, greatly improving their health.

HOW TO RECYCLE A GOAT

(without harming it)

land, improving the quality and quantity of their crops. Then, with enough food left

The goats produced manure.

which the women used to

fertilise their small plots of

over to sell, the women had more money to pay for basic necessities like clothes, medicines and schooling for their children.

In time, the goats produced their own goats and the first ten kids were given back to Christian Aid's partner as repayment of the original loan.

The women were then able to keep the goats they had originally been given.

Most importantly of all, the women no longer needed help, so the goats could be lent to another village association, and the recycled goats could go on helping other desperately poor people.

The forthcoming Christian Aid Fair is dedicated to raising funds to buy more goats to recycle. Please help us to achieve this by supporting the fair this year. You can either offer to run a stall. There is still time to do this. Or you can come on the day to buy our delicious home made cakes, cookies and sweets, Christmas gifts and baskets of hyacinth bulbs. You can also try your luck with the tombola and raffle.

For more information and to offer help, please ring Margaret Pike (866646) or Angela Morris (866992). Thank you very much.

←p11 (*Lighting the Garden* continued)

... has made garden lighting both practical and affordable.

Please remember safety in the garden, especially if water is involved and employ the services of a qualified electrical contractor for all garden electrical installations.

If this article encourages you to look further into the possibilities of lighting your garden, please remember that you are trying to illuminate and enhance areas of the garden, not to recreate daylight, so please consider you neighbours, who may not appreciate uplighters shining into their bedroom, all night long!

If there are specific aspects of garden design you would like covered, please email your request to denisegentry@totalise.co.uk and I will try and incorporate it into the next article. If you would like help with your garden, please call me on 833954. Denise Gentry *

Once he had secured his power. Edward now turned to the work for which he most deserves to be remembered: the founding of Westminster Abbev and the establishment of Westminster itself as a centre of government. The word *minster* occurs frequently in church and place names in the Anglo-Saxon period and refers to a centre at which priests lived and from which they would travel to surrounding areas which had no church of their own in order to minister to the spiritual needs of the residents.

Edward the Confessor and the creation of the capital city

Stephen Halliday tells us how Edward came to build Westminster Abbey The West Minster

The name Westminster derives from the location of the minster west of the City of London. Legend attributed the foundation of the first abbey to Sebert, king of the East Saxons in about 616, an event supposedly attended by miraculous events including the appearance of St Peter who was said to have consecrated the building himself the night before the bishop of London was due to perform this office

The foundation was dedicated to St Peter and evidently flourished since it attracted royal patronage when, in about 795, king Offa (the first to be called king of the *English*) granted the abbey some lands at Aldenham in Hertfordshire. In 960 king Edgar granted the abbey to St Dunstan, bishop of London, who "brought in twelve monks of the Benedictine order". Before Dustan's introduction of monks the minster had been the seat of secular (married) clergy. The abbey flourished under the Benedictine rule and by Edward the Confessor's time was a substantial building occupying much of the site of the present nave.

At the time when it was originally built the abbey had stood on an island in the Thames called Thorney Island or the Island of Thorns. The island was formed by the delta of the river Tyburn which rises on Hampstead Heath and flows mostly underground, surfacing briefly in Regent's park before passing beneath Buckingham Palace and entering the

Thames in two branches (hence the delta), one at Millbank and the other just north of Westminster underground station. Canute created the first royal residence on Thorney Island to replace the dilapidated one at Aldermanbury which dated from the early eighth century when the kings of Mercia had wrested control of London from the kings of the East Saxons. There was thus some association with royalty when Edward the Confessor chose Westminster as the object of his benefactions and the site of his tomb. Harold Harefoot, Canute's successor, had chosen it as his burial place though he did not remain there for long since his successor, Hardicanute, had his bones dug up and thrown into the Thames as the remains of a usurper.

This was not a happy precedent but its earlier royal associations with Sebert and Offa were more re-assuring and the dedication to St Peter may have influenced Edward. The king's vow. during his Norman exile, to undertake a pilgrimage to Rome if his inheritance was restored seemed less attractive once he was securely on the throne. The recent troubled history of the kingdom made prolonged absence on such a pilgrimage

distinctly inadvisable. One tradition has it that Edward was dissuaded by his nobles from such a pilgrimage and, instead, undertook to restore the abbey. Building work seems to have begun in about 1051, at about the time of his dispute with Godwin. Edward took up residence in Canute's palace, nearby as his new foundation arose and thereby established a permanent tradition of royal residence and government in the palace of Westminster.

Very little of Edward's building survived the later restoration of Henry III in the thirteenth century and Hawksmoor's addition of the western towers in the eighteenth. Some eleventh century material may be seen in the Pyx chamber adjacent to the present abbey museum and the bases of the original columns have been found beneath the western end of the present nave. Contemporary descriptions show that the building was in the "Romanesque" or Norman style that Edward had witnessed during his long exile in Normandy. However the names are known of three of the master masons. Leofsi. Godwin and Teinfrith and these are unmistakably Anglo-Saxon so the builders were certainly English.

The building had a nave about a hundred yards long with six double bays, a lantern tower and transepts with chapels. The later cathedrals at Winchester, Gloucester, Canterbury and Lichfield adopted the style first used at Westminster. Edward certainly chose his new abbey as his burial place and it was finished just in time for this event. It was consecrated on 28th December, 1065. Edward was not present. He had suffered a stroke four days earlier and died on 5th January, 1066. He was buried behind the abbey's high altar. His long-suffering wife, Edith, joined him there in 1075.

The Year of Three Kings

The childless Edward had given some thought to the succession. In 1057 Edward the Exile, son of Edmund Ironside, was persuaded to return to England from his reasonably comfortable exile in Hungary. He was half-nephew to Edward the Confessor and the king's closest male relative. He landed in England in 1057 and died before he met his uncle, probably from natural causes. He was buried in St Paul's, in the City. Shortly before his death Edward appears to have nominated Harold as his successor. Harold had no dynastic claim to the throne, being a relative of the royal house only through the marriage of his sister, Edith, to the late king. However, in the words of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle "Earl Harold was now consecrated king" though the writer added "he met little auiet in it as long as he ruled the realm".

Significantly, within twenty-four hours of Edward's death, Harold had himself crowned in Westminster Abbev, the first coronation the abbey witnessed and a clear sign of its royal status. Portents quickly followed. "Over all England there was seen a sign in the skies such as had never been seen before. Some said it was the star 'comet' which some called the long-haired star". This opportune appearance of Halley's comet was later recorded in the Bayeux Tapestry as an indication of Harold's perfidy in seizing the throne which he held for less than ten months, his reign ending on 14th October, 1066, at Senlac Hill, near Hastings.

William the Conqueror's coronation followed on 25th December 1066, again in the abbey which also received an honoured place on the famous tapestry with which William celebrated his triumph.



Parish of Great Berkhamsted

St Peter's with All Saints'



For many parishes and families across the country, the Christingle celebration is the highlight of the year. At the service, the children are presented with a Christingle, pictured left. It is a symbol of light across the world

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE at ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 14 December at 4.00pm

We will be supporting the work of the Children's Society. Christmas is a time when children are surrounded by their families, who love them and keep them safe and warm at home. Yet it's also a time when many children feel afraid to go to school because they know they are going to be bullied. Research has shown that bullying affects one in three children and its effects can be lasting and serious.

By joining our Christingle celebrations this year you can help shine a light into the darkness of these children's lives. Your prayers and support will help the vital work the Society's projects are doing to prevent bullying and unnecessary exclusions from our schools. Your support can make a real difference. One positive way will be to come to the Christingle service, which will be a very enjoyable event. Alternatively, you can make a donation by collecting in the special COLLECTING CANDLE during the next few weeks and bringing, or sending it to the church for the service on 14 December. Please take one from the back of either church.

The service will include Christmas songs and hymns and a talk for the children. We extend a very warm welcome to everyone to make a difference to the lives of vulnerable children at this special time of year. Please come and join us.

CHRISTINGLE

Our chance to have fun and also help children this Christmas

NEWS FROM THE PCC

In Father Mark's absence, the October meeting was chaired by **John Banks**.

The main item addressed was the ongoing subject of the vision for the parish. Father Martin reported on the most recent developments at All Saints' namely the introduction in September of the new pattern of services with a joint service being held on the third Sunday each month - Anglican and Methodist alternately.

Father Martin also reported on the October diocesan synod meeting, the first of a new triennium. Following the election of chairs of the houses of clergy and laity, Bishop Christopher examined some of the key issues which the new synod might face namely how the use of church buildings could be developed; how Christian unity is taken forward; how children and young people can be encouraged in our churches and how internal *labels* within the Church can be overcome.

Regarding committee reports, the treasurer presented a paper outlining

the current financial status, and the stewardship committee reported that a letter was being sent out to those on the electoral roll and that Father Mark would preach on The Principles of Stewardship in both churches in November. The youth group committee reported that the vetting process in connection with the child protection policy was going well, and a forthcoming meeting of the outward giving committee would discuss the grants to be made for 2003 following a request to members of the congregation for suggestions of possible charities.

Congratulations were extended to the Petertide Fair committee on a very successful Petertide Fair back in June and it was formally agreed to hold the fair again in 2004 with charities to be supported discussed at the next meeting.

Finally, a resolution was passed unanimously for the proposal by the Royal British Legion to erect a collective war memorial in the Three Close Lane churchyard.

←p3 Living simple is not simple, it requires constant vigilance. The temptations of extravagance and waste are constant. It means challenging not just the obvious temptations to splurge but even the everyday habits that we've inherited, probably from loving, well-intentioned family and friends. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has said, "The heart of the Christmas message is that God takes our material world completely seriously. He doesn't just send a message; he comes to live in the physical world in the flesh and blood of a real person, Jesus. The good news God sends at Christmas has to be good news for the whole world. If we start thinking about protecting our neighbours and our environment properly, we shall be reflecting the way God himself looks at the world into which he came at Christmas."

I hope you are able to have a simple and enjoyable Christmas.

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review poems

God, Everlasting,
There `fore time began,
I cannot comprehend your might.
A thousand thousand eyes that never rest
Holding all time the universe will ever know
Within your sight.
Supreme Creator,
Planets rolling at your fingertips,
Voice of gale, storm, hurricane proceeding from your lips,
Ear tuned to hear a sparrow-feather fall
A heart immensely full of love, for all,
Expecting nothing in return...
Mind, like the widest fire,
Burning a universe of knowledge in a single moment.

Yet here you lie,
An infant in the straw.
Wailing in the coldness of a winter evening raw,
The stench of animal dung in button nose,
The splintering timber of their trough
Against small toes.
Tiny, dimpled hands that shaped the world
Reaching for a Maiden's breast,
Your only nourishment,
The screaming agony of human birth has emptied
All your Godhead, here, on Earth.

This I can understand. Love, visible to all, A baby, cradled in his Mother's arms, Sheltered in a cattle stall.

Elizabeth Baxendale

Peal Rung at Berkhamsted - news from the bellringers

On Saturday, 8th November, a peal of Stedman Triples consisting of 5040 changes was rung at Berkhamsted in just under three hours.

This was a first peal for David Pearce, one of the two local ringers in the band, the other being David Burbidge. The rest of the band was composed of old friends of the local ringers. The conductor was David Sheppard, a one-time member of St Peter's choir who came from Romford. Judith Burbidge came from Berkshire, Jon Chamberlain from Oxfordshire and David Sworder from Somerset; all are former strong members of the local band. The final two members of the team were Chris Turner from Lincolnshire whose parents-in-law Roger and Eileen Judd still live in the area and Terry Streeter a former member of the Hemel Hempstead band and an occasional visitor on practice nights who flew in from Germany for the occasion.

The peal was followed by a social gathering of ringers and friends at the Old Mill.



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I was lucky enough this autumn to visit Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield. My elder daughter and her husband collected me which was a great joy in view of the uncertainty of one's train arriving or leaving on time.

During my stay in the north, two occasions stuck in my memory.

Many people will have seen the Angel of the North. I think it is wonderful as it cuts the viewer down to size. I feel I'm about the size of an ant in comparison. Many do not like it, or course. Well, *Anthony Gormley* who sculpted the Angel is also responsible for Domain Field which is on view at the Baltic gallery, Gateshead. It was shown on TV some time ago.

290 volunteers were covered in plaster, wrapped in cling film and left to *harden*. They were then cut out of their encasing shells. Welders then filled the space to construct a matrix of steel bars. This produced figures of men, women and

LOOK NORTH ..again!



young children - a play of light and line making recognisable figures in various positions. Visitors were able to walk amongst these figures. By mistake I touched one, which set it gently in motion. It really was a wonderful experience.

Another day my younger daughter and I visited **George Stephenson**'s birthplace at Wylam. Born in 1781, George Stephenson's house was divided into four tenements for four families. The room allotted to the Stephensons was shared by George, his mother and father and his brothers and sisters. They ate, lived and slept in the one room.

George couldn't read or write until he was finally taught to do so by his son. George Stephenson's *Rocket* won a competition for the engine to pull wagons to Rainhill. This family home is the National Trust's smallest property. It is well worth a visit. And so is Domain Field. *Muriel Lander*.

St Peter's High Altar/Sanctuary Reordering Update

As reported towards the end of last year following the experimental period and the replies to questionnaires the Are Committee agreed that we would purse the idea of an altar that would have the president facing the congregation. The fact that the altar arrangement has returned to what it was doesn't mean that nothing is happening!!

Since that time I have been in touch with one of the foremost liturgical consultants in the country and asked his advice, and he has put me in contact with an architect who has good liturgical knowledge. The architect in question came to St Peter's and shared in our worship one Sunday in October so that he could get a feel of how we do things, and what we are thinking of. He took away the questionnaires so that he knew what they contained and the issues to be aware of.

At the time of writing this brief update I am in the process of organising a meeting with the Diocesan Advisory Committee, who it is important to involve at this stage, and then we will move to more detailed discussions with the architect leading, hopefully, to a presentation of concrete ideas.

Fr Mark

Berkhamsted Choral Society

HERALDING THE SEASON

Sunday 7th December 2003, 7.30pm St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted

Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas carols
Albinoni Adagio for strings
JS Bach Christmas Oratorio (excerpts)
and carols for choir and audience
with

Wyn Pencarreg baritone
Robin Walker organ
The Harper Brass Ensemble
The Gaudeamus Chamber Orchestra
Graham Wili conductor

Tickets £10.50, concessions £9.00 including Dacorum Card (mulled wine and mince pies are included in the price)

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VERA PULLEN

Extracts from the funeral address by Fr Mark Bonney at Vera's funeral on 13 October

It will hardly be a

said

RIP - October 2003

others wouldn't - and did them generously and graciously.

As I knew to my cost once or twice, she was

a forthright lady who spoke her mind but that's no bad thing. She was a great lady and it has been my privilege to take her communion at home for some time now and to be with her just a few hours before she died to administer the Last Rites of the church to which she had given so much.

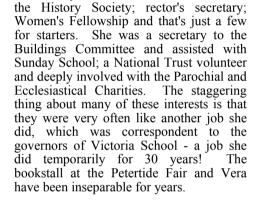
Vera kept a great deal to herself, which will be why, for many, her death has come as a shock. I suspect that she knew much more than she wanted either to tell others or concern others with. She was both brave, courageous and accepting.

So here, in the context of the celebration of the Eucharist, and among this large gathering of relatives and friends, we lovingly commend Vera into God's hands.

Sheila Newland adds:

I would like to thank all those friends who attended the requiem mass for my sister, Vera Pullen, at St Peter's church. It was a most moving service which was greatly appreciated by all the family.





surprise if the things I have to say from the

parish rather than from the family angle

simply amplify what others have already

The extent of Vera's involvement in town

and parish was great: the Hospice from its

earliest days both as volunteer and trustee;

In all the committee work that so much of this involved, Vera always maintained a positive outlook and as well as talking, she got things done. She was a tireless worker and as the list of her involvements might suggest, she often took things on that



LIONS CLUB OF BERKHAMSTED



For information on the Lions and their activities, phone Lion Peter Block (Press Officer) on 864731.

To meet the Lions at one of their meetings, phone Lion Roy Thame (Membership Director) on 873909.



review northchurch

Revd Peter Hart
not only reminds
us that Advent
points to the
Nativity but also
to Christ's
coming in
judgement.
Therefore let us
re-examine the
judgements we

make ourselves

December has a habit of inducing "headless chicken" mode in most of us, as we rush about preparing for Christmas. The rest of us gaze from sidelines, slightly bemused at the fuss and wondering iust how far we can push the Scroogetendencies that lurk not far below the surface. This is probably unfair, as we have

good reasons to try to get ready early, and also to entertain as generously as we can.

However, while that is going on in our daily lives, the Church is asking us to be looking elsewhere - not to Jesus's birth but to his second coming. We are not anticipating Jesus's vulnerability as a baby, but Jesus's power to judge. This is not an easy subject, as we do not like talk of such matters, and certainly wouldn't want to discuss it ourselves. Judgement is best left un-discussed.

While this is a natural, guilt-induced reaction, it is also completely unrepresentative of how we actually do make judgements in our everyday lives. We judge by appearance, we judge by rumour, we judge by fixed ideas, we judge in ignorance. All those latent attitudes which we struggle to suppress in polite society are deeply ingrained in our subconsciousness, and it takes a

great deal of effort to keep them there or alter them.

As we enter this season of Advent, and look with eager anticipation for the coming of Jesus Christ in power, let us hold up to his face the judgements that we perform day in, day out, to see how they match up to his. The generous love of God, which welcomes all his creatures and loves them equally: how do our reactions to strangers and those who behave differently from us compare? The extraordinary mercy of a God who dies for our sin: how does that sit against our outright condemnations of whatever social group we currently dislike - homosexuals, travellers, asylum seekers etc? All that convulses the Anglican Communion at the moment: how will that play in the light of the Advent of Christ our judge?

We are quickly shamed when we are quick to judge and slow to understand. May this Advent season lead us into the grace of acceptance of difference within the multiplicity of God, so that we can truly welcome the Christ-child when he comes in the poverty of Bethlehem.

Cantello concert

St Mary's, Northchurch

Saturday December 6th at 7:30pm

MUSIC FOR ADVENT

Soprano, cello & harpsichord

review notes & notices

OXFAM NEEDS YOUR STAMPS

Don't throw away any of the stamps that come with your Christmas post (or indeed with your ordinary post, for that matter). Please save your stamps and pass them on to Oxfam, who will be able to make good use of them. Please hand them in at the Oxfam shop in the High Street when you are passing one day, where they will be gratefully received.

HARVEST THANK YOU

The total raised in the parish of St Peters with All Saints for this year's Harvest for the Hungry appeal by the Bishop of St Albans has now risen to £1696. Further donations on top of the previous total plus a surplus from the All Saints harvest supper accounted for the extra (almost) £400.

BERKHAMSTED QUIET PLACES

) The next quiet garden event will take place at Hill House, Frithsden Copse, Berkhamsted from 9.30am to 12.30pm on Tuesday 20 January. The theme is "*This is the way, walk in it*" (Isaiah Ch 30 v21). The morning will be led by **Revd Keith Green**, retreat and quiet day leader and chaplain to the Quiet Garden Trust. Please phone **Frances Norrington** (871855) to secure a place.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NIGHT

The annual Christmas shopping night for senior and disabled shoppers will take place on Tuesday 9 December from 6 to 8pm at the Marlowes Shopping Centre, Hemel Hempstead. The Dacorum Volunteer Bureau has co-ordinated this event for many years. arranging help with transport, volunteer wheelchair pushers and entertainment for the evening. Last year around 250 special shoppers booked their evening out through the bureau and many others came along with their friends and relatives. They had a great time! For many elderly people this may be the first time they have been to the shops in months. As usual wheelchairs are available to borrow for the evening and there will be

plenty of help in and around the shops. For more information, please ring 247209.

HELP WISE DINNER

Enjoy a charity dinner in aid of Romania at the Way Inn, 268, High Street on Friday, 12 December, at 7.30pm for 8pm.

For reservations, call **Christos Izamis** (269263) or e-mail helpwise@ntlworld.com or phone the coffee shop (864751). The dinner is organised by the charity Help Wise, which Review readers will recall has staged a number of events to help disadvantaged people, especially in Eastern Europe.

The menu will consist of four courses plus tea or coffee, and a bottle of wine for two people.

A donation of £20.00 per person will be most appreciated.

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St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted The Cowper Society presents



CHILTERN CHAMBER CHOIR and ORCHESTRA

Director: Adrian Davis Leader: Stuart James

Christmas Oratorio - J S Bach

Louise Turner: soprano Jeanette Ager: mezzo soprano Julian Stocker: tenor Christopher Foster: bass

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23, 2003 at 7:30pm

Tickets: £12 & £10 (concessions) from The Bookstack, members of the Choir and at the door on the night. Children under 17 free

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review notes & notices

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



At the annual general meeting of the Berkhamsted Castle WI held on 7 November at the Court House, Mrs Margaret Pearson, a

county advisor from Tring, presided over the meeting, which included the re-election of Mrs Joy Lovell and Miss Liz Baxendale, as joint presidents for the coming year.

Mrs Maureem Stonhill joined the committee, and Mrs Vera Pinks retired from it. Otherwise the names remained the same. (see below)

Secretary Janet Mitchell reported on the year's activities. We had had some interesting speakers and had enjoyed an outing, craft events and events put on by the county federation. The treasurer presented the financial report and members were pleased to note that the institute is in good fiscal shape. Both joint presidents thanked the committee and members for their support through the year, and agreed that the sharing of the presidents role had made life less stressful as they had worked together without any discord at all! Mesdames Mavis Banyard, Judith Lowther, Mary Harris and those already named will form the committee for the coming year. An interesting and varied programme is being planned. Why not come along to the Court House on the first Friday in the month and find out what WI is all about? You will be most welcome.

The speaker in December is **Liz Baxendale** who will remind us that Christmas is Coming,, and we shall have a present swap, and a mince pie tea.

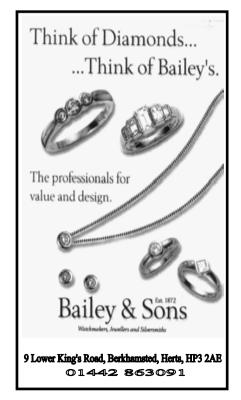
Liz Baxendale (866464)

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes for those in the 12-plus age group will begin on Wednesday 14 January at 6.15pm and continue on Wednesdays thereafter. Please give names to **Fr Mark Bonney** (864194)

EMMAUS NURTURE COURSES

A daytime course to be held at the rectory from 1.30 to 3pm on selected Mondays will start on 12 January. This Emmaus nurture course, led by **Fr Mark Bonney** is ideal for adults thinking of confirmation, those wanting to find out about the Christian faith or anyone who feels in need of a refresher course on the basics of their faith. The dates are 12,26 January, 2,23 February, 8,22 March, 20 April (NB This is a Tuesday), 10,24 May. If you are interested, please contact **Fr Mark** (864194).



review notes & notices

AEOLIAN CHRISTMAS

Demand is expected to be high for tickets for the annual Aeolian Singers' Christmas concert, in this the Singers' fortieth anniversary year.

This is especially true as their usual lighthearted programme will be enhanced by a specially commissioned work from composer and broadcaster **Peter Skellern**.

Parts of the Christmas Cantata have been arriving every week which the Singers are eagerly rehearsing as each new segment arrives, all on the age-old nativity story.

Of course, the recipe will include topical readings and traditional carols, the younger element being represented by that delightful youth choir, the Ace of Herts

Stir in the Aeolian Brass Ensemble, **Robin Walker** at the organ, and **Stephen Jones** wielding the baton and sit back and enjoy. The performance will be in St John's church, Boxmoor on Saturday, 13 December at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £6 for adults and there is one free children's ticket per adult ticket purchased. Box office - 871598

FRIENDS CHRISTMAS WALK

Come and join the Friends of Ashridge popular Christmas walk on Sunday 28 December starting at 10am. The starting point is on Monument Drive and there will be a stop en route for mulled wine and mince pies. Dogs are welcome if kept under close control. Tickets cost £4 (Friends £3), with children 5 to 16 £2 (Friends children £1.50) Children under five are free but remember the terrain may not be suitable for push chairs.

To book by phone ring Hughenden Box Office (01494 755572). To book by post please send a cheque payable to National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd and a self-addressed envelope to the National Wycombe, Bucks HP14 4XT.

ROOM TO RENT

There is a room to rent in a beautiful modern house in Berkhamsted. The lady who owns the house ,who is a single Christian woman, would like to share with another single Christian woman, who was also a non-smoker .The house owner recently moved back to Berkhamsted, having originally grown up here. .Please contact Anna (872078 or 07967 483673)

CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Friends of Ashridge invite you to Christmas Cheer on Saturday 13 December from 10.30am to 12 noon at the visitor centre, Monument Drive, Ashridge. There will be many stalls selling Christmas gifts, foods, bulbs, local crafts, cards and books. The Little Gaddesden JMI School will sing Christmas carols at 11am. The National Trust shop will be open. Admission costs £2 which includes coffee and mince pie





SUNDAY	St Peter's:	8:00am	Euchari	ist			
SUNDAI	507 6061 50	9:30am		icharist, crèche.	, Sunday Sch	ool & Pathi	finders
			followed	l by coffee in the	e Court Hou	se	
		6:00pm	Evensor	ıg			
	All Saints'	8:00am	Euchari	st only as annou	inced		
		9:15am		icharist, crèche I by coffee in th			
			٠ .	festivals as anno ervice with the N	,		ı 10am
		6:30pm	Method	ist service each	Sunday until	l further no	tice.
MONDAY	St Peter's	7:30am	Mornin	g Prayer (MP)	5:00pm	Evening P	rayer (EP)
TUESDAY	St Peter's	7:30am	MP	All Saints'	9:30am	Eucharist	
WEDNESDAY	St Peter's	7:00am	MP	7:30am	Eucharist	5:00pm	EP
THURSDAY	St Peter's	7:30am	MP	11:00am	Eucharist	5:00pm	EP
FRIDAY	St Peter's	7:30am	MP	9:15am	Eucharist	5:00pm	EP (AS)
SATURDAY	St Peter's	8:45am	MP(AS)	(except 3rd Sat	in month)	5:00pm	EP
1 st Sun SUNDA				pm in the Court		: Joan Mor	ris (863780)
3 rd Mon GRIEF							115 (000 / 00)
- Julia Gillia				auth Treves-Bro			ile (873087)
1st Tue TUESI	•			House A lively w	, ,		` /
				Bray (864532)	0 1		
Tue CHUC				ROUP:: 10:00-1		U	• ` '
		Song	Time or S	Short service as	announced.	Jenny We	lls (870981)
3 rd Tue MOTH	IERS' UNION:			houses at 8:00		•	` ' '

MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm. Non-members always welcome. Contact: Kathie Lally (863526) HILLSIDE GROUP: 8.00pm at 22,Upper Hall Park for bible study. Contacts: Rob & Julie Wakely (875504) 4rd Tues MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:00pm at 17 Shaftesbury Court. Tell us if anyone needs our prayers. Contact: Jenny Wells (870981) MEDITATION GROUP: meets about twice a month as arranged at Jenny's 57 Meadow Road and at Ruth's, 1 Montague Road. Everyone is very welcome to join us for about half an hour of quiet prayer. Contact: Jenny Wells 870981 or Ruth Treves Brown (863268) 2nd Wed MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP: 8:00pm as announced. Contact Guy Dawkins (874108) 3rd Wed GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT Lunch at 12:30pm for those who have been bereaved. Contact Thelma Harris (865785) 4th Wed WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: meets 2:30-4:00pm in the Court House. New members and visitors always welcome. Contact: Biddy Shacklock (864574) HOME GROUP: 8:00pm on 2nd & 4th Thursdays. Thu Contact Linda Bisset (862115) Priscilla Watt (Captain of the Tower) (863804) Thu BELLRINGING: 8:00pm at St Peter's. Fri FRIDAY STUDY GROUP: Tuesdays 1:30pm for informal Bible study. Young children welcome. Contact: Kate Semmens (866531) LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-11:30am in the Court House. Weekly meetings with a short service 1st Fri in St P (10am) Nicole Addy-Varndell (864094) ST PETER'S CHOIR: Children 7:00-8:30pm (& Tues 5:15-6:15pm), Adults 7:30-8:30pm. Fri Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859) ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast & prayers. Various local churches. Sun YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP 7:00-9:30pm in the Court House or as announced Contact Jimmy Young (876736)

review diary

Please see page 29 for a full list of regular services at St Peter's and All Saints' churches. A priest is available for confessions by appointment (864194).

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DEC	EMI	BER	
Mon	. 1	8.00pm	Prayers for healing
Fri	5	10.00am	Little Fishes Service
Sun	7	6.30pm	Taizé style Evening Worship
Sun	7	8.00pm	The Cowper Society presents Berkhamsted
			Choral Society Christmas concert
Tue	9	10.00am	Chuckles Service Christmas Story 10.15amAll Saints'
Sat	13	7.00pm	Christmas supper and Sing-a-long
Sun	14	4.00pm	Christingle Service
Tue	16	8.15pm	Parochial Church Council
Sat	20	8.00am	ABC Prayer BreakfastKings Road Evangelical Church
Sun	21	9.30am	Sunday School Nativity Play
Sun	21	10.00am	United Anglican/Methodist Sunday School
			Nativity Play
		6.30pm	Christmas Carol Service
Tue	23	7.30pm	The Cowper Society presents Chiltern Chamber Choir
			JS Bach Christmas OratorioSt Peter's
For s	servic	es in Chris	stmas week and and Epiphany see page 31
	UAR	_	
Tue	13	8.00pm	Joint Worship Committee
			(Ruth Treves Brown)
Wed	14	8.00pm	All Saints' Area Committee
		8.15pm	St Peter's Area Committee
Sat	17	8.00am	ABC Prayer Breakfast(Venue to be announced)

review registers

Baptisms (St Peter's)

26 October Mary Margaret Beard, Sophie Beard

Weddings (St Peter's)

11 October Gavin Charles Atkins & Lorraine Christine Dealey

James Berkeley Page & Helen Andree Atkinson

7.30pm The Cowper Society presents

Funerals

13 OctoberVera Norris PullenSt Peter's Church (Chilterns Crematorium)14 OctoberGertrude AllenChilterns Crematorium17 OctoberIan McLean MairGarston Crematorium14 NovemberPeggy Jean HarrisAll Saints' Church (burial at Kingshill)

Christmas/Epiphany

DECEMBER 2003 Wed 24 4.00pm Children's Carols & Procession to the Crib St Peter's and All Saints' 11.30pm Procession, Blessing of the Crib & Midnight Mass of Christmas St Peter's Thu 25 8 00am 9.15am Procession of gifts to the Crib 9.30am & Sung Eucharist St Peter's **JANUARY 2004** Tue 6 8.00pm

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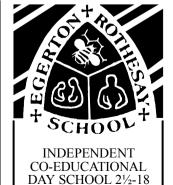
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Headteacher Mrs N Boddam-Whetham

review backpage

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The Revd Mark Bonney, The Rectory, Rectory Lane (864194) (day off Friday pm / Sat am)

The Revd Martin Wright, All Saints House, Shrublands Road (866161) (day off Monday)

The Revd Prof. Luke Geoghegan (NSM), 16 Gravel Path, (866361)

The Revd Canon Basil Jones (Hon. Asst. Priest), 17 Lochnell Road (864485)

The Revd Preb Stephen Wells (Hon. Asst. Priest), 57 Meadow Road (870981)

Mrs Christina Billington (Diocesan Lay Minister), 13 Ashridge Rise (385566)

Miss Marjorie Bowden (Reader), 16 Broadwater (871283)

Mrs Joan Cook (Reader), The Gardeners Arms, Castle Street (866278)

John Malcolm (Reader), Landswood, Shootersway (874993)

Mrs Jenny Wells (Reader), 57 Meadow Road (870981)

Parish Administration: Mrs Jean Green, The Parish Office, The Court House (878227)

Stewardship Recorder: Miles Nicholas, 46 Fieldway (871598)

Churchwardens: Carole Dell. 4 Clarence Road (864706)

John Banks, Ladybrand, Cross Oak Road (871195)

Parochial Church Secretary: Mrs Pat Hunt, 11 The Firs, Wigginton (822607) Council: Treasurer: Michael Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way (863559)

Director of Music: Adrian Davis (864722) Asst. Director of Music: Mrs Jean Wild (866859)

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Jonathan Lee (0794 1113232) Organist: Weekdays

Sundays

Holy Communion (1st Sun BCP) Holy Communion 8.00am 9.30am

Family Sung Eucharist with crèche, Wednesday 7:30am Sunday Schools & Pathfinders Thursday 11.00am (in the Court House) followed Friday 9.15am

by coffee in the Court House. Morning Prayer: M-F 7:30am, W 7:00am

Evening Prayer: M.W.Th 5:00pm

Evensong & Sermon 5:00pm Sat Holy Days - see weekly Notices

Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Baptisms, Funerals: Father Mark Bonney (864194) Bellringers (St Peter's): Miss Priscilla Watt. 11 Cavalier Court. Chesham Road (863804)

Choirmaster: Peter McMunn (874894)

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Sundays

6.00pm

Anglican Eucharist only as announced 8.00am

9.15am Sung Eucharist with Sunday schools & Pathfinders, then coffee in the Hall

United service with the Methodist congregation (3rd Sunday in month) 10:00am

11.00am (Methodist Morning Service)

Anglican service only as announced (otherwise Methodist Evening Service) 6.30pm

5th Sunday – United Anglican/Methodist service.

Weekdays

Holy Communion: Tuesday 9.30am MP/EP see p29 Holy Days - see weekly Notices

All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership. Anglican priest-in-charge Revd Martin Wright (see *Contacts* above)

Methodist minister: Revd Paul Timmis, 32 Finch Road (866324)



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