# **Berkhamsted** review

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for Town and Parish

30p



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

In this month's issue...

### Welcome to the June 2006 issue of the Berkhamsted *review*

The upkeep of church buildings is in the news again. As The Times headline recently put it, Crumbling churches repair fund falls short by £118m a year. Thousands of historic places of worship urgently need cash. The crucial question is - Whose cash? Who should be responsible for looking after our church buildings? They are part of the national heritage, and English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund contribute some £40m each year. Congregations find another £67m, but according to English Heritage, a further £118m a year is needed over the next three years to complete all the outstanding repair work. Where should this money come from? English Heritage will ask government for an extra £8m each year, but an interesting new development is the proposal by English Heritage to make it easier for congregations to adapt their historic buildings for more flexible community use. At the same time English Heritage is urging individuals, whether churchgoers or not, to contribute regularly towards the upkeep of the buildings. In fact, many churches do already have a Friends group that draws support from the wider community.

Who do you think should pay? Letters or emails to the Editor welcome (see addresses below).

Christopher Green

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... plus our regular features,

Cover photograph: 85-87 High Street (p15) *Tony Firshman* 

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Next copy dates (all Fridays) 2 June 7 July 4 August



# Have You Walked the Emmaus Road? John Malcolm puts the question

review leader

The Alpha Course is the most successful Christian outreach programme in recent years. Starting nationally in 1992 with just 5 courses, by the year 2005 the course total worldwide was 31,167 with an

estimated attendance of around 8 million people. **Dr Peter Brierley** of Christian Research reckons that some 2 million people in the UK have now done an Alpha Course.

So why have I headed this letter with a question about the Emmaus road and then talked about the success of the Alpha Course? The reason is that I want to talk about the Emmaus Programme that has run in the Parish for the past six years, but my guess is that whilst many people have heard of Alpha, relatively few know about Emmaus. I've run a number of both courses and I believe that Emmaus has much to offer, especially in our Parish situation.

Church House Bookshop looked recently at the strengths and weaknesses of Alpha and Emmaus. The main conclusions were that Alpha has a strong brand name and national publicity that helps attract people. It has easy to use resources and a strong network of local advisers. It is, however, thin on the sacraments and social ethics and has few follow-up materials. By contrast, Emmaus was seen to have theological breadth, uses a greater variety of learning styles and the Growth Modules of Emmaus provide excellent follow-up to the basic Emmaus course and, interestingly, to Alpha. It is, however, much less well known than Alpha, has no videos and needs more preparation by the leader. Both Alpha and Emmaus are used by all the main Christian denominations.

Our Emmaus courses have attracted a broad range of people with ages from the late-teens to the early eighties. Those attending have ranged from people not committed to any faith, but who were searching for something more in life, people preparing for confirmation (and sometimes Baptism as well) and long-term Christians who wanted to explore their faith in

more detail. Each of these groups has found that Emmaus enables them to explore Christianity in a non-threatening environment. That's important for people who have been attending church for many years and who may be concerned that their knowledge of Christianity, and the Bible in particular, is less developed than others might expect!

**John Finney**, past Bishop of Pontefract and one of the five co-authors of the Emmaus Programme, says that most people:

- come to faith in Christ through relationship with a group of Christians;
- become Christians gradually, over a period of time – Damascus road conversions are quite rare;
- find entry into church life reasonably easy if they come with a friend;
- find that belonging to a church comes before believing, and not the other way round

Taking this on board, Emmaus encourages a journey of faith that is life-changing, enduring and that has an impact on the community of believers, as well as the individual. It is designed for seekers, beginners and disciples. Although Emmaus contains a lot of material, I have found it easy to tailor the content to meet the needs of the participants. That makes each course unique in itself – it means also that the course is a safe place in which to ask questions without the fear of looking or feeling silly.

The next Emmaus *starter* course will begin in September and it is always possible to fit in additional short courses that develop subjects that have been touched on in the *starter* course. Those who are interested can find out more detail from either Fr Michael or me (see page 30). I'll finish with two quotes from people who have attended Emmaus:

"Its nice to be able to answer some of the questions about God when my daughter asks me!"

"Its good to know that the Church can engage with those of us who don't go to church"

Now there's food for thought!

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MU members often have interesting talks and discussions with visiting speakers. At the recent meeting of the Mothers' Union branches in this deanery Alison Bailey, a fellow MU member and

deanery chairman of Cheshunt, gave a talk about her work as a Magistrate. The title of her talk was chosen to reflect how she sees her role as a

balancing act between underpinning the law and punishing offenders while encouraging them to change their ways to prevent reoffending.

Magistrates are local people appointed by the Lord Chancellor. The role of the lay magistrate in the country's judicial system was introduced in 1195 when Richard I commissioned certain knights to preserve the King's Peace in unruly areas. They were responsible to the King for ensuring that the law was upheld and were known as Keepers of the Peace. The title Justice of the Peace was introduced from 1361. In 1910 an advisory committee system was instituted giving local advisory committees the task of recommending candidates for appointment to the Lord Chancellor. It was not until 1920 that the first women were appointed as magistrates.

Why did Alison make the decision to apply to become a magistrate? Having run a children's nursery affiliated to her church for many years, when her children left home for university like many of us she was looking for a new direction to her working life and in particular one which would involve her in the community. She noticed that magistrates were being sought locally, realised she could be interested and so sat in on several court hearings. Submission of her application form was followed by two detailed and fairly nerve-wracking interviews, the second of which was with three magistrates and a legal advisor and both for some reason held at 9pm in the

# Underpin and Make Good

The **MU** learns about the work of a magistrate

mothers Christian care for union families worldwide

evening. She was a p p o i n t e d a n d following her official swearing in ceremony embarked on her training.

The system is based on appointing people

from all walks of life to provide local justice for local people. The role is voluntary and

unpaid. Although no formal qualifications are needed, magistrates require intelligence, common sense, integrity and the capacity to act fairly. Ideally they should be widely spread throughout the area covered and drawn from all walks of life. All magistrates receive four months training before sitting and continue to receive training throughout their service using the mentoring system and three yearly appraisals.

Most cases are heard in the adult courts, although Alison has recently started to sit on the family panel as well. The court is made up of three magistrates, one of whom is the chairman. The court hears cases brought for instance by the local the Environment Agency, Trading Standards Agency, Customs & Excise and Immigration department. Once the case has been heard the magistrates retire to discuss the case and make a decision based on a consensus. If required they have access to legal advisors on law and procedure. Alison pointed out, the guiding principle is to try not to judge the person but what they have done.

Magistrates have strict guidelines to follow when coming to their decision on a case and when deciding on the sentence. Sentencing powers include the imposition of a fine up to £5000, community service orders, or custody of up to six months and they have to give written reasons for their decision.

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Times of change in our life are often full of anxiety – the next step forward is into darkness. Throughout our lives there are such anxious times. Often they occur at an *in* – *between* moment, after the end of an era, or maybe just a project, and

before the beginning of the next. The anxious in-between state is the moment when choices are faced. It lies in the gap between the last action and the commitment to the next action or reaction. Such moments, as well as being felt as a time of danger, are also a time of opportunity. Care has to be taken, the future is made at such times.

The Hospice of St Francis is an institution that supports fearful people at such times. It does this with a small number of skilled professionals and a very large number of volunteers, who raise money, landscape the gardens and do many other essential things. But although being there to provide kindness and medical help to people moving forward into the unknown, the Hospice is now passing through its own anxious, in-between moment. construction of the new Hospice building at the end of Shootersway is now well under way, despite the enormous difficulties that were faced early on, not least in obtaining planning permission and dealing with contamination in the ground, and should be ready for occupation by the end of the year. A topping-out ceremony is planned for this month when the last tile will be placed on the roof. But the amount of money needed to complete the project is not yet in place and, despite a recent surge of support generated by a publicity campaign, two or more million pounds still needs to be raised. Some will come from the sale of the existing sites, which have planning permission for a limited number of houses to be built.



### There also Grows the Saving Power

**Ian Reay** reports on the new Hospice of St Francis

The new building will provide much more space for the Hospice and will also have its own unique features. It is designed in a farmhouse style, in keeping with its semi rural setting. A brick works used to occupy the site and this is being

commemorated in the new building. The last dozen bricks produced there are being set in a diamond shape in the wall of the reception area, and the new building is being constructed using bricks, that although not produced locally are as near a match as possible to the bricks that were previously made here. The hole in the ground, created by the former brick works was subsequently used to dispose of sludge from paper-making. As a result a small amount of methane gas still leaks from the ground here and sealing has been necessary to prevent it affecting the building.

For some reason, Three Valleys Water is unable to supply the new Hospice with mains water so it will have its own well, pumping out 15,000 litres of water a day. Thousands of gallons of water will be stored in a tank at the top of a specially reinforced round tower, above an office to be used by the nurses who visit patients and their families at home. Rainwater will also be collected from the roof and used to water the gardens. Rather in the style of an old manor house there will be several separate gardens at the Hospice; different ones for the day patients and the inpatients. One garden in particular, will have an oriental style designed and donated by **David Stevens**, who has been an RHS Gold medallist many times. This will be known as the Healing Garden.

"But where danger threatens There also grows the saving power." from Patmos, For the Landgrave of Homburg by F Hölderlin For Personal Attention from Berkhamsted's only independent family business

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### Saturday June 24th St Peter's Churchvard **Berkhamsted** 10am - 3pm

The Petertide Fair is coming again! A fantastic range of activities for all the family will take place within St Peter's Church and Churchyard whatever the weather! Come and enjoy yourself!



Bottle Tombola, Barbeque Music, Bric-a-Brac, Prize Draw, Cake Stall, Plants, Toy Stall, Crockery Smash, Punch and Judy, Refreshments, **School** Performances. Face Painting. Portrait Photography, Splat the Rat, Coconut Shy, Quiz,

Playstation 2 Challenge, Books, Putter Flutter and Plants. much more!



We welcome donations to the Fair, so please let us have any saleable items that you may have for any of the attractions mentioned above. These can be left at the back of St Peter's or we can collect if you are unable to get to us. We cannot accept mains powered electrical items.

Volunteers are of course always welcome!!

The Petertide Fair is a great day out for all the family and at the same time we raise as much money as we can for our causes.

For 2006 we are supporting the following two causes:

This year the Hospice of St Francis really needs the support of everyone in Berkhamsted and the surrounding area. To complete the new hospice, at least £2,000,000 is still needed! THE FIDSUKE Since a small beginning in 1979, the Hospice has been



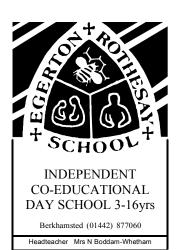
providing palliative care to people with life limiting illnesses in North West Hertfordshire and the Chiltern area of Buckinghamshire. The new hospice will help provide much needed care to more people - please help!



You may think that Leprosy is a disease of the past. But leprosy is still a highly prevalent disease affecting hundreds of thousands of people around the world, mainly in Asia, South America and Africa. Last year over 500,000 new cases were detected - that's over 1,400 people every day.... We have chosen to support the Leprosy Mission who will use

our donation to fund a mobile clinic that will help treat those recovering from the debilitating after-effects of leprosy. Without this aftercare many of those cured of leprosy will go on to develop other problems and not be able to lead a decent life.

For further details of the Petertide Fair contact Paul Jullien on 01923 262572 or keep an eye on our website for the latest http://stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk developments:







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### LIZ BAXENDALE

Liz was a regular contributor to the *review*. She was for many years the correspondent for the Berkhamsted Castle branch of the WI and each month her account of the branch meeting seemed to catch exactly the flavour of all that the WI stands for - the serious concern for a wide range of social issues, the practical handiwork and of course the tea.

From time to time, Liz also wrote articles and poems for the *review* - sometimes with more than a hint of nostalgia for times past; more often reflecting her appreciation of the countryside and her love for it. With the two poems by Liz that follow, the *review* remembers her with warm affection.

### Hertfordshire ... my chosen home

How privileged we really are to live in glorious Herts,

And more than privileged to live in these particular parts.

Mid grassy banks and mossy dells, our way is strewn with flowers.

The ancient trees with arching boughs, Spring's newness in their leaves, And Maytime, bluer than the skies As bluebells shed their sleeves. Summer's rich gold and see, the meadows here are full of corn, And shady are the beech groves in Ashridge every morn.

Then Autumn's colourful delights, rich amber, red and brown.

The quiet of Winter's outlined trees, and grey mists swirling down.

I love to walk the forest's paths and

spy the gentle deer

Among the trees of Hertfordshire .... I'm glad that I live here.

photo: Rowena Pike

### **North Norfolk**

Mist across the marshes. A pheasant's raucous cry White wings of windmill Against the endless sky. Muted brown furrow Gleaming plough share, Berry-jewelled cluster, Crystal clear air. Ancient flint building, Cottage and keep, Rickety barns Where collie dogs sleep. Bustling market place, Chatter and shout, But never a dropped aitch Hereabout. And birds ... All around, on fallow, in hedge, Grey harsner flapping Up from the sedge. Dunlin and plover, Sandling and tern, Paddling the mudflats As sunsets burn. And skeins of geese and wild swans fly Against the never-ending sky.

Harsner - an old name for the heron





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6:00am - to St Peter's and up the tower; cold and wet. So says my diary for 1st May. But members of the Chiltern Chamber Choir soon scrambled out onto the lead, their hats bedecked with a precarious array of flowers

and foliage. And on the lawns below a damp but loyal audience raised their umbrellas and assembled to hear sweet harmonies commending the joys of Spring and Summer. Next day *The Times* remarked the wet weather, questioned the wisdom of having a Bank Holiday on 1<sup>st</sup> May and listed seven occasions since 1990 when they claimed the weather had been awful on May 1<sup>st</sup>. I looked in my diary. I had recorded the weather on May Morning

### MAY MORNING AND MAGRIGALS

Christopher Green looks at the weather

on eleven occasions since 1990 - six cold or cool, two also wet; five fine, of which three beautiful. I usually agreed with The Times - but not always. In 1997 I

recorded beautiful morning, bright sunshine. The Times reported that Arctic winds set off much heavy rain; snow fell as far south as Derbyshire. But why pick on the May Day Bank Holiday? Surely the great attraction of Britain's weather is its unpredictability, not just in May but in August and December as well - in fact, whenever we choose to have a Bank Holiday.

photos: Rowena Pike





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01442 864951 Little Heath Farm, Patten End, Berkhamsted On our cover this month we have another date - 1865. It is on the house on the High

Street, between Close Lane and The Goat. What was happening in Berkhamsted in 1865? The expansion of the town was just beginning mainly in the area between the canal and the High Street but also along the High Street itself. In 1865, Egerton House would have faced the High Street on the other side of

### THE APPEAL OF MOCK TUDOR

Three Christopher Green writes



Three Close Lane, where it remained until 1937, to be pulled down and replaced by the Rex Cinema. Perhaps it was

proximity to the Elizabethan architecture Egerton House that encouraged the architect to opt for the black and white, halftimbered, Tudor style, when the house was built on the far side of Three Close Lane in 1865. It is quite an early example of a fashion for the revival of this style. Several

p30 →



The Cowper Society presents

# The Bridgewater Band with the Chiltern Chamber Choir

conductor: Adrian Davis

Adrian Davis - Intrada Michael Hurd - Shepherd's Calendar Elgar - 'Cello Concerto Philippa Schofield 'cello Parry - Blest Pair of Sirens

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### **A GHOST STORY**

Beyond the stained glass with **David Pearce** 

Two stained glass windows - perhaps a third - in St Peter's church feature historical likenesses. That third is the east window of St Catherine's Chapel and it

represents significant stages in a priest's life. It is dedicated to Harry Johnson, son of the Rector, and himself a priest, but for only five years until his death in 1889. The fact that the same man is featured in the centre and right hand window suggests that it is the portrait of the priest. Another stained glass representation, and one that cannot easily be seen, is in the bottom light of the chancel, now the vestry, east window. It is of the poet, **William Cowper**.

But the actual portrait of our present interest fills the top quatrefoil of the south window nearest the organ, and is of a woman with three children. The dedication is to **Caroline Bartrum** who died on 20th March, 1869, just a fortnight after giving birth to her third child. She was 32. Caroline was the wife of Headmaster Bartrum. That south chapel of St John was used for School services in those days. It was, in effect, the School Chapel.

The two lower lights of the window have a Victorian orthodoxy: formal saints, the cross, and the anchor of Hope. The top window is quite different, intimate; it shows the mother, in a green-grey striped dress, with her three children, the youngest on her lap. There is a nimbus around her head, and the word *Caritas* embraces them all. It is a touching group and the central figure is certainly a portrait of Caroline. Headmaster Bartrum married again, and the three children were looked after.

Those are the historical details but the story does not end there. Most ghost stories are told by hearsay, but this that I shall tell is corroborated by strange coincidence, and the author can youch for it.

A boy, BS Lombard, who had entered the

School in 1878 recounted a story concerning the old School House housekeeper and a new matron, both of whom lived in the house with the boys and the headmaster's family. The

matron had been kind to Lombard when he had been in the sick-room with scarlet fever. One night that matron was going to bed, and was carrying a cage of dormice which had been left in her care by Lombard's brother during the holidays.

She saw in front of her a lady in black silk dress with broad green stripes. The ladv turned into the children's room. The children had been a11 crying but when the lady entered the nursery, their crying stopped.

The matron followed thinking that the second Mrs Bartrum, who had gone out to dinner with the headmaster. had returned early feeling ill. As the matron entered the room she distinctly saw the figure



bending over the bed of one of the children. She was about to offer her assistance when the lady disappeared, seeming to fade away and become one with the bed-curtains. The matron was more surprised than frightened, and ran down and told the housekeeper what she had seen. The old woman said nothing, but going into her own room returned with a photograph of a lady in a dark dress with stripes, and said, 'Was that anything like what you saw? If ever you hear the children cry at night, you will see her looking after them.' The housekeeper would aver that the children's mother took good care of them even though she had passed over.

There is a seguel. This involves Anne, the young daughter of the later headmaster, Basil Garnons Williams. The family had only just come to Berkhamsted and taken up residence in School House. The year was perhaps 1954. Anne became very ill with rheumatic fever. Her parents decided that she should be nursed at home. Her bed was in the room next to the parental bedroom. She was kept in bed for six months, and, lying still, it was impossible for her to read. A team of readers was organised, and different people would arrive, sit by her bed and read. One day she asked her parents who was the nice lady with a full-skirted grey dress who would sit by her and comfort her. They had no answer.

It must be understood that neither Anne nor her parents had at that time any knowledge of the story of Caroline Bartrum. Anne is now a doctor and she told me the story as if it were factual and immediate, as if there was no distinction between the strange visitation and the ordinary routines of her life.

She told me that one night she was lying in bed very frightened. We all remember the time when we want to hide under the sheets. There was a light of some sort. Into the room came a lady dressed in grey. Anne was very specific in the detail: the dress

Gates Photography

was grey; the dress had full skirts. The lady sat beside her and stroked her forehead saying that all would be well, and that she had come to look after her. She was 'a very comforting presence'. Anne remembers that she was so used to having people visit her unexpectedly that she was not in the least surprised. As Anne told me the story, her husband, also a doctor, remarked that there was another link because Caroline would have died of puerperal fever, which, like rheumatic fever and scarlet fever, is a streptococcal infection.

I have long had the privilege of using a room on the same floor in the old Tudor School House and near the room in question. When I work there late, I deliberately pass the room in the darkness and hope to see the kind lady in the grey dress. I have waited, even on the anniversary of her death, and whispered the name of the woman who once, as a mother. brought sweetness and joy to the house. But Caroline does not appear to me. Perhaps you have to be a child, and perhaps very ill, for her to stir again in a mission of compassion. You, though, my reader, may see her in the church window on the south side.

### VIVE LE TUNNEL SOUS LA MANCHE

**Stephen Halliday** traces Sir Edward Watkin's French ambitions

 $\mathbf{C}_{ir}$ Edward Watkin's grandest project was a railway network running from Manchester to Paris under the control of himself. There were five components to this scheme. The first was the Manchester, Sheffield a n d Lincolnshire Railway which, via its London extension, would link to the second, the Metropolitan, Quainton Junction. This latter had been acquired when Watkin, on behalf of the Metropolitan. purchased t h e Avlesbury a n d Buckingham Railway in 1891, thus taking the Metropolitan into the rural wilderness of the Vale of Aylesbury. This move was not without critics among Metropolitan

shareholders. However, Watkin was not to be diverted from his vision by such distractions He justified his actions by claiming, with some justification, that longer-distance commuter traffic would be more profitable than the carriage of passengers within the Metropolis in the face of competition from buses.

According to Watkin's original plan the line would pass from Baker Street along the Metropolitan tracks to link up with the third component, the East London Railway, also chaired by Sir Edward Watkin. Its chief claim to distinction lay

in the fact that it passed through the Thames Tunnel, the world's first tunnel to be built beneath a river. At New Cross it joined the South-Eastern Railway, also chaired by Watkin, which would take it to Folkestone. At this point it would meet the English Channel but an obstacle that had withstood the Armada Spanish and Napoleon would surely be no match for Sir Edward Watkin.

French 1875 had been company formed to finance a tunnel from the French side of the Channel and in 1879 it had sunk an access shaft near the French village o f Sangatte. In 1881 Edward Watkin was one of the promoters of the Submarine Continental Railway Company which

sank a shaft at Shakespeare Cliff between Dover and Folkestone close to the opening of the tunnel that was completed in 1994. Watkin informed the Board of Trade that the company would pay for one mile of tunnelling before seeking financial support from the government, but any enthusiasm that Gladstone's parsimonious government might have felt for the project was forestalled by the Adjutant-General of the War Office, Sir Garnet Wolseley. He warned a Commission of Enquiry that 'a thousand men might easily come through the tunnel at night, avoiding any suspicion by being



dressed as ordinary passengers, or passing at express speed through the tunnel with the blinds down, in their uniform and fully armed'. Wolseley was supported in his opposition to the tunnel by a petition signed by such luminaries as Alfred, Lord Tennyson, the Archbishop of York and Cardinal Newman.

To this spectre of a Trojan horse, Herapath's Railway Journal added the fear that the cosmopolitan nature of the company would mean that 'many of the servants would probably be French' and that they would treacherously sabotage any attempt to defend the tunnel in the event of an invasion by their compatriots. The French appear to have been the chief suspects at this time though the Germans later took over this unenviable role. The government agreed and told Watkin to cease his subterranean burrowing, its opposition being based on the legal precept that the Crown owned the foreshore. Herapath's Railway Journal reported the exchanges that followed as Watkin tried to overturn the prohibition. First he announced that 'the tunnel could be flooded in three minutes and a minister in London, by pressing a button, could blow it up in a few seconds'. It may have occurred to some readers that the minister might turn out to be Sir Edward Watkin MP, and the knowledge that such an irascible gentleman had the power to send them into the next world might have done little to reassure potential passengers.

In the face of these difficulties Watkin organised a stunt to gain public support for the enterprise. He brought to London **Ferdinand de Lesseps**, the distinguished French engineer who had built the Suez Canal. Amidst much publicity de Lesseps emerged from Charing Cross Station to be greeted by a phalanx of Watkin's employees from the South-Eastern

Railway shouting in well-rehearsed French 'Vive la France! Vive le tunnel sous la Manche!' A contemporary account of the occasion recorded that Naturally Monsieur de Lesseps went back to France with a passionate belief in the intelligence of the British working man. De Lesseps, however, declined to be drawn into Watkin's scheme. On three separate occasions Watkin tried to introduce into Parliament a Bill which would authorise him to proceed with the tunnel, but repeated failure did not deter him from pressing on. He organised an excursion to Folkestone by train for MPs who then sat down to dinner in the partially excavated tunnel. At the annual meeting of the Submarine Company in 1890, Watkin announced that over two thousand yards of the tunnel had already been excavated. The suggestion that a bridge might be a simpler alternative was dismissed by Watkin who argued that 'the great advantage of making a tunnel was that they might afterwards make as many as they pleased.' He also spoke of the advantages of an onward link to Paris, the final stage in what the reporter described as Watkin's *long-cherished dream*. At the same meeting he proposed to build a luxurious 'Metropolitan Grand Hotel' above the Metropolitan's headquarters in Moorgate station to accommodate the wealthy clientele who, according to Watkin's vision, could thus break their journeys on their passage from Manchester to Paris on the Watkin railway network. Shortly afterwards an insistent government obliged him to stop and the tunnel project lapsed for another century. Watkin then turned to digging for coal, an enterprise with which he persisted for another year in the hope that the government would change its mind. He also advocated another railway tunnel between Scotland and Ireland. It could not be said of Sir Edward Watkin that lacked h e determination.

from **Stephen Halliday**'s book *Making the Metropolis* available from Ottakar's Bookshop



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Private Chapels Of Rest In May 1926, some of the residents of Berkhamsted found that they were getting rather bored in the evenings. They were aware that it would be some years before they could watch Coronation Street on

# EIGHTY YEARS BAODS President Roy Mathers

**BAODS** -

ENTERTAINING FOR

BAODS President **Roy Mathers** writes

television and, at a meeting in the Kiku No Chaya Tea Rooms in Lower Kings Road, seventeen of the locals decided to form a local Operatic Society for Berkhamsted. It says much for the initial enthusiasm of the venture that, in December of that year, they put on their first production *Iolanthe* at the Court Theatre (where Tesco now stands).

The first play was performed in 1927 (*Lord Richard in the Pantry*) and, in the years up to the Second World War, the Society put on one musical (usually Gilbert & Sullivan) and one play annually. In 1930, when *The Pirates of Penzance* was presented at the Court Theatre, there was a cast of 49, and one advertisement in the programme quoted the price of 1/6d (7 1/2 p) for lunch at the local restaurant.

The programme in November 1938 of *lolanthe* included one **Herbert Todd** (Bertie Todd of children's stories fame) as Lord Mountararat and an orchestra of 21 players. An advertisement in the programme was from a shop in the High Street giving television demonstrations! *Iolanthe* was, in fact, the last musical put on by BAODS for some years as the Second World War curtailed the Society's production until 1946. *The Yeoman of the Guard* was, in 1947, the first of a series of annual G & S productions - and the society's first musical for 9 years.

In the early 1950s, the Society veered away from Gilbert & Sullivan and went up market with **Smetana's** *The Bartered Bride. Carmen* (concert version) followed in 1954 with June Bailey in the title role. In the following year, **Vaughan Williams'** opera *Hugh the Drover* was presented and the composer attended the last performance.

In the late fifties, the American musicals arrived and, over the next ten years or so, these tended to dominate the Society's musical output with the Old Time Music Hall making

its debut in 1967. Some of the large musical productions during these years were attracting total audiences of over 2000. Top seat prices were the equivalent of 32p-37p. The Society's

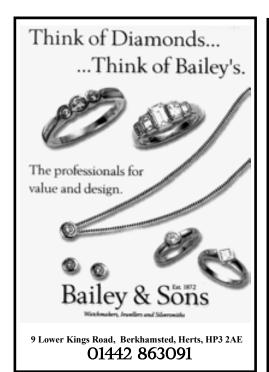
membership was 150, and the choruses tended to be split into alternate performances so that as many as possible of the large membership could take part.

Until the arrival of the annual Music Hall in 1967, the Society was putting on several plays each year and, with productions taking place as late as mid July, it would appear that rehearsals for one production or another took place throughout the year. In 1970, the principal play was *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, the title role (a spastic child) being played by nine-year-old **Sarah Brightman** who stole the honours.

Towards the end of the last century, the annual programme settled down to productions of one play and one musical, plus the well-established Music Hall. On New Year's Eve 1983, the Society was honoured to put on a special gala performance of the Music Hall to celebrate the reopening of the rebuilt and enlarged Civic Centre main hall which we have used as our principal venue for some years.

Although there are considerably fewer members than in the halcyon days of the 1950s and 60s, BAODS has a strong nucleus of performers of various capabilities who have shown that they are not afraid to tackle such daunting works as *Die Fledermaus* or *Carmen*, not to mention the *Balloon Dance*!

In order to indicate the scope of the Society's activities, its name was changed in the 1990s to include the words **Theatre Company** (although we are still known locally simply as **BAODS**) and though the regular Music Hall is now a thing of the past, we still perform high-quality plays and musicals every year to appreciative audiences, and we are in fine shape as we approach our eightieth birthday.



### lain Rennie Hospice at Home

WHAT'S ON?

There are so many ways to support IRHH. Here are just a few of them.

**The Open Garden Scheme**. For a list of gardens opening for IRHH contact 890222.

**Tring Midsummer Fun Run**. Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June. For more information contact Tony Yates (01442 890222) or Dave Jones (01525 221489).

**Peru by Sue**. Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 7:30pm. **Sue Varvel** presents slides and stories from her recent trek in Peru. Red Cross Hall, Tring. Tickets £5 from 01296 631756 or 826265.

**Porridge.** Saturday 24th June 2:30 pm at The Court Theatre, Pendley. The first ever stage adaptation. Tickets £10 from 890222.

Find out more about what's going on from the IRHH website **http://www.irhh.org** or phone 01442 890222.







### review Northchurch & Wigginton

# The Beauty of Nature

The Revd
Jonathan
Gordon marks
out nature's
place in our
spiritual lives

We are very fortunate in the locality to have fairly easy access to Northchurch Common on the edge the Ashridge Estate. The Common provides stunning views of the valley from Berkhamsted across to Tring. Christian spirituality a number of writers over the years have

found inspiration about the glory and wonder of God in the beauty of nature. Alongside a sense of awe, there is also the recognition of one of the great mysteries of faith. The mystery of a God who is transcendent and holy, yet at the same time a God who loves and cares for us as individuals. These two statements, even though they are bound up with mystery and paradox, always go together. Christian spirituality celebrates the presence of God who can embrace the whole of creation, yet knows and loves us as individuals.

Spirituality is concerned with more than the language of inspiration. There is also recognition that following Jesus involves a cost. At the beginning of June the church will celebrate the feast of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a sign that there is a new creation breaking into the old and a call to live life by new values. To follow Jesus means to live life by rules of the new world, rather than the old. This is always going to be hard, and the New Testament describes this transition in terms of *dying and rising* or cleansing and pruning.

Pentecost is the call to live in the power of the Spirit. A call to put generosity, forgiveness and peace as the foundation stones on which we build our lives. Christian spirituality does not say that we build this *new world* by our own actions, but rather that it is possible to build for this new world. Every act of kindness, every act of generosity, every act of compassion, every act of forgiveness can represent building blocks that in some mysterious way can fit into God's final structure. The great gift of the Gospel is to accept the overwhelming sense of being loved and valued by God, but also to awaken within us the potential to live and grow into a new way of living. If you need inspiration for this, then I can recommend heading to the Common and enjoying the wonderful views of the valley and town.

http://www.stmarysnorthchurch.com

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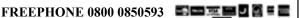
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### review notes & notices

#### PCC & AREA COMMITTEES 2006/7

Churchwardens Christopher Hunt Tracy Robinson

#### **PCC**

Philippa Seldon Peter Bryant Linda Bisset Chris Clegg Peter Dury Simon Good Barbara Groet Kate Hennessey Paul Jullien Judith Limbert Gill Malcolm Michael Robinson Carole Dell Alan Conway Richard Hackworth Patrick Lepper Jenny Wells Christopher Green

#### St Peter's Area Committee

Julian Dawson Rachel Hill Stephen Lally Polly Rafter Anne Vickers Bill Stead

#### All Saints' Area Committee

Andy Beaumont Helen Black Chris Dipper Felicity White

#### JOHN SAYER ALMSHOUSES

There is a vacancy at present in one of the four John Saver Almshouses Berkhamsted, which are located 235/241(odd) High Street - opposite the Way Inn Post Office.

The Almshouses date back to around 1684 - but they have been modified since!

somewhat archaically worded residency qualifications are that The almspeople shall be poor single women who are members of the Church of England and who (except in special cases beapproved by the Charity Commissioners) are resident in the Town of Berkhamsted. In this instance, single includes widowed. The Trustees do have some discretion in applying these rules.

The accommodation provides a living room, bedroom, kitchen and level-access

bathroom. There is a shared garden at the rear of the almshouses.

If you are interested in applying to live there, or if you know anyone who might please ask Michael Robinson (863559) for further details.

#### BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September - Sponsored Bike Ride - Put the date in your diary NOW. Last year the Trust raised nearly £90,000 in sponsorship. This is the Trust's main source of income. Let's help the Trust to pass the £100,000 mark this year. It may sound like a lot of money but repairs to church buildings, especially medieval ones, are very costly. A new roof on a medieval church can cost anything from £100,000 to £200,000. Nationwide at least £354 million is needed to deal with outstanding repairs to church buildings. Nearly half the population (46%) believe that central government should be primarily responsible for this architectural heritage, but in fact churches are largely maintained by the efforts and financial support of local communities - you and The work of restoration and me. maintenance is vital if our churches are to remain, as they often are, a major focus of community life and service. Be ready to ride. Be ready to sponsor.

#### FRIENDS OF ASHRIDGE

<u>June 8<sup>th</sup></u> 7pm Friends of Ashridge: Walks and Talks.

Historic Parkland Walk. (Booking: 01442 851227)

June 15<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm

Friends of Ashridge: Gentle Stroll.

Ivinghoe Beacon.

(Enquiries: 01442 851227)

# Been to the Post Office?

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Drawing by Mary Casserley, with permission

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### review notes & notices

#### FAIRTRADE FOOTBALL FEVER AT OXFAM

The Oxfam shop in Berkhamsted High Street is gearing up for World Cup mania this summer with a brand new range of Fairtrade footballs, with printed design exclusive to Oxfam.

Football fans across Hertfordshire will be able to help Oxfam's work in developing countries while enjoying the sport they love with one of these professional-quality balls.

The Fairtrade balls, fully compliant with official standards, are the only footballs to carry the Fairtrade foundation mark. They are made in Pakistan by Talon, the world's first Fairtrade football maker.

The range doesn't end with footballs either: budding **Johnny Wilkinsons** can tackle a Fairtrade rugby ball or you can serve up summer with a volleyball. Mini footballs and mini rugby balls are also available.

Audrey Hope, Berkhamsted Volunteer Shop Manager, said "Currently most of the products that are Fairtrade marked are food products so being able to offer a range of non-food marked products is a real step forward. But if you don't want to play football, why not eat one instead? We shall shortly be offering delicious chocolate footballs to nibble as you watch the match".

In this World Cup year, let's see that football fever benefits the poor in the developing countries.

#### FRIENDS OF BERKHAMSTED TOWN HALL

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June - Orchestral concert given by the Dacorum Sinfonietta, directed by **Tom Loten**. In the Great Hall of Berkhamsted Town Hall at 7:30pm. Tickets £7 and £5 at the door.

#### REDECORATION AT ST PETER'S

The scaffolding, the dust, the smell of paint. Anyone who has been into St Peter's during the last three weeks will have noticed that redecoration was in progress. Hilliers of Markyate began work in the North Transept from fixed scaffolding which allowed close inspection of the visible roof timbers for the first time in over twenty years. The woodwork is in good condition. At the time of writing the scaffolding is being moved to the west end to provide access to the wall around the great west window. At low level in the North Transept and the Lady Chapel repairs to plasterwork will be undertaken and the rubble walling exposed for the past two years in the Lady Chapel will be disappearing again from view. A tower scaffold will be used to complete the high level work in the Lady Chapel, but the new plaster will take a few weeks to dry out and the contractors will then return to complete the low level work. Asked about the condition of the fabric, Peter Herbert, the foreman painter said he had seen more cracks in houses built a few years ago. Not bad after nearly eight hundred years.

#### TUESDAY CLUB

A jolly evening was had by all on Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> when we enjoyed a Beetle Drive organised by our Chairman, Val Atkinson. It was a very sociable event because moving to different tables after each game gave everyone the opportunity to chat to many more people than at our usual meetings.

Tuesday Club will be running the Petertide Cake Stall on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Please help us with contributions of cakes or preserves and if you cannot cook, a donation will be gratefully received

#### SUN St Peter's 8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evensong All Saints' 4th 10:00am Holy Communion - Methodist led 8:00am Holy Communion - Methodist led 10:00am Morning Worship - Methodist led 18th 10:00am Morning Worship - Anglican led 25th 10:00am Sung Eucharist - Anglican led review services & activities All services at St Peter's unless otherwise indicated MP = Morning Prayer EP = Evening Prayer MON MP 8:45am EP 5:00pm Eucharist 9:15am TUE MP 8:45am EP 5:00pm Eucharist 9:30am All Saints' WED MP 8:45am EP 5:00pm **Eucharist 8:00am** THU EP 5:00pm Eucharist 11:00am (Fr Michael's day off) FRI MP 8:45am EP 5:00pm both churches Eucharist 9:15am SAT MP 8:45am both churches EP 5:00pm **Eucharist 9:15am** 1st Sun SUNDAYS TOGETHER LUNCH 12:30pm Court House Contact: Joan Morris (863780) For anyone on their own on a Sunday. 3rd Mon GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP 7:45pm Court House Contact June Haile (873087), Thelma Harris (865785) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268) Tue HILLSIDE GROUP: 8:00pm at 22 Upper Hall Park for bible study. Contacts: Rob & Julie Wakely (875504) Tue CHUCKLES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP:: 10:00-11:30am All Saints' Church Hall Jenny Wells (870981) Song Time or Short service as announced. Tue ST PETER'S CHOIR Children 5:15 to 6:15pm St Peter's Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859) 1st Tue TUESDAY CLUB 8:15pm A lively women's group with guest speaker Court House Contact chairman Val Atkinson (866792) or secretary Joan Gregory (864829) 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm. Non-members always welcome. Contact: Kathie Lally (863526) 4<sup>rd</sup> Tues 17 Shaftesbury Court. MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:00pm Tell us if anyone needs our prayers. Contact: Jenny Wells (870981) Wed JULIAN MEETING: meets about twice a month at Jenny's 57 Meadow Rd All are very welcome at 11:30am as arranged or at Ruth's 1 Montague Rd Contact: Jenny Wells 870981 or Ruth Treves Brown (863268) Wed PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7-8:30pm. (yrs 5-8) Jimmy Young (384929) All Saints' Hall 3rd Wed GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT Lunch at 12:30pm for those who have been bereaved. Contact Thelma Harris (865785) Thu HOME GROUP: 8:00pm on 2nd & 4th Thursdays. Contact Linda Bisset (862115) Thu TE'S (Youth club for yr 9+) 7-9pm Jimmy Young (384929) Court House Thu BELLRINGING: 8:00pm Priscilla Watt (Captain of the Tower) (863804) St Peter's Fri LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-11:30am Court House Weekly meetings with a short service 1st Fri in St Peter's (10am) Nicole Addy-Varndell (864094)

ST PETER'S CHOIR: Children 7:00-8:30pm, Adults 7:30-8:30pm.

ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast & prayers. Various local churches

Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859)

St Peter's

June

Fri

3rd Sat

# *review* diary

Please see opposite for a full list of services at St Peter's and All Saints' churches.

	June		F	
	Sat	3	10:00am	Berkhamsted Team
				Council meeting
	Sun	4	9:30/10:0	0am Pentecost –
				Children's First CommunionSt Peter's / All Saints'
	Mon	5	8:00pm	Eucharist with prayers for Healing
	Fri	9	10:00am	Little Fishes Service
<b>'</b>	Sat	10	7:30pm	The Bridgewater Band
				with Chiltern Chamber Choir - concertSt Peter's
R	Sun	11	6:00pm	Choral Evensong
	Tue	13	10:15am	Chuckles Service The Good Samaritan
	Thu	15	8:00pm	Solemn Eucharist for Corpus ChristiSt Peter's
	Sat	17	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches
<b>\</b> '				Prayer BreakfastSacred Heart Church
	Sat	24		- 3:00pm PETERTIDE FAIRin and around St Peter's
$ \Lambda $	Tue	27		Chuckles Service The Loving Father
(1)	Tue	27		Parochial Church Council meeting
<b>V</b> ,	Thu	29	8:00pm	Patronal Festival Eucharist
	July			
<b>4</b>	Mon	3		Eucharist with prayers for Healing
	Fri	7		Little Fishes Service
7		9	_	Choral Evensong
	Tue	11		Chuckles Service Invitation to a Party
	Thu	13	10:00am	Environment Conference
$  \Box  $	G .	1.5	0.00	(until 4.00pm)
	Sat	15	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches
	Mon	17	7.00	Prayer Breakfast
	Mon	17	7:00pm	Joseph & the Technicolour Dreamcoat  (Thomas Coron production)  All Saints'
	ı			(Thomas Coram production)

## review registers

Peter's)			
Luke Ellis Woolner, Kacie Audrey Wegener, Scarlett Rose Wegener			
Peter's)			
James Edward Hawks & Kate Susan Beckett			
Violet May Kempster - crema	tion at Amersham crematorium followed by service of		
Thank	ssgiving at All Saints' Church		
Elizabeth Mary Baxendale	St Peter's Church		
	Luke Ellis Woolner, Kacie Au  Peter's)  James Edward Hawks & Kate  Violet May Kempster – crema  Thank		

### review factfile

#### **CONTACT LIST**

Altar service

Chalice rota

Church maintenance

Flower arrangements

Service recordings

Intercessions

Electoral Roll

**Pathfinders** 

Sidesmen

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**Epistle Readers** 

Hospice contact

**Sunday School/Explorers** 

**Christian Aid** 

Youth worker

Sunday morning coffee

Church cleaning

Names and local telephone numbers for jobs, rotas and information (for clergy, parish officers, music, bells and banns etc see p31). Parish Office in the Court House (878227) is usually open 9:30am-5:30pm Tues/Wed, 9:30-12noon Friday (answering machine other times)

#### St Peter's

Alan Conway (865798)
Fr Michael Bowie (864194)
Christopher Green (863241)
Jean Green (878227)
Sarah Dawson (871614)
Joan Morris (863780)
Alan Conway (865798)
Fr Michael Bowie (864194)

Ron Fisher (865846) Judith Limbert (873626) Stephen Lally (863526)

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Rachael Anderson (871997) Angela Morris (866992) Jimmy Young (876736) Sally Emery (870656)

#### All Saints'

Felicity White (866223) Jenny Wells (870981) John Banks (871195) Kate Spall (873470) Madeleine Brownell (862578) Sylvia Banks (871195) Janet Conradi (833402) Jenny Wells (870981 and John Wignall (827639) Jenny Wells (870981) Pat Hearne (871270) Penny O'Niell (843422) and Rebecca Judd (865691 John Wignall (827639) Chris Dipper (873006) and Gill Lumb (863885)

Muriel Johnston (866447) Jimmy Young (876736) Carenza Wilton (875147)

### ← p15 The Appeal of Mock Tudor

distinguished architects in the midnineteenth century championed the socalled *Gothic* revival in domestic architecture, including **George Devey**, **Philip Webb** and **Norman Shaw**. They had little time for the classical styles of the Renaissance that had dominated domestic building in the eighteenth century and into the early years of the nineteenth century. They turned instead to the Medieval period for inspiration, with its timber-frame construction and gabled roofs. This revival has never quite gone away. In the 1930s suburban estates of uniform semi-detached mock-Tudor houses sprang up in several places, but fortunately not in Berkhamsted. The style suffered a long eclipse after the Second World War, but in recent years architects have turned once more to the past for ideas and the *half-timbered* effect is with us again - no longer in a form that can really be described as an architectural style, just as a scheme of decoration. Alas, examples can be seen in Berkhamsted.

### review contacts

General

The Revd Dr Michael Bowie, Team Rector, The Rectory, Rectory Lane (864194)

(day off Thursday)

The Revd Prof. Luke Geoghegan (NSM), 16 Gravel Path, (866361) The Revd Canon Basil Jones (Hon. Asst. Priest), 17 Lochnell Road (864485) 13 Ashridge Rise (385566) Christina Billington (Diocesan Lay Minister), Marjorie Bowden (Reader), 16 Broadwater (871283)

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

John Malcolm (Reader), Landswood, Shootersway (874993) Jenny Wells (Reader), 57 Meadow Road (870981)

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

Stewardship Recorder: Miles Nicholas, 46 Fieldway (871598) Chris Hunt, 11 The Firs, Wigginton (822607) Churchwardens: Tracy Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way (863559)

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

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

**Jonathan Lee** (0794 1113232)

stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk

Weddings and Funerals,

Banns of Marriage and Baptisms:

Fr Michael Bowie (864194)

Bellringers (St Peter's): **Priscilla Watt**, 11 Cavalier Court, Chesham Road (863804)

Saints'

Peter's

allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk Peter McMunn (874894) Choirmaster:

All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership.

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

### What & Where in St Peter's?



Answer next month

### Answer to May's What & Where in St Peter's?



A carving on the end of a nave pew



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