

# Berkhamsted *review*

*In this issue*

**September 2006**

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Precious**

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*for Town and Parish*

**30p**



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

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

By chance this month there are several articles in the *review* touching on issues of identity - how as individuals and collectively we establish our place in the world. This reflective mood seems appropriate as we return from our holidays to pick up again the threads of routine. **Ian Reay** examines the importance for our identity of the place where we live - our home, our town, our country. One reflection of this is the many books on the history of places where we live and **John Cook** reviews a recent addition to those on Berkhamsted. Your editor writes about graffiti - a trivial but often obtrusive assertion of identity. **Jonathan Gordon** writes about '*belonging*' - about growing together with others in a community, which for many of our readers will be the Christian community of their parish church. **Margaret Burbidge** writes about that closest sort of growing together - marriage. Its social context has changed; the style of weddings has changed, but the commitment remains and shapes the identities of married couples. **Luke Geoghegan** looks at the way we use our time and how that shapes our identity, through our relationships with others and our choice of priorities.

*Christopher Green*

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notes & notices and diary dates**

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Cover photograph: The Bourne School (p13)

*Tony Firshman*

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**Next copy dates (all Fridays)**

**8 September 6 October 3 November**



### **Time is Precious**

**Father Luke Geoghegan** looks at how we manage it

My sons have the ability to play a video game, read the newspaper and listen to the radio at the same time. My initial thought was that they were neither playing, nor reading nor listening, they were just going through the motions. Then I watched my colleagues at work and realised that they were writing a report (and to my mind in an open plan office this is quite a feat in itself), on the phone, texting a friend and keeping an eye on the breaking news on the web. Welcome to the world of *multi-tasking*. At heart this is about time.

It was probably about 1966. I remember my mother bitterly complaining that the local Department store, the last one in the town, was to cease the home delivery of groceries. Forty years on the wheel has turned full circle and our streets are full of Tesco Direct, Sainsbury's Direct and the Waitrose version - Ocado. Groceries to our door via an order on the internet. This is not about computer literate people with a credit card not having a car to go to the supermarket. This is about the new valuable commodity that people need: time.

A friend plans his social calendar with military precision. Dates are in the diary up to two years in advance. Unknown third party individuals at events are tracked down, introductions take place and if they are worthy of attention a business card is passed over. Why? *'Because you never know when they might come in useful'*.

According to society observer **Richard Florida** - who has made a study of such things - the more interesting your job, the less time you have. And the more interesting it is the more demanding it becomes. And the more demanding it becomes, the more interesting it is. So you have to handle your time in one of four ways:

## *review* leader

**You multi task** (like my work colleagues);

**You delegate mundane jobs** (internet groceries). Never have there been so many nannies, dog walkers and car valets;

**You restructure leisure as work** (like my friend). You don't go to a party just for fun, you go to *network* for job related contacts and knowledge; and

**You intensify the leisure time experience.** Leisure time is precious – don't clip the roses, go white-water rafting in a canyon. It maybe only a weekend but you will remember it!

Recognise these characteristics as aspects of your life? Then you are probably one of the *money rich – time poor*. At the other end of the spectrum those who have the most time are those who are homeless, without an education and jobless. They are also the poorest. They are the *time rich –money poor*.

What should the Church be saying about the *new time*? A common view is that *people should be - not do*. Much is made of this in current spirituality thinking and practice: interminable retreats, quiet gardens, reducing work hours, maybe not working at all. I don't buy this. I think it throws the baby out with the bath water. I think it depends on what we are busy doing. Mother Theresa was perpetually busy. I'm sure that if they'd been around she'd have used a Blackberry to keep up with the nuns back in Calcutta when she was on the international fundraising circuit. However, if we are perpetually busy ensuring that Megacorp International squeezes even more out of the developing nations then this is not a busy-ness to be proud of.

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# MARRIAGE AND THE MU

Hats and outfits, shoes and bags, cars and cakes have been the topics of conversation in MU over recent months. For this year is special for five of our members who have weddings of close family members.

**Chris Dipper's** daughter Hannah, was married in June, **Kathie Lally's** son Mark, **Susan Doggett's** niece Laura and my

daughter Judith, in August and **Felicity White's** daughter Susannah, will be married in October! What celebrations and how important for us as members of MU, an organisation concerned with all that strengthens marriage, to support these couples with our love and prayers.

The Mothers' Union's first objective is *to uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and promote its wider understanding*. In its 130 year history MU has sought to interpret this in the light of changing social conditions. When MU began in 1876 it was an organisation for mothers, and then that meant married women. In the 1950s and 60s as divorce became more common, it became increasingly difficult to reach out to those whose marriages were in difficulty and to their families and friends. This presented a real challenge to the membership rules and after much discussion, thought and prayer they were changed in 1973. Anyone who was baptised and declared their support for the objects of the society was eligible to join. This still stands today and married or single, divorced or separated men and women can become members.

In the 1980s and 90s cohabitation before marriage was becoming common practice and this was a concern to members when their children or grandchildren moved in with their partners before a wedding had

**Margaret Burbidge** shows how the MU has responded to changing values



taken place. Sometimes they married; sometimes they separated, making us rethink that first objective about Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage.

Social change and a new generation brought new ways of understanding how

relationships develop and become cemented, before a commitment that is intended to be life-long, is ready to be made

More recently MU has consulted members about the content of civil marriage ceremonies and made representation to the government, arguing for inclusion of readings and music of a spiritual nature. It is currently considering the rights of cohabiting couples who do not wish to marry, and of their children. These are tough issues to address, which MU will not shy away from.

**Mary Sumner** did not shy away from the problems of family life 130 years ago. She was a radical, putting mothers and their needs on the church's agenda and supporting them and their families. MU faces change with the vision and energy of its founder. Here in Berkhamsted this summer, we support our young couples with our love and prayers as they commit themselves to each other in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. How can we do otherwise! This comment from one of the brides seems to sum it up!

*"It was just magical to have family and friends together to wish us well and feel this getting wed malarkey to be rather excellent!"* ❖

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When we come home from holiday, however much we may have enjoyed the break, we recognise immediately that we are coming back to a, for us, special place. Especially if we are long term,

perhaps life-long residents of where we live. But even if not, the familiarity of home gradually takes hold and gives rise to an unavoidable sense of place. Past homes never quite lose that special quality, especially the area where we grew up as children. It is not just a question of physical place. If we are honest, although some places have features that others lack - some places may have better shopping, more beautiful countryside or other things that are handy and that we enjoy doing - we have to say that most places are much the same, if looked at with a rational eye. What I think makes a home or at least a special place are the memories and the network of relationships between people that has been built up there. We are at home because we are amongst people we know and that means that as we deal with them we know their past and their foibles. We have experiences in common. This can be as much a professional relationship as a private or family relationship.

This was brought home to me this summer when I went to spend a few days break in Wales. Although I was not brought up there, Wales played a special role in my childhood because I frequently went there on holidays as a child with my parents, and one side of my family is still rooted there in hill farming. Going back quickly reminded me of the sense of warmth and closeness than can exist in a small rural community. But as well as the sense of security that such an environment can bring there is also the possibility of stiflement and a sense of being trapped. Again, narrow cosy

## Ian Reay's &news &views

### Home and Identity

**Ian Reay** traces the links

environments can be very comforting for those they contain but there is also the risk that they are exclusive and keep out unwelcome and unknown presences.

Although not unwelcomed, as a

visitor, I felt outside this network and, despite the memories - that were felt in the senses as much as remembered in the mind - I still knew that this was not home.

Much of this sense of being at home is connected to the language that we speak. When we are in a community in which everyone speaks the same native language, or even speaks that language with the same accent or the same set of local, slang words, we know that we are immediately understood. That sense of being easily understood (for better or worse) by others is one of the features of being at home. That is also why old friendships often seem the most comfortable, because there are so many common memories that don't need explanation but simply a passing reference. In that way communication can be simpler and almost non-verbal.

Our sense of being at home is closely linked to our feeling of personal identity. A close community defines a strong sense of identity and it is how we cope with different identities, sometimes strongly asserted, that is a big challenge for societies today. Despite criticisms that have been levelled at this country, the English are in fact a very open society and very welcoming and tolerant to outsiders. This may be partly because, with our language being so dominant worldwide, we have the sense (which is probably an illusion) of being widely understood whereas the truth is more likely that outside our boundaries we are widely misunderstood. ❖

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The book with this title appeared with a flourish on the shelves of *Ottakars* (now *Waterstones*) at the end of last year, and the editor of the *review* asked me to write something about it.

## BERKHAMSTED: A HISTORY & CELEBRATION

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Review by John Cook

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It is 46 years since **Percy Birtchnell** of blessed memory wrote his excellent *Short History of Berkhamsted* and 34 years since he produced his enlarged and revised edition of it. What has changed since then to justify producing another history of our town? Well, two things principally: we have 34 more years of history behind us, and secondly printing technology has so much advanced.

This new book produced by the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society takes advantage of most of the latest features that are available now to make a popular history attractive to the reader. There are pictures on nearly every page, lots of excellent photographs in colour (except of course for the old ones which are in black and white or sepia); and there is colour on many other pages as well. The text is broken up by inset coloured panels of historic facts to stimulate the interest of those who only want to thumb through. For those who are after more, the body of the text is rich in detailed information from Berkhamsted's past, as well as much about the town today, although it is a bit of a trudge reading through the rather vapid prose.

To older Berkhamsted residents, perhaps the most interesting features are the photographs from the early and mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, in other words in living memory. These are mostly from the Society's very extensive archives, some of them never before published, to my knowledge. Of particular fascination are those of the town from the time when one first got to know it, and to see how many changes you can identify. For

example, one full width photograph of the High Street was taken in the 1950s, when what is now Birtchnell's shop was then Sharlands, and opposite was Wards, later Sharlands, now Mackays.

As this book does not set out to be a book of reference (there is no index), I wonder if it was really necessary to have distracting reference numbers and acknowledgements on each picture. With a book of fewer than 120 pages much inevitably has to be left out; for example there is nothing about the treasures to be found in St Peter's Church such as the Henry of Berkhamsted tomb chest and the Torrington brass.

The book has clearly been carefully thought out and put together, but I know from personal experience it is not easy to produce even a short work of this sort without errors creeping in, and I jotted down some of them as I read through it. The memorial window to **William Cooper** (of sheep dip fame) is to be found in the north aisle of St Peter's church; Cowper's birthplace was on the site of the present Rectory; **General Smith-Dorrien**'s words at Le Cateau were *Gentlemen, we stand and fight* (they are on his grave in the cemetery); and surely **William Cowper** has always been pronounced Coo-per by educated Berkhamsted people, even if Cowper Road is not.

But I don't want to sound carping. Among the features I particularly liked were the professional photographs by **Ken Wallis** of the town as it is today - lovely bright pictures, for example, of the market and the allotments. This book is a worthwhile buy, perhaps to give as a present to someone coming new to our rather special town. ❖

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The first concert of the 2006/7 season of the Bridgewater Band will be given in memory of J U L I A N C U M M I N G S, who was for the past five years the leader of the orchestra.

## JULIAN CUMMINGS MEMORIAL CONCERT

Adrian Davis writes

Edinburgh String Quartet and the Cummings String Quartet. He was very proud to have been involved as leader of Berkhamsted's orchestra, **The Bridgewater Band**. His leadership was inspirational; he will be much missed by the players.

Sadly, he died at the end of March this year following a courageous struggle against cancer. Julian was a member of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and had previously also been the leader of Kent Opera and Travelling Opera, as well as a member of the London Symphony Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra, the

For this opening concert, the orchestra will be led by Julian's sister, **Diana Cummings**, herself a most distinguished violinist and teacher. She will be joined by **David Newland** (viola), who was a colleague of Julian in the RPO, in the performance of Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* KV364. ❖



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Number 222 High Street, now the Britannia Building Society, is another of Berkhamsted's buildings with a date to catch the eye of the passer-by. In fact not one date but three, carved into a stone panel above the door, together with three coats-of-arms and three inscriptions. On the left the date is 1724 and the inscription reads

*Founded by Thomas Bourne Esq of Camberwell* with a shield bearing his coat-of-arms. **Thomas Bourne**, whose sister lived in Berkhamsted, bequeathed £8,000 to build and endow a charity school here. His will is dated 14<sup>th</sup> August 1727 and he died in 1729. The reason for the date 1724 is not therefore immediately obvious, but it proves to be the year in which his only son died - *'the object of his joy, the flower of all his hopes'* - and the endowment of the school may have served for Thomas as a memorial to him. In the middle, the date is 1619, the coat-of-arms is that of the town and the inscription reads *Berkhamsted St Peter incorporated by K James I*. This is a reference to a charter of incorporation granted by James I and giving the town borough status.

The date on which the King granted the charter appears to have been 18<sup>th</sup> July 1618. This was the sixteenth year of his reign and the date 1619 may be a miscalculation from the date of his accession to the English throne in 1603. Finally, on the right the date is 1854 with the inscription *Rebuilt by the Hon John Finch CB Major General*, together with his coat-of-arms. **General John Finch**, who lived with his family at Berkhamsted Place, subscribed a large part of the cost of building an additional classroom for the Bourne Charity School in 1853 and in the following year he provided the funds to rebuild completely the original school building. This is the building, put up in

## THE BOURNE SCHOOL

Christopher Green



1854, that we now see in the High Street. A few years later **John Finch** was a generous contributor to the building fund for the Town Hall (see *review* - August 2005).

The Bourne Charity School occupied its new building for only 21 years until, in 1875, the children were transferred from it to the National, Church of England, Elementary

School, which adjoined the Court House and had been opened in 1838. However, only a few years passed before, in 1888, the old Bourne School became the first home of the newly established Berkhamsted School for Girls and over the next ten years additional classrooms were built on the land behind the High Street frontage. Some of these still remain, forming Tower House which can be seen beside the service road, that runs behind the High Street shops. The girls remained at 222 until 1902 when their new accommodation was opened in King's Road. Their place was taken in the Bourne School building by the now long-vanished National Provincial Bank. ❖



Tower House

# BE FAIR! - FREE TRADE OR FAIR TRADE

Christopher and Angela  
Morris examine the issues

The Fair Trade movement is gaining pace. Fifty percent of British adults are now said to recognise the Fairtrade Mark, and the number of products qualifying for the Mark has recently risen from under 200 to over 1000 in a little over a year. Is this a current craze, born out of the groundswell of

**MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**, or is it a growing trend and a sign of things to come? We pray and believe it is.

Christians believe every human is created in the image of God, and is therefore inherently and equally valuable to Him: all deserve the dignity of being able to work, feed their families and improve their lives through their own hard work and initiative.

It is thus unfair that whilst some live in material luxury others struggle to eat each day. Our newspapers and TV screens show harrowing scenes of world wide poverty, but we do not have to sit on the sidelines, feeling impotent in the face of such suffering.

Fair trade is an attempt to fight poverty. Join the fight! We all go shopping: look to your shopping habits. At some time or other most shopping baskets contain tea, coffee, sugar, honey, chocolate, fruit juice, bananas, wine, pasta, a T shirt or top, birthday cards, or writing paper. So why not look for the Fairtrade Mark and make a positive impact on a producer group in a developing country?

The Fairtrade Mark operates internationally as a certification label in 26 countries and is a guarantee of quality and of good working conditions and pay for the producer. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to disadvantaged producers and workers in developing countries.

To learn more, why not visit the Fair Trade stall run by most of the churches in the town, usually after Sunday morning services. You will be equally welcome if you are not a churchgoer, or come to the

Craft Community Market each first Saturday and find the Fair Trade stall in the Sessions Hall

Our buying habits are driven by a range of concerns such as convenience, cost, appearance and taste, and some fairly traded items are a few pence

dearer than others in the shops. But is the cheapest necessarily the best quality, and at what cost to the producer does it come to you?

Those of us who were born into the privileged position of having a roof over our heads and enough to eat each day are but a small proportion of the global population. Can we afford our conscience?

Fair Trade should not be confused with Free Trade, which, as promoted by the rich and powerful nations in the World Trade Organisation, can be anything but fair on the poor ones. Free Trade is trade within and between nations which is free from government intervention in the way of import restrictions and duties. This is all very well for rich countries, which can give huge subsidies to their manufacturers and growers. When over-production occurs, excess goods can be dumped cheaply on the poor – in Mali the economy is collapsing as cotton farmers cannot compete with subsidised American cotton. Even without subsidies, which are supposed to be eliminated under free trade, although this has yet to happen, the rich nations can effectively prevent the development, in poor ones, of local production, which cannot compete while in its early stages or because of its low volume.

The subject is complicated and Christian Aid has an excellent publication called *Trade justice: Turning words into action*. Read it if you want to be better informed.



*Angela is Fair Trade and Christian Aid representative for St Peter's Church.*



## If

If we could make quite sure that everyone  
Who did a fair day's work, was fairly paid,  
Then none would lose their dignity, but know  
Their families would not depend on aid.

If we could heal the pain and discontent  
Of those who feel unvalued, and can find  
No hope of seeing better days ahead –  
We'd start to build a world where we are kind.

If we could see that all men really matter,  
Regardless of their colour or their creed,  
We'd share our world's resources much more fairly,  
And none would go without each basic need.

If we could work with every other nation  
To spread more love and justice everywhere,  
Perhaps all men would soon become our brothers  
In making peace that all of us can share.

If we could see that war is not the answer,  
But just the problem that it's been for years,  
The children of the world would have a future –  
With laughter in their eyes, instead of tears.

Mary Hampton

## reviewletters

From Peter Ashford

With reference to your note in the July *review* on the construction date of Manor Close, In the 1930s my family home was Manor Croft in Manor Street (house demolished in the 1960s). The grounds were extensive, bounded by Manor Street, Chapel Street and Castle Street. The house was possibly part of the Pilkington Estate and there was a pay window in one of the outbuildings (like a railway booking office window). It could have been the Estate Manager's house.

My eldest brother, Richard, left school in 1937 and was articled to the Surveyor of Chesham UDC for three years. The Surveyor was paid £100 (I think) in return for which he undertook to train my brother in all aspects of civil engineering work in the District. This was quite a common practice.



The Editor has received an enquiry about the history of the *Berkhamsted Deanery Country Parishes Magazine*. The person making the enquiry believes that this publication was produced regularly in the 1930s, and possibly earlier and was eventually merged with the **Berkhamsted review** in the 1950s. Can anyone throw any further light on the history of this publication or let the Editor know where, if at all, copies may be preserved?



## THE PARISH CRICKET MATCH

David Pearce, Chairman of the  
Cowper Society writes

The cricket match instituted last year between the PCC XII and the Cowper Society XII was played again on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> July. We are grateful once again to the Collegiate School and the

groundsman; to the Revd Basil Jones who opened the contest with a ball of fair length; to the umpires, Messrs Malcolm and Limbert who presided with presence and panache; to Val Atkinson's ladies who volunteered for the catering and did us proud despite a recalcitrant urn.

Thereafter similarities with last year cease. The sun blazed and encouraged sun cream and deck chairs, hats and picnics. In the score box there was a splendidly unflappable team of young scorers. They had affairs under control with regard to the passage of overs and the running total – what fun to pull the right string and hear the numbers clocking up! – but their recording did not extend to individual scores, and so the reporting of this match must lack the absolute authority of, say, a Swanton.

Instead there is an undisguised and biased note of dismay, for what was disturbingly clear was that the Cowper Society was trounced by a PCC team that looked uncompromisingly Persilled and professional. Its captain, Julian Dawson, made no secret of team talks and tactics. Its players were picked for youth and beauty, whereas the Cowper team favoured, more, a Victorian elegance, and a fastidiousness of deportment.

The general drift of the match was that the PCC batted first; all the team making a creditable contribution, though it could be said that *Extras* was perhaps the highest scorer. Suffice to record that the Cowper team did not bowl well in spite of exhortations about '*line and length*'. Julian Dawson and his son, Matthew, pursued a personal vendetta against the Cowper

captain: the father distributing Pearce's bowling to the long-on boundary, and the son, later, bowling him out. When Patrick Lepper pulled a muscle in the deep and could not bowl, and Tony Firshman was

uncharacteristically wayward, there was a sinking of spirits, and the teams went into tea with the PCC innings closing on 80.

Two wickets had fallen before the Cowper Society had a run on the board. Thereafter there were some stylish strokes from Alison McMunn, and John Abbott and Heather Atkins led what might have been a recovery. Adrian Davis was adroit in his reverse sweeping, but it was too little, too late, and last year's victors never fulfilled their promise and went down with but 50 on the board.

Twelve ladies and twelve gentlemen played in these two sides, and all are thanked for their willingness to take part in this Parish excuse for a picnic and conviviality. ❖

*photos: James Clarke*









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We tend to take a critical view of graffiti and go to considerable expense to remove them when they appear on public buildings. They are now often in the form of more or less cryptic 'tags' applied with spray paint, sometimes very skilfully executed and not entirely without artistic interest. Walls and fences bounding the railway tracks between Berkhamsted and London, especially as one approaches more closely to Euston, are an almost uninterrupted display of the graffiti artist's work. The same might be said of the medieval stonework in the interior of St Peter's church. Wherever it has been within reach, either from the ground or in a variety of more elevated and apparently less accessible situations, it has attracted idle scribblers.

Many of the graffiti are simple geometrical forms, such as crosses, circles and shields, or are single letters or groups of letters - probably someone's initials. In some cases the style of the lettering gives us a clue to the age of the inscription. This is certainly true of two of the most coherent inscriptions. On the north face of the NE tower pier:

**Virgo Mater eccl eterna porta glo(ria)**  
Virgin Mother of the Church Eternal Gate of Glory

And on the east face of the SW tower pier:

**Nu(nc) Dimittis Servum Tuum Domine**  
*Lord now lettest thou thy servant* (Luke 2. 29)

Both these inscriptions are in Lombardic lettering, sometimes called Old English, which was widely used in the medieval period. They are probably the work of 14<sup>th</sup> century idlers.

On one of the pillars of the north nave arcade, the name ROBERT CLARKE is conspicuous, enclosed in a frame resembling the outline of a church. The lettering of this inscription suggests a 17<sup>th</sup> century hand and the careful execution suggests ample leisure. Could **Robert**

## GRAFFITI OR GRAFFITO

Christopher Green tracks down some idle scribblers



Clarke have been one of the Royalists imprisoned in St Peter's during the Civil War?

The earliest dated inscription that I

have found is 1662 on the old chancel arch above the present altar. There are several names inscribed here in what appears to be a thoroughly inaccessible location, but it would have been easily accessible while the ancient rood screen was still in

place, approached through an opening from the spiral stair in the tower - the outline of which is still visible there,

Early dated inscriptions are most numerous on the internal stonework of the louvred openings in the bellchamber. Here we have WILLIAM BABB 1679; GEORGX HEMSWORTH 1683; DACRE ... 1686; G.E.W. 1879 and FB XMAS 97 (probably 1897), together with various other undated inscriptions. From the 18<sup>th</sup> century is a longhand inscription on the tomb of Henry of Berkhamsted, on the helm upon which he rests his head - *Philip Read 1752*. Henry and his lady have suffered badly at the hands of idle scribblers whose lettering styles take us back at least to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. There and elsewhere in the church there are many 20<sup>th</sup> century scribbles - most of them less elegantly executed than those of former centuries and fortunately, in most cases, less deeply inscribed.

There is a nice ambivalence in our reactions to graffiti. Those that speak to us from the past, we cherish. Those of our own time, we deplore. This ambivalence is lent interesting support in dictionary definitions - **graffito** : *a mural scribbling or drawing as by schoolboys and idlers at Pompeii, Rome and other ancient cities*; **graffiti** : *scribbles and drawings, often indecent, on public buildings, in lavatories, etc.* (Chambers Dictionary). Let us in future think of the scribbles in St Peter's as **graffito**. ❖

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## **A Sense of Community**

**The Revd Jonathan Gordon** writes on the importance of belonging

# *review* Northchurch & Wigginton

The World Cup seems a long time ago now and already we are into a new football season. This is going to be quite a season for Watford. A local team in the Premier League always generates a bit more interest and excitement in the game and I am really looking forward to when they play Manchester City next April. My main worry is that it will be a keenly fought relegation battle (for City!)

A few months ago there was a very interesting article in one of the Sunday papers on football supporters and the idea of community. A large number of supporters travelled over to Germany for the World Cup, many without tickets, but in the words of the article: *they just wanted to be there to belong*. The social and cultural backgrounds of the supporters were mixed and diverse, but for a few weeks in the summer different people came together and were able to bond. The article then suggested some of the reasons that people might possibly feel anonymous and even alienated in modern culture and how many people wanted to rediscover a sense of identity and most importantly a feeling of belonging.

The idea of community and belonging has always been important in the life of the Church. In the Gospels, Jesus preached to a wide range of people and established a new family of those who responded to his kingdom message. In the Epistle of St Peter the members of the early Church communities are described as *living rocks*.

It is an important description. Rocks come in diverse shapes, structures and sizes and no two are ever the same. The same holds true within the Church. It is composed of unique people, each with different gifts and abilities that together make up the community of the Church. If we were meant to be the same, the image would have been of living bricks and not stones.

My vision of a parish church is one in which all people, irrespective of their age, background or experiences, can find a place where they feel they are valued and belong. Churches are about community and caring for others. They are about honesty and integrity. They are about open and hospitable communities who can bring friendliness and generosity to those who feel neglected and worn down. They are about the celebration of God's presence and liberating Spirit. They are places where together we can discover more about following Jesus and his teaching. Most fundamentally, they are about an open door and a welcome to everyone. ❖

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# review notes & notices

## THE AEOLIAN SINGERS

Following **Father Basil Jones'** comments last month on choral singing, it's time for choral societies to begin tuning up their voices again after the summer break. The Aeolian Singers rehearse on Thursdays in term time at the John F Kennedy School in Hollybush Lane, Warners End, Hemel Hempstead.

The new term begins September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm and new members are welcome. The choir will go to Germany in October and will repeat its German programme in St John's Church, Boxmoor on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The programme includes Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*.

Carol concerts will follow in December and a concert programme in Provence is planned for 2007. For further information call **Sue Fleming** (251566).

## BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



At our August meeting, **Joy Lovell** welcomed members before reading an amusing poem, then **Maureen Stonhill** read another. **Janet Mitchell** recalled the visit by four members to the WI Denman College last month where they were all impressed by the facilities available to WI members. We then had a members' afternoon organised by **Judith Lowther** assisted by **Samantha Lovell** which they called *WI Choice*. Members were asked for their preference in music and were entertained with recordings including opera, ballet and comedy and concluding with songs from the sixties. A relaxing afternoon followed by tea and a raffle. Next month on 1<sup>st</sup> September our speaker will be **Isobel Leek** talking on *A Victorian Legacy in the Garden*. We meet at the Court House at 2:00pm. New members and visitors are most welcome.

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PRESENTS

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Berkhamsted Choral Society is a member of Berkhamsted Arts Trust, which is financially supported by the Dacorum Borough Council. Both societies are affiliated to Making Music, which represents and supports amateur performing and promoting societies

## *review*notes&notices

### FROM OUTGROWN TO OUTREACH

Yet another country, Lebanon, joins Iraq among those that need aid to reconstruct the properties, infrastructure, and shattered lives of the innocent.

One can only wonder at the folly and evil of mankind that wreaks this destruction and death. Thank God that feelings of common humanity lead millions to show compassion and generosity to the victims of war and poverty, often caused by injustices of our own making. Sadly, the dangers of terrorism in Baghdad and of war in Lebanon now prevent Oxfam from being there.

Why this preamble for **Oxfam's 23<sup>rd</sup> Children's Wear Event - Friday 8th September, 9:00 - 11:00am at the Civic Centre, Berkhamsted?** In the humblest of ways, the Event makes you one of the compassionate millions. You may come to

the Event just to buy items outgrown or unwanted, generously donated by other parents. Whatever your motives, as you donate or buy you are helping Oxfam to help those so much less fortunate than ourselves.

Please be there. The quality and quantity of clothing, all sizes, for all ages, will be as outstanding as ever. If you can't make the day, leave a message in the shop for Nicky. However difficult your request may seem, there's always the chance that what you want is already in the shop or about to be donated. Some items, such as buggies, strollers, baby baths, high chairs etc., are too bulky to be at the Event or on display in the shop, Let Nicky know what you need.

Voluntary help on the day of the Event, and in the shop at all times is always welcome. If you want to make a difference, 'phone Jane in the shop (864225) or Nicky Evans (872502).

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## reviewnotes&notices

### GRAHAM GREENE FESTIVAL

The ninth Festival, **29<sup>th</sup> September - 1<sup>st</sup> October**, will comprise a mixture of films, talks and other events, held in Berkhamsted's Victorian Town Hall, in Greene's old school, and in cinemas in Berkhamsted and Chesham. The wide and varied programme for the 2006 Festival will include the following:

A talk on Greene in the Congo in 1959 by **Dr Michel Lechat**, the Belgian leprosy doctor to whom the novel *A Burnt-Out Case* is dedicated.

The theme of *Greene in the Caribbean, Central and South America*, with talks on *The Power and the Glory* by **Professor Cedric Watts** and **Patrick Marnham**, *The Comedians* by **The Revd The Lord Griffiths**, *Argentina* and *The Honorary Consul* by **Miranda France**.

The launch of **Ian Thomson's** new book on Greene's writings for *The Tablet*.

The theme of *Greene and his contemporaries*:

**Lord Hattersley** talking about J B Priestley, **Ivan Wise** on Greene and George Bernard Shaw.

Talks by: **Professor Bernard Bergonzi** on Greene and the Critic,

**Professor Neil Sinyard** on canine motifs in Greene's work, **Dr Rudolf van Dalm** on Greene, children and child-women.

#### Films:

A newly-restored print of **Carol Reed's** 1959 film *Our Man in Havana*,  
The 1983 film *The Honorary Consul*,  
The Yorkshire Television production of *The Potting Shed*.

A guided tour by **David Pearce** of those parts of the school associated with Graham Greene.


A Pre-Festival Literary Quiz, in aid of the Hospice of St Francis.

To find out more about the Festival, visit the Trust's website at <[www.grahamgreenebt.org](http://www.grahamgreenebt.org)> or contact **Mike Hill** [mike@michaelhill.plus.com](mailto:mike@michaelhill.plus.com) or 01274 835260

### HILARY NORRIS AT ASHRIDGE CHAPEL

Many readers will remember with pleasure the recitals given by **Hilary Norris** when she was organist at St Mary's, Northchurch. *The Georgian Organ* is the title of the CD she recorded on the sweet-sounding instrument in the Chapel at Ashridge. On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September, at 3:00 pm, Hilary is to play music by some of her favourite composers, chosen to suit this rather special organ. Tickets, including light refreshments. £8 (students £4, under 16 free). Gardens open 2 - 6:00pm

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# *review*notes&notices

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#### **Art History: Our Classical Heritage**

**Tutor: Judy Rich**

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 10 – 12pm for 10 weeks at the Friends' Meeting House, 289 High St.

Contact: Chris Buckle 01442 250404

#### **Nationalism in Music**

**Tutor: Dr John Winter**

Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 7:30 – 9:30pm for 10 weeks at the Friends' Meeting House, 289 High St.

Contact: Hazel Ward 01442 875899

### **TRING**

#### **The Country House in Literature**

**Tutor: Dr Nigel Good**

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 7:45–9:45pm for 10 weeks at Corpus Christi Church Hall, Langdon St

Contact: Lindsay Goodman 01442 255583

### **Politics and Ethics in action**

**Tutor: Gerald Bevan**

Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 7:45–9:45pm for 10 weeks at Corpus Christi Church Hall, Langdon St

Contact: Roger Oliver (824658)

**Please** phone the course contact for further information and to enrol.

For details about one-off Friday afternoon sessions and Saturday Schools contact **Hazel Ward** (875899) or pick up a leaflet in the Library.

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## **OXJAM**

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October is the month when music-lovers everywhere can join in a national live music effort to help banish poverty and suffering. Oxfam is looking for enthusiasts across the musical spectrum to arrange fund-raising events throughout the nation. Oxfam will provide the opportunity to turn all kinds of music into notes that could strike a chord with the desperately needy people the charity supports. Events large and small will all be welcome. Support is available. Visit Oxfam's website <oxfam.org.uk> or call in at the Oxfam shop in Berkhamsted High Street for more information. Don't delay.

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## **A BIBLE BRING-AND-BUY**

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*Hope for Children* invite you to a Text-and-Parcel Party at 7:30pm on Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup> in Potten End Church Room. For your invitation contact

**Margaret Smith** (257979) or **Margaret West** (0870 7519861)

The invitation (provided before the event) contains a text. Within the text an item is mentioned eg. bread, wine, almonds. Interpreting this as imaginatively as possible the guest brings the item to the party. The items provide the *Bring-and-Buy* element to the evening. Wine/juice and nibbles will be provided.

## September

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evensong
	<i>All Saints' 3<sup>rd</sup></i>	10:00am Holy Communion – Methodist led
	10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am Morning Worship – Anglican led
	17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am Sung Eucharist – Anglican led
	24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am All age Communion + Baptism – Methodist led
All services at <i>St Peter's</i> 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 <i>All Saints'</i>
WED	MP 8:45am	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 8:00am
THU		EP 5:00pm Eucharist 11:00am ( <i>Fr Michael's day off</i> )
FRI	MP 8:45am	EP 5:00pm <i>both churches</i> Eucharist 9:15am
SAT	MP 8:45am <i>both churches</i>	EP 5:00pm Eucharist 9:15am
1 <sup>st</sup> Sun	SUNDAYS TOGETHER LUNCH 12:30pm <i>Court House</i> For anyone on their own on a Sunday. Contact: Joan Morris (863780)	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP 7:45pm <i>Court House</i> 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 <i>All Saints' Church Hall</i> Song Time or Short service as announced. Jenny Wells (870981)	
Tue	ST PETER'S CHOIR Children 5:15 to 6:15pm <i>St Peter's</i> Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Tue	TUESDAY CLUB 8:15pm <i>A lively women's group with guest speaker Court House</i> Contact chairman Val Atkinson (866792) or secretary Joan Gregory (864829)	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Kathie Lally (863526)	
4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:00pm <i>17 Shaftesbury Court.</i> Tell us if anyone needs our prayers. Contact: Jenny Wells (870981)	
Wed	JULIAN MEETING: meets about twice a month at Jenny's <i>57 Meadow Rd</i> <i>All are very welcome at 11:30am as arranged</i> or at Ruth's <i>1 Montague Rd</i> Contact: Jenny Wells 870981 or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)	
Wed	PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7-8:30pm . (yrs 5-8) Jimmy Young (384929) <i>All Saints' Hall</i>	
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) <i>Court House</i>	
Thu	BELLRINGING: 8:00pm Priscilla Watt (Captain of the Tower) (863804) <i>St Peter's</i>	
Fri	LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-11:30am <i>Court House</i> Weekly meetings with a short service 1st Fri in St Peter's (10am) Nicole Addy-Varndell (864094)	
Fri	ST PETER'S CHOIR: Children 7:00-8:30pm, Adults 7:30-8:30pm. <i>St Peter's</i> Contact: Adrian Davis (864722) or Jean Wild (866859)	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast & prayers. <i>Various local churches</i>	

## reviewdiary

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

### September/October

#### September

Mon	4	8:00pm	Eucharist with prayers for healing.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	5	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service Balaam and his Donkey.....	<i>All Saints'</i>
Fri	8	10:00am	Little Fishes Toddlers' Service .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	9	10-6pm	Beds & Herts Historic Churches Sponsored Bike Ride.....	<i>to &amp; from most churches</i>
Sun	10	7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents The Bridgewater Band orchestral concert.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	16	8:00pm	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast.....	<i>St Mary's, Northchurch</i>
Sat	16	7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents The Berkhamsted Choral Society concert.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	17	6:00pm	Choral Evensong.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	19	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service Harvest Time.....	<i>All Saints'</i>
Fri	22	11:00am	Victoria School Harvest service .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	24	9:30am & 10:00am	Harvest Festival services .....	<i>both St Peter's &amp; All Saints'</i>

#### October

Sun	1	3:00pm	Hospice Service .....	<i>All Saints'</i>
Mon	2	8:00pm	Eucharist with prayers for healing.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	3	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Samuel the Good Listener</i> .....	<i>All Saints'</i>
Fri	6	10:00am	Little Fishes Service .....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	8	6:00pm	Choral Evensong.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	14	7.30pm	The Cowper Society presents Gaudeamus choral concert.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	17	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Elijah and the Ravens</i> .....	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sat	21	8.00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast .....	<i>The Court House / St Peter's</i>

## reviewregisters

#### Baptisms (St Peter's)

23 July	Matthew Benjamin Brown, Oliver Thomas Brown
30 July	Alice Maia Akosua Amankwah, Daniel James Oakley Robb

#### Weddings (St Peter's)

15 July	Alasdair Gregory Wild & Sara Jayne Jones Neil Charles Campbell & Sarah Jane Hackworth
22 July	Benjamin David Stephens & Julie Tracy Simpson Benjamin Thomas Roberts & Verity Louise Green

#### Funerals

17 July	Daphne Gwenyth Heal	St Peter's Church (Kingshill)
27 July	Inge Emma Hunt	Chilterns Crematorium
4 Aug	Lawrence Thomas (Dusty) Miller	St Peter's Church (Kingshill)

# review factfile

## CONTACT LIST

Names and local telephone numbers for jobs, rotas and information (for clergy, parish officers, music, bells and banns etc see opposite). 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

### All Saints'

Altar service  
Chalice rota  
Church maintenance  
Church cleaning  
Flower arrangements  
Sunday morning coffee  
Service recordings  
Intercessions

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)

Epistle Readers  
Electoral Roll  
Pathfinders

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

Sidesmen  
Catering

Chris Hunt (822607)  
Val Atkinson (866792)

Hospice contact  
Christian Aid  
Youth worker  
Sunday School/Explorers

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

Felicity White (866223)  
Jenny Wells (870981)  
Chris Lumb (863885)  
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)

Been to the  
Post Office?

Next stop  
the Bookshop .....  
then coffee  
to recover



# WAY INN

A Christian Centre at 268 High Street

Telephone: Coffee Shop 864751, Bookshop 870768



Drawing by Mary Casserley, with permission

# reviewcontacts

## 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)  
**Christina Billington** (Diocesan Lay Minister), 13 Ashridge Rise (385566)  
**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)  
 Churchwardens: **Chris Hunt**, 11 The Firs, Wigginton (822607)  
**Tracy Robinson**, 36 Trevelyan Way (863559)  
 Parochial Church Council: Secretary: **Pat Hunt**, 11 The Firs, Wigginton (822607)  
 Treasurer: **Michael Robinson**, 36 Trevelyan Way (863559)

## St Peter's

Director of Music: **Adrian Davis** (864722) [stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk](http://stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk)  
 Asst. Director of Music: **Jean Wild** (866859)  
 Organist: **Jonathan Lee** (0794 1113232)  
 Weddings and Funerals,  
 Banns of Marriage and  
 Baptisms: **Fr Michael Bowie** (864194)  
 Bellringers (St Peter's): **Priscilla Watt**, 11 Cavalier Court, Chesham Road (863804)

## All Saints'

Choirmaster: **Peter McMunn** (874894) [allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk](http://allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk)  
 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 August's What & Where in St Peter's?



An elegant carved  
graffito in the Lady  
Chapel, on the central  
pillar.  
See page 19.

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