

In this issue

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for Town and Parish



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Welcome to the September 2007 issue of the Berkhamsted *review*

It's early August. The sun is shining from a cloudless sky - a pleasant change from damp June and sodden July. But whatever the weather does these days, we rarely escape a jeremiad in the media on climate change and global warming. But I have recently noticed a change in the tone of pronouncements on this subject - a wider acknowledgement that extreme events have affected our cities and countryside in the past, an admission that the more we learn about the global climate, the less easy it is to understand it or to predict the future, and a recognition that in our daily lives, what environmentally friendly like decisions, all too often have unforeseen consequences. It's sometimes difficult to decide what's best. Are paper bags more environmentally friendly than plastic bags? Or is it the other way round? Are traditional nappies more environmentally friendly than disposables? Nobody seems to know for sure. Should I walk to the shops or take the car? A recent study in Germany suggests, rather unexpectedly, that more greenhouse gas is generated by walking! Whatever we do, the environmental ramifications are farreaching and complex. The answers are rarely simple...

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Cover photo — Great Gaddesdon Church (p11)

Tony Firshman

Christopher Green

Editorial Team: Christopher Green, 17 Cowper Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 3DE (863241)

email: greenc@waitrose.com

Tony Firshman, 29 Longfield Road, Tring, HP23 4DG (828254) email: review@greatberkhamsted.org.uk fax: 828255
Joe Garstin, 26 Priory Gardens, Berkhamsted, HP4 2DS (866846)

email: joe_garstin@hotmail.com

Advertising: David Woodward, 3 Murray Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 1JD (862723)

woodies@chyverton3.freeserve.co.uk

Circulation: Sheila Miller, 31 Lincoln Court, Berkhamsted, HP4 3EN (864277)

Treasurer: Miles Nicholas, 46 Fieldway, HP4 2NY (871598)

email: miles.nicholas@btinternet.com

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Next copy dates (all Fridays) 31 August 5 October 2 November



You'll Never
Walk Alone
Church and
Community in
Liverpool.
Tricia Gibson
writes

review leader

Whenever we attempt to speak about anything we always run the risk of not only

misinterpretation, but also

misrepresentation! And before you begin to wonder, no - I am not about to leap to the defence of certain Bishops of the north west, especially as we were fortunate enough

to live on the Wirral during the time when not only were the fortunes of Liverpool FC riding high, and the trophy cupboard was well stocked, but also at a time when the church certainly held great credibility in most people's sight.

The reason why the church was thought of in this way was without doubt due to the three way partnership between the Anglican Bishop, David Sheppard, the Roman Catholic Archbishop, **Derek** Warlock and the Free Church moderator, Dr John Newton. Through their dialogue and working together they energised and enabled the wider community. In 1988 David and Derek wrote of their experience in the book Better Together, six years later they followed this with a second book, With Hope in our Hearts, which also included contributions from the third member of that ecumenical trinity, John Newton. They dedicated this second book To the people of Liverpool whose indomitable spirit has been an inspiration to both of us. This speaks of the recognition of not just their own partnership and cooperation but also that of the wider community's partnership encouragement for them in their task. It was, and still perhaps is, a model of how quite different people can work together because they recognise that they have more in common than in difference, and they

also shared a vision of how things could be improved. The particular challenge they faced was of getting the churches to work together for the wellbeing of the city of Liverpool during rather turbulent times, and through their engagement with various issues the ordinary people very much knew that they were there for them. They incurred the wrath of the Prime Minister of the time, but would not be deterred from the challenge of striving to live the gospel message of inclusion and support for the marginalised.

I used to help out occasionally in the Christian Aid area office in Liverpool, and I still remember vividly the first time I saw the breakdown of the figures for giving during Christian Aid Week. Remember the Toxteth riots in 1981? Perhaps some of you may also know of Caldy, a village on the Wirral, very much at the other end of the social spectrum, the stark contrast I saw was their places in the *giving league*. Caldy, one of the most affluent areas, was bottom, and yes, you've guessed - Toxteth was top of the league! The peoples of Toxteth knew about need and were very generous in sharing what little they had.

Some might consider that the church does not have quite the profile that it had then, we face different issues and challenges to live and articulate the gospel today, but those visionary and engaged leaders have left an example for us. People remember David Sheppard because of his life-long practice at facing challenges, forming teams and inspiring through hopeful leadership. Each and every one of us is called to embody our faith, and together we can make a difference in our day, like the fans on the Liverpool Kop, our hearts need to be able to sing You'll never walk alone! May we indeed walk on with hope in our hearts, guided and energised by God, that the wider community might see the transforming love of Christ in our midst. ❖

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Contact: Robert Ford on 01442 824192 http://www.bowentherapy4u.co.uk Email: info@bowentherapy4u.co.uk First Liverpool, then Letchworth; a massive, gothic-style 20^{th} century cathedral to a modern 20^{th} century church fit for a Garden City. A month after the MU National General Meeting in Liverpool Cathedral, members in this diocese met in

Letchworth for their Annual Meeting. Refreshments beforehand gave opportunity to catch up with old friends and after tea and scones to sustain us through the evening, we made our way from the hall to the church with its semicircular pews around a central altar. The church celebrates its 40th Anniversary this year. Opening prayers led by the Rector, were followed by the business meeting with reports of the work of MU in the diocese through the past year. We heard of the success of our project work in prisons and contact centres, in arranging holidays for needy families and fund-raising for MU overseas. Many tiny garments are sewed and knitted for the neo-natal units in local hospitals, all helping to ease the heartache of parents of very small and sick babies. Other reports told of the Social Policy work, which includes awareness of disability issues and the Flexible Families Campaign to urge the government to extend the right to request flexible working to all parents of children under 18. We were encouraged to think about innovative ways of marketing MU and raising money. The accounts showed MU to be sound financially, with Gift Aid and profit from the sale of MU goods contributing substantially income. The announcement of the 2008 subscription rate (up 50p) was duly

All that was left was for the Diocesan President to introduce **Kemi Akinrule**,

LOOK OUTWARDS

Margaret Burbidge highlights the challenges in the St Albans Diocese



St

George's

the guest speaker. Kemi, a Nigerian, is the Social Responsibility Officer for St Albans Diocese and is charged with the task of encouraging this diocese to look outwards especially to where people are

marginalised and live in poverty; something also at the heart of MU work. She spoke about Case Work Support for the asylum seekers in Yarls Wood Detention Centre, situated in Bedfordshire on the northern edge of the diocese. She highlighted the shortcomings of the system where asylum seekers are detained, often for long periods before their cases are heard and decisions made, and drew our attention to the work of the Befrienders whose support is necessary and appreciated. Another area of Kemi's work involves being alongside local people living with HIV/AIDS at centres in Luton and St Albans. Young heterosexual women and sub-Saharan Africans living in the diocese are the main groups coming to the centres. The importance of support for those living in difficult circumstances cannot be overestimated and we were asked if we were able to help. This is at the heart of the Christian gospel as Kemi's talk reminded us, not only within the MU but outside in our local communities.

To close the evening everyone stood and held hands with their neighbour and said The Grace together. This was a visible reminder that as MU members we are members of the Body of Christ and committed to MU and its work throughout the world.

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Tel: 842716 (eve) Mbl: 07768 937138 hen we walk into a medieval cathedral, as I did recently at St David's, the inner space created there by the builders has an immediate effect. I asked myself What did this space mean to the original architects? What mental state, what mood did they wish to evoke?

Each part of the cathedral has a purpose; the nave with seating for the congregation, the focus of the altar, the pulpit, the clerestory providing light, the pillars, the vaulted roof. Each has a clear function, just as a theatre, a concert hall, a supermarket or an office has a clear function, but in the case of the cathedral, the complete building has its own intrinsic worth. The function is expressed within a form that offers more than functionality: it evokes a mood, a feeling, a state of mind. The same that is conveyed by the altar, the sacrament and by the message, one would expect, from the pulpit. This evoked mood is a kind of spacious repose but not repose as idleness, sleepiness or leisure, like reading a book on the beach. It is a repose that is contained but at the same time open, concentrated yet receptive, upright without being rigid, accepting without regrets, neither laughter nor tears. But when we walk into such a space as a tourist we bring with us all the baggage and noise of the world outside can make it difficult to which acknowledge and recognise this dignified repose, the mood of the cathedral space.

It may seem strange but this confrontation of a tourist with the interior of such a cathedral has, it seems to me, some features in common with the confrontation with a wilderness as a holiday experience. A wilderness is trackless - there are no roads, no



Cathedral and Wilderness

Ian Reay reflects on their appeal

signposts, no footpaths, no trace of human guidance in the development of the form. So it has no function. A wilderness exists independently of us - it does not interact with us. Its attitude, if it can be said to have an attitude, is "take it or leave it".

A wilderness can be beautiful and has an allure, but if you allow yourself to be drawn into it without proper preparation it can be fatal. Above all the wilderness has no overlay of thoughts, no intentions, no deceptions and no stratagems. Although full of life and vitality it is also full of death and decay, but it does not suffer loss. There is no possession, no ambition, no grasping; only an openness to the sky. Confronted with the wilderness all our habits, conventions and devices are blocked off and receive no reinforcement. We are alone.

But attempts as a tourist to visit a wilderness may fail to experience it as a wilderness; just as a tourist visiting a cathedral may fail to experience properly the mood of the cathedral, and for much the same reason. Put a cafeteria on top of a mountain, approach it in a ski-lift on a bright sunny day and the wilderness, although in theory all around, has in fact vanished. The chairlift and the café are like space ships crossing empty space. Inside is a noisy, chattering world, shielded from the silence wilderness outside. The wilderness is as if on the other side of bulletproof glass. It may as well be viewed on a television screen. In the same way, when we enter a from the street. cathedral preparation, we may only be dimly aware of the spaciousness that surrounds us as we peer inquisitively around the nave, at memorials, at wall carvings and at stained glass windows.

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ver the past year, the Citizens' Association has tried to raise the profile of the Dacorum Hospital Action Group (DHAG)

Norman Cutting charts the

HOSPITAL WOES

delays and frustrations

and at the same time I've been experiencing just what is going on in our local health service. As usual, I see no reason why you shouldn't get a

flavour as well.

You start with a couple of pensioners who live in Hemel Hempstead and have the *usual* problems that us elderly have. One is looking to have a knee attended to and the other needs a replacement hip. Both routine operations (unless you are the patient, of course) and both experienced the joys of our heath care for all society.

Let's experience the knee operation first.

West Herts Hospital (sorry, it's my age - having been born there!), decided that a simple wash out was all that was required. Twice the procedure was on the list and twice cancelled. Then it was decided that Stevenage should have a go, owing to the patient's kidney problems, so off to the hospital goes the patient only for them to decide that perhaps a *proper* job should be done and as the patient's consultant was actually based in WWH, another consultant takes over.

First go at Stevenage involved attending on a Sunday afternoon for the pre-operation checks and tests. No problems, so it's decided that kidney dialysis should take place on Monday and Tuesday mornings and the operation is set for the Tuesday. Premed is done, patient gets to operating table, final checks made, whoops, the blood test's all wrong as the renal unit

forgot about the operation SO it's cancelled. Another appointment is made to have another go, only for the patient contract to

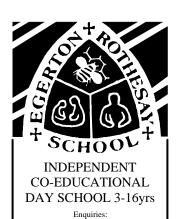
infection a few days before the appointed date which results in another two weeks in assorted wards at Stevenage. The patient is still waiting for another appointment.

Meanwhile, back with the hipreplacement patient, assorted tests done and courses attended at St Albans some six weeks before an actual date is decided on. The appointed day comes and off to WHH at 7:00am we all go. On the appointed day some hours later, we (and others!) all go home as for one reason or another, our patient hadn't had his scans and x-ray. We later find out that different people look, test and operate, so the *human* factor intervenes.

Another appointment is made, the same 7:00am start, only this time the patient is one of the *lucky* ones and the operation goes ahead. Sitting in bed watching the comings and goings for the Friday registration it is noticeable that a significant number have to return another day for one reason or another. I'll leave you to draw your own conclusions.

The one thing I noticed was that Stevenage seems to have a future, is very busy and well stocked with staff and patients, whereas WHH is a totally different animal. In a 24 -bed ward, just 11 patients was the maximum I saw and never more than four staff.

Remember this is just a small *snapshot* and may not be representative of any of the hospitals – but it could very well be!



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The earliest vicar is recorded in 1255 and much of the building dates from the thirteenth, though the chancel may be earlier and the tower and clerestory are lateradded in the fifteenth century. Much later is the Halsey chapel, on the north side of the

the Halsey chapel, on the north side of the chancel, an uncomplicated addition constructed in local brick early in the eighteenth century. There are substantial quantities of Roman brick in the earliest fabric of the church, leading one to wonder where it came from and whether there were once Roman buildings nearby. Equally striking is the great abundance of Hertfordshire Puddingstone in the church and churchyard. The buttresses of the north aisle are founded on massive blocks, there is a block of megalithic proportions in the churchyard and the flintwork of the tower, restored in the 1860s, is almost as much puddingstone as flint.

The interior of the church is light and airy but architecturally unexceptional. What is more interesting is an insight into village life that speaks from monuments and benefactions. There we can see that from the seventeenth century down to the present day the Halsey family, formerly of Gaddesden Place and still resident in the village, has been preeminent in the community.

In the chancel is a very fine monument to **Sir John Halsey** †1670 whose benefactions are recorded on a large board in the tower. Other family members rest beneath the chancel floor and in the Halsey chapel. The chapel contains a remarkable series of eighteenth century monuments, evidently by very able sculptors, though only one, by Flaxman, is signed.

The attachment of the Halsey family to the village church is evident from their

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST GREAT GADDESDON

Christopher Green writes

involvement in its restoration in 1912-14, in the re-hanging of the bells in the 1920s and in their gift of the church clock, brought from Gaddesden Place in 1955.

A very unusual piece of family history is the hatchment, now hanging in the tower, which was painted to mark the death of **Guy Halsey** in 1990. More generally the practice of displaying the coat of arms of the deceased in the form of a hatchment ended in the mid nineteenth century. How many other churches, one wonders, can display a late twentieth century example.

There are other memorials in the church to the great and good of Great Gaddesden, but somehow the most appealing monument is that of **Stephen Munne**:

Here lyeth Stephen Munne born in this parish and bredd up in the parsonage house in the place of a cooke where he livd all his time a patterne of a most faithful and desired servant and there dying he devided the goods that god had given him equally between the vicar and the poore of this parish to continue for ever and now expects that joyful eloge[†]

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† acclamation of praise †† WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT



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he Berkhamsted L Citizens Association has brought out a new edition of its Berkhamsted

Footpath

A New FOOTPATH MAP

Christopher Green reviews

launched in July at the Civic Centre, with a display of earlier editions back to the 1920s when it was first published.

Map,

The new map, on a scale of 1:20,000 (3. $\bar{2}$ inches to the mile) covers an area from Ivinghoe and Caddington in the north to Chesham and Flaunden in the south. On the reverse is a street map of Berkhamsted with alphabetical index.

The footpath map shows all signposted paths and all those on the maps kept by local authorities as the definitive

record of Public Rights of Way. The map also identifies footpaths that may be accessible but are not Rights of Way.

The emphasis in the map is on landmarks that help walkers follow their chosen routes - field boundaries, masts and towers (but not power lines), churches and chapels, many named buildings and of course pubs

How does the new map compare with obvious competitor, the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer series? On the footpath map, footpaths stand out

more clearly. The larger scale, the absence of contours and the subdued representation of field boundaries creates a less fussy appearance. The lack of contours is a pity. Scattered spot heights give only a hint of the ups and downs that make the Chilterns and probably for some walkers influence their choice of route.

A great advantage of the footpath map for people in Berkhamsted is having Berkhamsted near its centre. You need two Ordnance Survey Explorer maps to cover the same area and that highlights another big plus - the new map costs just £2.95. The two OS maps cost £15.98 and the new

weatherproof versions cost £13.99 each.

Find the new map at Bookthrift, The Complete Outdoors in Bourne End and the Ashridge National Trust Shop. Worth every penny. Congratulations to Citizens Association.



Mark my footsteps

Canon Basil Jones. curate at St Peter's 1964-67, greets our new curate John Pritchard after John's ordination at St Albans Abbey on July 1st 2007.

Photo: Phillipa Seldon

Greene was born in Berkhamsted on 2nd October 1904 and an annual festival is held here to celebrate his life and work.

GRAHAM GREENE FESTIVAL 2007

Graham Greene helped towards publication

27th—30th September

Graham Greene's H u n g a r i a n Connection

This year the Festival will include

a mixture of films, talks and other events, held in Berkhamsted in the Town Hall, in Greene's old school, at the Rex Cinema and at the Civic Centre. The programme will include the following:

Over the Border:

The Letters of Graham Greene. A talk by Professor Richard Greene on the letters he has edited.

Green in Africa

Talks on the two novels Greene set in Africa.

William Boyd on *The Heart of the Matter*

Professor Chris Woodhead on *A Burnt-out Case*

Greene and his Contemporaries

Barbara Greene, Countess Strachwitz - A talk by her son Rupert Graf Strachwitz with a screening of a taped interview with Countess Strachwitz talking about her early life. (Barbara is pictured opoosite with her cousin Graham)

Saints, Sinners and Exiles - A talk on Graham Greene and Anthony Burgess by **Dr Andrew Biswell**, Burgess's biographer.

The Life and Work of Mervyn Peake - Sebastian Peake talks about his father, whose work Introduced by Ramon

Rami Porter

Dr Tamas Molnar talks about Greene and Catholocism in Hungary and interviews László Róbert.

Figures in Greene's Carpet

Talk by **Professor Robert Davis** on two of Greene's novels *The Power and the Glory* and *Monsignor Ouixote*.

<u>Limelight in Vienna:</u> a journey around Greene's most charismatic villain.

An illustrated talk on Harry Lime by **Professor Neil Sinyard**.

A Greene Occasion

Readings from Greene's works by actor **Clive Francis**.

In the Style of Graham Greene

Parodies and pastiches of Greene read by **David Pearce.**

During the Festival there will be screenings of two films based on short stories by Graham Greene *Across the Bridge* and *Went the Day Well* and also of an interview with Greene at the National Film Theatre in 1984.

Other events include guided tours of Greene's old school and of Greene's Berkhamsted and a Pre-Festival Literary Quiz in aid of the Hospice of St Francis.

Visit the Festival website at http://www.grahamgreenefestival.com



BARBARA GREENE

Countess Strachwitz 1907-1991 A Centenary



she was still a toddler and later moved with her family into the Hall, the site of which is now occupied by Swing Gate Lane First School, her Mother. Eva Stutzer was the daughter of a German missionary pastor her father Edward Greene became a member o f Berkhamsted Urban District Council and was a churchwarden for many years of Sunnyside Church. As a young girl Barbara was regarded by her five brothers and sisters a s

Barbara Greene, Graham

Greene's first cousin

was born in Brazil on

28th September 1907.

Berkhamsted

She

came

when

somewhat of a tearaway and easily the wildest of the Hall Greenes. She did not like Berkhamsted School for Girls and at the age of 13 moved to a Quaker Boarding School in Somerset where she enjoyed the freedom of riding her own horse over the Mendip Hills.

In 1935 she was challenged by her cousin, Graham to join him on a trek through Liberia. Graham later wrote *Journey Without Maps* in which Barbara was hardly mentioned. Barbara published her own version of their jungle trek under the title *Land Benighted*, republished many years later under a new title *Too late to turn back*.

Barbara's book was reviewed in April 1939 in the *Berkhamsted Review*. In 1938 Berkhamsted School for Girls reported under news from old girls that 'Barbara Greene has

taken to travelling in Africa'.

Later in the 1930s while on a visit to her cousin Hugh who was reporting for The Daily Telegraph from Berlin, Barbara met and fell in love with Count Rudolf von Strachwitz, a German diplomat. Stranded in Berlin in 1939 a t the beginning of the Second World War she became an office cleaner. Eventually she married Rudolf. had Thev two children - Rupert who is visiting this Graham year's Greene Festival in Berkhamsted to talk about his Mother and

Ilona who was born in 1951 in Argentina when Barbara was 44.

Later Rudolf became German ambassador to the Vatican.

In 1961 Barbara compiled an anthology of prayers entitled *God of a hundred names*.

Barbara died in Germany in December 1991 just a few months after her cousin Graham.

If you would like to see part of a videotape recorded by Barbara at her family's request and meet her son Rupert why not come to the Graham Greene Festival. (For details see opposite)

I repair Sinclair QLs and manufacture and sell upgrades and components. The QL is a computer launched in 1984 and production stopped in 1988. There is still a worldwide

is still a worldwide following, and I am the last surviving commercial repairer. Last October I went to a workshop meeting in Niagara Falls, Canada. I stayed with **Bill Cable**, who is also a QL trader. He lives with Mary his wife in a forest in New Hampshire in a house he built himself from his forest resources. He is self-sufficient in electricity (wind and sun) and drinking water is piped from his own well. Before our first meeting years ago he warned me "Tony, I am not a typical American". Mind you his main income is as a programmer for the Burlington Coat

I parked my car in free parking and cycled into Heathrow on my Brompton folding bike. In the plane I was next to a 26 year old US Airforce Iraq conscript who was also a cop in Pittsburgh. On take-off he was gripping the seat and sweating "I'm scared of flying" - this was somehow re-assuring.

Company, so he has real-world contact.

I arrived at JFK New York and met an old friend, Fiona. We filled in three hours, before my American Eagle flight to Boston, eating. I wanted to charge my laptop, but there were no power points. Power was a problem, but I had enough battery to show her my Aylesbury house that I had just finished renovating. I planned to do house

building for **Bill Cable** as a break! At the gate for the Boston flight I found power points. However my laptop power supply was dead. Power was still a problem.

So onward to Boston, and the Dartmouth Coach Co bus to Lebanon. It served free water and pretzels and showed *Annie Hall*. Brilliant, as I had seen bits of this film but never all of it. On my return I reminded my teacher friend in Tring of Woody Allen's quip:

"Those who cannot do, teach. Those who cannot teach, teach German". She is a Germanspeaking Lithuanian and

FOREST AND SUBURBIA

Tony Firshman in America

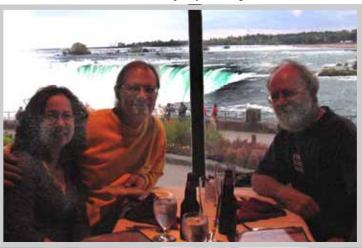
teaches German!

I arrived at Lebanon to find American Eagle had broken my bike. I managed to get the pedal working but not the carrier. I had to carry my 45lb rucksack on my back for the 20 mile ride. On arrival,

Bill and I went through the list of things for me to do the next day. One was the engine on his compressor that kept dying. Power was a problem for him too. I rode a 1962 BMW vintage motorbike to the metropolis of West Lebanon and White River Junction to try to find a power supply for my laptop. Radio Shack came up trumps. For the compressor, I bought a spark plug and carburettor cleaner. I stripped the carburettor, cleaned and reassembled. I also replaced the petrol, sorry gas. It would not start. On his return Bill said "You have to do THIS before starting". It ran first time and worked perfectly. Power was at last not a problem for either of us.

I also re-visited the Four Aces diner in White River Junction. **Bill Bryson** had described it on UK TV years ago as the "... second best diner in the US, but I don't like diners". In a review extract on the wall of the diner he added The Four Aces food is excellent, unfortunately.

The QL workshop at Niagara Falls was well attended. I represented European traders and spent the whole day repairing. I even had to finish off in the lobby after they closed the meeting room. It was a busy day. Bill, Mary and I left early as we were driving back overnight. We ate in the Falls View Restaurant and had a pretty average meal but an



Mary Boyle and Bill Cable (left) with me at Niagara Falls

extraordinary view of the Horseshoe Falls. I discovered later, from the only non-advertising, half page, in a thick glossy tome, that 750,000 US gallons of water fall every second - amazing.

We arrived in New Hampshire at about 3:30am. Up again at 7:30am for rehearsal at church! Mary deserves special thanks as I know she only went for my sake that Sunday. I had been wanting to sing in the choir at Meriden Congregational Church for years. Mary sang in St Peter's Choir once when in the UK. The music was familiar - Vaughan Williams and Stanford. I even knew the hymn tunes, but not the words! Visitors were made especially welcome and invited to say where they were from. I said "Tony from England". I didn't notice at the time, but I was told there was some amusement. Apparently the previous week, a Polish singer in the choir who lived locally, and had been in the country for 15 years, announced himself as "from Poland". As I was in uniform in the choir, they thought I was also joking! During the notices, they used a wireless microphone to allow people in the congregation to advertise events. These ranged from inviting prayers, through charity walks, to help with mending church linen.

They were celebrating some international church day, and children had made a wide variety of bread, from standard US fare (bagels mainly) to many foreign breads. These were on display, and then eaten with refreshments after the service. Mary lent me some very small fluorescent post-it stickers, which she uses to mark hymns. I put these on the piano immediately in front of me when finished with. The sacrament was passed round on trays, and I

got mine - part of the bread cooked by the children - from the pastor. Much later I noticed the coloured decoration on his otherwise very plain surplice - he had accidentally picked up my post-it stickers as he passed! His wife was joint pastor.

The following week was mainly spent rebuilding the side of Bill's *shop* (workshop). Last year he built a three storey tower to house his collection of maybe 30 vintage motorbikes. On a previous visit I had plumbed cold tapped spring water into his kitchen. I washed in his gravity-fed sunheated rainwater shower open to the forest a unique and fairly chilly experience.

I left on the following Sunday. I cycled into Boston Airport, which a Boston local assured me was not possible. Bill found the route on the internet. In New York, I broke my journey to stay with Fiona and family. Fortunately I told the check-in at Boston, who were planning to send my baggage direct to the UK!

What a contrast. Bill and Mary are self-contained in their forest, and drive an eco-friendly car (Toyota Prius), motorbikes and bicycles. Fiona and Andy from the UK live in up-market suburbia. They run two expensive new cars. One is a truly giant Nissan 6L 4x4 and the second is a very expensive executive open-top two-seater that has done only 4000 miles in two years. They consume power and water like there is no tomorrow, and gardeners descend regularly. They have turned into the typical Americans Bill alluded to.

On arrival in the UK, my bike did not turn up. I left a lost luggage report, and went to find a taxi. One problem was I didn't know the name of the village where I left my car! That wasn't an issue however, as any taxi to a local destination was £50! I went instead to the central bus station and found the controller. He was very helpful. Take any bus to the police station on the A4, and the road to Sipson (for that was the name of the village) is there. The bus was free, and I walked the mile or so to my car. My bike duly arrived during the afternoon.

... so ended another memorable USA expedition.



My handiwork in *lumber* at Bill's *shop* (workshop)

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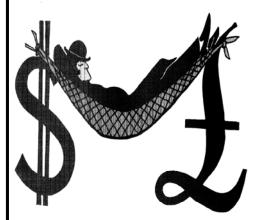
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Saturday 1st September 2007 7.30pm

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St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted

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8:00 pm St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted

Saturday 22nd September

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Schubert:

Arpeggione Sonata D821

Bach : Suite no.1 in G BWV 1007

Rachmaninov : Sonata in G minor Op19

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review letters

Muriel Lander writes:

I was delighted to read **Christopher Green**'s article on the Co-op (August 2007 *review*). It brought back many happy memories of when it was a thriving business in many towns,

As a young married woman I found the service it gave was excellent. Not only the shops, but also when bread and milk were delivered to one's door.

In the Leicester Diocese there was a really big store in Leicester itself, and at Christmas you would find me queuing up with many other people to collect my Divi! And what a help it was towards Christmas presents for the family.

When **John and Elizabeth Metivier** were at All Saints', I invited Elizabeth and several other women to coffee one morning and we got onto the subject of Co-ops and could all remember our mothers' dividend numbers. My mother's number was 404599 - but I can't remember my own!

The only one who didn't join in with us was Elizabeth. When we asked her why, she said her mother didn't approve of Co-ops, or words to that effect. But she was laughing as she said it, and it was obvious that years ago it wasn't the done thing for some folk to use these excellent shops - it would be considered too working class! And what they missed!!



<u>Holiday</u> Reading

The Revd Jonathan Gordon writes

review Northchurch & Wigginton

This has not been the greatest of summers in terms of weather, yet the holiday period does always offer the possibility of taking stock of what is happening in life and also the chance to reflect on past conversations. One

person that came to mind for me was a student in Southampton who I haven't seen for four years. He had lived in America, been active in a church, but returned to Southampton to complete a master's degree. I met him when he was in a state of mental turmoil. He had met a Norwegian student and they were planning to get married. However, he had been told by his American pastor that it was wrong for a Christian to marry an unbeliever (2) Corinthians 6.14) and that those who were not Christians were destined for damnation. His fiancée was not a Christian, and he was desperately worried that not only was she on the road to hell, but that it would be unscriptural foolishness for him to marry

The discussions that we had were wide ranging, yet essentially were concerned with the issue of biblical interpretation. He made the point that if the Bible was the inspired word of God, then it would be wrong deliberately to go against what had been written. However, we explored how there were other verses in the Bible that might be considered equally inspired, but were not taken literally. As an example: the books of Exodus and Leviticus state that we should stone people to death for heresy, adultery, homosexuality, working on the Sabbath, worshipping graven images and a wide variety of other offences. We also spoke about the subject of slavery and how today slavery would be considered immoral and evil. The book of Exodus does not seem to put any restraint on the ownership of slaves and in one verse that remarks that a person should be punished only if they beat a slave too severely, but if the slave gets up after a couple of days then the owner should be left alone as the slave is his property. Even in the New Testament, slaves are admonished to serve their masters well and to regard them as worthy of all honour (1 Timothy 6. 1-4). Those who sought to abolish slavery in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries had to overcome the objection of some church leaders that what was sanctioned by God in the Old and New Testament could not be a sin. The strength of faith that the abolitionists showed was rooted in the conviction that it was simply wrong to injure, enslave, oppress or humiliate another human being. We are all made in God's image and each and every person is worthy of honour and respect. It was this theological commitment to human dignity that won the argument over how certain Biblical verses should be upheld or set aside.

The student did marry his fiancée and they moved back to America and he has got involved with a different church. conversations with him reminded me of how questions of biblical and theological interpretation are not always straight but can involve heartache, bewilderment and profound uncertainty of the best way to proceed. There may well be verses or passages that can result in deep inner turmoil and unease. At St Mary's we are planning a variety of courses: youth alpha, Bible studies, House Groups and an evening course on the subject of Images of Jesus in Film, that will hopefully allow people the freedom to explore any issues that trouble or inspire, and these are open to

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review notes¬ices

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<u>Saturday</u> 11th <u>September</u> 10:00am to 4:00pm at the University of Hertfordshire, Lindop Building, College Lane, Hatfield

Firm in our Faith: Christians and Muslims Living Together. A programme of talks and workshops. To register contact Canon D Stamps 01727 818151 or email dstamps@stalbans.anglican.org

£8.50 if registered by 1^{st} September / £10.00 after 1^{st} September.

1066 CLUB

First Monday - every month 2:30-4:30

At the Court House - If you know anyone who is visually impaired, why not tell them about our club? Tea, coffee, speakers, entertainment, outings and a friendly welcome. For details call Doris on 01442 863 793

UPHOLSTERY CLASSES

Need to give your dining room chairs a face lift, or revive that old chair in the loft past its sit by date? Look no further, and come and join an upholstery group to be run in The Court House in **September**, dates to be arranged.

This group is led by **Chris Chambers** and I have been going to his evening classes for two years, in Beaconsfield, and he would like to try for some classes here in Berkhamsted. He did run a class earlier this year, but there was little support.

The classes are fun and we laugh a lot, and, we are all beginners. The best object to start on is a drop-in seat chair or a stool. Chris has tools which may be borrowed on the evening and all materials, such as tacks, webbing etc would be supplied.

To make a group, six persons an ideal number, please ring **Chris Chambers** on 01442 872302 or 0788 4437347.

ASHRIDGE EVENTS

Friday 21st September 10:30am.

A gentle stroll with **Brian and Siân Barton**. Meet at the B4506 road end of Monument Drive. Just turn up - no booking required.

<u>Sunday</u> <u>23rd</u> <u>September</u> 11:00am-4:00pm *Plot to Plate* Ashridge Estate Visitors Centre. Farmers Market, Craft Stalls. Ever wondered where your food comes from? Spend a while browsing the market stalls and find out.

Details of events from National Trust Ashridge Estate Visitors Centre (851227)

HOSPICE OF ST FRANCIS EVENTS

Thursday 20th September Berkhamsted Collegiate Centenary Hall, Kings Campus, Kings Road. Celeb Sport? Drinks reception 7:00pm, cash bar and limited food from 6:30pm. Your chance to mingle with celebrities from the world of sport! Watch the celebs battle it out with our sporting stars, put our panel on the spot, sports memorabilia auction. Celebs include: Phil Tufnell, Graeme le Saux. Luther Blissett. David Nash. Nigel Winterburn and Aidy Boothroyd, MC Nigel Barden and Comedian Johnny Tickets £20, concessions, £15 Laff. (under 18s and over 65s). Ticket hotline 01442 869555 or 0845 6755566. proceeds shared equally between the Hospice of St Francis and the Pepper Foundation. Supported by Eastwoods and the Penny Farthing Hotel.

Wednesday 26th September 7:15pm - 10:00pm The Great Hall, Berkhamsted Town Hall - Literary Quiz. Teams of 6-8, tickets £8 per person available from the Hospice on 01442 869555 and from the Hospice Shop 274-276 High Street, Berkhamsted, bring your own nibbles, cash bar. Part of the Graham Greene Festival (for more details of the Festival see pp.14/15).

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THE SPECIAL TREES AND WOODS PROJECT

1st - 30th September Volunteers with the project have organised an art exhibition to celebrate the special trees of the Chilterns - Perspectives: Special Trees of the Chilterns. The exhibition has been touring venues across the Chilterns during the summer and in September comes to The Natural History Museum in Tring.

This touring exhibition is an exciting and original way to celebrate the Trees and Woods Project which so far has recorded more than 100 special trees.

Local artists **June Kingsbury** and **Joan Skelton Smith** have volunteered their time to help manage the exhibition which is funded mainly by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Joan Skelton Smith lives in Haddenham, Buckinghamshire and first studied art in the United States. Currently at Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College, Joan works with cut paper, steel, polystyrene and video.

June Kingsbury graduated from Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College in 2006 with an MA in Ceramics and Glass, has exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts and won a number of awards. June works mainly with glass and ceramics in her studio near Henley-on-Thames.

Perspectives will be at The Natural History Museum at Tring throughout September. There is an opportunity to meet the artists on Thursday 6th September 7:30 - 9:00 pm.

VICTORIA SCHOOL NEW BUILDING FUND

Sunday 14th October 7:30pm All Saints' Church. Phillip Conway-Brown - tenor and Kathryn Jenkin - soprano will perform a concert of *Popular Opera and Songs from the Shows* in aid of the Victoria School New Building fund. Phillip and Kathryn are well known in Berkhamsted's musical circles, having performed as solo artists in a number of concerts with the Chiltern Chamber Choir, led by Adrian Davis. But for the most part, their work takes them to the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden or touring in the UK, Europe and America.

Phillip has already boosted the new building fund by £1450 thanks to a Schubert recital he gave at the Lady Chapel at St Peter's Church in January - as part of the school Parental Giving Scheme fund-raising initiative. But due to its popularity he and Kathryn offered to stage a second musical treat. "This is our way of contributing," said Phillip. Their son Oliver, four, attends the school's nursery. Oliver's brother, Matthew, two, is due to start there in September 2008.

"Victoria is a wonderful school at the very heart of our community and we view the new building project as a hugely worthwhile cause," he added. "The school really needs this fantastic new building to equip it for the 21st century and anything that improves schooling and facilities is a great positive for the whole community. We hope people will come to the concert, have a nice evening and feel they can contribute too." Tickets will be available priced £12 (free to children under 16) from The Way Inn, Bookthrift (248 High St), Victoria School (865781) and Cathy Salmon (871965).

Refreshments will be served.

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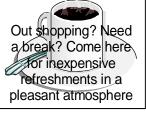
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review notes¬ices

OXFAM CHILDREN'S WEAR SILVER JUBILEE

Friday 7th September 9:00 - 11:30 am

Berkhamsted Civic Centre. The next Oxfam sale of children's wear for the autumn season will mark the Silver Jubilee of this popular event. The 25th sale of quality clothes, books, equipment and toys. Admission is free. The money raised will provide a silver lining for needy children supported by Oxfam's overseas programme, bringing clean water and sanitation, education and health care to some of the most deprived youngsters on the planet. *It's good value, please be there*

ST PETER'S ORGAN APPEAL

Sunday 7th October 7:30pm at St Peter's Church. The appeal will be officially launched with a wine reception, and a recital by Jonathan Lee *piano* and Christine Kinsella soprano. Jonathan is the organist at St Peter's and will be glad to explain to you why the work on the organ is needed.

HOW DO YOU GET YOUR BOOK PUBLISHED?

Thursday 6th September 6:30pm Talk by writer and former publisher Alison Baverstock who grew up in Berkhamsted. Find out whether you have the talent, time and tenacity to make it into print. At Waterstones Bookshop in the High Street. Tickets are essential - from Waterstones. £3.00 including a free glass of wine.

FORD END WATERMILL, IVINGHOE

<u>Sunday 23rd September</u> 2:30 - 5:30. Station Road, Ivinghoe. A demonstration of milling. Flour for sale. Admission: Adults £1.50, children 50p. For details contact **Chris Tugby** 825 421.

ETHICAL OXFAM

Plastic bags take 100 years to biodegrade so why not invest in one of Oxfam's new environmentally friendly range of shoppers. Starting at just £1.99, the attractive bags provide a pleasing and practical alternative. Oxfam's new Ethical Products range has some fascinating items including notepads made from recycled paper and elephant dung (!) and brightly coloured pencils made from recycled CD cases.

Our dependence on reliable water and electricity supplies has been highlighted by the summer floods. Oxfam can provide wind-up radios and torches as well as ingenious water-powered clocks.

The sale of all these items benefits needy people who are all too familiar with the effects of natural disaster.

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ASHLYNS LANGUAGE COURSES

Ashlyns Language College is now heading into its fourth year of delivering adult day and evening classes. These are growing in the diversity of languages offered and the number of people attending. Last year there were over 200 people attending the evening language classes from total beginners to proficient conversation classes. Languages on offer starting in September are French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, English as a Foreign Language and British Sign Language. All classes are subject to a minimum of ten people per class and cost £75 per 10-week session during term time only. The classes continue throughout the school year. Enrolment evening is **Thursday 13th September** at Ashlyns School from 7-8:00pm. For more details please phone 01442 863605 or e-mail sjenkins@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

September

MON MP 7:30am TUE MP 7:30am

WED MP 7:30am

THU

Fri

SUN	St Peter's		8:00am Eucharist
			9:30am Sung Eucharist
			6:00pm Evensong
	All Saints'	2^{nd}	8:00am Holy Communion – Methodist led
			10:00am Morning Worship - Methodist led
		9 th	10:00am Sung Eucharist - Anglican led
		16^{th}	10:00am Morning Worship – Anglican led
		23 rd	10:00am All Age Worship with Holy Communion – Methodist led (Harvest Festival)
		30^{th}	10:00am Holy Communion - Methodist led

All services at St Peter's unless otherwise indicated MP = Morning Prayer EP = Evening Prayer

Eucharist 6:00pm

Eucharist 8:00am

Contact: Adrian Davis (875674) or Jean Wild (866859)

Eucharist 9:30am All Saints'

Eucharist 11:00am (Fr Michael's day off)

St Peter's

EP 5:00pm

EP 5:00pm

EP 5:00pm

WED	VIP /:SUAIII	Er 5:00pm	Eucharist 8:00	<i>y</i> am
THU		EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 11:0	00am (<i>Fr Michael's day of</i>
FRI I	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm both cl	hurches Eucharist 9:15	Sam
SAT I	MP 9:30am St Peter's	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 10:0	00am
I	MP 8:45am All Saint's			
1 st Sun	SUNDAYS TOGETH		•	Court House
	For anyone on their of	own on a Sunday.	Contact:	Ioan Morris (863780)
3 rd Moi	n GRIEF & LOSS SUF	PPORT VISITORS G	ROUP 7:45pm	Court House
	Contact June Haile (873087), Thelma Hai	ris (865785) or Ruth T	Treves Brown (863268)
Tue	HILLSIDE GROUP:	8:00pm at 22 Uppe	r Hall Park for bible s	tudy.
			Contacts: Rob & J	ulie Wakely (875504)
Tue	CHUCKLES PARE	NT & TODDLER GR	OUP:: 10:00-11:30am	All Saints' Church Hall
	Song Time or	Short service as ann	ounced.	Jenny Wells (870981)
Tue	ST PETER'S CHOIL	R Children 5:	15 to 6:15pm	St Peter's
		Contact: A	drian Davis (875674) (or Jean Wild (866859)
1st Tue	TUESDAY CLUB 7:	:45pm A lively women	n's group with guest sp	eaker Court House
	Contact ch	nairman Val Atkinson	n (866792) or secretar	y Joan Gregory (864829)
3 rd Tue			· · · · ·	
	Non-members alwa		•	athie Lally (863526)
4 rd Tue		•		17 Shaftesbury Court.
	Tell us if anyone r		•	Jenny Wells (870981)
Wed	JULIAN MEETING:			enny's 57 Meadow Rd
· · · cu		at 11:30am as arrang		Ruth's 1 Montague Rd
	The are very welcome			reves Brown (863268)
Wed	PATHEINDERS CA	•	n . (vrs 5-8) Jimmy Yo	, ,
wea	TATHERDERS GA	WIES CLUB 7-0.50pi	ii. (yis 5-0) Jiiiiiy 10	All Saints' Hall
2nd We	ed GRIEF AND LOSS S	HIDDODT I mak at	12,20nm for those who	
Jiu W	u GRIEF AND LOSS S	SOLLOKI Lunch at	•	lma Harris (865785)
T1	HOME CROUD, 9.0	0 2 1 0 441 TI		` ,
Thu	HOME GROUP: 8:0	•	•	Linda Bisset (862115)
Thu	*	for yr 9+) 7-9pm	Jimmy Young (3849	· ·
Thu		•	Captain of the Tower)	` '
Fri			GROUP: 9:30-11:30a	
	Weekly meetings wit	th a short service 1st	Fri in St Peter's (10am	
			Nicole Ad	dy-Varndell (864094)

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

review diary

Please see opposite for services at St Peter's and All Saints' churches.

September/October

SEPTI	EMBI	ER	
Sat	1	7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents – The Bridgewater Band St Peter's
Fri	7	10:00am	Little Fishes Service
Sat	8	10:00am	Start of Beds & Herts Historic Churches
			Sponsored Bike Ride (ends 6pm)most churches
Sun	9	6:00pm	Choral Evensong
Tue	11	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' Service Noah & his Ark
Sat	15	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches
			Prayer BreakfastNorthchurch Baptist Church
Sat	15	7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents
			Berkhamsted Choral Society
Tue	18	8:00pm	Parochial Church Council
			extra meeting St Peter's Lady Chapel
Sat	22	8:00pm	The Cowper Society presents
			Berkhamsted Music Society St Peter's
Sun	23	10:00am	Harvest Festival All Age Worship
			and CommunionAll Saints'
Tue 25 10:15am		5am	Chuckles Toddlers' Service Harvest
OCTO	BER		
Fri	5	10:00am	Little Fishes Service
		11:00am	Victoria School Harvest Festival Service
Sun	7	9:30am	Harvest Festival Sung Eucharist St Peter's
		7:30pm	Launch of the St Peter's Organ Appeal
Tue	9	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' Service
			Joseph & his Rainbow CoatAll Saints'
Sun	14	6:00pm	Choral Evensong
		7:30pm	Concert in aid of Victoria School's
			New Building Fund
Sat	20	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches

review registers

Baptisms (S	St Peter's)		
15 July	Olivia Grace Freestone		
22 July	Samuel Benjamin Green, Ma	x Thomas Green, Isabella Rowan Marsh	
Weddings ((St Peter's)		
14 July	Graham James Hardy & Naor	mi Jayne Bignell	
27 July	Julian Matthew George Przygrodzki & Emma Jayne Pears		
28 July James Robert Paton & Julia Kathryn Watts			
•	Oliver Daniel Culwick & Sha	nna Marie Young	
Funerals			
23 July	James Shirley	St Peter's Church (Chilterns)	
1 August	Ernest John Horton	Chilterns Crematorium	

review factfile

ASSOCIATION OF BERKHAMSTED CHURCHES

Telephone numbers to ring for times of services, etc.

Northchurch Baptist	Revd David Russell Mrs H Blundell	877001 875021
St Mary's Northchurch	Revd Jonathan Gordon	871547
All Saints' Anglican	Revd Dr Michael Bowie	864194
_	Mr John Malcolm	874993
All Saints' Methodist	Revd Paul Timmis	866324
	Mrs Ida Rance	865829
Sacred Heart (RC)	Fr John Bolam	863845
	Mr Frank Furlong	862768
Society of Friends (Quakers)	The Clerk's Team	288 High Street
Kings Road Church	Pastor Billy Milton	864393
	Dr Richard Walker	875614
St Peter's	Revd Dr Michael Bowie	864194
	Mrs Jean Green	878227
Berkhamsted Baptist	Mrs Pat Ginger	865817
St Michael & All Angels,	Revd David Abbott	865100
Sunnyside	Mrs S Bright	875025
St John the Evangelist,	Revd David Abbott	865100
Bourne End	Revd Dick Clarkson	873014

Been to the Post Office?

Next stop the Bookshop then coffee to recover





Drawing by Mary Casserley, with permission

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Telephone: Coffee Shop 864751, Bookshop 870768

review contacts

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

(day off Thursday)

The Revd John Pritchard (Curate), 6 Severns Close (870016) (day off Tuesday)

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

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

Canon Anthony Lathe (Hon Asst Priest), 15a Kingsdale Road (863115) Christina Billington (Diocesan Lay Minister), 13 Ashridge Rise (385566)

16 Broadwater (871283) Marjorie Bowden (Reader),

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: Philippa Seldon, 1 Fieldway (871534)

Deputy Churchwardens: Peter Bryant, 36 North Road (871680)

Tracy Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way, (863559) Secretary: Pat Hunt, 11 The Firs, Wigginton (822607) Parochial Church

Council: Treasurer: **Michael Robinson**, 36 Trevelyan Way (863559)

Adrian Davis (875674) | http://stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk Director of Music: 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)

Saints

Peter'

Peter McMunn Choirmaster: (874894)

All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist Local

Ecumenical Partnership.

Methodist minister: The Revd Paul Timmis (866324)

What & Where in Berkhamsted?



Answer next month

August's What & Where



Delightful brickwork on 232 High Street



http://allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk

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