

Berkhamsted *review*

March 2008

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for Town and Parish

30p



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

Welcome to the March 2008 issue of the Berkhamsted review

Last month I wrote about leap years and was later reminded by our production editor that time-keeping is now so precise that keeping GMT accurate involves not just an extra day every four years, but when required, extra leap seconds. March this year witnesses another peculiarity of our calendar - the movable feast of Easter. This year Easter Day, on 23rd March is almost as early as it can be. The earliest possible is the 22nd. To write of *the earliest possible* is to commit to a particular method for computing the date of Easter. In the early Church this was a matter of intense debate. In Britain disputes between the Celtic and Roman customs, came to a head in AD 664. A solar eclipse, total in northern England, on 1st May, followed by displays of the Northern Lights and an outbreak of the plague were taken to be omens of divine displeasure over this issue and a Synod was convened at Whitby by Oswiu, King of Northumbria, an adherent of the Celtic tradition. He probably regretted it. The outcome was an overwhelming decision in favour of the Roman computations and these have subsequently prevailed in the western Church.

Christopher Green

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

Cover photo: 19 Charles Street (p19)

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The Reality of Good Friday

**Fr Michael
Bowie** writes

I recently met someone, a university contemporary and friend of my in-laws, who had been severely tortured and had seen others tortured and killed in the notorious Villa Grimaldi in Santiago, Chile. In General Pinochet's Chile torture was refined to new levels of sophistication.

There is a challenging book about the Chilean experience called, provocatively, *Torture and Eucharist*, by **Fr William Cavanagh**. He manages to make a live and concrete issue of our understanding of the death of Christ remembered in the Eucharist, and of the Church as Christ's Body, in its relation to issues of brutality and our reaction to them. At the centre of our worship, in the bread and wine of the Eucharist which we receive, is the broken body of Christ; we are told in the Bible that we, the church, are that Body - its members - in the world today.

Cavanagh shows that, while in earlier times torture (including crucifixion) was used as a public warning, its developed modern forms are even more disturbing and destructive: *disappearing* people and using torture as a weapon to create terror and repression fuelled by *not-knowing* has created a society which is to this day fundamentally untrusting, self-seeking and fragmented. His particular point is that, although there were noble Christian responses to the Pinochet regime, the Bishops could have excommunicated Pinochet - removed him from the Body which he was systematically abusing - and did not do so. If Christ crucified is at the heart of our faith, what does it say to us and to the world if Christians don't treat each other with the respect due to fellow members of the same Body.

He quotes **Fr Ronaldo Munoz's** caricature

review leader

of Christians who ignore this - an *anti-gospel* (*antievangelio*: the reference is to *anti-poetry* which the Chilean physicist and poet **Nicanor Parra** gave the world in the 1960s). It is dedicated to the parishioners of a wealthy parish who, after receiving communion at Christmas Eve Mass, turned over to the police a group of monks and nuns peacefully protesting about torture outside the church. Here is an excerpt:

And by all means the public denunciation
of social sin
is *not* Christian or evangelical,
because the Christian is to be a sign
of reconciliation
and *not* of conflict,
and because consensus
and *not* the truth
will set us free.

And so
Merry Christmas!
for oppressors and oppressed,
for torturers and tortured.
Because Christmas is a great mystery,
much above such material things
as economic oppression
and the torture of the body.

I'm not able here to do justice to that argument or to the experience of Chileans. But meeting this one woman brought home to me the brutal reality of what we are talking about on Good Friday. Given refuge and a new life in this country she has worked tirelessly to help others in and beyond her own community in London. She now has Parkinson's disease and other physical troubles, at least partly as a result of what was done to her. She is a strong human being - so many who survived physically were still broken mentally and emotionally. She spoke matter-of-factly about the son of another Chilean woman

p9➔

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NATURAL DISASTERS

Margaret Burbidge explains how
the MU responds



Imagine experiencing a natural disaster and one that forces you to flee your home, destroys roads and bridges and damages farmland, your only means of earning a meagre income. That is bad enough, but imagine having no insurance, little or no means of communication with the rest of the country and having to wait for any emergency supplies to reach you.

That was the situation in Papua New Guinea at the end of November, when a tropical cyclone hit the country affecting the eastern area, Oro Province, the worst. The cyclone brought 5 days of torrential rain, floodwaters rose 11ft in places, and around 500 homes were washed away. At least 150 people died and many more were missing. The government declared a state of emergency and aid slowly began to reach the area.

St Peter's congregations were made aware of the disaster, which had received little or no coverage in the news here, and on two Sundays before Christmas, had a red bucket appeal at the end of the service. The money donated, over £945, was sent to the area via the Anglican Board of Missions, Australia appeal.

The Mothers' Union responded too. It is well-placed with a worker and members in the diocese of Popondata to offer assistance quickly, to the communities worst affected by the cyclone. An e-mail received at Mary Sumner House from Papua New Guinea reported that *over 133,000 families have been affected and many of these are now in care centres. The government, NGOs, businesses and overseas donations are coming to help with relief supplies.* A grant from the Mothers' Union Relief Fund was sent direct to enable emergency supplies of

food, medicine, blankets and other essential items to be purchased locally and distributed to those in need.

MU members in Papua New Guinea know of the importance of help when life is difficult

and on hearing about the floods last summer in England raised over £1,700 for those in need here!

Mothers' Union members all around the world are committed to helping those whose family life has met with adversity, and the Relief Fund is one way of doing this. In 2007 grants totalling over £87,000 were sent to help communities in need and this is money largely donated and raised by people in the UK and Ireland. Often the emergencies do not feature in our national news. An earthquake in Peru, the situation in Iraq, supporting displaced families in Rwanda, Burundi or Kenya, a tsunami in Melanesia. Over the years the list is long and increasingly the effects of climate change bring flooding and drought to areas least able to cope. These words come from someone in a drought-stricken area of Kenya, which received a grant from the Relief Fund to supply food: *When people don't have food they lose hope, but here we have hope! When there is a crisis The Mothers' Union come and rescue us. We are grateful to the people who are thinking of us and have helped us.*

For more information about the Relief Fund see The Mothers' Union website, where donations can be made, or phone Mary Sumner House on 020 7222 553



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Berkhamsted is a town from which many people commute to London every day. This commuting is like a daily tide flowing in the morning up to London, leaving cars on the roads like flotsam on an empty beach, and in the evening flowing back again; crowds crashing from each train like a breaking wave. Until a few years ago I was part of this tidal flow, travelling myself each day to London in the morning and back again in the evening. My office was in Old Street, just north of the Barbican Centre in Shoreditch. Recently I was reminded of those years when I made a trip to London to attend the Memorial Service of a former teacher of mine who I had lost touch with and had not seen for nearly twenty five years.

On my daily journey to and from work I used to encounter many people. Most I saw just once or twice and never again, but some were regulars that I saw every day for many years, so much so that we became silent friends. We never spoke but clearly recognised each other, appearing each day on the station platform at the same time and the same place, but at no other time and nowhere else. Sometimes, when for example the train timetable changed, these people, after several years of silent communing, might suddenly disappear from my daily routine. Perhaps years later when the timetable was changed again they would reappear and our silent parallel lives would resume their momentary rhythm. There was never an acknowledgement, never a hello or a goodbye, never a "I haven't seen you for years". They were simply there, and then not there, and then there again. No words, no emotion, sadly nothing.

It is not the same of course with the passing away of people who have been important in our lives, who may have had an influence on the way we have lived our lives. Their death can be a signal of deeper changes within us. When my father died (nearly twenty years ago) it changed the way I felt

Ian Reay's &news &views

Crossing the Bar

Ian Reay reflects on mortality

about my life. It wasn't that things were less important to me, it was more that the intensity was reduced. The dependency was less powerful. I let go a little. Looking back it was also a time when my life was changing direction. It was

as if a yacht, once cutting through the waves, had become trapped in the doldrums, and, when the wind regained strength, started to tack in a different direction - somehow the sails had changed position and now caught the wind differently.

Whilst musing on this at the Memorial Service an extract from a poem by Tennyson, *Crossing the Bar*, was read which seemed to me to catch my mood:

*Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning at the bar,
When I put out to sea,*

*But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the
boundless deep
Turns again home.*

*Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;*

*For tho' from out our bourne of Time and
Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.*



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←p3 The Reality of Good Friday

whom Carolina and I had met in Sheffield. She saw him tortured and killed. “*First*,” she said, “*they put his eyes out; then the hands...*” One of the favourite tricks of Pinochet’s torturers was to cut off the hands or cut out the tongue of, for example, musicians and activists; another was to send Jewish dissidents to the closed colony of Nazi escapees in southern Chile – the ironically named *Colonia Dignidad*.

I hope I don’t trivialize her experience by making the connection, but we must remember that this – brutal, vile torture – is what we blithely describe on Good Friday, which will soon be upon us. For this reason I would suggest, churches should always display a crucifix – the empty cross is not good enough, just a badge. The crucifix shows us what we’re capable of doing – even to God, certainly to each other.

The message of Easter is that God defeats that suffering and evil and offers new life. That’s where I’m on dangerous ground with my new Chilean friend, because I doubt she believes it. But it is that triumph over suffering and evil, to which her life bears human witness, which Easter proclaims is both offered to us and also demanded of us all. Seeking to follow Christ, among many other things, should mean that we do anything we can to eliminate torture and violence against persons created in God’s image. For God’s bias is not to limitation and destruction by the brute exercise of power but always to the realisation in each human life of its fullest potential – what we call eternal life. Which is to say that truth, not consensus, which is so often a compromise at the expense of the weak, shall set us free.

A happy and holy Easter to you and all whom you love. ❖


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As many readers know, the Berkhamsted Citizens Association (BCA) originally supported the proposal to develop the

Berkhamsted boat building site at the end of Bridge Street for housing.

Since that time, the permission has been refused and the developers have to appeal, which will have taken place by the time you read this. Also, a viable alternative scheme has been put forward and in the light of this, the BCA has written to the inspector in the following terms:

We, as an Association, did not object to the above planning application as we were keen to bring this derelict site back into use and the plan for housing seemed a good solution. The new alternative proposal for the site, which includes conservation, services and skills training related to the canal and its boats, will be a valuable asset to the town, its community and economy and we support it.

It will maintain the link between the town and canal and visually enhance the canal side.

Some time ago, I suggested the site would be suitable for the Dacorum museum, but obtaining funding together with the difficult access, seemed to rule it out. However, funding has been obtained from various sources to save the site for canal-related activities which has to be a more suitable use, although I still have misgivings about the access along Bridge Street.

Also of concern to residents (well, those of use who care!), are the possible changes to the Water Lane

CHANGING VISIONS

Norman Cutting comments on some town centre sites

car park. Once again, I did warn residents that it was possible that something might happen, when it became clear that the Tesco-owned Stag

Lane site was not to become a site with a supermarket and housing. Indeed, I was informed by the Borough Council that my suggestion was not even on the horizon. A year later, the horizon came into view and rumours started about how Tesco was going to build all over the car park in Water Lane with the Borough commissioning a study in what to do with the site.

Was it me, or was it Tesco that suddenly inspired this sudden interest? Apparently we can blame the government as they instructed local authorities to investigate possible alternative uses for town centre sites and the Borough did exactly what they were told to do. They investigated one site and the result was the *Concept Statement* which is not the same as a *planning brief*. Now about the council yard at the end of Clarence Road.....?

A planning brief will provide guidance to possible developers of a site as to what may be acceptable to the planning authority. A concept statement is more of a possible vision for an area, without any real commitment even to change from the existing. The March issue of the BCA newsletter has a summary of the *Concept Statement* and following the AGM and Environment Awards for 2007 on the 13th March, **Cllr Ian Reay**, who is the Borough Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration, will be available to answer any questions from residents about the statement and possible alternative *visions*. ❖

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St Peter's Organ Appeal reaches £26,000

The Appeal, for £40,000, was launched in October last. It is now into its fifth month and a total of £18,500 has been raised through donations and grants, to be added to the £7,500 set aside by the PCC for this work - making a total of £26,000 so far in the Appeal Fund. Forthcoming fund-raising events include a talk on *Romanesque Architecture* at 7:30 on Monday 10th March by **Aymeric Jenkins**, lately Chairman of the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust, and a sponsored run on Sunday 30th March by members of choir and congregation who are no doubt already making themselves known to potential sponsors. Don't miss this chance to support the Appeal and don't forget - your sponsorship can be supplemented by Gift Aid.

Donations

If you haven't made a donation yet but are planning to do so and can take advantage of Gift Aid, don't miss your chance to make your tax contribute as fully as possible towards the Appeal - ACT NOW. From 6th April this year the amount of tax recoverable through Gift Aid falls from 28% to 25%. Make your donation before this change takes effect.

Donations to: Christopher Green, Organ Appeal Treasurer, 17 Cowper Road, Berkhamsted HP4 3DE. *Organ Appeal Gift Aid forms are available in St Peter's Church or use a Gift Aid envelope (also in St Peter's) and mark it Organ Appeal. You can also donate online: <http://theberkhamstedorgan.org.uk>*



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PETERTIDE FAIR

Saturday June 14th, 2008

As usual the Parish will be making the Petertide Fair an opportunity for the Church to reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves. The two causes that the Fair will support this year are described here, one overseas and one in this country.

Good Health in the Gambia

Libby Grundy writes

This year the Petertide Fair will be supporting the village of Tujereng in the Gambia. Funds raised will be used to improve the health care of children in the village. For most families, daily life is tough, but what the people most want is access to good health-care and education, in that order. Quite simply, people die from lack of medication, lack of access to a doctor or midwife, and lack of good hygiene. The children in particular succumb to malaria, diarrhoea and infected injuries.

The village has no spare resources. A donation from the Petertide Fair will make a real difference to the lives of the people who live in Tujereng, and can bring about a lasting improvement to the health of the children in the village. Specifically we are aiming to:

Rebuild the school toilet block which was in an appallingly unsanitary condition when we visited in February last year

Roof a building to provide a dining room and kitchen in the school where food can be cooked for the children on the premises and where the children can eat in a clean environment, instead of on the ground.

Supply mosquito nets to young children and babies.

Tujereng has a link with Hertfordshire, and I have visited the village many times. In 1996 the Petertide Fair raised money to



set up a library in the school in Tujereng, and this is still having a lasting impact on literacy and learning in the village. This year I hope we can do the same for the health and life chances of children.

Coram Family

Coram Family is thought to be England's oldest children's charity. It has been working continuously with deprived and

disadvantaged children since 1739 when Captain Thomas Coram established the Foundling Hospital to provide care for the homeless children he found living and dying on the streets of London.

Berkhamsted has a special association with Coram Family. In 1935 the Foundling Hospital moved from London to Berkhamsted - to new purpose built accommodation - the buildings that are now occupied by Ashlyns School. Foundling children were cared for in Berkhamsted for more than fifteen years, until 1951, when the buildings were converted into a school.

Today Coram Family works to bring about improvements in the life prospects and emotional health of children and young people who have experienced trauma and family breakdown, or who are vulnerable and at risk. Increasingly the work is supporting children and families in order to prevent difficulties from developing. Amongst the many roles it has developed, Coram Family provides education, support and training for young parents, finds adoptive families for children with complex needs, eases the transition to independence and adulthood for young people leaving care, uses the arts to enable young children to express their thoughts and feelings, and provides training to a range of child-care organisations working with both children and parents. ❖

The Margaret Demidecka Fair Trade Award 2008

This is a competition open to groups of young people within Dacorum, each with an adult team leader. There will be a prize of £250 for the winner of each of the following age groups: **4 to 7** **7 to 11** **11 to 16**

The theme of the competition is

Promoting Fair Trade in Dacorum

The concept of **Fair Trade** allows young people to learn about fairness, social justice and diversity. For information about Fairtrade and resources available to schools and other young persons' organisations visit the new Fairtrade Schools web site at **<http://fairtradeschools.net/schools/>** . Activities should be aimed at coinciding with Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 which will run from 25th February to 9th March 2008.

All a Group needs to do is to find an exciting way of spreading information about fair trade in Dacorum. It could be a fantastic poster or a book of poems. The Group might make a DVD or give a presentation to a local community group. It could even try to arrange a fair trade tasting session in a school or other organisation. Any way of promoting fair trade will be considered. Any questions about the award may be e-mailed to us at justiceandpeacetring@hotmail.co.uk

Whatever the Group comes up with they should let us know by sending their entry or details of their event together with photographs of any presentation made to: Justice & Peace Group, c/o The Cedars, 68 Grove Road, Tring, Herts HP23 5PB to arrive no later than 29th March 2008. The Competition will be judged by members of the Justice and Peace Group and winners will be notified by 7th May 2008. The judges' decision will be final.

The Justice and Peace Group is affiliated to
Churches Together in Tring



Petertide Fair - Art at Auction

A number of paintings and other works of art that have been donated to the Petertide Fair Committee will be sold over the weekend of 12th-13th April 2008. Income from the sale will go towards the causes supported this year by the Petertide Fair, the Coram Family and the Tujering Link, which are described more fully on the opposite page. There will also be displays illustrating the work of these organisations.

The pictures which include works by well-known local artists, **Dorothea Patterson** and the late **Harry Sheldon**, will be on view in the Court House on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th April, when members of the Fair Committee will be on hand to receive your bids.

*If you would like to donate a work of art to add to those being sold, we will be delighted to hear from you. Contact **Judith Limbert** (873626)*

Our political masters have noble and grandiose ambitions. On our behalf they seek to strengthen

international peace and stability, and to defend the UK and its interests. In pursuit of these goals there is a doctrine of intervention in the affairs and regimes of other nations which are judged to be despotic, corrupt, dangerous, or undemocratic. In 1999 we intervened in Kosovo, in 2001 in Sierra Leone and Afghanistan, and invaded Iraq in 2003. We rattle our empty sabre case, tut-tuting about unstable African states, Zimbabwe and Darfur in particular, and now Kenya. We anticipate another Balkan conflict and watch uneasily as the Bush administration decides if a military solution (does such exist?) is needed to resolve the apparent nuclear ambitions of a hostile Iran.

Britain is at war. Our service men are fighting daily, being wounded and dying. Our populace, mainly uncomprehending or disagreeing with the reasons for the wars, concerns itself with day to day living. An occasional flurry of media coverage highlights dramatic events, acts of heroism, and the ongoing scandal of the failure to properly compensate the families of those killed in action or severely wounded. The death toll in Afghanistan, now at 81, is probably unknown by the majority, and the numbers of wounded even less so.

In Afghanistan we are told that we are in for a *long haul*. NATO's 26 countries have agreed to work together to bring stability to the country, defeat the Taliban, and stem the flow of narcotics from the world's major supplier. The populations of many of the NATO participants are, however, unwilling to expose their soldiers to the risk of fighting the Taliban in the dangerous Helmand province. Britain, rightly or wrongly, shares the aspirations of the US administration to achieve democracy,

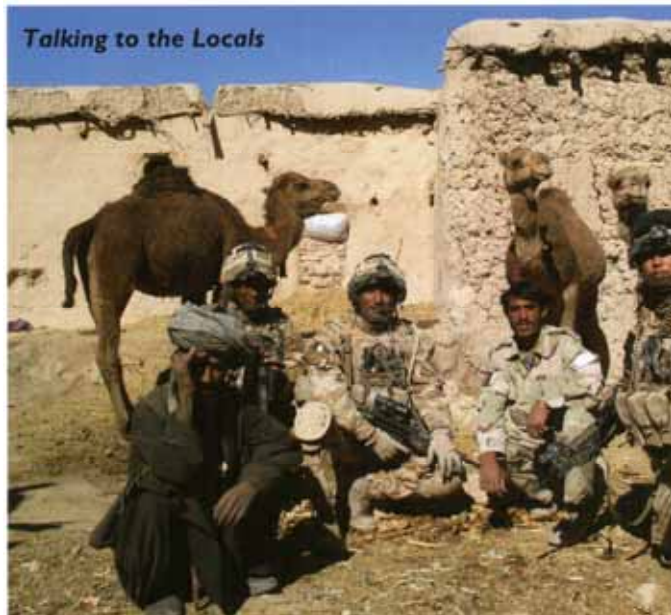
BRITAIN AT WAR

Alex Evans explains

stability, and reconstruction and has 13,000 troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the time of writing, the American Secretary of State, Condoleezza

Rice, is commuting between the capitals of Europe to seek greater commitment of troops and equipment to the NATO force. Canada and other nations are threatening to withdraw their troops unless the burden is more equally shared, leaving America and Britain as the lead nations in troop numbers, fighting and dying alongside the Afghan National Army.

Working on six month deployments every UK regiment has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. Regiments such as the Household Cavalry, which we perhaps think of as ceremonial, have deployed formidable fighting forces. The Paras are being deployed in April in Afghanistan, replacing the Infantry Brigade as leaders of the British contingent. There is no guarantee that regiments returned to the UK for training and recuperation will not find themselves back in the war zones in



less than six months. The shortage of soldiers has resulted in the time for training recruits being halved, another symptom of the serious over-commitment of our forces.

As a colonial power Britain fought an Afghan war in 1879, with Afghanistan gaining independence from a war weary Britain in 1919. Perhaps our politicians should study history. Today, our Afghan war is against a hard, fanatical extremist Islamic enemy, the Taliban. The war is far from conventional. The Taliban can be tillers of fields one day and a fighting force the next, supported by insurgents from the neighbouring countries of Iran and Pakistan. The NATO forces have a formidable array of high technology equipment in their support, but often fighting is *toe to toe*, with the added threat of improvised explosive devices, roadside bombs. Major Lex Roberts, the highest ranking British officer to be killed in Afghanistan, was the victim of such a device. His replacement, **Major Lee Roberts** (no relation) was injured by a similar device.

Any doubt about our being at war is dispelled by the statistics of the recent six month deployment of the Royal Anglian Regiment in Afghanistan. Nearly a million rounds of ammunition were fired, nine men were killed and 135 were injured. Proportionally, the conflict matched the trench warfare of the First World War. The sacrifice of the forces and their families is well expressed by an intonation over a soldier's coffin before its repatriation flight to Brize Norton *To give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds.....*

The Taliban control several areas in Afghanistan particularly in the south, subjugating the local population with extreme punishment if it is deemed to be cooperating with the Afghan government, or foreigners. One such stronghold was the Beluchi Valley (have you heard of it?) which was penetrated by NATO forces and liberated recently. The beautiful

valley is in a fold of the mountains at a height of 7,000 ft.

In an operation which drew on unprecedented resources from the British army and those of other nations, the Taliban were swept from the valley by a combination of high technology and raw human courage. Two waves of five helicopters dropped three hundred troops into the darkness, surprising the Taliban but still resulting in three days of intense fighting. Harrier jets, Apache helicopter gun ships, mortars, ground based missile systems, and air borne surveillance were all controlled in an intensively planned operation from an observation point on the ridge overlooking the valley. The 29 km valley has been handed over to an Australian reconstruction team. Sadly, the locals are often unwilling to accept the compensation for the damage to their homes for fear of the Taliban returning and punishing them as collaborators. Britain is at war. The numbers of dead and wounded continue to increase. The hospital for the very seriously injured at Selly Oak, Birmingham, and the Rehabilitation centre at Headley Court, Epsom, are both in need of funding to establish *homes from homes*, enabling families to visit injured and recuperating service personnel. SSAFA's campaign, "Helping Heroes and their Families" is seeking to raise £5 million for this project. The website for making donations is <http://ssafa.org.uk/fundraising.html>

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Why do we have a picture on our front cover of a house in Charles Street? Firstly it continues our series of Berkhamsted buildings with a visible date - 1934 in this case - and secondly because it represents an interesting example of infill. In Berkhamsted and other towns of small or medium size, infill has, in the last few years, become a significant planning issue. **Ian Reay** wrote about it in his *News & Views* column in November 2007. But it's not a new fashion. Infill is a term used to describe building on land within an urban area that, for one reason or another, has not been built on before - perhaps because it has been a garden, perhaps because of a quirk of land ownership. The houses in Charles Street on either side of the house that we illustrate are all significantly older, late Victorian or Edwardian houses. Those to the right are already shown on the 1898 Six Inch Ordnance Survey map, those to the left

INFILL

Planning Nightmare or
Urban Growth?
Christopher Green writes

are later but all there on the 1923 revision. For some reason, as those houses were built a gap was left on which no building was erected - until some 20 or 30 years later. There are of course other examples of houses in Berkhamsted, built in the 1930s within the mainly Victorian or Edwardian urban landscape around the town centre. They all represent infill. That's how towns grow. It's convenient to live near services that are created in the town centre, so that's where homes are built. In towns like Berkhamsted, infill is gradually transforming leafy suburban landscapes into urban landscapes. Just now it's blocks of flats and *town houses*, mainly in gardens from a more gracious era, of croquet and afternoon tea. We may not like it, but if we didn't infill our urban landscapes and build on *brownfield* sites we would be casting acquisitive eyes over the surrounding countryside.

There are no easy answers. ❖

review berkhamsted books

Sue Davis reviews *Nature Cure*

Nature Cure (published by Pimlico in 2005) is **Richard Mabey**'s memoir of his breakdown and move to Norfolk, quitting the parental home in Berkhamsted at a rather more mature age than is common. This is an intensely personal book, full of passionately observed wildlife. In fact, one memory, of helping a stranded fledgling swift on its way, sparks the whole thing off.

If you share the author's love of swifts, swallows and martins, screaming over the roofs and gardens, you will enjoy this book. In it Mabey shares his insights, opinions, experiences, memories and favourite authors with generosity and candour. He explores our relationship with the natural world and considers issues of

conservation and the exploitation of nature. Even the sainted David Attenborough does not escape criticism here.

The chapters range organically through time and space and there is always something new and interesting to learn as we explore his new habitat with him, the fens and Breckland, the Broads and even the industrial farmscapes. These he contrasts with returns to the Chilterns valleys and beech woodlands.

The progress of the *cure* awakens a renewed delight in wilderness and our common heritage. Mabey is not a *twitcher* after rarities but a lover of the commons in all senses of the word. It's the perfect time of year to read this book, then put on your walking boots and head for the hills, the valleys and the woodlands. ❖



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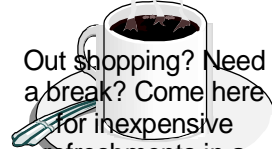
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review Northchurch & Wigginton

The Archbishop and the Law

**The Revd
Jonathan
Gordon writes**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has made the headlines in recent days concerning his comments at a public lecture entitled *Civil and Religious Law in England: a religious perspective*. I read the full text on the Guardian

website and it defies easy summarisation. However, it has caused a public outcry with calls from some for the Archbishop's resignation.

One item in regard to the law has not been given, as far as I am aware, any discussion and has raised a few issues in my thinking. It will soon be forty years since Martin Luther King Jr., was shot in Memphis and in his discussions of the nature of law in society he explored the theory of civil disobedience. King wanted black Americans to be respected as full American citizens and receive the benefits of the Constitution, which were denied by Southern State segregation laws. He argued that if as a matter of conscience a person could not accept a law, he or she should disobey it, but that this disobedience should be done openly and with a willingness to accept the consequences. His faith was that once the issue came to a federal court then segregation laws would not be able to be justified. King's use of the tactic was measured as he did not want to antagonise the federal authorities whose support many activists in the South were dependent upon. However, after 1965 King was faced with the dilemma of breaking federal injunctions to highlight issues that were not covered by the Constitution – the right to a good education, the right to a decent home or the right to a job. Just before his death in Memphis he made the decision to break a federal court order and lead a march for the second time on behalf of striking garbage workers. Yet, he considered that such actions were based on a fundamental principle of respect for human dignity that was faithful to the spirit if not defined in the letter of the American Constitution and would be accepted on that basis by the majority of the

population.

The British legal system is obviously not based on a written constitution, but it does work on the theory that there are checks and balances that allow appeals to higher courts and even if necessary to the European Court. Instances of civil disobedience do periodically come into the news: refusal of tax payment in protest against defence policies, even the non-payment of the television license on a point of principle. The rationale for such acts is that the issue of conscience will be highlighted and possibly justified by a higher court.

For what it is worth, I think the reason that I would disagree with the Archbishop is that there has to be in society a sense of cohesion and respect for legal values that can transcend culture and ethnicity. In the West this will include the fundamental principles of respect for human dignity and freedom of religion. Yet, part of sharing in a democratic society is respect for the legal system that can provide us with these rights. I would worry that if formal recognition was given to alternative legal systems, which presumably communities could opt into or even opt out, then society would lose this sense of cohesion and become more fragmented. There remains on the point of principle the alternative of civil disobedience, but even this has to be done with sensitivity to the principle of a unifying law, rather than individual or group choice. I am sure that no system of law is without its faults, but one of the strengths of the British example is that it has a flexibility and pragmatism that can allow room for conscience.

I find it a bit baffling that some commentators are demanding that **Rowan Williams** resign over his remarks. It should be possible in a democratic society for a person to have an opinion without facing a barrage of criticism. Ideas should be brought out into the open where they can be debated and discussed. **Martin Luther King Jr.**, once said we have to find a way to disagree without being disagreeable. ❖

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BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



At our February meeting **Judith Lowther** and **Joy Lovell** were pleased to see so many of our members and to welcome two new members and two visitors to our midst. **Joy Lovell** then gave us a preview of forthcoming events in which we can participate. **Sue Bull** asked members to volunteer to sew some garments for *Hope for Children* to aid deprived children around the world.

It was a pleasure to welcome **Rosemary Wakeman** our speaker who gave us a most informative talk on *Those Fascinating Edwardians*. She gave us an insight into the lives of the Royal Family in those times and she kept her audience enthralled and very amused. A vote of thanks was given by **Ali Saunders**. During teatime the raffle was drawn and the competition judged. We meet again on **Friday 7th March** at the Court House at 2:00pm. Our speaker is **James Cuming** on *Naafi & Nissen Huts*. Why not come and join us? You will be most welcome.

BERKHAMSTED MUSIC SOCIETY

Saturday 8th March 8:00pm in the Civic Centre - Piano recital, soloist **Llyr Williams**, prize-winning BBC New Generation Artist performing works by Brahms, Schumann and Chopin.

Tickets £12 and £6 (under 21) from 871598 and at the door.

CHRISTIAN AID LENT LUNCH

Tuesday 11th March 12:00-2:00pm in the Court House - Savour a bowl of nourishing soup and give generously to Christian Aid, working in communities where nourishment is in short supply.

TUESDAY CLUB

Our meeting on **February 5th** was well-attended by members and visitors, proving the popularity of **Roy Hopkins** as a most entertaining and informative speaker. His talk on this occasion was entitled *Christ Church, Oxford: College and Cathedral*. With a wealth of magnificent slides, Roy gave us a conducted tour of both these imposing edifices and enthralled us with his knowledge of their histories. The college is the largest in Oxford and was founded jointly by Cardinal Wolsey and Henry VIII. It was interesting to learn that the bell in the great tower above the entrance is rung every night at 9:05 p.m. This dates from when Oxford time was five minutes behind Greenwich Mean Time.

During the Civil War, when Charles I sought refuge in Oxford from the Roundheads, he held Parliament on occasion in the Great Hall.

The Cathedral was originally a 12th century monastery church and the story of St Frideswide, whose shrine is in the Latin Chapel, was fascinating. The stained glass in the Becket windows dates from 1340 and was in the monastery's shrine to the martyrdom of St Thomas à Becket. The lower panes are lined with non-matching medieval glass rescued from London churches destroyed during the Second World War. How lucky that Oxford was never bombed.

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Thursday 13th March at 8:00pm in the Sessions Hall, Berkhamsted Town Hall. AGM and presentation of environment awards for best new building or improvement in the town followed by open forum on the town's affairs. Visitors £2 at the door.

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review notes¬ices

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY NEWS

The total raised from your collection boxes last year - all those coppers and five pence pieces and often coins of higher denominations and the occasional note, came to just over £500 and I am very grateful to you all for the support you give to the Society. I am always looking for new box-holders, so if anyone needs a place for all those coppers please contact me - **Kathie Lally** 863526

Alex Evans writes about this year's Berkhamsted Walk on **11th May** (see right). It will be the 40th annual walk, which is a wonderful testimony to the dedication of successive committee members. However none of our events would be possible without the large band of supporters who regularly volunteer to help with the Walk, collect outside Waitrose or bake cakes for Open Gardens. In recognition of the commitment shown by the Committee, but especially for raising over £15,000 in the past year, Committee members were recently presented with a *Certificate of High Commendation* by **Alastair Johnson**, Area Fund Raising Manager for the Society. The Committee is thrilled to receive this recognition and thanks all our loyal supporters who have helped us to achieve such wonderful results over the years. It will certainly boost our enthusiasm to continue our efforts and we hope we can count on your continued support.

HIRE OF HALLS

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THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY 40TH BERKHAMSTED WALK STRIDE OUT FOR CHILDHOOD

Sunday 11th May 2008 For forty years the Berkhamsted Committee has organised the Sponsored Walk, strongly supported by people like you who care about the wider community. The 40th Walk is a milestone to be celebrated and will be formally opened by football commentator and local celebrity, **Peter Drury**. It's healthy, the scenery is stunning, the bluebells are beautiful, and you walk with lovely people. As if all that isn't enough, every pound you raise will fund the vital work of the Children's Society with children facing danger, discrimination, and disadvantage in their daily lives.

Please join us. There are three routes to cater for different levels of fitness, and time available. Two routes, of 18 miles and 11 miles start from the Court House alongside St Peter's Church. Registration can be in advance via the website or at the Court House between 10:00am and 12:00 noon. The third route of 6 miles starts at Ashridge College with registration between 11:00am and 2:00pm.

The Complete Outdoors has affirmed its continuing support for the Walk by again donating three generous prizes for the most sponsorship raised. The prizes, a Paramo jacket, Brasher boots, and a pair of Lekki walking poles can be exchanged for items of equal value in the Bourne End shop should they double up on your outdoor equipment.

Sponsor forms are available at **Bloc**, 208 High Street, Berkhamsted; **The Complete Outdoors**, London Road, Bourne End; the **Library**, and the **Sports Centre**, or can be downloaded from the website, <http://berkhamstedwalk.org.uk> which has additional information including tips on raising and collecting sponsorship. Closer to the date, other outlets in the town will have sponsor forms, or 'phone 864968 for forms to be sent to you.

review notes¬ices

HOSPICE OF ST FRANCIS MIDNIGHT WALK

The Hospice has launched its second women's sponsored midnight walk. The aim is to raise over £150,000 for the Hospice

The 13 mile walk will take place at midnight on **Saturday 21st June 2008**, from Hemel Hempstead to Berkhamsted and back again. Registration for the Walk is now open and costs just £15. The fee includes an information pack, T-shirt, fluorescent wrist band, torch, medal and breakfast at the finish line. Walkers are asked to find sponsorship for their walk in order to reach the ambitious £150,000 target.

The first Walk with the Stars event in July 2007 was very successful, with 800 women taking part and raising a staggering £120,000. The 2008 event will be even bigger, with spaces for over 1,000 women and with the hope of raising well over £150,000.

If you'd like to join this great event as a walker, please telephone 01442 869555, visit <http://walkwiththestars.org> or email fran.martin@stfrancis.org.uk.

WILD FLOWERS IN THE CHILTERN

Take a walk in the Chilterns at almost any time of the year and you may well spot plants in flower. The question is - What are they? You may also have favourite flowers that you enjoy seeing, but wonder exactly where and when to look for them. The answers to all these questions have just been provided in the form of a new book called *Wild Flowers and where to find them in the Chilterns*. Written by father and daughter team Laurie and Gay Fallows it presents a comprehensive identification guide to wild flowers found in the Chilterns, with photographs and interesting snippets of information on folklore and remedies associated with them. In addition, the book contains maps and descriptions for eighteen walks in the Chilterns and lists the flowers you are likely to see and when they will be out. You can obtain copies of the book at a cost of £7.99 each, plus 80p postage and packing, from The Chiltern Society office 01494 771250.

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review easter services

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in Holy Week

Mon 17th	7:30pm	Eucharist
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Tue 18th	7:30pm	Eucharist
	8:00pm	Stations of the Cross
Wed 19th	7:30pm	Eucharist
	8:00pm	Tenebrae

Maundy Thursday

Thu 20th	8:00pm	Sung Eucharist of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday. Preacher: Fr Andrew Teal . The service is followed by Vigil of Prayer
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Good Friday

Fri 21st	12-3pm	The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday Preacher: Fr Andrew Teal
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Easter Eve

Sat 22nd	9:00pm	The Easter Vigil
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Easter Day

Sun 23rd	9:30am	Sung Eucharist
	6:00pm	Choral Evensong
Preacher: Fr Andrew Teal is Chaplain of Pembroke College, Oxford.		

16 – 23 March at All Saints'

Palm Sunday

Sun 16th	10:00am	Morning Worship
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in Holy Week

Mon 17th	8:00pm	Worship
Tue 18th	8:00pm	Meditative Act of Worship
Wed 19th	8:00pm	Worship

Maundy Thursday

Thu 20th	8:00pm	Maundy Service and Passover Meal
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Good Friday

Fri 21st	2:00pm	Readings, prayers and hymns, with times of silence between, finishing with
	3:20pm	Evening Prayer

Easter Day

Sun 23rd	10:00am	Holy Communion
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March

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evensong	
	<i>All Saints' 2nd</i>	8:00am Holy Communion - Methodist led 10:00am Morning Worship with Holy Baptism - Methodist led	
	9 th	10:00am Sung Eucharist - Anglican led	
	16 th	10:00am Holy Communion - Methodist led	
	23 rd	10:00am Holy Communion - Methodist led	
	30 th	10:00am Morning Worship - Methodist led	
All services at <i>St Peter's</i> unless otherwise indicated MP = Morning Prayer EP = Evening Prayer			
MON	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 6:00pm
TUE	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 9:30am <i>All Saints'</i>
WED	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 8:00am
THU	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 11:00am (<i>Fr Michael's day off</i>)
FRI	MP 7:30am	EP 5:00pm <i>both churches</i>	Eucharist 9:15am
SAT	MP 9:30am <i>St Peter's</i> MP 8:45am <i>All Saints'</i>	EP 5:00pm	Eucharist 10:00am
<hr/>			
3 rd Mon	GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP 7:45pm		<i>Court House</i>
	Contact June Haile (873087), Angela Morris (866992) 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 (875674) or Jean Wild (866859)		
1 st Tue	TUESDAY CLUB 7:45pm <i>A lively women's group with guest speaker</i>		<i>Court House</i>
	Contact chairman Val Atkinson (866792) or secretary Joan Gregory (864829)		
3 rd Tue	MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm. <i>Non-members always welcome.</i> Contact: Kathie Lally (863526)		
4 th 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>		
3 rd Wed	GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT Lunch at 12:30pm for those who have been bereaved. Contact Sylvia Banks (871195)		
Thu	HOME GROUP: 8:00pm on 2nd & 4th Thursdays. Contact Linda Bisset (862115)		
Thu	TE'S (Youth club for yr 9+) 7-9pm		<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 1 st Fri in <i>St Peter's</i> (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 (875674) or Jean Wild (866859)		
3 rd Sat	ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast & prayers. <i>Various local churches</i>		

review diary

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

March/April

MARCH

- Sat 1 7:30pm **bridgewater sinfonia** – (formerly The Bridgwater Band)
Rossini, Beethoven (*piano concerto No 4*)
& Brahms.....*St Peter's*
- Tue 4 10:15am Chuckles Toddlers' service
Why Zacchaeus climbed a tree.....*All Saints'*
- Wed 5 8:00pm Lent Group *The Lord's Prayer*,
led by **John Malcolm**.....*The Court House*
- Fri 7 10:00am Little Fishes Service*St Peter's*
- Mon 10 7:30pm Cowper Society Talk **Aymeric Jenkins**
Romanesque Architecture.....*The Court House*
- Wed 12 10:30am Victoria School Palm Sunday Service.....*St Peter's*
8:00pm Lent Group *The Lord's Prayer*,
led by **John Malcolm**.....*The Court House*
- Sat 15 8:00am Association of Berkhamsted Churches
Prayer Breakfast*All Saints'*

16-22 March is HOLY WEEK - see p27

- Tue 18 10:15am Chuckles Toddlers' service
The Real Story of Easter.....*All Saints'*
- Thu 20 12noon Thomas Coram End of Term Service*St Peter's*
- Sun 23 9:30am Sung Eucharist.....*St Peter's*
6:00pm Choral Evensong.....*St Peter's*

APRIL

- Sun 6 **tba** Annual Parochial Church Meeting*The Court House*
6:00pm Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration
for departed family & friends*St Peter's*
- Sat 19 8:00am Association of Berkhamsted Churches
Prayer Breakfast.....*Sacred Heart*

review registers

Baptisms (St Peter's)

- 27 January Daniel Stephen Gurney, Eva Jean Gurney,
Ruby Catherine Liddle, Kai Matthew Ruscoe.

Funerals

- | | | |
|------------|------------------------|--|
| 11 January | Alan Wellesley Dickman | St Peter's Church (Kingshill Cemetery) |
| 14 January | John David Sear | St Peter's Church (Kingshill Cemetery) |
| 28 January | Mary Ann Draper | St Peter's Church (Kingshill Cemetery) |

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 Tue/Wed, 9:30-12noon Thu/Fri (answering machine other times)

St Peter's

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

Epistle Readers
Electoral Roll
Pathfinders

Sidesmen
Catering

Hospice contact
Christian Aid
Youth worker
Sunday School/Explorers

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

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

Chris Hunt (822607)
Val Atkinson (866792)

Rachael Anderson (871997)
Angela Morris (866992)
Jimmy Young (876736)
Carolina Bowie (864194)

All Saints'

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'Neill (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

review contacts

General

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)

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

Joan Cook (Reader Emeritus), 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)

Philippa Seldon, 1 Fieldway (871534)

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

Tracy Robinson, 36 Trevelyan Way, (863559)

Parochial Church Secretary: **Pat Hunt**, 11 The Firs, Wigginton (822607)

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

St Peter's

Director of Music: **Adrian Davis** (875674)

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:
(874894)

Peter McMunn

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

Methodist minister:

The Revd Paul Timmis (866324)

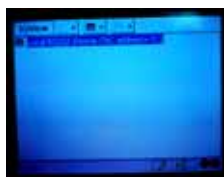
<http://allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk>

What & Where in Berkhamsted?



Answer next month

January's What & Where



Another unfair one. This is the hi-tech control for the new central heating in a cupboard in the Lady Chapel! If you look closely you will notice the serial RS232C interface link mentioned.

Published by Great Berkhamsted Parochial Church Council.

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GOOD MUSIC NEAR YOU

bridgewater sinfonia

conductor ADRIAN DAVIS
leader STUART JAMES

ROSSINI

Overture – La Cenerentola

BEETHOVEN

Piano Concerto No.4 in G Op.58

soloist TOM POSTER

BRAHMS

Symphony No.2 in D Op.73

Saturday 1 March 2008

St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, at 7.30 pm

Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) Under 18s FREE

Available in advance 01442 828254; from WAY INN,
Berkhamsted; PERFECT PITCH Chesham; and on the door.
www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk



The Cooper Society and the Bridgewater Sinfonia (formerly the
Bridgewater Band) are members of Berkhamsted Arts Trust, which is
financially supported by Dacorum Borough Council

Chiltern Chamber Choir

directed by Adrian Davis

Music of the Renaissance & Baroque

including
Striggio 40 part
Ecce beatam lucem

with
Kate Semmens, soprano
Jon Lee, organ
Philippa Schofield, cello continuo
Brass Ensemble,
Brückewasser Posaunenchor



Sunday 16th March 6.30 pm

**St Peter's Church,
Berkhamsted**

Tickets £12, £10 (concessions)
under 18s free
From The Way Inn or Cole Flatt
Berkhamsted