

Berkhamsted *review*

September 2008

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for Town and Parish

30p



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

Welcome to the September 2008 issue of the Berkhamsted review

In the *review* this month **Ian Reay** expresses concern about the future of wildlife in the English countryside and about the future of the countryside itself. I have just returned from a visit to France and Ian's article set me comparing the landscape of France with that of south east England and wondering, not about wildlife but whether the differences between the two landscapes come out in national character. Both countries have their towns and villages, farmland, roads, motorways, rivers and woodlands. The English countryside may be neater and more picturesque, but France, almost everywhere, has a more spacious landscape. On the excellent minor roads one drives for miles without seeing another soul. The fields are larger, the vistas are wider, there is less enclosure, fewer hedges, fences and gates, many more corners of unused land on roadsides and in villages, where the motorist can pull up to picnic or to view an ancient church or castle. The whole countryside is slightly unkempt, less consciously regulated and less obviously private property. This is its distinctive charm for the English traveller, but is it also why the whole of life in France seems more leisured and less regulated than it is in England?

Christopher Green

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Cover: The crossing at St Peter's (p15)

photo: Tony Firshman

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Next copy dates (all Fridays)

5 Sep 3 Oct 31 Oct



Primates face extinction crisis
Father John Pritchard looks behind the headlines

review leader

Reading the BBC News *on-line* headline *Primates face extinction crisis* on the 4th of August, the day after the Lambeth Conference had ended, I thought

perhaps The Archbishops and presiding bishops of the Anglican Communion known as *The Primates* had decided against infighting over issues on leadership, gender and human sexuality and decided to face up to the realistic possibility that their actions might contribute to this rare species of *religious leader* becoming extinct one day.

Sadly, having clicked on the link, the article suggested that a global review of the world's primates pointed towards 48% of species facing extinction. This possibly raises questions for us. Are the reported changes in our climate and wildlife witnessing to the natural cycle of our world? Do studies reflecting the human impact on our world really reflect our global, economic and social activity and our misuse of the world's resources? Can we take steps to reverse the apparent negative impact we primates have on the world's resources? It seems we shouldn't ask what can we do to combat the possible extinction of 48% of the world's primates, it is a matter of asking, am I bothered? And how do I apply myself to deal with these issues?

It seems that we are currently, and for many of us rightly, preoccupied with unpredictable increases in energy and fuel bills. Government suggests that *Fuel Poverty* is the new social evil and of course, for most of us, this is much

higher on our list of things to worry about than human rights, war, fair-trade, or recycling because it affects us directly in the pocket and it happens here at home where we can see it.

How does the human right of someone in China affect the cost of our weekly shopping? How does the impact of legalised state murder on Death Row in the USA affect our choice of school for our children? How does the possible extinction of 48% of the world's primates affect which gym you go to? Why should I be concerned for a farmer in Africa and his fair wage when I can have what I want, when I want it?

Often, just like my mistake in misreading the headline, there has to be a little less navel-gazing and a little more compassion and interest from each of us, not only in the high minded and complicated issues facing our societies, but also whether or not we are simply entertaining our social conscience with interests which straightforwardly maintain our comfort rather than contribute to the needs of the world.

"These are high sentiments. Those of you who know the church well will perceive all too quickly how far the members of this religious institution fall short of what we proclaim; resist and fight against embodying all that we commend to others. Fallible and feeble, frail and failing, this ancient religious fellowship can sometimes appear to be a mockery of everything it claims to stand for."(Dean Conner, St George's Day 2008)

God calls us to act, to be indiscriminate in our love for each other and the world. *Primates face extinction crisis*, what does that mean to you? ❖

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NATURALLY ECUMENICAL

Pamela Pennock writes



I suppose I could be called naturally ecumenical, so what am I doing belonging to the Mothers' Union, an organisation deeply-rooted in the Anglican Church? I joined around 1990, some years after coming to live in Leeds and became a member of the branch at St Mary's, Whitkirk in the diocese of Leeds and Ripon, and continue my membership now I am living in Berkhamsted.

I was born in Redcar and had lived in America for a year before moving to York, Saltburn and then Norfolk, returning to Yorkshire in 1963. Though my father was a Scottish Presbyterian and attended the Kirk in Redcar, I was brought up in the Church of England. I was baptised and confirmed, taught in the Sunday School and joined the Young People's Fellowship. In America I worshipped in St Stephen's church in Wyandotte, Michigan and in York lived close to the Minster and went to the early Eucharist on Sundays. By then I had met my future husband, a practising Roman Catholic, so the seeds of an ecumenical approach to the Christian faith were sowed early in my life.

Living in Norfolk with two children and attending the village church, it was perhaps natural to join the Young Wives Group. In such a group there is mutual support and a sense of belonging to the church and village community, but I did not immediately look to the Mothers' Union when I moved to Leeds. I then trained as a teacher, so spare time was in short supply, but after speaking at the Whitkirk Mothers' Union on a couple of occasions, I joined. This branch is strong and active with a membership of 68, plus 12 Indoor members who are confined to their homes, yet remain supportive of Mothers' Union. The meetings are held monthly, in the church for prayers and

then in the Parish Hall. A morning Eucharist each month is followed by prayers and a quarterly evening meeting attracts about a dozen male visitors. The

programme includes speakers, social activities and outings and takes some organising!

The project work undertaken by members of St Mary's, Whitkirk is similar to that supported by members in Berkhamsted and this diocese. It includes providing a mobile home as part of the *Away from it All* holiday scheme for needy families, supporting a Women's Refuge, providing embroidery silks and spectacles for Uganda, knitting for the Missions to Seamen and organising Lent lunches. In June this year, members attended The Mothers' Union Roadshow in Leeds Town Hall; Berkhamsted members went to the Leicester venue.

Last autumn it was natural to seek out The Mothers' Union when my husband and I moved here to be close to our family, and I received a warm welcome from the members. We have settled well and made new friends, but with those seeds of ecumenism sowed all those years ago, I miss the ecumenical house group, Christian Women Together, that I started in Whitkirk. To enjoy love and support from our family who live nearby is special. Family life is what Mothers' Union is about, and standing up for marriage in this increasingly secular age is one of its objectives. I also feel that we need to find new ways to engage with younger women in our parishes and other churches, for this year the theme for the Mothers' Union is *Time for Relationship*. ❖

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As the countryside is increasingly threatened by more brick, concrete and asphalt the plight of wildlife is beginning to be recognised. As the natural habitat of butterflies, birds, otters, badgers and so on is

eroded more attention is being paid to what can be done to help them survive and indeed prosper in the face of a spreading invasion of concrete. There are of course Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other wildlife sites which are protected – some of these in England are of international significance. The Chilterns Beechwoods in Ashridge and Tring Woods are the subject of special measures to ensure that the planned growth in West Hertfordshire does not damage them by, for example, the increase in the number of people using the woodlands for recreation (the trampling effect). The Government recently delayed by more than a year the adoption of the East of England Plan (the set of policies requiring us to build, among other things, eighty four thousand more houses in Hertfordshire over the next 15 years) because it needed to be sure that it conformed with an EU Habitats Directive. The Government pays more attention to such Directives than it does to the opinions of local people who will be affected by the new construction. It has persistently overruled the views of the borough, county and regional assembly.

When I looked recently at a map of the south east of England I was struck by how a significantly large portion of the land is now covered by urban areas, towns and villages. Such green and agricultural areas as there are will be further eroded by the release (or capture) of large chunks of Green Belt to the hungry house builder (forget the credit crunch – that is a short term issue, the price of houses will start to climb again). Although we have protected areas such as the Chilterns AONB the green areas will eventually

Ian Reay's &news &views

Encroaching Concrete Ian Reay worries about wildlife

begin to look like islands surrounded by seas of concrete rather than providing the setting in which urban development takes place. If wildlife is isolated in such pockets it makes the survival of wildlife species problematic. If your

world is reduced to a few acres bounded by impassable barriers breeding becomes a problem because your potential mates will be a world away.

It has been suggested that the answer to this dilemma is *green corridors* or *ecological corridors*. This means planning a new urban extension or a new settlement across the countryside in such a way that each isolated patch of green space (whether woodland, park or farmland) is linked to others by narrow strips of wildlife-friendly land, such as hedgerows – although such corridors could be broader than that: in fact the Green Belt itself, although this was not its original purpose, does also provide a green corridor for wildlife. Ecological corridors allow members of a species to find a way through the concrete jungle to find their partners in another patch of greenery. Rivers are, of course, ecological corridors used by fish.

In West Thurrock, part of the Thames Gateway, three ecological corridors are being planned to link green areas to the Thames. In Hemel Hempstead the prospect of linking Gadebridge Park, north of the town, to parks in Apsley to the south is being considered by the preparation of an urban park, a green corridor along the banks of the Gade.

What is also coming to be recognised is the importance of gardens in providing such corridors. Gardens, particularly large gardens, are often a haven for wildlife, and in areas of Berkhamsted such as Meadway or Shootersway large groups of gardens linked together could provide a green corridor. This should also be recognised in planning policies. ❖

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It may not be widely known that every year on Maundy Thursday, while the Queen is giving out

Maundy Money, another member of the Royal Family, accompanied by the **Lord Keeper of Apostrophes** in his black tailcoat and breeches, is conducting the annual *Distribution of Misplaced Apostrophes*. These go mostly to greengrocers, and within a few days they begin to appear in quite large numbers on signs on market stalls - then we are invited to buy carrot's, King Edward potatoe's, even Brussel's sprout's. This year the editor of the *Gazette* must have received some too and decided to use them as prominently as he could on placards outside newsagents in the town with PLANE'S PATHS LATEST. A week later he gave us *Citizen's Association* angry.

We have always had a bit of a problem with apostrophes in Berkhamsted. The Berkhamsted Citizens Association in fact has never had one, I think on the grounds that its members do not possess the Association, they are the Association - if you follow the logic. We write St Peter's Church with an

APOSTROPHE'S

John Cook explains
an ancient tradition

apostrophe, but All Saints Church quite often without one (Ed. In the *review* we always try to write *All Saints'*).

Should Kings Road have one or not?

Local knowledge is sometimes needed to be sure not to get it wrong. At the Collegiate School, Deans' Hall does have an apostrophe, but after the s, because it takes its name not from one Dean but two - Incent and Fry. Some years ago when a sign Greenes House went up on the school premises in Castle Street, there was contentious theorising about whether it should have an apostrophe or not, and if so, where. First of all it didn't have one, then one was surreptitiously inserted in the dead of night, then this was removed. I have a pretty good idea that in fact it was none other than the masters in the English Department itself who were behind these shenanigans.

So if the professionals can't agree, where does this leave the rest of us? We have sometimes managed to get around the problem by craftily avoiding it altogether, so instead of *St Francis's Hospice* we opted for *The Hospice of St Francis*. I suppose the best advice is *If in doubt leave it out*. One suggestion is that we should do away with apostrophes altogether, but the Lord Keeper would be out of a job and amateur pedants would have to find something else to get steamed up about (such as finishing a sentence with a preposition, or even two).




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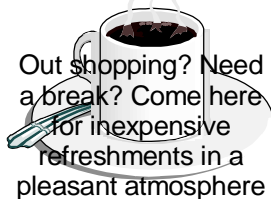
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Yet more consultations are doing the rounds. The Dacorum Hospital Action Group has circulated the East of

England NHS document *A clinical Vision for our NHS, now and for the next decade*. It contains little gems such as *ensuring that NHS primary dental services are available locally to all who need them and guarantee women direct access to midwives and choice of antenatal care and even ensure all relevant staff have received training*. The classic one was in the glossary, where *outpatients* are defined as *not receiving in-hospital care*. In fact, you will find it difficult not to agree with the vision.

Meanwhile, back in the real world - on July 4th the Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) invited local stakeholders to a meeting to determine the criteria against which future options for the site of a new hospital in Dacorum will be assessed and the weighting to be given to each of the agreed criteria. Amazed to see the words *new hospital in Dacorum*, I volunteered to attend on behalf of the Citizens Association.

The NHS plans to provide *total care*, to include mental health, adult care services and non-life threatening services including diagnosis, rather than specialist services. We won't have an A&E department, but we will have an *Urgent Care* unit run by local GPs who have the spare time. This will be up and running on the existing site from October 2008 even while the existing A&E is still being re-located to Watford.

The meeting was only concerned with identifying what we, as users, staff and patients would like to see in a new hospital site. It was not concerned with facilities or care that may or may not be provided. The decisions reached will be taken into account when considering

HEALTH MATTERS

Norman Cutting reports

the suitability of any site or sites identified as the location and the intention is to present a short list of sites at a meeting in the autumn

for our selection.

We had seven different criteria to consider and rank. Accessibility was regarded by the group as most important with the visual and construction-related criteria low on the list. The site would need room to expand to accommodate the expected increase in Dacorum's population and would need to be near to similar existing services as well as social housing and limited 'retail therapy' for staff. For this reason, the group felt that any new facility should not be too far from the existing hospital. Adequate car parking was regarded as essential. The County Council has successfully introduced a shuttle bus (every 20 minutes!) for the Lister Hospital in Stevenage and it is intended a similar scheme could be organised for Hemel Hempstead and St Albans.

Those of you who have tried reaching the Lister by public transport will be as concerned as I am. The shuttle operates in Stevenage and I wonder how residents of Tring, Aldbury, Markyate or Berkhamsted will fair under the proposed scheme.

The meeting was titled *Development of the new Local General Hospital/Health Campus in Dacorum* which immediately prompted a number of questions on exactly what a General Hospital is and does. Luton and Dunstable General Hospital provides many services that are not contemplated at the new Hemel Hempstead General Hospital. This, of course, brings us to exactly what is the new unit to be called. Suggestions so far include: Dacorum Health Centre, West Herts Hospital and Hemel Hempstead Hospital. Perhaps readers would like to submit their suggestions (better, I hope), so that I can put them forward at the next meeting ❖

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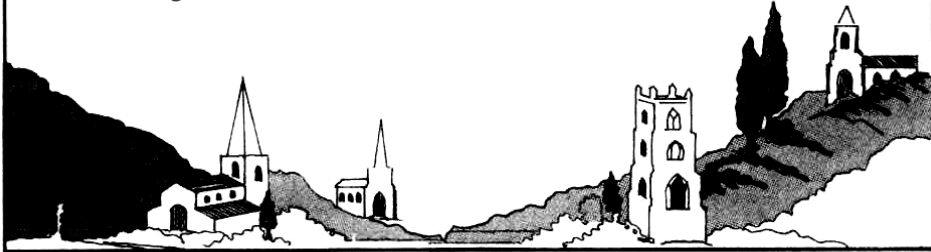


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Details and sponsorship forms from Chris Clegg (875818)

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Of every pound that you raise, 50p is returned to the church of your choice. All organising is done for you so the *Bike 'n Hike* is a very effective way of raising funds for your church. In addition you will be helping the Trust to give grants to churches and chapels in Beds and Herts that need financial assistance for restoration projects.

So what are you waiting for? Enjoy a pleasant day biking or hiking to churches in your area. If you are a taxpayer, by using Gift Aid you can increase your sponsorship by over 20%. Higher rate taxpayers will get an additional rebate.

<http://tinyurl.com/5tr9tj>

Readers may have noticed that, month-by-month pictures on the cover of the review alternate between church-related and secular subjects. In the coming year, the church-related pictures will illustrate a series of articles on the history of St Peter's church.

Building of the present church probably began at the very end of the 12th century or in the earliest years of the 13th. The first recorded Rector was instituted in 1222, by which time it seems likely there was a church building in existence. The oldest parts of the building are illustrated on our cover - the four massive piers that hold up the central tower. They form a fine example of the Early English architectural style. The first phase of construction carried them up to the level from which the arches spring. The stonework up to this level is distinguished by numerous masons' marks, identifying the work of at least ten separate masons (see *review* February 2006). These marks are not found elsewhere in the church, even on stonework which must be of similar age, so it seems likely that the building work was interrupted and then continued by a different group of masons.



The original building undoubtedly included the present chancel, with narrow lancet windows on the north and south sides (see picture which is a window on the north side near the original high altar) and simple geometrical tracery in the east window, all typical of the Early English style. It also included the present transepts, but almost certainly a narrower nave

BUILDING ST PETER'S

The First Hundred Years Christopher Green writes

without aisles, so that the west walls of the transepts originally joined the western tower piers down to ground level. This is borne out by the obviously

different finishing of the masonry, and an absence of masons' marks, on the tower piers where the west walls of the transepts originally joined them.

It has been argued in the past that the Lady Chapel was not contemporary with the original building, but a later addition. However, there is no indication that the east wall of the north transept ever joined the north-eastern tower pier at ground level. The original masonry of the pier, complete with masons' marks shows no sign of any such attachment.

So, from the beginning the north transept seems to have opened eastward into the Lady Chapel.

It is easy to see that the present windows of the Lady Chapel are not the original windows. The remains of the arches that enclosed the original windows survive on either side of the present window openings. The original windows were evidently less lofty than the present ones and probably consisted of three or four simple lancets in each opening.

In the nave, the rather makeshift abutment of the arcades against the tower piers is a further indication that the arcades and hence the present aisled nave were not part of the original building. The walls of the original nave probably stood where now the arcades stand. However, the present aisled nave cannot be any later than the second half of the 13th century. The pillars of the nave arcades are simple examples of the Early English style and the most westerly window in the north aisle seems to be of the same age.

So, the original church was cruciform in plan with a central tower, a chancel, an aisleless nave, north and south transepts and a chapel - the Lady Chapel - to the east of the north transept. ❖

The aptly named canal boat *Narrow Escape*, took aboard the St. Peter's youth group

Donutz on a calm Sunday afternoon at the end of July.

Ten young people boarded the **Reach Out Projects** narrow boat for a trip along the Grand Union Canal, and were ably assisted by organisers **Gill Malcolm** and **Chris Clegg**. Chris, who has boating experience, helped us negotiate the locks along our route from Apsley to the Grove in Watford. We were also given the chance to steer the boat, with varying results. It's fair to say that people standing on the front of the boat had to duck below trees when I was in control!

The on-board facilities sparked a lot of excitement. None of the bunks was left untried and the minute chemical toilet made us think twice about how much drink we consumed.

Fortunately, no one needed to use a change of clothes as nobody fell in the canal. The slightly iffy smell that occasionally came from the water made us think twice about standing near the edge. The enthusiasm shown by most of

NARROW ESCAPE

Sam Limbert hits water with Donutz

the group was superb as everyone helped out with the running of the boat. Working the locks

certainly inspired some group members to think about a narrow boat holiday.

Donutz started last year and has gone from strength to strength. Activities so far have included a trip to the musical *Godspell* and regular youth services on the first Sunday of the month. Other activities coming up include going to see the film *Prince Caspian* at the Rex Cinema. For those interested in joining **Donutz**, come along to the next meeting on Sunday 21st September after the 9:30am service at St. Peters.

The calm and relaxed way the boat went along the canal, sums up the mood of the group. There's a great camaraderie within **Donutz**, which certainly helped on the six-hour trip. After a successful first year, expect **Donutz** to continue its early success.

Reach Out Projects is a registered charity working with the Diocese of St Albans to serve the needs of young people and to provide positive experiences for people of all ages regardless of ability or disability. For more information
<http://reachoutprojects.org.uk> ❖



Due to the extended works on the main organ, the Bryceson Victorian organ loaned to us by the organist Christopher Bowers-Broadbent (<http://www.christopherbowers-broadbent.com>) is being put to work every Sunday.

In the last few years I had done some work on it. I repaired two vandalised pipes, and set up the blower to work from the side of the organ.

However it proved difficult to put to full use as it lacked pedals. **Adrian Davis** said there used to be some, so we went on a search. We found some parts behind the high altar in the vestry. There was a frame, and some linkages, but only one pedal. After extensive enquiries, no-one knew what had become of the missing twelve.

The delay in the main organ repair was an incentive for me to do something about this. I had some Sapele hardwood milled to the 16mm thickness of the existing pedal. I used this pedal as a template to make the remaining pedals. My bench rip saw and radial arm saw were put to good use. They

PEDALS REVIVED

Making notes with **Tony Firshman**

probably enjoyed the break from routine and boring softwood joists! One issue was that the only sample was a *black* note, so I

had to guess what the *white* notes might be. Also the spring return was a long bent wire, much like that on the main organ. This would have been difficult to engineer. Berkhamsted's truly excellent hardware store Vah came, as always, to the rescue. I bought a long expanding spring. I extended this to turn it into a compression spring, and cut suitable small lengths. These were glued to the base of each pedal. Thanks are due to **Jon Lee** for this idea. Spring tension was a bit of guesswork, but I tried to imitate the main organ. It needs a surprisingly large force, but it is, after all, foot operated, and needs some resistance to stop accidental playing.

I also had to manufacture some pedal to keyboard linkages as a few were missing. Some thick felt from Vah acted as connectors for the keyboard linkages. These were seated in cutouts on the pedals, glued in, and anchored with cut down panel pins.

I hope the extra volume (and quality) is noticeable, as the left hand can now be put to work filling in the middle registers, rather than just bass octaves. Also I notice that organ works which are impossible to play without pedals are back in the repertoire.

The final irony though was finding that, although most of the visible pipes are in use, the repaired pipes at each end are just decoration! ❖



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I expect most people have heard of Helen House, the Hospice in Oxford for children with life-shortening

DOUGLAS HOUSE OXFORD

Marion Higgins writes

conditions. Possibly not so many have heard of Douglas House and it may be relevant to someone you know.

Douglas House is for young adults 16-40 for respite, family support and end of life. It was suggested that we should visit Douglas House as our 24 year-old son Giles had testicular cancer (99% treatable) - maybe he would be allowed to go there for some respite care after the stress of endless hospital stays. We went in August 2005 with very mixed feelings. It was easy to talk about respite care and how sensible we were to at least visit and explore the options. *The end of life* remained an unspoken thought.

Douglas House is stunning, spacious and peaceful. The extra wide corridor for wheelchair races and the bar were suggested by teenagers from Helen House. The rooms for art, music, games and the tropical Jacuzzi lead off this corridor.

Those who stay there are guests, not patients, not clients, not service-users, but firmly guests. Their accommodation is

discretely arranged at the end of the corridor - en suite rooms with all appropriate aids. There is 24-hour medical and nursing cover and the nurses' station is opposite the guest rooms. Family rooms are upstairs with a communal living room and a well equipped kitchen for those who do not wish to eat in the downstairs dining room where the chef prepares tempting meals. By the time we left after the tour, the unspoken thought was: Please God, if he is to die, may we have time to bring him here.

A few months later we knew that treatment was palliative and that his life was coming to an end. We had warning that many are not given. Miraculously we did have time to take our beloved Giles to Douglas House. Time ceased and we were all enfolded, cocooned and cosseted in this island of calm. He was supremely well looked after for the few days before he died and for the week after. He died on

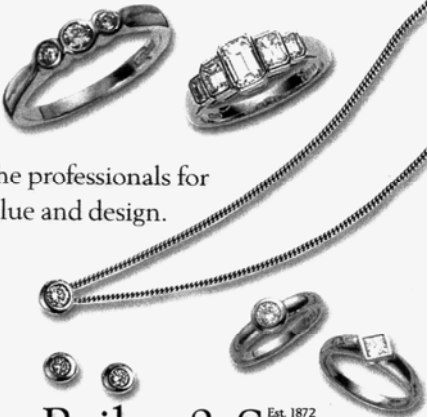
June 15th 2006. The end of life that we had not been able to voice a few short months earlier was just right. It was an enormous privilege that we were able to take him to Douglas House - one for which we shall be eternally grateful. St Peter's Corpus Christi service was dedicated to Giles - another privilege.

Douglas House Open Day is on Saturday 13th September 2008. ❖



<http://helenanddouglas.org.uk>

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Parables of Joy

**The Revd
Jonathan
Gordon writes**

A good question to ask sometimes is what are the things that really make us happy? I imagine most of us would say families or friends; being with people who are closest to us. It is a strange thing that sometimes other things can gain more significance. Happiness might be measured by more material things: having a good job, being successful or having a large number of possessions. We are surrounded by marketing pressures that seek to convince us that we really need something, which in all likelihood we could live without and most likely don't need.

The theory of *retail therapy* is that if you feel fed up or stressed then head to the local shopping centre and buy yourself or even others a few presents. If we know someone who is feeling unhappy, a good response is to buy them a present to show that we care. One thing I have learnt from having daughters is that they like to be occasionally pampered and made to feel special. This is basic to being human. However, there is a risk that the happiness found in material possessions can be fleeting. We can buy a new car or a new set of clothes, but what happens if the car starts to go wrong and gets a scratch or if coffee is poured accidentally down the new outfit? It may then lead to more financial outlay and additional stress.

Jesus in his parables speaks of things of great value that are worth having at all costs. Two of the most well known parables are found in St Matthew's Gospel and are concerned with a treasure found in a field and a merchant who searches for fine pearls. The parables

speak of the kingdom of heaven. There are many references to the kingdom in the Gospels. The term is used to describe a future time when God will bring an end to suffering and death. Sickness and death, famine and hunger, war and oppression will all cease to exist after a spiritual battle with the forces of evil that would be utterly destroyed.

What is unique in the message of Jesus is the suggestion that in his words and deeds the Kingdom was breaking into the present. God's loving presence was being experienced as never before in the ministry of Jesus. The sick were being healed, the poor were being welcomed in, and forgiveness and reconciliation was breaking down barriers that had kept people at enmity. Those who grasped this were having their views of life turned upside down.

In the two parables of finding, something of enormous value is found. In the first a man finds treasure in a field. The man is most likely a day labourer and you could argue that he finds something that is not technically his as he does not own the field. Legalities aside the emphasis is on the joy that he experiences after finding the treasure. He hides the treasure then sells all that he has so that he can buy the field. Likewise, the merchant on finding the pearl of great value sells all that he has so that he can buy the one pearl. Their actions are extravagant, but they also involve sacrifice. To have the one thing of great value they must give up other things. Discipleship in St Matthew's Gospel involves this element of renunciation. Possibly one way the parables are speaking to us today is asking us to consider what is really important, where do our priorities lie and how central to us is the life of faith. ❖

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review letters

From Mr RF Hewitt

Further to the article regarding Berkhamsted Place (*review* July 2008), I remember when I was young - I am 79 this year - Berkhamsted Place was up for sale and my father thought of buying it. I well remember viewing and was very impressed with the huge kitchen and the servants' staircase which went around what looked like a ship's mast. The servants' quarters up in the roof area had lead lined wooden troughs open at the top and at each end to carry the rain water from the roof to the back as there were no drain pipes on the front of the house. It must have been very cold and draughty up there in bed. We were the only ones at the auction, held in Watford, and our bid of £5,000 was not accepted.

From Mrs B Grose

I have read the tribute to **Thea Chambers** in the *review* (July 2008). I met her in Tesco and we spoke. I saw her at various places since then but not recently.

I feel prompted to write about the elderly and alone in Berkhamsted. Could not the churches together arrange a day of meeting, lunch and a quiz or discussion, for such folk? For a small charge a frozen lunch from Oak Farm could be available, with tea and coffee and biscuits provided by the old folks themselves - either weekly or monthly.

I met a man in his sixties in St Peter's Church. He asked the time. He looked miserable and said he was fed up with life after being widowed for eight or nine years.

Our families are often too busy to give us of their time, or else live too far away. Jesus cares for widows and orphans - so many sad and lonely people.

Editor - Until the end of last year, St Peter's Church offered something along these lines on the first Sunday of each month. *Sundays Together Lunch* was a three course hot meal with sherry beforehand and coffee to follow, provided in the Court House and promoted with the words *For anyone on their own on a Sunday*. It regularly attracted as many as could be accommodated. The chief organiser was **Joan Morris** who made all the arrangements in the Court House and prepared the food. Sadly, Joan died at the end of last year, but the church is keen to continue to offer *Sundays Together Lunch*, and now someone has been found to take on the role that **Joan Morris** filled for many years.

The intention is to continue on the first Sunday of each month starting again in December 2008. Watch the *review* for details.

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BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY & MUSEUM SOCIETY

Programme 2008-2009

Wednesday 10th September 2008

A History of Medicines from Nature - **Julie Wakefield**: Assistant Keeper of the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Wednesday 8th October 2008

London Midland Railway - **Ron White**: Owner of the Largest Private Collection of Railway Colour Pictures

Wednesday 12th November 2008

Hertfordshire Home Guard 1940-1945 **Colonel Sainsbury**: Author of books on the Hertfordshire Regiment

Wednesday 10th December 2008

Short Talks, A Quiz and Social Evening Society Members

Wednesday 21st January 2009

Sarratt and the Victorian Church - **John Hopkins**: Sarratt Local History Society

Wednesday 11th February 2009

Aviation History in Hertfordshire

Julian Evan-Hart: Author of *War Torn Skies of Hertfordshire*

Wednesday 11th March 2009

Berkhamsted Maps- a potted history of cartography - **Bill Willett**:

Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society
This meeting is preceded by the AGM

OXFAM AND CHILDREN

Friday 12th September 2008

9.00am at the Civic Centre

At Oxfam's Autumn Children's Wear event there will be excellent clothes for all ages. But there will also be a splendid selection of toys and games at bargain prices.

An immense amount of work goes into preparing all the goods on sale and help is

urgently needed with processing the toys. These have to be carefully checked to see that games are complete and toys are safe to use. Training will be given.

This is an ongoing task for a keen, reliable volunteer. There is always a big demand for good quality toys in the months before Christmas and help in this field would benefit not only families in this country but also needy families overseas with whom Oxfam works.

For further information please contact the manager **Jane Hockings** on 01442 864225 or call at the High Street shop.

PERCY BIRTCHNELL MEMORIAL PRIZE

For the seventh year running two prizes were awarded to Year IV pupils at Victoria School for a project based on the topic for study in the National Curriculum during the Summer Term. This prize was set up in 2001 by the **Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society** in memory of the late **Percy Birchnell**, a pupil of Victoria Boys' School, whose love of history first developed during his schooldays. Although based on work done in school, the projects are carried out in the pupils' own time and although guidance may be sought from parents it is expected to be their own work. The somewhat restricting nature of the History National Curriculum syllabus means that topics for these projects alternate between life in Berkhamsted during the reign of Queen Victoria and life in Berkhamsted during the Second World War. It is to be hoped that this year's winners and others who submitted entries will go on to develop for themselves a wider interest in History than is offered them in the National Curriculum. Berkhamsted has so much to offer! Congratulations to **Annabel Hunt** and **Hannah Salmon** for their projects entitled *How Life Changed in Victorian Berkhamsted*.

review notes¬ices

WEA BERKHAMSTED & TRING BRANCH COURSES FROM SEPTEMBER 2008

Remember that you can come and try out the first session of any course for free but do let us know you're coming! Phone **Chris Buckle** (250404) to enrol.

Creative Writing Tutor: **Linda Dawe**

Mon 29th Sep 2008 12:45 – 2:45pm

8 weeks at the Friends Meeting House

Current Affairs Discussion

Tutor: **Paul Harris**

Tues 23rd Sep 2008 10 – 11:30am

10 weeks at the Friends' Meeting House

Reading Poetry Tutor: **Nigel Good**

Tues 23rd Sep 2008 8:15 – 10 pm

10 weeks at the Library, Kings Road

Law and Religion in the context of literature and the arts

Tutor: **Debra Smith-Gorick**

Wed 24th Sep 2008 7.45 – 9.45pm

10 weeks at Tring Library

English 18th C Art and Architecture

Tutor: **Madeleine Edmead**

Thurs 25th Sep 2008 9.30-10.30am

10 weeks at the Court House

Science and Society Tutor: **Neale Monks**

Thurs 25th Sep 2008 7.30 – 9.30pm

10 weeks at Ashlyns School

Please phone **Chris Buckle** (250404) for further information and to enrol.

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

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CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS

Once again our traditional Charity Christmas Card Sale will be held on the following dates in the Court House, between 9.15am and 4.00pm:

Friday 31st October 2008

Saturday 1st November 2008

Saturday 15th November 2008

Saturday 29th November 2008

Many national and local charities from Herts and Bucks will be represented, and again there will be a wide and tempting selection of charity Christmas cards, wrapping paper and Christmas accessories to choose from. The charities represented include Arthritis & Rheumatism Campaign, Leukaemia Research, Home Farm Trust, Hope for Children, The Chilterns Dog Rescue Society, The Chiltern Society, The National Eczema Society, Save the Children, RNLI and Iain Rennie Hospice at Home.



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Thursday 2nd October 2008 to
Sunday 5th October 2008

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Festival director **Dermot Gilvary** says "*In this prestigious international literary event enthusiastic readers and film buffs will again celebrate the life and work of Graham Greene (1904-1991), England's greatest man of letters of the twentieth century.*"

Full details of the programme can be seen on the Festival website

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BERKHAMSTED CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday, September 20th 2008 at 7:30pm at St Peter's Church - Berkhamsted and Chorleywood Choral Societies, recently returned from a tour of the West Country where they delighted audiences in Wells Cathedral and Bath and Sherborne Abbeys - will be performing a programme of well-known, classic choral works.

The programme includes Vivaldi's *Gloria* as well as works by Lotti, Mozart, Parry and Wagner and the deeply moving *Agnus Dei* from contemporary composer **Chris Williams'** *Tsunami Requiem* – a work for which the choirs received a standing ovation in London's Royal Festival Hall in May 2008.

September

SUN	<i>St Peter's</i>	8:00am Eucharist			
		9:30am Sung Eucharist			
		6:00pm Evensong			
<i>All Saints'</i>	7 th	10:00am Holy Communion - Methodist led			
		6:30pm Welcome service for the Revd Caroline Weaver			
	14 th	10:00am Sung Eucharist - Anglican led			
	21 st	10:00am Morning Worship—Anglican led			
	28 th	8:00am Holy Communion - Methodist led			
		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</i>	Eucharist 9:15am
SAT	MP	9:30am <i>St Peter's</i>	EP	5:00pm <i>St Peter's</i>	Eucharist 10:00am <i>St Peter's</i>

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	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 Tue	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 57 Meadow Rd	
	<i>All are very welcome at 11:30am as arranged</i> or at Ruth's 1 Montague Rd	
	Contact: Jenny Wells (870981) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)	
Wed	PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7-8:30pm . (yrs 5-8) Jimmy Young (384929)	<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 Jimmy Young (384929)	<i>Court House</i>
Thu	BELLRINGING: 8:00pm Helen Ruberry (865048)	<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 St Peter's (10am)	
	Carrie Wegenerl (877404)	
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.

September/October

SEPTEMBER

Fri	5	10:00am	Little Fishes Service.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	7	6:30pm	Welcome service for The Revd Caroline Weaver, Preacher: Fr Michael Bowie	<i>All Saints'</i>
Tue	9	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Samuel the Good Listener</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>
Fri	12	1:00pm	Recital: Angela Brownridge <i>piano</i>	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	13	10:00am	Start of Beds & Herts Historic Churches Sponsored Bike Ride (ends 6pm)	<i>most churches</i>
		7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents The Bridgewater Sinfonia.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	14	2:00pm	History Society Tours	<i>St Peter's</i>
		6:00pm	Choral Evensong.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	19	1:00pm	Recital: Felicity Vincent ' <i>cello</i> , Dominic Saunders <i>piano</i>	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	20	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast.....	<i>Kings Road Church</i>
		7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents Berkhamsted Choral Society	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	23	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>David & Goliath</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sat	27	9:15am	Bellringing: Full Peal.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	28	9:30am	Preachers: Gautam & Sabrina (Church Missionary Society) <i>Gautam Money, India</i> ,	<i>St Peter's</i>

OCTOBER

Fri	3	10:00am	Little Fishes Service.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	4	11:15am	Bellringing visitors: Quarter Peal	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	7	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Harvest</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sun	12	6:00pm	Choral Evensong.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	18	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast.....	<i>All Saints'</i>
Tue	21	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Jonah and the Whale</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sat	25	7:00pm	District Bellringing practice (until 9:00pm)	<i>St Peter's</i>

review registers

Baptisms (St Peter's)

27th July Alexia Marie Bede, Ella Nicole Bede, Dylan John Anthony Rodgers

Funerals

25th July James (Jim) Loveridge St Peter's Church (Kingshill)

8th August Lynne Jennifer Spencer St Peter's Church (Kingshill)

review factfile

CONTACT LIST

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

St Peter's

Altar service
Chalice rota
Church maintenance
Church cleaning
Flower arrangements (862578)
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)

Barbara Conway (865798)
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)
Helen Nicholls (873162)

All Saints'

Felicity White (866223)
Jenny Wells (870981)
Chris Lumb (863885)
Kate Spall (873470)
Madeleine Brownell

Sylvia Banks (871195)
John Banks (871195)
Jenny Wells (870981)
Jenny Wells (870981)
Pat Hearne (871270)
Penny O'Neill (843422)
tba
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

<http://wayinn.com>

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, (875970)
The Revd Canon Basil Jones (Hon.Asst.Priest), 17 Lochnell Road (864485)
The Revd Canon Anthony Lathe (Hon Asst Priest), 15a Kingsdale Road (863115)
The Revd John Russell (Hon Asst Priest) 49 Tring Road, Aylesbury (01296 423022)
Christina Billington (Diocesan Lay Minister), 13 Ashridge Rise (385566)
Marjorie Bowden (Reader Emeritus), 16 Broadwater (871283)
Joan Cook (Reader Emeritus), 6 Clunbury Court (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)
Peter Bryant, 36 North Road (871680)
 All Saint's Representatives: **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) <http://stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk>
 Asst. Director of Music: **Jean Wild** (866859)
 Organist: **Jonathan Lee** (0794 1113232)
 Weddings and Funerals,
 Banns of Marriage and
 Baptisms: **Fr Michael Bowie** (864194)
 Bellringers (St Peter's): **Helen Ruberry** 2 Hall Park (865048)

All Saints'

Choirmaster: **Peter McMunn** (874894)
 All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist
 Local Ecumenical Partnership. <http://allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk>
 Methodist minister: **The Revd Paul Timmis** (866324)

Personalities in the Parish



Answer next month

August's Personality



The Revd Canon Basil Jones at his wedding to Doreen in St Augustine's, Wembley Park in 1950. A smaller church now occupies the site.



photo: Tony Firshman