

# Berkhamsted. *review*

*In this issue*

**January 2009**

**The Best  
Welfare**

**Chiltern  
Woodlands**

**A New Altar**

**St Peter's: The  
14<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Of Clay and  
Goat Hair**

**Lively and  
Enjoyable**

**This Month's  
Notes and  
Events**



*for Town and Parish*

**30p**



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

### **Welcome to the January 2009 issue of the Berkhamsted review**

Best wishes to all our readers for the coming year

When I started writing this editorial we were experiencing another day of hard white frost. I heard the unmistakable sounds early in the morning of drivers scraping the ice off their windscreens. It's the time of year for hats. Peruvian llama herders are common this year, Russian commissars are on the increase and knitted tea-cosies abound of every shape and hue. There is a down side. Who was that greeting me cheerfully from the inner recesses of a fur-lined hood? Fortunately the cold weather also sees a beneficial reduction in the number of baseball caps - much too flimsy and ineffectual for good old-fashioned British winter. But alas it didn't last and as I finish writing, it has been raining for the best part of forty-eight hours. Wintery gloom has prevailed all day. And what is the etiquette when umbrellas come face to face on the pavement? Who should rise above whom? Yes, British weather is unpredictable, but I'm with the poet **Cowper** - *Though thy clime be fickle, and thy year most part deform'd with dripping rains, or withered by a frost, I would not yet exchange thy sullen skies, and fields without a flow'r, for warmer France with all her vines.*

**Christopher Green**

### **IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...**

#### **THE BEST WELFARE**

**Kathy Lally** on valuing families ..... p5

#### **CHILTERN'S WOODLANDS**

**Ian Reay** traces their history..... p7

#### **A NEW ALTAR**

Reshaping the Lady Chapel ..... p9

#### **ST PETER'S: THE 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

**Christopher Green** writes ..... p11

#### **OF CLAY AND GOAT HAIR**

**David Pearce** at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry ..... p14

#### **LIVELY AND ENJOYABLE**

**Kate Perera** reviews  
Bridgewater Sinfonia ..... p19

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

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Cover: St Peter's windows (see p11)

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**No word of  
comfort?**

**Father John  
Pritchard**  
contemplates the  
New Year

# review leader

*A hopeful disposition is not the sole qualification to be a prophet* Winston Churchill - Speech in the House of Commons, 30<sup>th</sup> April 1927

I suspect turning to the colourful words

of Winston Churchill to open this New Year leader might raise some eyebrows. But for the first time in many decades we are entering into a New Year in the midst of personal and global economic chaos. It seems none of us, not even the *prophets* can offer a word of comfort to prepare us for what is going to happen this coming year. All we can really know is that our potential is about to be curtailed significantly. It would be irresponsible to say “*Things will soon turn around, it will all get better*”, especially as I suspect few of us believe this at the moment.

The business premises on our High Street are changing hands. There seems little grace or space for retailers to cope with a slowing up of trade. We might be secretly gladdened by a few less estate agents, or coffee shops. We might even take this opportunity to rethink and dramatically reduce our giving of time and money to charity. Like some of those people caught in dramatic disasters, perhaps we will use the economic downturn to withdraw from our responsibility, so that we can focus on our own particular needs and interests, rather than find alternative ways of being generous to the activities of this town and towards each other.

Perhaps the alternative for us is to recognise that there is more than enough to go round. Major profits for a small number have to be a thing of the past. I fear that the draw of greed and ambition, an unfortunate marker of some of our

financial institutions is contagious and continuing to spread like wildfire, even though we know it is not good for us. As Christian people we have to learn from this. Perhaps this is the time to plant vegetables in the garden, to rethink the trendy labels which beautify our bodies, to be sufficient unto the day, to repay our debts and live within our means? What is the cost to us of high living and success? Why can't we find contentment or lasting satisfaction?

The 17<sup>th</sup> century poet **George Herbert**, in his poem ***The Pulley*** wrote:

*When God at first made man, having a  
glasse of blessings standing by; Let us  
(said he) poure on him all we can: Let the  
worlds riches, which dispersed lie,  
Contract into a span.*

*So strength first made a way; Then  
beautie flow'd, then wisdom, honour,  
pleasure:*

*When almost all was out, God made a  
stay, Perceiving that alone of all his  
treasure, Rest in the bottome lay.*

*For if I should (said he) Bestow this  
jewell also on my creature, He would  
adore my gifts in stead of me, And rest in  
Nature, not the God of Nature: So both  
should losers be.*

*Yet let him keep the rest, But keep them  
with repining restlesnesse: Let him be  
rich and wearie, that at least, If  
goodnesse leade him not, yet wearinesse  
May tosse him to my breast.*

During this period of instability Christians have to keep their cool. We cannot panic-change the world. We can however become part of a greater solution which can take that restlessness that Herbert writes about and thank God and be content for what we have. This New Year let's try to live within our means and Thank God for that which we have in each other and in life.



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# THE BEST WELFARE

One of the mission statements of MU is to promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.

When most people believe that the best welfare system of all is the family why are families under such strain today? The news and media constantly report on the adverse effects on children of increased working hours, the necessity for both parents to work, the tax and tax credit system working against stay at home mothers, high divorce rates and so much more.

Polls constantly show that we value family life more than anything else. A survey of our attitudes to family life by British Social Attitudes reported in 2006 that over 75% of people agree that *watching children grow up is life's greatest joy*. The same study found that although 13% of people agreed that *it is important to move up the ladder at work, even if this gets in the way of family life*, 61% disagreed. Respondents overwhelmingly thought that *people should keep in touch with close family members even if they don't have much in common*. Four times as many people thought it was more important to have close ties with their family than with friends. Our instincts are wholeheartedly for family life and, according to social scientists, these instincts are absolutely spot on. One of the most consistent findings of social research is that a stable loving family home is the best start in life. Conversely, those who experience family breakdown are 75% more likely to fail at school, 70% more likely to become addicted to drugs and 50% more likely to have alcohol problems.

Considerably more people are satisfied with their family life than are dissatisfied and the majority of young people and of cohabiting couples say they want to marry. Divorce rates seem to have topped out after having risen six-fold in the 1960s and 1970s but this is because more people are now cohabiting. But cohabitation is far less stable than marriage. Far too many relationships break down and an unprecedentedly high proportion of British children (the highest in Europe) find themselves living with only one parent.

The cost to both adults and children is high. Children living in broken families suffer physically, emotionally and mentally with longer

Kathy Lally on valuing families

**Mothers' UNION**  
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*No-one ever said on their deathbed, "I wish I'd spent more time in the office." But some may whisper "I wish I'd spent more time with my family."*

term impacts such as persistent low income and housing problems, with the single parent finding that giving their children the necessary time is an impossible burden. Such problems are not limited to broken families either. An increasing number of functional families are time-starved with both parents working long hours, often at weekends.

If we value family life why then are we undervaluing what we claim to value so highly?

The message does at last seem to be getting through. Protecting and helping families appears to be one of the new consensual areas in politics with recent pronouncements from all party leaders regarding their support for family life. The Government cannot make happy families but it can create the conditions in which families flourish or at least tackle those that stop them from flourishing.

And so can we.

In the UK the Mothers' Union actively supports families with parenting courses, support for marriage preparation, running crèches and playgroups, helping with child contact and campaigning for flexible family working patterns.

And is there anything you can do to strengthen your own family?

A recent suggestion from the MU was for families to discuss what they want to be, perhaps round a meal. What three adjectives describe your family? What three adjectives would you like other people to use about your family? Are you (1) dynamic, (2) successful, (3) sociable? Or are you (1) caring, (2) supportive, (3) family-centred? One idea to involve children would be to ask them to describe the person they would like to marry. That would reflect how they would like to be themselves. Finally, what are your family members actually doing to become more like their ideal family? To be like this may mean standing up to pressures from friends or at work. Is it worth it? At this time of New Year resolutions, give it a try. ❖

Material taken from **familiesfirst**  
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**A**cross the Chiltern Hills is one of the largest groups of natural woodland in England. And this has been the case for perhaps a thousand years. Even so they have not stayed the

same over the course of time. In the Middle Ages woodland was an important natural resource. There are broadly two kinds of woodland – coppice and wood pasture. Coppice woods were cut back regularly to stumps from which grew narrow stems which were regularly cropped to produce poles or logs. Wood pastures on the other hand allowed grazing animals to wander amongst the trees – which were scattered in grassland. These trees were also pollarded but at higher levels so that the grazing animals – cattle, sheep or deer – did not eat the shoots. Later on the woodlands of the Chilterns supplied firewood to London and more recently raw material for the furniture industry – particularly in High Wycombe. Beech wood is particularly suitable for furniture and that is why so much of our local woodland consists of beech trees. In some woods findings of iron slag show that they were once also used, probably at a much earlier time than the Middle Ages, to make iron from iron ore. The smelting of iron ore needed a lot of wood. For

# Ian Reay's &news &views

## Chiltern Woodlands Ian Reay traces their history

each ton of iron ore ten tons of charcoal were needed and it took six tons of wood to make one ton of charcoal. So 60 tons of wood were needed for each ton of iron ore. It obviously

made sense to bring the iron to the wood rather than the wood to the iron.

That, at one time, these woods provided a respectable income can be seen from the records forming the history of Hockeridge and Pancake Woods. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century these woods were owned by the Dorrien family who lived at Haresfoot House. In 1790 records show that they provided the Dorriens with an income close to £1,400 a year, from the felling of oak, beech and

p25 →



Typical Chiltern chair made by R Smith & Co at Lane End, near High Wycombe in 1915, probably for the War Office



Maker's stamp on a Chiltern chair

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It has been over a year since the *Berkhamsted Organ* appeal was launched. After much

initial *trumpeting*, one could be forgiven for wondering why there has been no widely-advertised celebration – after all, wasn't it only supposed to take six weeks to complete? Has the major rebuild failed? Regular visitors to the Church will have spotted that the organ is still surrounded by plastic sheeting and wooden boarding, and that it is certainly not being used for services. What has happened? The answer to this question comes in two parts. Firstly, the health of the organ builder engaged to carry out the work, and secondly the mess left by the original (1986) builder.

Shortly after dismantling the organ in April 2008, our organ builder, **Vincent Woodstock**, became ill and had to have a number of operations. We engaged Vincent to rebuild the organ in St Peter's because of the excellent work he has done for us already, and upon the advice of well-known organ consultant, **John**

## THE ORGAN

Jonathan Lee writes

**Norman.** Vincent is highly-regarded for the established quality of his work throughout the

country. The down side to this quality is that, as he runs a small firm, we have had to wait for his recovery before the building work *on site* can proceed. The intervening time since April has not been wasted. In the summer and autumn months Vincent has completed all the new components of the organ in his workshop – bellows and bellows frames, new casework, the electronic systems, and most importantly the new mechanical systems. These are all ready to be installed and brought to life.

So, if all of the new pieces are ready, why the further delay? When starting this project, we knew there was a possibility, as the instrument was gradually dismantled and then rebuilt, that we would discover further flaws in the initial building. I should reiterate that it is almost

➔p13



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In the fourteenth century St Peter's was altered and extended. We don't know the exact dates when the work was undertaken but we can judge quite closely by reference to the

architectural features of the new work. Window tracery and decorative detail are useful guides, though styles overlapped in time and are often found side by side in buildings known to be all of one age.

The principal additions to St Peter's in the fourteenth century were St Catherine's Chapel and the St John's Chantry, which forms in effect an outer aisle on the south side of the nave at its eastern end. The tracery in the windows of St Catherine's Chapel is all in the Decorated style, widely adopted in the years between c.1270 and c.1370. The net-like or reticulated pattern of the tracery in the east window of the chapel suggests the date of around 1320 accepted by Norris in his book on St Peter's. There is similar tracery of this date in St Mary Magdalen in Oxford. The date of the St John's Chantry is more difficult to place. Norris suggests that it was 1350, later than St Catherine's Chapel, but the detached columns around the pillar that supports the arch at its east end are more typical of the late thirteenth century. The tracery in the windows is too simple to be a convincing guide to their age, but it has geometrical forms that were common early in the Decorated period. Could it be as early as 1300?

As well as extending the church in the fourteenth century, all of the windows in the north and south transepts and the Lady Chapel were replaced. The window in the south transept (cover top R) has intersecting tracery and geometrical forms that suggest a date early in the Decorated period. It resembles windows in the chancel of Dorchester Abbey in Oxfordshire dated between 1300 and 1340. In the north transept, the north window (cover top L) has reticulated tracery similar to that in St Catherine's Chapel and presumably of a similar date - c.1320. The tracery in the west window of the north transept is more elaborate but essentially similar (cover lower

## BUILDING ST PETER'S

**The Fourteenth Century**  
**Christopher Green** writes

L).

The windows in the Lady Chapel (cover lower R) are particularly interesting (whatever you may think of their architectural merit - see December 2008 *review* p9).

They are obviously not the original windows. Traces of the original window arches are still clearly visible inside. They are all generally similar and seem likely to be of the same age. They are all divided into three vertical compartments by mullions that reach from the sill to the full height of the window. This is a feature of the Perpendicular period that followed the Decorated in the second half of the fourteenth century. Inside however, the window arch of the more northerly east window is decorated with *ballflower*, a distinctive motif, hugely popular in the first quarter of the fourteenth century. So perhaps these windows were introduced in the mid-fourteenth century - late enough to be influenced by the earliest development of the Perpendicular style, but not too late to miss the *ballflower* craze completely.

And what about the great west window? Norris contends that the clerestorey was added to the church in 1450. The present east window, rising almost to the level of the nave roof, can be no earlier than the clerestorey. Its tracery includes undoubted Perpendicular elements - the horizontal transom and the mullions creating vertical compartments similar to the windows of the Lady Chapel. But the tracery in the upper part of the window is much more Decorated than Perpendicular. A date for the clerestorey, and the west window, in the last quarter of the fourteenth century seems more likely than 1450 and this possibility is supported by the windows of the clerestorey itself which are simple but quite devoid of Perpendicular elements.

How did all this work at St Peter's come about in the fourteenth century? We shall probably never know, but we should remember that Berkhamsted Castle was a Royal residence and a favourite of Edward the Black Prince to whom it belonged from 1337 until his death in 1376. Almost all the work described above *could* have been undertaken in that time. Need we look further?





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The new altar for the Lady Chapel was put in place at the end of November 2008. It has been constructed by the distinguished furniture builder **Simon Marshall** at his workshop in Norfolk and will be consecrated by Christopher, Bishop of Hertford when he visits St Peter's to officiate at the Confirmation on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

## ←p9 The Organ

unknown for a pipe organ to need this amount of work after only twenty years – the chronic deterioration we have experienced is totally unnecessary. Unfortunately, no matter how hard the fingers were crossed, a further problem has been discovered. In beginning to put together the mechanical action (the rods and levers that connect the keys to the pipes), it has been discovered that from the start, because of a design fault, when the keys are depressed they don't open the pallets properly under the pipes – the effect being not enough wind in the pipe. This has been the case for 21 years. It is a further contributor to the horrendous tuning problems that the instrument has suffered. If too little air enters a pipe, it will sound under the pitch it is supposed to produce. Congregations and concertgoers will have been used to the resulting cacophonous tonality. As it is not possible just to *alter* keys, we have had to take professional advice from

builder and consultant alike, and order a new set of keyboards from Laukhuff in Germany. Like-for-like keys (bone covered *white* notes and rosewood *black* notes) take three months to create and deliver. This obviously adds to the cost of the work – at the time of writing, about £3000.

We expect to receive the new keys in time for the organ to be reassembled as a working instrument by Easter – and we *really* are crossing fingers this time that no further flaws are discovered! It is, alas, too expensive for us to hire a digital instrument in the interim - other than for special occasions like Christmas. We are very lucky to be served well by our second organ, by Bryceson (1810), with its new pedal-board skilfully created by **Tony Firshman** (see September 2008 *review*). If there is one lesson we should take from this whole affair, it is always to do things properly in the first instance. ❖



Christmas bells. Bells pealing across the shires; playground jangling, and town crier oyez-ing; the tintinnabulation of clock chimes; Big Ben whose notes are known to all the world. So much do bells mark out the passage of our lives, and have for all known centuries. There are bells in English churches that pre-date the towers in which they swing: they were fashioned by mediaeval bell-smiths whose processes are still recognised by their counterparts today.

Such was the tale told at the Whitechapel Foundry to the St Peter's ringers this November. Two years ago our bell-clappers were refurbished here at this foundry, and at the outset of Victoria's reign our bells were recast - right where we stood on the uneven floor by the deep sandpits where heavy castings are broken out. The scene: the organised clutter, the dust-laden ledges and the faint metallic smoky edge in the air - would have been just the same then. Now, for us it was a Saturday, and so there were no master-craftsmen, no apprentices, no fiery casting or gleam of molten bronze. We had, though, all the experience of **Mark Backhouse**, the works manager, to hold our attention

## OF CLAY AND GOAT HAIR

David Pearce  
at Whitechapel Bell Foundry



through a morning of absorbing interest.

The foundry premises begin with an unassuming neat building at the end of a

terrace of dwellings-cum-shops in Whitechapel Road. Church Bell Foundry it says over the door, *Established 1570*. Could this really be the birthplace of great bells - the Liverpool tenor, the Liberty Bell? A little cramped parlour within: cases of artefacts, and models, prints. We did not realise that we had entered beneath and between the templates for Big Ben, whose 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary falls this year. The tour began in a small courtyard

where we stood on the filled in, capped well that once supplied the water for all needs - a time-capsule, if one were to excavate down the 25 ft length of the old leaded pipe. Medium sized bells, cracked or flawed, lying hereabout, coppery-green. Bells forgotten, unclaimed; worth only their not inconsiderable metal value. An antique Burmese bell that had been traded in, but is of too great an interest to be treated as scrap, hangs on a timber baulk on the wall.

Then into the foundry. An arena of space that, though silent and still now, conveys an impression of noise and methodical rapid process, of flare and fume, and



stifling heat. Above us the girders for heavy lifting gear; around, trolleys and moulds to be wheeled into ovens, shelves of specially curved bricks blackened by firings, receptacles for bright red sand, for clay, for goat hair, and horse dung. Our guide spoke of it all with a smile, knowing the reaction; and he moulded the mixture in his palms to a goo-ey plasticine consistency. No one volunteered, but the inevitable questions were asked. *'Yes, Jeyes Fluid...not wood shavings...the horses have to be straw bedded...from Stevenage...we go up there when...'* Then with a sudden movement, *'It adheres,'* he said, throwing the kneaded ball at a metal surface where it stuck. The goat hair comes from China; the consignment was over-ordered, and they have enough for ten years. These ingredients make up the material for the mouldings. It is strickled to the bell shape by gauges for the cope and the inner core, and when baked, it is hard and biscuit-breakable, yet sufficiently flexible to withstand the pouring of molten bronze from the furnace. Copper and tin for the bronze - proportions now as ever before. The more soft tin, the greater the hardness.

It all looks as if it might be rather chaotic, but you realise that the workers know exactly where everything lives; it is *to hand*. All swept and tidied at the end of each day. One senses the long years of apprenticeship-learning. The processes have not changed, nor the shovels which, worn to shallow blades, have been handed down too.

Over there, the new-cast bells are ground and polished, and tuned. Not now done, it is true, by ear and tuning-fork, but by computer. In the old days it would have entailed a tuner with a cold chisel paring the bronze to gain the right tones. Five notes to a chord in each bell. No longer hit or miss, and the bell to be re-cast if the note is badly lost. The lathed lines on the insides of the ten new Canewdon bells, and the glitter of filings on the tuning platform show how easily now bells are given their notes to fit into a peal.

We learned about headstocks and cannon

loops which are now sliced off the old bells; about old clapper-securing iron staples that must be drilled out; about belfry frames of wood and iron. All the requirements for bells and ringing are accomplished here at Whitechapel. The only other foundry is in Loughborough.

Every inch of space used. Narrow stairways lead to the carpentry room where sagging beams and uneven brickwork provide home for new electrical cutting equipment. Stacks of crisp-cut scented wood – oak for the spokes of the wheels, ash for the channels and beech for the guards. Ash for the curved stays. On the wall are little wooden plaques recording those who have worked and died here – man and boy, and the tea-lady.

Then it is back to the low-ceilinged attic where hand bells are polished and tuned, and the leather straps fitted. Someone pointed out a bone. *For polishing the leather edges.* Of course! That expression: *boning something up*. It should have been a goose bone, but it was not. Such old-fashionedness seemed to sum up the essence of this place. It is part of a continuity of history.

**Helen Ruberry** had organised our tour and a great success it was. **David Burbidge** had planned further pleasures for us with lunch at a Limehouse riverside pub where the high-water of the Thames slurped and splashed at the very window panes. Then we rang the ten bells of St Anne's. It is a Hawksmoor church. The bells rang very sweetly and the tower rooms and the great space above the roof were very impressive, though an archdeacon might have been alarmed at the prospect of repairs.

The day was altogether memorable. We thank those who organised, and those at Whitechapel who now, and as they have in the past, enable our bells to peal out for Christmas, and for every week of our town's life. ❖

**More photos on p16 →**



*photos: Helen Ruberry*

Frankly, my expectations on attending my first concert given by the Bridgewater Band (as it then was) were not all that high. I have experienced too often little *local* orchestras with faulty intonation and ill-coordinated ensemble; judge of my amazement then when I found I was listening to a truly high-class orchestra (now renamed the Bridgewater Sinfonia) playing with the professional qualities more likely to be found in a big city.

Berkhamsted should be truly proud to find itself host to such a splendid group. Why go to all the expense and hassle of a trip to London for a concert when first-class playing can be heard in the Parish church? The lack of a decent concert-hall is the only concession that has to be made,

## A TRULY HIGH-CLASS ORCHESTRA

**Antony Hopkins** in praise of  
Bridgewater Sinfonia

forcing the players to be unduly cramped; nevertheless, under the admirable direction of **Adrian Davis**, they achieve wonders, deserving the widest support. As an added delight,

internationally acclaimed soloists are often engaged to play concertos with them.

*Antony Hopkins*

*Composer, writer and broadcaster **Antony Hopkins**, CBE, has given the orchestra great support and encouragement since its inception over ten years ago. In gratitude, Bridgewater Sinfonia made him an Honorary Member of the orchestra, at an informal ceremony held shortly before the concert on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008.*



From left: Adrian Davis, Antony Hopkins and Sidney Perera

*photo: John Abbott*

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It is the custom for a Bridgewater Sinfonia concert to start with a relatively short piece to set the mood and act as an introduction to the serious business of the evening.

The November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 concert opened with Sibelius' *Karelia Suite*, played with vigour and attention to detail. The strings seemed a little tentative and uncoordinated at first – perhaps they were missing two important regular players, whose contribution to the evening was yet to come - but soon settled into stride, and the horns are particularly to be congratulated for tone and accuracy in the opening stages. It was a lively and enjoyable performance of an old favourite.

For the second work of the evening, **Philippa Schofield** and **Stuart James** were introduced as *our own* principal 'cellist and leader of the orchestra respectively, and that is indeed what they are. It is a source of great pride and satisfaction that Berkhamsted not only has its own symphony orchestra but can also, from among the regular players in that orchestra, produce two soloists of this calibre. That they are both well known to Bridgewater audiences added a further pleasurable dimension to this performance of Brahms' *Double Concerto for Violin and 'Cello*.

From the start, the empathy and almost symbiotic relationship between the two players and their instruments was obvious: the 'cello started a phrase and the violin finished it, the two wove their own pattern in front of the orchestral scoring, their communication was total. Brahms' orchestral colouring is rich, and the orchestra did it full justice. The strings had by now lost all hesitation; the opening was rhythmic and incisive and gave a promise of excitement and commitment which was fulfilled throughout. Unfortunately the physical structure of the church – neither a stage nor a raked auditorium - meant that at times the soloists were lost in the orchestral sound, and one had to re-tune to them. However, these days we are too

## LIVELY AND ENJOYABLE

Kate Perera reviews  
Bridgewater Sinfonia

used to artificial recording techniques which dictate how we should listen to music. This work is more of a *concerto grosso* where the solo instruments grow out of the orchestra

rather than standing in front of them – a highly appropriate image given the soloists' provenance. The performance gave rise to a strong consensus during the interval conversation and drinks that Bridgewater should do something like this again soon.

The interval drinks may have been taken as a necessary precaution. It was felt by some to be a very brave step that **Adrian Davis** took in deciding to give **James Robins'** *Sinfonietta Millennia* its first public performance in its revised version. The work was spoken of before its performance with some trepidation - brand new, written by a trombonist (our own trombonist), a large orchestra, lots of brass and percussion - it promised to be at least loud. What no one could have anticipated is just how much both audience and players enjoyed it all. Robins wrote in his programme notes of the influence of Vaughan Williams and Shostakovich, and they were there. So were Copland and Malcolm Arnold, and Bernstein, and Górecki and Big Band jazz, and it was wonderful, as one of the players said, to have them all there together to enjoy in one place. With music that was by turns wistful, harmonious, raucous, dissonant, melodious, always highly rhythmic and (by the moving lips of one viola player) requiring a high degree of concentration, it made a wonderful showcase for the orchestra and for Adrian as their conductor – they have pulled off a real *coup*. The musicians rose to the challenge with obvious pleasure, and commented afterwards how much they had enjoyed working and playing together with the composer. This pleasure was perfectly transmitted to the audience, who gave the performance heartfelt, sustained standing applause. ❖





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## *review* Northchurch & Wigginton

### **Stand up to Hatred**

**The Revd  
Jonathan  
Gordon** reflects  
on a visit to  
Auschwitz-  
Birkenau

The theme for the Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27<sup>th</sup> in 2009 will be *Stand up to Hatred*, and is asking us to ponder the way we treat various groups in society and how acts of hatred, no matter how small, can happen in

Britain today. The information pack that is sent out is concerned with encouraging everyone not only to resist hatred, but to replace it with respect and understanding.

A couple of months ago I travelled to Auschwitz-Birkenau and walked around both camps, but with a particular focus on Birkenau. Once you have entered the main entrance it takes about two hours to walk around the camp. It covers a vast area and an extension named *Mexico* was partially completed on the eastern side. A number of the prisoners' barracks still remain yet the gas chambers and the crematorium were largely destroyed before the end of the war. I found that the most unsettling sight was a number of memorial stones in different parts of the camp that said in the surrounding fields lay the ashes of thousands of men, women and children who had been murdered. Each section of the camp was designated for particular groups and historians estimate that among the people sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau there were at least 1,100,000 Jews from all the countries of occupied Europe, over 140,000 Poles (mostly political prisoners), approximately 20,000 Gypsies from several European countries, over 10,000 Soviet prisoners of war, and over ten thousand prisoners of other nationalities. The majority of the Jewish deportees died in the gas chambers immediately after

arrival.

All the groups had been the victims of discrimination and propaganda by the Nazi regime long before arriving in Poland. The historian **Christopher Browning** made an interesting observation that whilst Nazi racism was obsessive and pathological, it was still capable of opening a gap in society between minority groups and the ordinary population. Many did not accept the principles of biological racism, but through the corrosive influence of negative propaganda, the general population became more passive and uncritical of policies aimed at minorities if they were carried out in an orderly and legal manner.

By the entrance to one of the barracks it is possible to read the words of **George Santayana** *Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it.* One of the mistakes of the past was that many people forgot how to love their neighbours and became indifferent towards their suffering. The 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009 provides a chance to reflect on how that can happen and how it should never happen again. ❖

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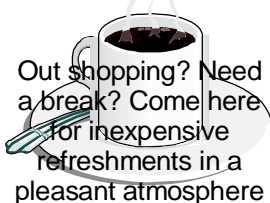
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## GREEN FLAG

**Norman Cutting** is unimpressed

I hear the Borough Council is cock-a-hoop over being granted **green flag** status for an area which is a well-kept secret in the town. For residents to locate this wondrous place, it is proposed to erect an 8m high aluminium flagpole with – you guessed it – a green flag on top. This will enable visitors and residents alike to wonder at the missing outdoor swimming pool, the recently removed millennium gardens and the skateboard park. If you want to walk, use your handy rowing boat or even come by train, you should have little trouble finding this spot. However, if you want to visit by car, then you stand little chance of finding the wee sign that points you towards the tennis club – for it is near this facility that the green flag will fly.

Like many parts of the town, you need to come during extended periods of dry weather. The small car park (where you can gaze in wonderment at the *flag*) is designed for those of us who always wear wellies when walking in the High Street where the slabs are prone to tip when walked upon and send a jet of water up your leg. The car park doesn't actually have uneven paving slabs, they managed to tarmac the area but without using a suitable straight-edge and so it is not unknown for an inch or two of water to be available to wash your boots. Just one other thing while you are in the area, as you cross the bridge towards the High Street, keep an eye on the loose planks or green flag might end up green canal water.

Elsewhere in the Borough *spatial* planning is coming along nicely with everyone running around like headless chickens. The planners are currently looking at bits of land suggested by both the public and council officers for building the *required* homes for the future. Youth clubs, garages, football grounds (no golf clubs?), open spaces, agricultural land with growing crops (transition town?) - you name it, it's on the list (even the cemetery). For some reason the town is expected to expand to the line of the by-pass.

Just think about your street, and how you would fit another 10% in. That's the sort of number we are talking about. My road, for

example, has seventeen homes, so fitting in another two should be easy. The electricity supply is shaky at best (power cuts, a monthly occurrence), the water, gas and telephone aren't bad, but the sewage system is fully loaded. I'm on the edge of town and the planners are suggesting the edge should be moved half a mile as the crow flies further out (see above). I haven't even thought about where two homes would go as all the *spaces* were built on years ago - it's a nice place! This is the problem all around our town. Look at your road, could you make a killing - and move somewhere else? You may be surprised to find how difficult it is. We have already been infilled and extended beyond the capabilities of existing services and available ground area.

You can still make a comment to the County Council and the regional lot if you are quick (I can't keep up with all this democracy and consultation). Don't forget we have to make room for more open space in Berkhamsted as we have a shortage, and for the new General Hospital in Hemel Hempstead. Indeed, this was actually mentioned at the Primary Care Trust meeting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November (OK, where were you this time?) and another meeting will be held towards the end of January 2009 (instead of the promised end of September 2008) for stakeholders (and I am one) to decide where it will go and start the process of deciding what facilities it will provide. More on this if it happens.

I mentioned to one person that we have a nice floodplain on the right as you enter the town from Bourne End and maybe something could be put there. Personally, I wouldn't mind as it's a very untidy area, not really fitting as part of the entrance to our town. Those of you who have the good fortune to know the travellers' site in Hemel Hempstead will know how well managed and tidy it is, so perhaps the planners could improve the entrance to the town in this way. Far better than flattening some crop up on the top of the hill and so much closer to all facilities such as the Bulbourne, canal, bus routes, sewage plant and railway. Even the electricity supply passes just overhead.

I trust you all had a lovely Christmas and that 2009 is not as bad as predicted. ❖

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## BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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**Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009** at 10:30am from front of Berkhamsted Station. **Traditional New Year's Day Ramble** to Aldbury and back with stop for lunch or own picnic. No booking required.

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## BERKHAMSTED JAZZ

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**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2009** at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre – **Iroko Ishihara Quintet**. Tickets Members £8, visitors £10 available on the door

**Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009** at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre – **Digby Fairweather Half Dozen**. Tickets as above.

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## BERKHAMSTED FLOWER CLUB

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The annual open demonstration at Berkhamsted Civic Centre on **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008** attracted some 87 ladies.

The demonstrator, **Jeannette Bell**, gave us an enchanting evening and at the end the stage was a riot of colour. Each of the six large arrangements was accompanied by a small one made earlier and placed at the base so when it came to raffling these, 12 lucky ladies had a floral reminder of the evening.

The Club meets at Lagley Hall every second Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm. Visitors are always welcome. Phone 864532 for any further information if interested.

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## ← p7 Chiltern woodlands

other trees. At that time this was a substantial sum of money. In 1944 the woods were bought by the Foundling Hospital (which has now become Ashlyns School) in a move to prevent them from being turned into a housing estate. This is a risk that has a very topical feel to it now as more and more land is being eyed for possible housing (see p23). In 1952 the woods were again sold, to a **Mary Wellesley** who was an arboriculturalist who planted a number of conifers. The Royal Forestry Society took over the site in 1986 and continue to manage the woods there today.

Although woods provided a substantial income as recently as the 18<sup>th</sup> century and later, today it is more difficult. Mostly the only way to get an income is to rent a wood out to, say, paint-ball enthusiasts, war-gamers, pony trekkers and similar leisure activities. This is surprising when

you think that as a nation we use wood to the extent of two tree trunks for each of us every year. Most of the timber we use (85%) is imported, for which we pay £8 billion each year.

There would seem to be huge scope for re-using our woodlands as a carefully managed resource in tandem with the leisure activities. Saw mills, both high tech versions and small mobile units, are making a comeback. Modern sawmills have to be very efficient. About half of the weight of a log used in a mill becomes sawn timber. The remainder is sawdust, bark and wood chips. Sawdust is used to make panels, paper, and boards. Bark is used in horticulture for mulching and making compost but can also be used to make surfaces for children's play areas and equestrian activity. Unfortunately though wood has more value nowadays for firewood than it does for making furniture. ❖

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## OXFAM NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

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New Year resolutions are quickly made and all too often quickly broken but three Oxfam supporters are determined to see their resolutions come to fruition. They are all planning to run the **London Marathon for Oxfam**.

**David Woollacott** will be making his first attempt at the age of 64 and is a newcomer to long-distance running while **Katy Brookes-Duncan** has already proved her ability with runs in the London Asics 10K in June for the Hospice and the Great North Run for CAFOD in October. Katy aged 40 took up running a year ago as part of a personal weight-loss programme. Now over 5 stone lighter, she says she is hooked on the sport. The youngest member of the trio is in his early twenties. **Mark Tomkinson** is also running his first marathon.

Each runner has a stiff target of sponsorship money to raise to justify a place. "*Harder than running the race*" says Katy.

Why not make it your armchair resolution to support them with a donation towards Oxfam's work?

Log on to [justgiving.com](http://justgiving.com) or contact **Jane Hockings**, the Oxfam Shop Manager on 01442 864225 for more details.

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## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY SPONSORED BERKHAMSTED WALK

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### Advance Notice

The 2009 Walk will be held on **Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> 2009**. As usual there will be three distances to meet the available time and stamina of the disparate entrants! The longer routes, about 12 and 16 miles, will start from the Court House with registration between 10:00am and 12:00

noon. The 5 mile route will start from Ashridge Management College with registration anytime between 11:00am and 2:00pm. An opportunity for lunch before or after a healthy walk.

The longest walk reaches Ivinghoe Beacon and all the routes explore the beauty of the National Trust's Ashridge Estate and the Chiltern Hills. The seasonal display of the woodland floor carpeted with Bluebells is a sight to be enjoyed on all the routes.

Walking in company among like-minded people is sociable and healthy. Please make a note of the date in your diary and spread the word among your friends and relatives. We can promise lovely walks, and your sponsorship money will promise help to disadvantaged children.

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## BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

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**Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009 in the Civic Centre at 8:00pm.** *Sarratt and the Victorian Church* a talk by **John Hopkins**. Members free visitors £2.50 on the door.

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## WEA BERKHAMSTED & TRING BRANCH COURSES FROM JANUARY 2009

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Phone **Chris Buckle** (250404) to get details and enrol.

You can come to the first session of any course for free, but ring first to let them know you are coming.

Courses include *Creative Writing, Current Affairs, Literature and Poetry, Architecture in Social History and Biology*.

For details of one-off Friday afternoon sessions and Saturday schools contact **Hazel Ward** (875899) or get a leaflet from Berkhamsted library.



# review notes&notices

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## BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI

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Joy Lovell, joint President, welcomed members to the last meeting of the year and read two poems to us and together with Secretary, Janet Mitchell, took us through the business matters of the meeting.

Our speaker this month was David Wass, a retired Metropolitan Police Superintendent who is now in charge of security since leaving the Force, at a top London store. We sat enthralled listening to his talk entitled *Shop Lifting*. How it is done and preventing it. Even with cameras being literally everywhere and security so tight, the shops still lose millions annually. He gave us good advice about credit cards and pin numbers and to be aware at all time of criminal activity. A vote of thanks was given by Ali Saunders.

During tea time the raffle was drawn and the competition judged for a favourite purse.

We start the New Year meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 at the Court House, Berkhamsted. New members are very welcome – why not pay us a visit?

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## BERKHAMSTED ART SOCIETY

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Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 at 8:00pm in the Civic Centre. *The Greatest Work of Art in the World Ever* Anthony Sinn. Visitors £2.

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## BERKHAMSTED AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2009 in Newcroft, Mill Street, at 7:45pm *David Roberts' Egypt 1838-9: then and now* by Peter Clayton, FSA, Chairman BDAS. Tickets £1.50 at the door.



The  
Children's  
Society

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Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009 at 7:30pm at All Saints' Church, Shrublands Road, Berkhamsted.

Please come and support The Children's Society, a charity committed to improving the lives of disadvantaged children here in the UK

The concert will feature The Little Singers in a varied programme of light-hearted music and songs to suit all tastes. *The Little Singers* was formed towards the end of 1983 by a group of talented musicians who wanted to perform their own taste in music rather than having to perform music at the whim of others. They are augmented from time to time by family and friends.

Since their first performance *The Little Singers* have given some 200 concerts throughout Britain. These include a couple of television appearances – a concert of Christmas music pre-recorded in 1996 and a shorter appearance broadcast live in February 1997. Over the years they have performed some 500 individual items, ranging from mediaeval to contemporary music, but it is the group's original repertoire – parlour songs and ensembles along with popular ballads of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century – that has proved most popular with audiences. It is the most popular of these pieces which *The Little Singers* will perform for their concert here in Berkhamsted.

We look forward to welcoming *The Little Singers* to All Saints' Church. Do come and discover their music at what is sure to be a most enjoyable concert and at the same time support the work of The Children's Society.

## January

SUN *St Peter's*

8:00am Eucharist

9:30am Sung Eucharist

6:00pm Evensong

*All Saints'* 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00am Covenant Service with Holy Communion

11<sup>th</sup> 10:00am Morning Worship

18<sup>th</sup> 8:00am Sung Eucharist

25<sup>th</sup> 10:00am Morning Worship

All services at *St Peter's* 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 *All Saints'*

WED MP 7:30am

EP 5:00pm

Eucharist

8:00am

THU MP 7:30am

EP 5:00pm

Eucharist

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

FRI MP 7:30am

EP 5:00pm *both*

Eucharist

9:15am

SAT MP 9:30am

EP 5:00pm

Eucharist

10:00am

3<sup>rd</sup> Mon

GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT VISITORS GROUP 7:45pm

*Court House*

Contact June Haile (873087), Angela Morris (866992) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)

Tue

CHUCKLES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 10:00-11:30am *All Saints' Church Hall*  
Song Time or Short service as announced. *Jenny Wells (870981)*

Tue

ST PETER'S CHOIR Children 5:15 to 6:15pm

*St Peter's*

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

1<sup>st</sup> Tue

TUESDAY CLUB 7:45pm *A lively women's group with guest speaker*

*Court House*

Contact chairman Val Atkinson (866792)

3<sup>rd</sup> Tue

MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm.

*Non-members always welcome.*

Contact: Kathie Lally (863526)

4<sup>th</sup> Tue

MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP: 2:30pm

*17 Shaftesbury Court.*

Tell us if anyone needs our prayers.

Contact: Jenny Wells (870981)

Wed

JULIAN MEETING: meets about twice a month

at Jenny's *57 Meadow Rd*

*All are very welcome at 11:30am as arranged*

or at Ruth's *1 Montague Rd*

Contact: Jenny Wells (870981) or Ruth Treves Brown (863268)

Wed

PATHFINDERS GAMES CLUB 7-8:30pm . (yrs 5-8) Jimmy Young (384929)

*The Court House*

3<sup>rd</sup> 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

BELLRINGING: 8:00pm Helen Ruberry (865048)

*St Peter's*

Fri

LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-11:30am

*Court House*

Weekly meetings with a short service 1<sup>st</sup> Fri in St Peter's (10am)

Carrie Wegener (865015)

Fri

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

*St Peter's*

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat

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

# review diary

Please see opposite for regular Sunday & weekday services at St Peter's and All Saints'

## January / February

### JANUARY

Tue	6	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Three Wise Men</i> ..... <i>All Saints'</i>
		8:00pm	Solemn Eucharist for the Epiphany..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	12	8:00pm	Cowper Soc. Winter Talk <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> by Andrew Houseman ..... <i>Court House</i>
Sun	11	6:00pm	Choral Evensong ..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	17	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast..... <i>tba</i>
Tue	20	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Follow Me</i> ..... <i>All Saints'</i>
Sun	25	6:00pm	Meditative Evening Prayer ..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	26	8:00pm	Cowper Society Winter Talk <i>The History of</i> <i>Temple Bar</i> by John Ansell ..... <i>The Court House</i>

### FEBRUARY

Sun	1	9:30am	Candlemas Sung Eucharist ..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	3	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>A Very Big Picnic</i> ..... <i>All Saints'</i>
Fri	6	10:00am	Little Fishes Service ..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	9	8:00pm	Cowper Society Winter Talk <i>Venice</i> by John Julius, Viscount Norwich..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Wed	11	8:00pm	Berkhamsted Team Council Meeting ..... <i>Lady Chapel, St Peter's</i>
Sat	14	10:30am	Bellringing visitors Full Peal ..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	17	8:00pm	Parochial Church Council Meeting..... <i>The Court House</i>
Sat	21	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast..... <i>tba</i>
Sun	22	6:00pm	Meditative Evening Prayer ..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	23	8:00pm	Cowper Society Winter Talk <i>Where do we come from &amp; why</i> <i>does it matter?</i> by Dr Bruce Winney..... <i>The Court House</i>
Tue	24	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Jesus and the Children</i> ..... <i>All Saints'</i>
Wed	25	8:00pm	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> Solemn Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes ..... <i>St Peter's</i>

# review registers

### Baptisms (St Peter's)

23rd November	Benjamin John Hyde, Lily Grace Moore, Jessica Sophie Parnell, Tristan Clive Parnell, Charlotte Grace Whittle
30th November	Hannah Rose Smith, Iona Martha Catherine Murray

### Baptisms (All Saints')

2nd November	Alice Elizabeth Connie Holloway
23rd November	Lily Tess Baxter Goldthorp, Ruby Elizabeth Baxter Goldthorp

## ASSOCIATION OF BERKHAMSTED CHURCHES

Telephone numbers to ring for times of services, etc.

Northchurch Baptist	Revd David Russell	877001
	Barry Cook	877001
St Mary's Northchurch	Revd Jonathan Gordon	871547
All Saints'	Revd Dr Michael Bowie	864194
	Revd Caroline Weaver	866324
	Mr John Malcolm	874993
	Mrs Ida Rance	865829
Sacred Heart (RC)	Fr John Bolam	863845
	Mr Frank Furlong	862768
Society of Friends (Quakers)	Moirra Tomson	871347
	Sandra Bryant	862 957
Kings Road Church	Dr Richard Walker	875614
St Peter's	Revd Dr Michael Bowie	864194
	Mrs Jean Green	878227
Berkhamsted Baptist	Mrs Pat Ginger	865817
St Michael & All Angels, Sunnyside	Revd David Abbott	865100
St John the Evangelist, Bourne End	Mrs S Bright	875025
	Revd David Abbott	865100
	Revd Dick Clarkson	873014

### Been to the Post Office?

<http://wayinn.com>

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, (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

Parochial Church

Council:

**Tracy Robinson**, 36 Trevelyan Way, (863559)

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

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>

Minister:

**The Revd Caroline Weaver** (866324)

## Personalities in the Parish



Answer next month

## December's Personality



**Christopher Morris aged 37  
as an engineer in Calcutta**



←p19

Bridgewater Sinfonia concert - November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008

*photo: Tony Firshman*

## Church View Funeral Service

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