

Berkhamsted *review*

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December 2009



for Town and Parish

30p



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

Welcome to the December 2009 issue of the Berkhamsted review

Climate change is back centre stage as the nations of the world prepare to meet in Copenhagen to agree what must be done. How much do you know about climate change? How many of us, living in southern Britain, can honestly claim that our lives or our perception of the world in and around Berkhamsted, have been directly affected by climate change? Yes, we try to reduce our carbon footprint, but not because we see, here and now, in our own community, the unambiguous impact of climate change. This is not to deny the reality of climate change, but to point out that our understanding of its causes and consequences is second-hand, filtered through a maze of political, commercial and media interests, for whom climate change is not so much a threat as an opportunity. We are right to be concerned. There are places in the world where environmental changes threaten whole nations. But we need to remember that we are seeing the details of this global issue in a distorting mirror where the true scale of the problem and the way to its solution are difficult to make out through the haze of political and commercial spin.

Christopher Green

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**plus our regular features,
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Cover: Detail from the small terracotta
Adoration of the Shepherds by Antonio Begarelli
(c.1499-1565) in the duomo in Modena

photo- Christopher Green

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Next copy dates (all Fridays)

4 Dec 1 Jan 5 Feb



Pope Benedict's Offer

Fr Michael Bowie
reflects on
Christmas and
tedious church
politics

At Christmas the Church should be recalling how much God wants us *all*. We believe that is why, in Jesus, God became one of us. Instead, we are in the middle of yet more inscrutable and tedious Church politics.

Pope Benedict's offer to gather up a group of disaffected Anglicans,

mostly clergy, into a semi-autonomous structure within the worldwide Roman Catholic Church has provoked a predictable whirlpool of responses. The secular media have done their best to report and understand what's happening but, if we're honest, most Anglicans and Roman Catholics are still far from clear what is on offer and what the outcome will be, so it isn't surprising that the press has made several errors in trying to report this story.

The responses have ranged from cynical anger to Pollyanna-style glee. To many of us this was no surprise. People have taken the opportunity to restate the obvious from their well-known positions. Voices from the past like **Lord Carey** (the former Archbishop of Canterbury) and **Edwin Barnes** (a former *flying bishop*) have taken their opportunity to return to a limelight which they seem to miss in order to repeat themselves. It has been like one of those public meetings in which everyone has to speak in order to prove that they still exist.

Much more interestingly, a surprising number of those who have complained most loudly about developments in the Church of England and the Anglican Communion are now trying to hedge their bets, lest they find themselves escaping from what they see as the Anglican frying-pan into some Roman conflagration. Fear of the unknown seems to be a common denominator of those who are now facing as reality the logic of a position which some have held publicly for decades.

That is entirely understandable in human terms but, for me, it points to something that often undermines Christianity. If the primary basis of our actions is fear and suspicion, if we act first

review leader

to protect some perceived status or cosy grouping, we are not as serious about our stated ideals as about the things which hold us back. Jesus repeatedly told his followers *not to be afraid* (as I've written before, this is the most frequent commandment in the whole Bible) and *not to look back*. **St Benedict** wrote *Prefer nothing whatever to the love of God* and in writing that he was also paraphrasing Jesus – seek first the Kingdom of God and all these (other) things will be given to you.

My mother-in-law, an ex-Roman Catholic of no fixed spiritual abode these days, was genuinely puzzled when a colleague explained to her excitedly that he was moving from the Baptist Church to join the Roman Catholic Church. Her question was, what difference did that really make? The important question was one of faith in God, or not; everything else was second-order. As a scientist she would more happily sit in an Anglican church which was open-minded on many issues which are not first-order (especially, for her, the debate between Evolution theory and Creationism), but in the end she wouldn't stay very long in any church if she weren't convinced of the commitment of the group to their faith in God and their care of each other.

Arguments and realignments among Christians such as we're witnessing at the beginning of this century render us increasingly marginal in the eyes of puzzled onlookers. They issue from a forgetfulness of something central. The Church, however constituted, belongs to **God**, not to any self-obsessed group of people whose interests can be so narrowly expressed that the make-or-break issue is the gender or sexual orientation of ministry.

The point of Christmas is that, in Jesus, God undertook our humanity *without exception*; there are no groups of people excluded, whether defined by colour, age, nationality, orientation, gender or any other marker - in Jesus' time we would have needed to add *slave or free, Jew or gentile*. All of us are welcome in the Kingdom, as long as we *get it*: that means taking God as seriously as he takes us – seriously enough to leave our fears behind.

Happy Christmas.



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TANTRUMS IN THE SUPERMARKET

Margaret Burbidge asks
Is advertising to blame?

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

<http://themothersunion.org>

It was a shocking talk! If you were not aware of the power of advertising on children's lives today, then the talk contained some shocking facts. Given by the MU's Chief Executive, **Reg Bailey**, and advertised on this page in the October *review*, it was trying to answer questions like *Whatever happened to childhood?*, *Who is forming our families today?*, *marketing people or parents?* and *What can we do about it?*

Advertisers are telling people including children, that without their product, they are losers. The media is a persistent and persuasive intrusion into all our lives and particularly for children who are vulnerable to its pressure. The broadcast media, that's advertising through the television channels to children, brings sales worth £30 billion a year. The average child will see 20-40,000 ads a year and reference to up to 10 brands in each programme. On top of that is the new or non-broadcast media; the internet, e-mails and mobile phones. One way these work is to encourage kids to sign up via mobile phones to earn points for free goodies and prizes, or to pester parents for that most desirable thing that is a *must-have*. Teen magazines are read by 8-13 year olds, and their content especially in sexual matters, is startling. Does this hasten premature sexualisation of children?

Should we be concerned about all this? The Mothers' Union view, based on considerable research is *Yes*. Such a deluge of media influences can lead to children growing up too soon and bring psychological problems through stress, anxiety and a lower self-esteem. Added to that are stifled development, poor health and family conflict. One mother is

reported as saying *I've lost count of the tantrums and arguments we've had in the supermarket because I won't let the girls have this particular cereal because it has a free gift on it.*

In asking what can be done about the powerful influence of advertising, Mothers' Union believes strong and responsible parenting is important. Reg Bailey stated clearly that if we want children to be children, it follows that parents must be parents and begin to think more deeply about what it means to be parents. That is what the MU Parenting Programme, running courses across the country, hopes to achieve. Children need good model relationships within their families and wider communities. With this comes interdependence, relationships one with another, developing a sense of self-worth with an awareness of others. It can be argued that this is a fundamental aspect of our faith.

There are no easy answers to the situation. Mothers' Union, concerned as it is with family life, is working with representatives of other organisations in the fields of children and parenting to draw up a *Charter for Childhood*. No laws that would be almost impossible to enforce, but a practical guide to sign up to, to protect children from advertising and to provide opportunities for outdoor play. The increasingly sedentary nature of children's leisure time is fair game for the forces of advertising. Children, parents, carers and teachers deserve support to withstand the growing pressures of commercialisation. Parents and grandparents be alert; stand firm in the face of pester power and be mindful of its origins.



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The popular view of squirrels is that they are cute furry creatures. By and large, grey squirrels are the only wild animal that many people see on a routine basis; they are very active during the day and most active in the autumn, when there are lots of acorns and other food. But for people who rely on woodland and forests to make a living they are a pest, and they make efforts to exterminate, or at least control them. In Hockeridge Woods recently, for example, 500 grey squirrels were trapped in one year, out of an estimated total population of about 5000. But what harm can these tiny creatures do to merit such drastic measures?

The grey squirrel, as is well known, was introduced into Britain from America at the end of the 19th century, between 1876 and the 1920's, and it gradually replaced the native red squirrel. They succeeded in ousting the red squirrel partly because they won the competition for food and partly because they are immune to the *Squirrelpox* virus that kills red squirrels. The grey squirrel is now widespread throughout England and Wales and also found in local pockets in Scotland. Although they are very common in deciduous woodland, they are also to be found in hedgerows, parks and gardens. Grey squirrels do not do so much damage in their native habitat, in the USA and Canada, because there grey squirrels have competitors for their food; other small mammals, deer and bears. There are also in those countries more predators who eat squirrels. For these reasons the number of squirrels breeding is lower than in England and the population of grey squirrels is not so dense. Where harm is done by squirrels in North America it is where competitors and predators are limited, such as in town parks.

Ian Reay's &news &views

Cute or Pest

Ian Reay investigates grey squirrels



However, in England, because of the lack of competitors and predators and their higher population (about a dozen per hectare), grey squirrels cause a lot of damage to trees. They strip bark from trunks and branches. Grey squirrels are the main reason for branches

snapping and falling off beech trees but, as well as beech, other trees such as oak, birch, hornbeam, sycamore and hazel are all affected. Although trees are not usually killed by their activities, growth is slowed down, the trees are

disfigured and the value of the timber is affected. Timber which should be of furniture quality can only be used for firewood. As a consequence woodland managers and foresters try to control the number of grey squirrels on their land. This can be done either by cage traps, which have to be checked every 12 hours, or by poison left in specially designed hoppers. Warfarin, an anti-coagulant, is used as a poison; this kills the squirrel but is not a threat to those animals that predate squirrels, such as birds or badgers. A mammal the size of a dog would need to eat 40 squirrels a day for a week to be affected by the Warfarin in the dead animal and birds have a metabolism that is not affected by Warfarin.

Control by an individual landowner cannot be permanently successful however. Squirrels can disperse rapidly (a mile a day), so to be successful control needs to be undertaken on a more widespread, landscape scale. The Forestry Commission can give grants to help woodland managers control their squirrel population, but because squirrels are so popular the Commission is reluctant to do this on a large scale. So despite the problems it causes there is no imminent danger of the grey squirrel being eradicated from our countryside. ❖

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After the record breaking success of this year's Petertide events, the Petertide committee are already looking to build on that success going into 2010. Last year **£10,950** was raised for *Reach Out Projects* and *Fundacion Juconi*, however the committee believe that with your help they can beat that total.

As is traditional for Petertide events, money raised will once again be going to good causes at home and abroad. In 2010, the home charity is **Berko Astro**. This is the one-off project for an all-weather

sports pitch at Ashlyns School, which will have many benefits for the whole town of Berkhamsted. The pitch will be available for use to Ashlyns students and all Berkhamsted state schools, including Thomas Coram and Victoria. This means 2,000 children between the ages of 5 and 19 will benefit. Outside of school hours, the pitch will be used by Berkhamsted Raiders FC and will be available to others as well. A wide variety of sports will also be played on the pitch and the facility will include changing rooms, a canteen and classroom facilities for lessons. The Overseas charity for 2010 is **Karunashraya Cancer Hospice** in Bangalore, India. It offers a free service to cancer sufferers and runs solely on donations. The day-to-day running of the hospice provides nursing care, emotional,

PITCHING IN FOR PETERTIDE 2010

Sam Limbert writes



Saturday 12th June 2010

**in and around
St Peter's Church**

spiritual and financial support for patients and their families. There is a team of nursing staff at the hospice and a team of community *Home Care* nurses who provide an

invaluable service to sufferers. They face many challenges each day so need donations to keep going. As before, both causes were nominated by parishioners and we have strong links with both. Last year saw a number of different and sociable events take place for the Petertide Fair charities, and the coming year will see more events than ever. The

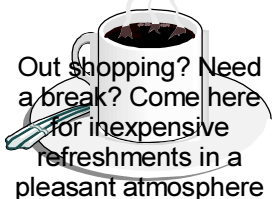
Fair itself is on **Saturday 12th June 2010**, but there is plenty to look forward to before then. There's the possibility of another wine tasting, a fund-raiser at the Gatsby, an Indian Bollywood night and the return of **Chris Garrick** after his great concert this year. The **Chandos Ensemble** will also be giving a concert in St Peter's, and the patronal lunch and a promises auction are all being readied for Petertide 2010. As you can see, there is a lot to look forward to. Like last year, I will be regularly writing in the *review* keeping you updated with Petertide Fair 2010 and the events surrounding it. A big thank you to everyone who helped make 2009 a record breaking year. We hope to see you back for 2010 helping to make it another record year.

<http://petertidefair.org.uk>



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Liz Jackson writes: *This poem was written by a peace-keeping soldier serving overseas. Maybe as you read this you will spare a thought and a prayer for our servicemen and women serving in dangerous parts of the world and for their families spending Christmas without them.*

It's Christmas Day

T'was the night before Christmas, he
lived all alone

In a one bedroom house made of plaster
and stone.

I had come down the chimney with
presents to give

And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about. A strange sight I did
see

No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree,

No stocking by the mantel, just boots
filled with sand.

On the wall hung pictures of far distant
lands

With medals and badges, awards of all
kinds.

A sober thought came through my mind,

For this house was different, it was dark
and dreary

I'd found the home of a soldier once I
could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one
bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, the room in such
disorder,

Not how I pictured a lone British soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read

Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a
bed?

I realised the families that I saw this night
Owed their lives to these soldiers who
were willing to fight.

Soon round the world children would play

And grownups would celebrate a bright
Christmas Day.

They all enjoy freedom each month of the
year

Because of the soldiers like the one lying
here.

I couldn't but wonder how many were
alone

On a cold Christmas eve in a land far
from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my
eye.

I dropped on my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough
voice,

Santa don't cry, this life is my choice,

I fight for freedom. I don't ask for more,

My life is my God, my country my corps.

The soldier rolled over and drifted to
sleep.

I couldn't control it - I continued to weep.

I kept watch so silent and still

And we both sat and shivered from the
cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold dark
night

This guardian of honour so willing to
fight.

Then the soldier rolled over with a voice
soft and pure

Whispered, *Santa it's Christmas day.*
All is secure.

One look at my watch and I knew he was
right.

Merry Christmas my friend and to all a
good night. ❖

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Our Church First School has had reason to celebrate after being deemed outstanding by two sets of inspectors. Victoria Church of England First School and Nursery was rated Outstanding – which is the highest rating possible – by Ofsted inspectors for the second time in three years. Of the 33 areas inspected in July, 32 were given top marks* - and the good news didn't stop there!

A second inspection in September of RE, Worship and the personal development of pupils, by the National Society for the Promotion of Religious Education, concluded that since the school is constantly taking action to enhance its effectiveness as a Church school, it has no significant areas to focus on for development.

Headteacher **Anna Brown** said: *This is a fantastic double endorsement for the school. We are absolutely thrilled and really proud. It's the culmination of three years' very focused work by the whole school team from staff and Governors to parents and children, all of whom I'd like to thank. Perhaps one of the reasons behind our success is that we never stand still. There are always more places to go and more things we can do.*

Ofsted inspectors said of the school: *Pupils personal development and well-being, including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding are exceptionally strong. A very powerful climate of caring for others permeates what is provided, which is reflected in pupils' attitudes and the school's strong Church of England links. This also stems from an outstanding curriculum that, alongside its academic strengths, includes excellent planning in personal, social, health and citizenship education.*

The report from the religious education visit, which is a statutory Inspection of Anglican schools known as Section 48, went even further.

OUTSTANDING! OUTSTANDING!

Double endorsement for
Victoria School
Cathy Salmon writes



Head teacher "Mrs Brown" as pictured on the Victoria School website:
<http://www.victoria.herts.sch.uk>

It described the quality of pupils' spiritual development as *exceptional* and graded the school outstanding in all four of its categories - effectiveness of RE teaching, impact of collective worship, meeting the needs of all

learners through its distinctive Christian character and effectiveness of the school's leadership and management. It stated: *Pupils achieve the highest standards in their learning and personal development because Christian values are at the root of everything the school does. They shape the ideals to which pupils and adults aspire, the principles on which they are encouraged to judge what is fair and true and the manner in which they are taught and cared for.*

It continued: *Pupils understand what Christian values mean in daily life. They confidently draw on the teachings of Jesus to explain their commitment to*

Fairtrade and the community they support in Peru. It is clear this is more than a general concern for humanity but deeply held convictions about their own responsibilities.

Jon Reynolds, diocesan director of education, said: *In my experience, and speaking as an Ofsted and Section 48 inspector myself, those words: "No significant areas for development" are unprecedented. That's quite an achievement. This truly is an outstanding school.*

Chair of Governors, **Rowena Pike**, added: *One couldn't ask for better inspection reports; they are superb and a tribute to the dedication and the hard work of all those involved in the school over the last three years. On behalf of all the Governors I would like to congratulate Mrs Brown and the whole school team on these achievements and to say thank you and exceptionally well done.*

*The one area that was graded **Good** was pupils' attendance ❖

MAKING CHILDHOOD BETTER

Alex Evans reminds us that there is still much to be done

The Society was founded in 1881 as the Waifs and Strays Society by **Edward Rudolph**, a Sunday school teacher, when he found some of his pupils begging for food on London's streets. Today we believe that children's lives are greatly improved. Sadly, the need to protect and support children continues. Abuse, neglect, poverty, illness and mental health issues still blight their lives.



The Children's Society

Perhaps surprisingly, children's charities are ahead of hospices in numbers and donations. There are twice as many charities for children as there are for the elderly and disabled. The GuideStar website, (<http://guidestar.org.uk>) details the 168,000 registered charities in England and Wales. It shows that there are some 3,200 children's charities of which 1,150 include *Hope for Children* in their name.

The Church of England Children's Society, generally called The Children's Society is a leading children's charity, respected over the years through field work, campaigning and research. Its *Good Childhood* inquiry and its document *A Good Childhood - Security for Values in a Competitive Age* inform Government and other charities of the many needs of children.

Recession is reducing the funds raised by most charities, (another *mind the gap!*) Local Authorities have social services obligations, with budgets insufficient to do all that is needed. Charities too need more funding, in particular regular payments and legacies.

All charities raise funds, using professionals and volunteers. Events such as the sponsored Berkhamsted Walk, celebrity dinners, parachuting from airplanes, abseiling down buildings, walking the Great Wall, and appeals on the radio are all sources of income. About 80% of this income reaches the front line of services; the rest pays for publicity to induce us to make donations,

You may already support a charity, or charities, that have touched your life. You

could further your generosity by making donations to The Children's Society, inspired by appreciating the relevance and scale of its work for children.

As examples, the *Genesis Project* works in London schools where teachers struggle with children who together have 45 or more first languages other than English, and who come from all sorts of deprived backgrounds. The children have anxieties over

conflict, poverty, family values, making and keeping friends, and health issues, let alone their school work. *Genesis* works in the schools, with parents, the Young Offending Service and statutory agencies. The object is to integrate the children into society as valued citizens.

In the West Midlands, the *Young Refugees and Asylum Seekers Project* works with refugee children who have suffered upheaval in their home country. They have to cope with the asylum process and face isolation and discrimination as they try to settle in schools and communities. The Society helps them and never turns away. Other examples of the Society's work and how to donate are in the website, <http://childrenssociety.org.uk>

Christmas is nearly upon us. The Children's Society's work will not stop over the festive season, not least because many children will not be sharing the joys of the celebration of Christ's birth. You can help immediately, hopefully joyfully, by buying the Society's Christmas cards and becoming a house box holder for your small change. The children's service on Christmas Eve is an opportunity to give thanks for our good fortune by donating to the plate collection for the Children's Society. **The Berkhamsted Walk on Sunday 9th May 2010**, (how the seasons fly by), raises hundreds of pounds for the Society. Please take part in it by sponsoring, walking or helping in its organisation.

We wish you a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year, and let us all be mindful of the needs of innocent children.



In last month's *review* Christopher Green looked at war memorials in and around our town and asked if there were any others than those he mentioned. Yes, there is one. As recently as five years ago a memorial was erected by the Royal British Legion just inside the cemetery gate off Rectory Lane. A simple stone placed against the wall behind a small paved area commemorates by name the 27 servicemen who are buried in the

cemetery and whose graves are marked by a War Graves Commission gravestone. It bears the simple inscription '*Lest we forget*'. The 27 gravestones themselves are easy to find because they are regularly cleaned by the War Graves Commission and so stand out from the rest. They are all of a similar basic design – the same as was used for all the hundreds of thousands of 1st World War graves that are to be found in the numerous cemeteries around the battlefields of the Western Front. Every year the Legion lays poppies on each of them.

It can be interesting and quite moving to look round our neglected and vandalised cemetery. In legal terms it is classified as a churchyard, but we all know it as Three Close Lane Cemetery. Apart from the official war graves there are graves to other servicemen buried there. Most important of these is that of **General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien**. He fought in campaigns in no less than five different wars – against the Zulus (see *review* 2006) and later the Boers in South Africa, in Egypt, in the Sudan and finally in France; yet he managed to survive, eventually dying in his bed in Berkhamsted in 1930. When commanding

MEMORIALS AND EPITAPHS

John Cook ponders
among the gravestones



the British army before the battle of Le Cateau in 1914, he had to decide whether or not to retreat in front of the advancing German army. He famously gathered his staff together and said "*Gentlemen, we will stand and fight*", which they did, and these words can be found inscribed on his gravestone.

There are others gravestones reminding us of our imperial past, such as one to an officer in the Bengal Lancers, complete with bronze

regimental badge; and apart from the fighting forces there is a gravestone to a Captain in the Berkhamsted and Northchurch Volunteer Fire Brigade, again with metal badge.

Some 25 years ago the local Archaeological Society did a complete survey of all the gravestones in our churchyards, recording the location of each and the inscriptions, and they gave a copy of the record they made to St Peter's (*now available on the Parish website*). It is just as well they made it when they did, because since then there has been considerable deterioration in many of them, due to vandalism and weather. Also a lot of the stones are now streaked and blackened by the growth of algae, a phenomenon that I think has only arisen to any extent since the Clean Air Act. This is a pity because the inscriptions on them are less easy or impossible to read now.

Some of the carvings and engraved inscriptions are of high quality design and workmanship. You can find yourself spending a lot of time trying to read them and seeing how changing attitudes to death over the years are reflected in them.

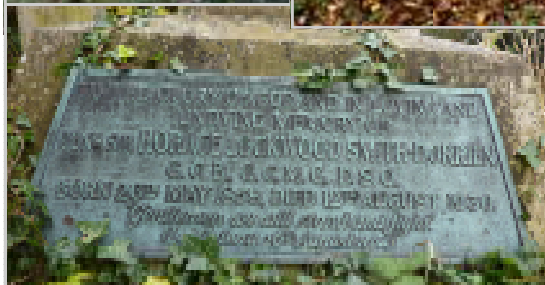
←p15 Memorials and Epitaphs

Early on people just died; then in the second half of the 19th century some people *passed away*, others *passed over*. One was *called suddenly away*, others *entered into rest*. Some inscriptions say a little about the deceased character. I like particularly one expressed in just four words: *Lived respected, died regretted*. It is difficult not to be touched by all this, and the pity is it is mostly slowly perishing with the passage of time. Wouldn't it be good if some effort could be organised to try and preserve the best and most historic, such as that of Smith-

Dorrien and the large monument to the Cooper family who were so important in the industrial history of Berkhamsted; and also before it is too late surely a photographic record should be made.

Turning to the old churchyard by the side of St Peter's, most of the gravestones were removed donkey's years ago, but a few were left standing and some others laid flat. A number of these can still be found on both sides of the church. Of particular interest to me is the one by the top of the steps up from the car park. It is *to Mr John Cook, Butler at Haresfoot*.

Once one of Berkhamsted's major houses (now demolished), *Haresfoot* was the home of the Smith-Dorrien family, and they had a household of servants. I expect the senior of these, the butler, would always have been referred to as *Mr* by the others, even after his death, hence the *Mr* on his gravestone. In this age when we are urged to re-cycle everything we can, I wonder if in due course this stone, with a minimum of alteration to the inscription, might be re-used. ❖





←p13

Celebrations at Victoria School



**Fr Michael's
50th birthday
celebrations**



photos: Philippa Seldon, Rowena Pike & Tony Firshman

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Some months ago Alex Evans wrote a piece about *The Big Tidy Up* and why we need it. This was a campaign that engaged councillors, individuals, couples and all sorts of voluntary organisations. However, it was a one-off campaign designed to clear the worst of the litter off our streets. I asked to keep the equipment I used so that I could continue the battle. Since then I have spoken to many people on the street who have applauded my efforts and some have volunteered to join in. My immediate aim is to recruit a band of reliable volunteers, one in each residential street, leaving DBC to do the others. The long-term objective is to boost community spirit whilst encouraging people to take pride in their surroundings and feel some responsibility for the place where they live, so that each person feels some responsibility for his own immediate neighbourhood. It would also set an example to others and help engender a little civic pride. At the time of writing we have 27 volunteers but there are many streets still unaccounted for.

The most common item of litter is the cigarette end followed by sweet wrappers and fast-food containers. Other items have included baby's dummies, several pairs of socks, half a bottle of vodka, a complete instant barbeque kit, post office rubber bands (a give away because they are red) and

TAKE PRIDE

Colin Garrett
declares war on litter
You can help him win



innumerable bits of plastic, metal and rubber whose uses I cannot guess.

I wonder whether any *review* readers would be ready, willing and able to put on a fluorescent green tabard, pick up a plastic sack and a mechanical litter-picker and give about an hour of their time each month on a regular basis. DBC do quite a good job of keeping the High Street more or less clean but they very rarely get round to the residential parts of the town - there are only

two street cleaners to cover the whole town. I am co-ordinating the effort so that we do not get unnecessary overlap. We aim to see that each volunteer has a manageable task so that it does not become a chore. It gives an opportunity for fresh air and gentle exercise plus meeting the neighbours. If anyone would like to help would they please get in touch with me, **Colin Garrett, (866694)** or e-mail - colinngarrett@btinternet.com.



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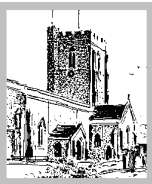
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review Northchurch & Wigginton

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

**The Revd
Jonathan
Gordon writes**

There are quite a few people running along the canal towpath at the moment and 95% of the ones I pass have earphones and MP3 players. Songs with a good tempo can help encourage you along. I quite

like songs that pick up on themes of inspiration, digging in and determination when running. My favourite ones at the moment are the theme music of *Last of the Mohicans* and a song by Bruce Springsteen that is a reworked spiritual from the Civil Rights Movement, namely *Keep your eyes on the prize and hold on*.

Last month we had remembrance and memorial services in church and the image of *eyes on the prize* is one that I find helpful when officiating at such services. It reminds us that God is present in all situations and not just when things are going well. When we are struggling it is easy to feel overwhelmed. There are times when we need determination, resolution and the ability to dig in.

The readings in Advent through December have a unique character and Gospel passages such as Mark 13 use poetic imagery to convey a sense of crisis and turmoil in the world around us. One way of looking at these readings is to ask the question; what do you do when your world is turned upside down or what happens when all the things you put your security in start to crumble? The experience in life of everything being turned upside down or future plans being swept aside is an unsettling one. Whether that be redundancy, illness or bereavement everything that has provided familiarity and security can be overturned and a new uncertain future starts to open up.

Swine flu has been in the news over the last few months and the Archbishops have

recommended that the common chalice be removed at communion services. This inspired me to do some historical research and the parish records are quite interesting. Between September 22nd and October 10th 1832 sixteen people in Northchurch died of cholera. I am not sure how this was interpreted by the locals, but in times of crisis there can be two possible theological responses.

The first is to feel that God has abandoned us and faith declines. I have been reading about the Spanish Flu which in 1918-19 led to 225,000 deaths in Britain and over 30 million worldwide. After the horrors of the First World War people felt battered, as a whole generation had been swept away. **Catherine Arnold** in her book *Necropolis: London and its dead* remarks that traditional piety started to decline as it was very difficult for people to believe that *Death had been swallowed up in victory*. The second response is to believe that social turbulence is either a punishment or that God is going to dramatically intervene in world affairs.

A good Advent bible study is Mark 13. In an atmosphere of unrest, fanaticism and impending disaster, Jesus guides the church not to interpret this as evidence that God has abandoned them or that the end of the world is around the corner. There is an encouragement to hold on, stay faithful, not be swept away by enthusiastic voices and maintain trust and hope that God will bring them through these momentous and difficult days.

I have always enjoyed walking or running as a good chance to think and pray. It provides a chance to reflect and periodically moments when you can see something in a new way or understand something from a different perspective. In times of struggle or uncertainty the refrain from my MP3 player is helpful: *Keep your eyes on the prize and hold on*.



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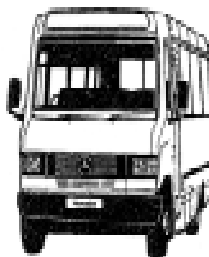
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HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Recently, several of us had a most informative visit to Dacorum's waste recycling centre at Cupid Green on the outskirts of Hemel

Alistair Cuthbertson
finds out where it goes

Hempstead. What we learnt makes us more aware of the need for careful handling of the waste we discard. Despite our best efforts to save waste, most of us will still be left with material we cannot handle ourselves and that is where our bin-men come in.

The contents of our **grey bins**, collected every fortnight, go to a landfill site in Bedfordshire because our area doesn't have the capacity. Indeed, it is increasingly difficult to find such sites anywhere. The contents of **green bins**, which can include waste food as well as greenery and cardboard, go to Cupid Green after collection every other week. The material is compressed there and some deodorisation takes place before it is loaded on to huge container lorries for dispatch to a centre in Cambridgeshire where it is processed to produce garden compost.

The paper in our **black boxes**, collected every week, is sold to Belgium for recycling. Even the Yellow pages can be handled now.

The **green boxes** should only contain plastic bottles and metal cans. Dacorum's facility does not currently allow other plastic to be processed. So although the packaging may have a symbol indicating that it can be recycled it cannot be done here at the moment. Some continental countries are more advanced in being able to recycle such things as empty butter and meat containers. An important point made is that all the plastic bottles and cans we discard should be washed before being put in the green box. This is because the operatives who sort the content of the

boxes on a conveyor belt at Cupid Green can be exposed to liquids which can interact hazardously with one another. A magnet sorts the cans

automatically into those which are steel and other metals.

Finally, we have a **carrier for bottles**. These are sorted by the bin men at the kerbside into the different colours and are kept separately in the lorry until discharged into different bays at Cupid Green. There is a good, worthwhile market for glass bottles but we were pleaded not to put broken glass in the carrier otherwise the workmen may be injured.

We were impressed by the handling of the various categories of waste and fuller details can be obtained from the literature provided to the **Bowleys** and the **Cuthbertsons** who are keen to share the many good things they saw with as many people in Dacorum as possible. (<http://tinyurl.com/dacorumwaste>) We received helpful tips on reducing waste by, for example, cutting our use of plastic bags and pre-packed products, by not buying so much food that products pass their use by date and by reusing and recycling bags, food containers and, of course, by composting our garden waste.

Cupid Green, a prize winner in its category, is certainly a clean, tightly managed operation always keen to assess new opportunities for reusing our waste. We were encouraged by the fact that the team there has someone working with schoolchildren to make them more aware of what they can do to cut down on waste. She is also working on initiatives to discourage people from discarding litter on our streets and verges and to encourage any such litter to be picked up in an organised way by concerned residents (see p19). ❖



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GRAHAM GREENE BIRTHPLACE TRUST

Writers are invited to submit written texts under one or more of seven categories. Awards will be announced at the Festival 2010.

Winning texts may be displayed for the Festival public to read and on the Festival's website.

Awards are offered in the following categories:

1. Best prose fiction writer
2. Best prose thriller writer
3. Best prose travel writer
4. Best screenplay writer
5. Best (prose or screenplay) writer under the age of twenty-one years on 1st April 2010
6. Best (prose or screenplay) Berkhamstedian writer (i.e. a writer who is a pupil at Berkhamsted School on 1st April 2010)
7. Best (prose or screenplay) Old Berkhamstedian writer (ie a writer who is a former pupil at Berkhamsted School on 1st April 2010).

Prose writers must begin with the following line, and continue from there:

“A whistle blew, and the train trembled into movement...”

Screenplay writers must embed this line somewhere in their texts:

“A whistle blew, and the train trembled into movement...”

1. Each entry shall be written mostly in the English language; each prose text shall be no more than 800 words; each screenplay text shall be on no more than four sides of A4 paper in a normal font size (eg Times New Roman 11pt);

2. Each text shall be typed, shall be submitted as a pdf file and attached to an e-mail message sent to the awards secretary, RGuy@berkhamstedschool.org by the closing date, **1st April 2010**;

3. Each written text must be original and unpublished, must be submitted under a specific category, and must have been written by the person who submits the work;

4. A writer may submit work in more than one category, provided that the work is different in each case;

5. A writer must also supply full contact details, including real name, full postal address and telephone number;

6. A writer who submits work in category (5) or (6) or (7) must also present evidence of status and eligibility to the Awards' Secretary along with the entry;

7. Entries received after the closing date shall not be considered for an Award;

8. Writers shall be responsible for the appropriateness, suitability, decency and legality of their own written texts, and neither the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust nor its judges nor any of its members or associates shall be responsible for the content of such texts;

9. Written texts which are deemed to be inappropriate, unsuitable, obscene, offensive or illegal shall not be considered for an Award, and may be the subject of legal action;

10. Awards shall be announced at the Festival in October 2010;

11. An Award shall be not made under a specific category, if in the opinion of the judges there is no entry which merits an Award;

12. The decisions of the judges shall be final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

For further information, see <http://grahamgreenebt.org>

The Awards will be judged by **Rebekah Lattin-Rawstrone, Creina Mansfield, Bill Ivory and Dermot Gilvary.** ❖

*review*notes¬ices

BERKHAMSTED JAZZ

Sunday, 6th December 2009 at 7:30pm in the Civic Centre. **Rory Simmons Classical Jazz** Tickets Members £8, visitors £12, Students and Children half price available on the door.

BERKHAMSTED & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

Thursday, 10th December 2009 at 7:45pm at Newcroft, Mill Street. *Excavating on Nelson's Island, Alexandria:* Nick Slope. Visitors £1.50 on the door.

BERKHAMSTED ART SOCIETY

Monday, 30th November 2009 to Saturday, 5th December 2009 9:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday and until 5:00pm on Saturday. Art Exhibition. Wide selection of pictures in all media, ceramics and three dimensional work to view and for sale. No charge.

Festival of Light 2009

Sunday 6th December

Stalls will open and the Watford & Eclipse Majorettes will be on the march at 3:00pm. The Ashlyns School Big Band will be there and for the first time we welcome the Gospel Choir with 200 voices to sing for us at 4.00pm. The lights will be turned on by the Mayor at 4:45 pm and Father Christmas will arrive at 5:00pm led by the Ashlyns School Samba Band. There will be more stalls and space than ever, with the event extending along the High Street to St Peter's Church.

Please come and support all your local charities and have a wonderful start to Christmas.

BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Wednesday, 9th December 2009 at 8:00pm *A presentation of short talks, quiz and social evening* in the Civic Centre. Visitors £2.50 at the door

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Friday, 1st January 2010 at 10:30am in front of Berkhamsted Station. *Circular walk to Aldbury with stop for lunch/own picnic.* No charge.

BERKHAMSTED FILM SOCIETY

Monday, and Tuesday 7th and 8th December 2009 at 8:00pm *Tibet: Cry of the Snow Lion*

Monday, 14th December 2009 at 8:00pm *Dean Spanley:* a wonderfully cast, witty and unusual tale.

At Civic Centre Visitors £5 at the door. For details of membership contact Membership Secretary 863155.

BERKHAMSTED WEA

Friday, 4th December 2009 12-2:30pm at the Friends' Meeting House. *Victorian Architecture- the battle of the styles: Classical versus Gothic Andy Styles.* £10.

BERKHAMSTED MUSIC SOCIETY

Saturday, 12th December 2009 at 8:00pm at Civic Centre. **James Turnbull - oboe & Elizabeth Burgess - piano** including Schumann: *Romances* Op94: Saint-Saens: *Rhapsody in B minor* Op79, etc. Visitors £12, Dacorum Card £10, Under 18s free at the door.

*review*notes¬ices

ASHLYNS SCHOOL

Sunday, 13th December 2009 at 3:00pm.
In School Chapel, Carol Concert. Retiring collection.

FRIENDS OF ASHRIDGE NATIONAL TRUST

Sunday, 6th December 2009 10:00am – 4:00pm. Ashridge Monument Centre. Sale of local produce, crafts, gifts, cards and refreshments.

Sunday, 27th December 2009 10:00am to 12:00noon. Gentle Post-Christmas Walk, mince pies and wine/soft drinks at the end. Members £4, visitors £5 U16s. £3. Prior booking essential, phone 851277.

DACORUM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sunday, 13th December 2009 at 3:30pm in Centenary Hall, Kings Road. Music for the festive season with **Bridgewater School Chamber Choir**. Conductor **Thomas Loten**. £10 Concessions £7, under 18s free.

ENGLISH PHILHARMONIA CHAMBER CHOIR

Saturday 19th December 2009 at 7:30 pm in St Peter's Church. (formerly Gaudeamus)

HOSPICE OF ST FRANCIS

Sunday 6th December 2009 10:00am in Hemel Hempstead. *Santa Dash*. This year the Hospice is looking for 400 Santas to dash. To find out more visit <http://www.stfrancis.org.uk> or call on 869555

Monday 14th December 2009 8:00pm at Sacred Heart Church, Park Street, Berkhamsted. Annual Carol Service. All welcome. Free entry. collection during service.

BERKHAMSTED ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET

Saturday 5th December 2009 9:30am-4:30pm and **Sunday 13th December 2009** 9:30am-2:00pm *Christmas Markets*. Jewellery, ceramics, quilts, wooden items, cards, children's clothes and toys, candles, glassware. For details contact Claire (0795 1943 101) or claire@artbyclaire.com

BEDS & HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Riders and walkers participating from St Peter's in the Annual Sponsored Bike 'n Hike raised £2,197 which with tax refunded through Gift Aid should become **£2,500**. Congratulations to all who took part. Overall the Trust is hoping that the event will once again raise over £100,000.

MORETHANAMAMA

Wednesday 9th December 2009 7:30-9:30pm. Berkhamsted Town Hall Christmas Fayre - Local artists and businesses. Homemade cakes, baby/children's goods, handcrafted items and much more. More information on <http://tinyurl.com/morethanamama>

HIRE OF HALLS

**To book a Parish Hall please
contact**

Jean Green (878227)
for St Peter's Court House

Jenny Ginn (866476)
for All Saints' Halls

December

SUN *St Peter's*

8:00am Eucharist

9:30am Sung Eucharist

6:00pm Evensong

All Saints' 6th 10:00am Morning Worship

13th 10:00am Eucharist

20th 10:00am All Age Worship

4:00pm Carol Service

24th 4:00pm Crib Service

11:30pm Holy Communion

25th 11:00am All Age Worship

27th 10:00am Morning Worship

All services at *St Peter's* unless otherwise indicated.

MP = Morning Prayer

EP = Evening Prayer

MON MP 9:00am

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

3rd Mon PASTORAL NETWORK 7:45pm

The Court House

Contact Philippa Seldon (871534)

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)

1st Tue TUESDAY CLUB 7:45pm *A lively women's group with guest speaker* *The Court House*

Contact chairman Barbara McKenna (871159)

3rd Tue MOTHERS' UNION: meets in members' houses at 8:00pm.

Non-members always welcome.

Contact: Kathie Lally (863526)

4th 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) Penny Nash (865217)

The Court House

3rd 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.

Thu BELLRINGING: 8:00pm Helen Ruberry (890949)

St Peter's

Fri LITTLE FISHES PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: 9:30-11:30am *The Court House*

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

Tracy Robinson (863559)

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)

3rd Sat ABC PRAYER BREAKFAST: 8:00am for breakfast & prayers. *Various local churches*

reviewdiary

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

December/January

DECEMBER

Tue	1	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Christmas Story.....All Saints'</i>
Fri	4	10:00am	Little Fishes Service followed by <i>St Nicholas</i> party <i>St Peter's</i> then <i>Court House</i>
Sun	6	7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents: Berkhamsted Choral Society <i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	8	8:00pm	Parochial Church Council..... <i>Court House</i>
Fri	11	9:15am	Thomas Bourne Service with Victoria School.... <i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	13	6:00pm	Choral Evensong <i>St Peter's</i>
Wed	16	7:30pm	Rotary Carol Service <i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	19	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast <i>St Mary's Northchurch</i>
		7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents: The English Philharmonia Chamber Choir (formerly Gaudeamus Singers)..... <i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	20	9:30am	Sung Eucharist with the Sunday School Nativity <i>St Peter's</i>
Wed	23	7:30pm	The Cowper Society presents: Chiltern Chamber Choir <i>Bach B Minor Mass</i> <i>St Peter's</i>
Thu	24	4:00pm	The Crib Service..... <i>St Peter's</i>
		11:30pm	The Midnight Mass of Christmas <i>St Peter's</i>
Fri	25	8:00am	Eucharist..... <i>St Peter's</i>
		9:30am	Sung Eucharist for Christmas Day <i>St Peter's</i>
Thu	31	11:50pm	Bells ring out the Old Year and ring in the New <i>St Peter's</i>

JANUARY 2010

Sun	3	9:30am	Sung Eucharist for the Epiphany <i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	10	6:00pm	Choral Evensong <i>St Peter's</i>

reviewregisters

Baptisms (St Peter's)

25th October Harry John Disley, Vita Clementine Edie Bennett, Reece David Neil Lambley-Webb

Weddings (St Peter's)

24th October Lee Charles Somerville and Amanda Louise Harris

7th November Mark Robson & Cheri Louise Patricia Finnerty

Funerals

15th October Peter Shields

16th November Ronald (Ron) James Cook

St Peter's Church (Chilterns Crematorium)

West Herts Crematorium, Garston

followed by Thanksgiving at St Peter's

CONTACT LIST

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

St Peter's

Altar service
Chalice rota
Church maintenance
Church cleaning
Flower arrangements
Sunday morning coffee
Service recordings
Intercessions
Epistle Readers
Electoral Roll
Pathfinders
Sidesmen

Catering
Hospice contact
Christian Aid
Youth Minister
Sunday School/Explorers
Fairtrade

Alan Conway (865798)
The Parish Office (878227)
Christopher Green (863241)
Jean Green (878227)
Sarah Dawson (871614)
Barbara Conway (865798)
Alan Conway (865798)
The Parish Office (878227)
Ron Fisher (865846)
Judith Limbert (873626)
Stephen Lally (863526)
David Pearce (878809)
Philippa Seldon (871534)
Rosemary Byrne (873001)
Rachael Anderson (871997)
Angela Morris (866992)
Penny Nash (865217)
Helen Nicholls (873162)
Angela Morris (866992)

All Saints'

Felicity White (866223)
Tracy Robinson (863559)
Chris Lumb (863885)
Kate Spall (873470)
Madeleine Brownell (862578)
Sylvia Banks (871195)
John Banks (871195)
Tracy Robinson (863559)
Tracy Robinson (863559)
Pat Hearne (871270)
Penny O'Neill (843422)
Tracy Robinson (863559)

Gill Lumb (863885)
Fay Cuthbert (866988)
Muriel Johnston (866447)

Vicky Drury (875726)
Julie Wakely (875504)

Been to the
Post Office?

Next stop
the Bookshop
then coffee
to recover

<http://wayinn.com>



WAY INN

A Christian Centre at 268 High Street

Telephone: Coffee Shop 864751, Bookshop 870768



Drawing by Mary Casserley, with permission

reviewcontacts

General

The Revd Dr Michael Bowie, (Team Rector), The Rectory, Rectory Lane (864194)
(day off Thursday)
The Revd John Pritchard (Curate), 6 Sevens 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)
The Revd Penny Nash (Youth Minister) The Vicarage, Potten End (865217)
Christina Billington (Diocesan Lay Minister), 13 Ashridge Rise (385566)
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: **David Pearce**, 15 Park View Road (878809)
Philippa Seldon, 1 Fieldway (871534)
 All Saints' **Michael Robinson**, 36 Trevelyan Way, (863559)
 Representatives **Jenny Wells**, 57 Meadow Road (870981)
 Parochial Church Secretary: **Julian Dawson**, 62 St Edmunds (871614)
 Council: Treasurer: **Rachel Below**, Hillcote, Doctors Commons Rd (862316)

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** 22 Brook Street, Tring (890949)

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

Last month's Personality



Chris Clegg on his graduation day



BERKHAMSTED
CHORAL
SOCIETY

presented by the Cooper Society

WHEN ICICLES HANG

John Rutter

and carols for choir & audience
with English Philharmonia Brass

Iestyn Evans organ/piano

Graham Will conductor

St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted
Sunday 6 December 2009, 7.30pm

Tickets: £12 Concessions: £10

Donations: Carollers: 50p, others: £5 Under 16s free

Phone 01492 304024 or from Cole Platt & Partners

The Berkhamsted Choral Society and the Cooper Society are members of the Berkhamsted Arts Trust, which is a charity registered for tax relief. All profits of the Society are donated to the Berkhamsted Arts Trust. The Society is a registered charity. No financial gain of money is allowed for making music, which represents a non-commercial, artistic, educational and promoting activities.

Registered Charity 104040

www.berkhamstedchoral.co.uk

The Cooper Society presents



Chiltern
Chamber
choir

Directed by
Adrian Davis

The Bridgewater Sinfonia
Leader: Stuart James

J.S. BACH

Mass in B minor

Wednesday 23rd December 7.30pm

St Peter's Church
Berkhamsted

Soloists:

soprano Kathryn Jenkin

alto Jeanette Ager

tenor Phillip Conway Brown

bass Charles Gibbs

Tickets: £12, £10 concessions

Under 16 free

From: Cole Platt, 124 High Street



This concert is part of the Chiltern Chamber Choir's annual subscription. Tickets are available to be purchased in advance.