

Berkhamsted. *review*

January 2010

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for Town and Parish

30p



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

**Welcome to the January 2010 issue of
the Berkhamsted review**

Travel supplements in newspapers and travel programmes on television show just how much we are beguiled by the thought of being somewhere else. January is the month when the travel business starts in earnest to tell us where we would like to go and how its wonderful bargains will help us get there. Even the *review*, though more by chance than editorial design, is full of travel this month, from Greenland's icy mountains and the road to Compostella to a walk on our own Chiltern Hills. But travel brings its own problems. Not just those of the traveller - the stress and frustrations of making the bookings and the nightmare at the airport, but the impact of so many people on some of the world's most remarkable places. At Stonehenge, visitors can no longer wander among the stones. At Lascaux, famous for its stone-age cave paintings, visitors no longer see the caves at all but instead see a full-scale replica. At the Taj Mahal visitors are restricted to fifteen minute guided tours and in Peru the number of licences to visit Machu Picchu is strictly limited. And where access isn't restricted, queues are an almost equally effective deterrent.

Christopher Green

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*Responsibility for opinions expressed in articles and letters published in this **review** and for the accuracy of any statements in them rests solely with the individual contributor*

Next copy dates (all Fridays)

1 Jan 5 Feb 6 Mar



Proper Letters

Father Basil's New Year resolution

The nearest thing to Road Rage is Computer Rage. A friend of mine discovered that he was unable to send e-mails to me for technical reasons.

He therefore resorted to sending proper letters via the old fashioned pigeon post. What a delight. Not a *soundbite* in sight and certainly not a *text*. Don't get me wrong, e-mails are very useful in their way and I use them constantly but they have their limitations.

Proper letters can be read at leisure and often disclose something of the mood of the writer as well as imparting useful information. They are usually more carefully written so that you don't dispatch the quick retort, often regretted, when you hit **send** in high dudgeon.

St Paul of course, in his letters to the young churches was able to impart not only theological wisdom but followed it up with practical applications. There is a good example of this in his Epistle, or letter, to the Romans (12.2) when we are told not to be *conformed to this world*. One result of this for St Paul is to be reminded that we are all members one of another.

We can learn a lot from the correspondence of important people in history. People often disclose themselves unwittingly in their writings and as we know the media is quick to try and smell out a previously undisclosed scandal. Volumes and volumes of Van Gogh's letters to his brother pleading for money amongst other things have just been published. Very expensive.

All that is really by the way. The New Year is a time for resolutions, often quickly forgotten I know, but my plea is

review leader

for all of us to send at least one proper letter to an old friend who has been ignored for far too long and is dying to hear from us. It can be embarrassing, but risk it. I will.

PS The recent articles on *Memorials* made me wonder whether there was any memorial at Ashlyns School to Mr Babington, their first Headmaster and also a Reader at St Peter's with All Saints'. He was awarded the George Cross during the Second World War for de-fusing an unexploded mine which had blocked Chatham Harbour. He never told me because he was a most modest man, but I have always understood that as a young Naval Officer, and scientist, he volunteered for this very dangerous undertaking. I should like to know whether his exploits are suitably recorded anywhere.

(Ed. That invaluable but not invariably reliable source - Wikipedia has the following:

Sub-Lieutenant **John Herbert Babington** GC, OBE RNVR was awarded the George Cross for *great gallantry and undaunted devotion to duty* in defusing bombs during World War Two, particularly for his courage in defusing a bomb which had fallen on Chatham Dockyard and was fitted with an anti-withdrawal device. He was gazetted on 27 December 1940. Babington was attached to HMS *President* in London. He was later awarded an OBE for gallantry in 1944.

In 1947 **John Babington** became Headmaster of the Royal Hospital School at Holbrook in Suffolk, sometimes called *The Cradle of the Navy*. He remained there until 1955 when he became the first Headmaster of Ashlyns School) ❖

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The harvest has failed. The famine has come. These are headlines on a Mothers' Union poster drawing attention to the desperate situation in East Africa. Harvests have failed for the third consecutive year in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Ten if not twenty million people are already suffering famine; it's difficult to be precise about numbers in these countries and governments have been reluctant to speak about the crisis. In Uganda it is known as *aiyeya*, meaning *secret*. Only now is the situation getting the global attention it needs.

Three years of drought have caused a massive increase in food prices, so people cannot afford to buy even basic commodities. Livestock are dead or dying, valuable seed has been wasted and families are foraging for whatever they can find to eat. Those who earn their living from subsistence farming have been hit the hardest.

Mothers' Union has over a million members in these countries, spread over the whole area, and knows at first hand the reality of the situation. A report from Bondo Diocese in Kenya said this: *The drought has resulted in severe famine and diseases; many people have lost lives. People have been preparing their farms for the long rains season and have planted at least three times awaiting for rains to come, but in vain. And from Uganda; People are dying. People are pulling leaves from the trees and boiling them and eating them. Because there is nothing else.*

The Mothers' Union Relief Fund was set up to respond quickly to crisis situations like this, sending money immediately to where it is needed. The Mothers' Union has already sent £159,000 to the region since January this year, and that is

THE RAIN THAT DOESN'T COME

Margaret Burbidge writes



<http://themothersunion.org>

£35,000 more than was sent worldwide from the Relief Fund in 2008. The need is enormous and the MU Provincial Co-ordinator in Kenya has asked urgently for more. The money is used to buy food, just basic things like maize,

soya beans, cooking oil and rice, and a little money is spent on petrol so food can be distributed to isolated farms and villages. Some will be used to buy seeds, to grow crops that mature quickly. Surely the rains will come again. The Relief Fund is empty, so Mothers' Union has launched an appeal to its membership and beyond for donations for famine relief in East Africa.

At the time I received the poster, my newspaper carried an article about a project it supports in Katine in rural Uganda. It spoke of enthusiasm and hope as seeds were sown, but the rains never came; the small plants withered in the fields. Everyone is hungry now. Yet among the women, there is a warmth and sense of humour, smiles and laughter that are difficult to imagine in their circumstances.

It is impossible to put our feet into the shoes of those who have so little, whose livelihood is utterly dependant on the rain that doesn't come, who have no crops to feed their families, let alone sell to have money for schooling or medicines. We at this season have food in abundance and choice beyond the wildest dreams of many in our supermarkets. It is salutary to think of the lot of others.

If you would like to respond to the MU East Africa appeal you can do so online at <http://themothersunion.org/donate> or by phone on 020 7222 5533 or by sending a cheque made payable to the Mothers' Union at Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB. ❖

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In 1841, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert drove through the town of Berkhamsted. Cheering them from the side of the road was one **Thomas Squire**, who lived at *The Homestead*, 250 High Street. This house was demolished in 1958 and the site is now

Ian Reay's &news &views

A Vanished Tradition

Ian Reay looks back at
Hertfordshire orchards

agriculture in the County of Hertfordshire, provided an account of fruit growing at that time. In it is a description of orchards in south west Hertfordshire. This account makes clear that there were many orchards; principally for apples and cherries.

part of a shopping parade. He was so thrilled by being close to royalty that he named a new variety of apple tree that he planted in his garden the *Victoria and Albert*. The apple from this variety turned out to be a cooking apple of high quality. It was taken over by a local nurseryman in the town, **Henry Lane**, who named it *Lane's Prince Albert* apple. This apple can still be obtained from specialist growers. I mention this story because it is an example of how important fruit growing and orchards were to this part of the country in previous centuries. The extent of orchards was once so great that in the late 19th and early 20th centuries visitors came to the Chilterns to view the blossom in numbers large enough to sustain a tourist industry.

The tradition of cultivating orchards probably goes back to the time of Norman Britain. In the thirteenth century, Eleanor of Castile, the first wife of Edward I, planted, in the grounds of the Palace at Kings Langley, one of the earliest orchards; importing grafts of an apple - the Blandurel - from France. By the 17th century fruit growing, and horticulture more generally, had increased in importance and many more varieties were being imported. By the 18th century orchards of one form or another dominated the landscape of St Albans and Hertford and its immediate surroundings. We know this from a map of Hertfordshire by Dury and Andrews, dating from 1766, which shows plantations of trees at farms, hamlets, the kitchen gardens of stately homes, and other buildings within the urban areas of the time. A few years later, in 1804, Young's *General view of the*

Every farm had an orchard. At this time the ground within orchards was covered in grass, which was kept under control by sheep grazing. Presumably the sheep droppings provided manure as it was believed that mowing the grass instead of grazing it reduced the yield of fruit. However, the trees had to be protected from the sheep, which had a habit of rubbing against the trunks and causing damage.

Today there are no commercial orchards left in Hertfordshire although thousands of fragments of former orchards survive, including a derelict orchard in the former grounds of Berkhamsted Place (demolished in the 1960s). The orchards in this area declined as other counties, such as Herefordshire and Kent, took over. More recently fruit has increasingly been imported from overseas.

Since old orchards tend to be located on the edge of towns and villages, which are also popular locations for new housing, they are vulnerable to new housing developments. They are not, as a rule, protected. Recently, however, there has been a big increase in interest in local food and new "community" orchards are being set up. Local orchards may not be commercially viable but they can provide a local interest and are valuable as wildlife habitats, particularly for bees, but also for certain insects such as the Lesser Stag Beetles, Dor Beetles and Cockchafers.

Anybody interested in starting a new orchard can get advice from a group called the ***Hertfordshire Orchard Initiative***.

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For Michael and me, 2009 was the sixth year of our annual pilgrimage towards Santiago de Compostella.

OVER THE PYRENEES

Tracy Robinson
goes on pilgrimage

The pilgrimage was initiated by **Helen Cunliffe**, with pilgrims from the Diocese of Southwark, and began in Winchester, arriving at Portsmouth that first year and the second stage from Cherbourg to Mont St Michel. When Helen became Archdeacon of St Albans she continued the pilgrimage inviting people from her new diocese to join, starting from where the Southwark group had reached previously. This is when Michael and I began six years ago, at Mont St Michel.

After travelling south through France for five years we reached the French border town of St Jean-Pied-de-Port in 2008 as we completed that stage of the pilgrimage. I arrived there by taxi having developed a knee problem the day before – you may remember the crutches when I returned home!

It was with some trepidation that we returned to St Jean-Pied-de-Port last year. Crossing the Pyrenees lay ahead of us and having been involved for the first time in the planning and organisation of travel, accommodation, worship and daily walking distances, we were asking ourselves - Would it all work? Would the knees hold out? Would we manage in Spain with fewer people with knowledge of Spanish than French?

Well, the answer to all these questions was yes!

We met, nine of us – from churches all across the Diocese, at St Pancras around 6:00am in order to catch an early Eurostar to Paris where we crossed by Metro (complete with rucksacks and large bags!) from Gare du Nord to Montparnasse and there boarded the TGV for Bayonne. We eventually arrived at our hotel twelve hours later, and were joined by the wife of one of our group who was to transport our

bags from hotel to hotel in her car and to meet up with us in the evenings. (In previous years we had to organise taxis to take our bags on each day – this was much easier)!

The next day the walking began, after buying lunch supplies and having pilgrimage passports stamped at the office, we left by the Port d'Espagne, pausing there for our prayers before the start of the pilgrimage. With a short day ahead and little climbing before we arrived in Spain for our next stop, we were able to assess our fitness levels without overdoing it.

The following day was the big climb, about 2,300 ft over the pass and then down 300 ft into the pilgrim town of Roncevalles. Here we arrived in good time to attend the Pilgrim Mass, together with other pilgrims from many countries, but we were disappointed at not being allowed to receive communion. This was a surprise to us as we had been welcomed at all the churches where we had attended services throughout France. The day ended with a simple, but delicious, pilgrim supper, served in a communal dining room.

The day after this saw the big descent (1,780 ft) with a very long steep stretch to end the day. There was a long walk into Pamplona the next day, the last part being through the city – hard streets are quite demanding at the end of a long day! We stayed in Pamplona for two nights, spending our *rest* day visiting the cathedral and other sights in the medieval streets of the city.

A very steep climb awaited us as we continued on our way, and our longest distance of walking as we had planned a detour to visit an octagonal Romanesque church on the way. We arrived well before it was due to be reopened in the late afternoon but we were seen arriving and it was opened early specially for us.

Our final long day of walking took us to

Estella. Some spent the morning looking at the nine churches there while others walked (uphill again) a few kilometres to Irache to sample the wine fountain (provided for pilgrims) and, more importantly, to look at the monastery. We had then walked over 130 kilometres, over two mountain passes, up and down steep Pyrenean foothills and through woods, vineyards and villages.

In the afternoon we returned to Bayonne in time to visit the cathedral before it closed and to celebrate our final pilgrimage Eucharist in our hotel room before dinner and make preparations for our return home the next day.

We were fortunate to have little rain – at the ending of one day and on two mornings, with the only heavy rain falling during the evenings and night. The temperature had risen since our researches of the weekend before we left and we didn't need the warm hats and gloves we had with us.

Best of all was the worship and the fellowship we shared. We stopped each morning for Morning Prayer and followed this with a time of silence for three

quarters of an hour. As we neared the ending of our walk we stopped for Evening Prayer and we celebrated the Eucharist on Sunday evening, on Wednesday, remembering St Simon & St Jude on their feast day and on the last Friday as we came to the ending of our pilgrimage for this year.

Along the way we had met other pilgrims: among them – a group of French teenagers with their Parish priest, a young Spaniard, fitter than us, who was hoping to walk the whole way and walked a part of our journey with us one day, a group of three French women walking together and a Korean lad who had walked some of the way with them and Enrico, another Spaniard who passed us as we walked in the daytime and we saw again in the evenings later on.

As we return to our daily lives, enriched and renewed, we pray for those we met along the Camino, as we prayed for those we left behind in our communities and churches while we were away, and hope that we will be able to continue on our pilgrimage – only another 500 miles to go! ❖



another
photo
p16 →

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At a meeting the other day, we were discussing the housing requirements of the town and what could be done about it – it seems once we are here, the shutters should go up! This developed into the topic of why people come to Berkhamsted to live. Various suggestions were made and the general consensus was that Berkhamsted School was the main reason. That was that, then.

Was it though? Round the table there were newcomers, some who married into Berkhamsted families, some who just arrived at an early age and some who actually chose to live here. So is it that easy? My impression is that couples come here to be near to a good private school, within easy commute of London and intend to shift off once the off-spring shuffle off to university. My experience is that this is the initial intention, but circumstances change. Commuting to London becomes a comfortable habit, the town is actually a pleasant place to live once the responsibilities of children have minimised, so why move? Thereby lies the problem! We are victims of our own doing!

Let's try to imagine in this made-up scenario, just how we got into this state of affairs.

My family came to Berkhamsted during the depression looking for work. In those days, Hemel was a village, Apsley had Dickinsons – with its very own railway station – and Berkhamsted was the market town with sawmills, manufacturing and Coopers. The area was mainly agricultural and my grandfather was a blacksmith. Indeed, the town had everything. The main road was part of the link between London and Birmingham. As the roads were not the best way to transport goods, then the canal brought prosperity to the town. Raw materials came in and manufactured goods left via the canal. Speed became necessary, so the advent of the railway (good chap, that **Sir Astley Paston Cooper** – stopping the Gade valley being used for the rail route through the Chilterns) caused expansion of the town by increasing trade and allowing 'easy and quick' travel to the capital. The

WHY DO WE LIVE HERE?

Norman Cutting has the answer

big hold-up initially was just how to build houses up the slopes without them sliding back down. Once that problem was solved, then homes could fill in the gap

between the main town and the big houses built along the ridge overlooking the town.

Expansion really started at the tail end of the 19th century, when Coopers needed more and more workers, so they built houses for them. The 1914-18 war was a temporary setback, but between then and the 1939-45 war, much of the town as we know it, particularly from Hall Park to Queens Road, was planned and largely built. After 1945, the town expanded up to the Northchurch boundary and the northern side was *infilled*. The railway was electrified, the canal usage declined, employment dropped like a stone with the building of the new town called Hemel Hempstead, which left residents with the commuter problem. The trouble is that our town is surrounded by green belt, has easy links to the outside world and apparently has a popular education system mainly based around the towns largest single land owner and now the largest employer. Unfortunately this organisation washes it's hands of any problems it causes. Can you imagine this, or any other business (sorry charity) building homes for its employees like Coopers did, (or Cadbury at Bournville or London Brick at Stewartby in Bedfordshire).

Now we find the *temporary* residents like it so much, they want to stay and not see things change. Indeed I was reminded a while back that the *powers that be* ought to put a line round our settlement and decide just how much the settlement can accommodate, including services, industry, commerce and population. Berkhamsted has reached that limit, in my humble opinion. The problem is that those who decide, are actually based in a *settlement* that was planned, and it shows, whereas Berkhamsted just developed through natural growth – and it also shows!

With a little imagination.....



BERKHAMSTED'S

This 3½ mile circular walk taking about 1½ hours, starts at the Bridgewater Arms in Little Gaddesden, HP4

Townsmen takes a walk in history

1PD. A detour to view the great house of Ashridge adds half a mile. To reach the start, from Northchurch take the B4506 (New Road) to Ringshall. Pass Monument Drive and Beacon Road, both on the left, then turn right, signposted to Little Gaddesden. The Bridgewater Arms is on the left with its car park opposite. Permission has been given to park a car there while you walk. This article should be sufficient to find the route but the Berkhamsted Citizens' Association Footpath map provides assurance for those new to the area. The OS reference is 993 136.

"January brings the snow, makes your feet and fingers glow". The Flanders and Swann lyric was perhaps correct when there could be an expectation of a white Christmas. Years ago, Ashridge had skating on its rink, now more like a bowling green. Today, milder weather over the festive season is quite likely (how many snowfalls have we had in Berkhamsted in recent years?) but cold winds can still chill the feet and make the fingers glow. What better then than a brisk walk to keep warm and act as an antidote to the excesses of the festive scene? A log fire, mulled wine, and bargain meals are on offer at the Bridgewater Arms for warming both body and soul.

At the back of the car park is a public footpath sign, Chiltern Way, pointing down a slope with a wire mesh fence on the left. At wooden steps, cross a road with a four way signpost opposite. Continue downhill in the same direction to cross another access road, pass Witches Hollow, and reach the bottom of the slope at a signpost, Chiltern Way. Turn left alongside hedges at the end of gardens then past a high wooden fence. Down a

gentle slope, continue in the same direction, where the recent thinning of trees, funded by the Woodland Trust, aims

to restore the grandeur of the tall trees in Ashridge Park. The path continues ahead, past a plaque, *Foot Path Only, No Horses* to reach a road.

Cross the road to a post opposite, *No Horses*. There follow the path with wooden stakes at the roadside then curve to the left into the Golden Valley. The footpath follows the bottom of the valley, passing a brick structure in trees on the left, the bridge of an ancient track.

For the detour to Ashridge, keep an eye on the slope on the right to see a log bench with a signpost close by. Follow the path signed by the post up the slope to emerge at the west end of Ashridge, a magnificent white stone building dating back to 1825. The Totternhoe stone used in its construction is soft and spalling by frost of the surface is evident, causing on-going maintenance.

The grassy path merges into a surfaced track with a *No Horses* signpost on the left and in 30 yards a yellow-headed signpost points to a gravelled track going uphill, your route. Spiked railings on the right as you ascend surround a pumping station, now below you. The track goes uphill and round a hairpin bend to reach a seven bar wooden gate at Nettleden Road, with a National Trust Ashridge Estate sign alongside.

The collapsed flint walls at the hairpin and upwards are being restored. Work is already taking place close by, with sixty metres of repaired walls completed.

Cross the road onto the pavement opposite and turn left, then in 50 yards turn right, between Vine and Shepherd's Cottages with a plaque, *Home Farm House*, on a wall ahead. Turn left at the wall to enter a somewhat concealed bridleway between a brick wall and a wooden fence. Walk up the slope of the bridleway and through a

gate to reach a white painted stable building. Turn right then left to pass two garages and follow the bridleway downhill. Conifers are initially on the left but the view soon opens up over grassy fields. Note the imposing chimneys of Little Gaddesden House on the left. The bridleway follows the edge of the field, turning left and then right uphill. Where the route reaches a copse bear right around a muddy S bend to reach a road and a bridleway signpost. Turn left on the road to pass a former farmhouse and dwellings to reach Hudnall Lane. Cross the Lane into the No Through Road opposite, passing the Little Gaddesden Council notice board. Where the road bears to the right, continue ahead to a signpost in a holly bush with Meadows Farm on left, to enter a footpath at a Neighbourhood Watch sign. The footpath shortly reaches a galvanised swing gate into a large field with the tower of Little Gaddesden church in view ahead. The path continues with hedges on the right and crops on the left, for half a mile to bear left across a field, to reach a road alongside the church.

The church of St. Peter and St. Paul has been described as "lost in the middle of farm lands". At the time of its foundation, about 1213 and probably on the site of an earlier building, the church was at the centre of a community with common land around. Over the centuries the church has been reworked, in particular adding three feet to the chancel with other changes made by the Earl Brownlow in the 19th century.

Little Gaddesden is seen today as a small, vibrant village but over the centuries it has shared importance and a rich royal history with Berkhamsted Castle and Ashridge, both in easy walking distance of the church. A flavour of how royalty influenced Little Gaddesden and its church could start with royalty founding Ashridge, an Augustine monastery, to house a holy relic, the True Blood of Christ. The relic was shared with Hailes Abbey (NT) in Gloucester and both the

monastery and Abbey were important centres of pilgrimage. Later, in 1376, the Black Prince, resident in Berkhamsted Castle and the patron of Ashridge, willed a jewelled table and a relic of the wood of the True Cross of the Crucifixion to Ashridge. While we may be sceptical today, relics, pardons and pilgrimage were the stuff of religion at the time. In 1530 Henry VIII visited a friend, the Rector of Ashridge, just preceding the Reformation and the religious supremacy of the King. In 1535 the Ashridge monastery was dissolved, becoming a royal property occupied by Henry's son later Edward VI, and daughters, the princesses Mary and Elizabeth. On the King's death, the property was willed to Elizabeth who, after her accession in 1558, granted Ashridge to a courtier, Thomas Egerton, starting a family dynasty lasting until 1921. In the early 19th century the 500 year old buildings were demolished and replaced in Totternhoe Stone by the present great house, completed in 1825. A century or so ago, Lord Brownlow had a staff of eight hundred and provided a meeting place for politicians, royalty, dignitaries and international leaders. The family used its wealth, created by industry and canals, to develop the estate, and properties in Little Gaddesden, improving the welfare of the villagers, for example by installing water supplies. Ashridge was sold in 1921, with much of the estate, but not the house, purchased by the National Trust, creating the opportunity we now enjoy to roam freely in so much of the beautiful countryside around us.

Turn left alongside the church wall and continue on a footpath between the church car park and the cemetery to reach a wooden swing gate. Continue in the same direction through galvanised swing gates to reach a wooden gate at the road to the village. Turn left on the pavement to pass the village store and return to the Bridgewater Arms where a warm welcome awaits you. ❖

photo and Bill Willet map p16 →

← p14

Berkhamsted Best Walks

map: Bill Willett



← p14

St Peter & St Paul, Little Gaddesden

photo: Rowena Pike



Consecration of the St Peter's Lady Chapel altar *photo: Rowena Pike*



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Muriel and I were having a short visit to Reykjavik in Iceland in June 1986. Muriel had considered all the possibilities available to us and we certainly made the most of them.

But one other thought had crossed her mind as the following extract, adapted from her journal makes clear.

The weather is reasonable so we are all geared up to go to **Greenland**.

We report to the Airport Terminal and at 12:30pm with fingers crossed off we go, through the cloud layer and into the hazy sunshine above. Lunch is now being served – smoked herring mousse followed by cold cod and salad.

We can see small pieces of ice on the sea now that the cloud is disappearing and our guide announces that we should soon see the pack ice and the coast. We might also see the two highest mountains in Greenland, over 4,000 feet high and some 100 miles north of Kulusuk. The visibility is fair although the sky is cloudy and we are soon cruising over the Denmark Straits towards Kulusuk, about 600 nautical miles from Reykjavik.

Greenland's total population is about 53,000, mostly living on the west coast. Nuuk, the capital has a population of 12,000. Other big settlements are all on the coast and only accessible by sea – those in the west are open all the year round, those in the east only in the summer. Sledges are the most common form of transport. The winter snowfall can be as much as nine feet deep and the square in Kap Dan is often covered until mid-June.

The town of Angmagssalik has a population of 1,200 and has asphalt roads, a hospital, a hotel/bar and several shops. There are also cars here but none in the other settlements. The doctor comes twice by boat during the summer and the local midwife dispenses medicines. Anyone falling seriously sick is taken by

TO KULUSUK VIA REYKJAVIK

**Frank Norman dips into
Muriel's journal**

boat or helicopter to the hospital at Angmagssalik. A Danish boat arrives during the first week in July but it often has to wait for the ice to break before it can get in. As

we flew nearer the coast the pack ice became much more dense with one or two icebergs mixed in. They were so white with incredible blue and green colours in them. Where they met the water the sea turned to a brilliant turquoise colour and the whole scene looked like a huge jigsaw.

Kulusuk airfield was a barren place with a small timber cabin serving as an airport building. There was no control tower so it was up to the skill of our pilot as we came in to land between jagged mountains on either side of the rudimentary runway. After making use of the airfield's very basic facilities we set off on the hour long walk to Kap Dan. The walk soon became more than a stroll and the track soon petered out. We made our own path across virgin snowfields, streams and up and over granite rocks. There are the most incredible scenes around us – the mountains are so jagged and seem to have a blue sheen to them. In the direction of Kap Dan the sea is frozen and the village is really an island joined to the mainland by ice.

We heard the howling of dogs for some time before reaching the settlement and, clambering over the last few high rocks, we were able to look down on it. The houses were scattered over the rocky ground and built up on piles to keep them clear of the permafrost. They were brightly coloured but mostly in a bad state of repair with litter all around. The potential for disease was evident because the dogs give the litter a thorough going over and their excrement is everywhere. There seemed to be hundreds of dogs, no doubt used to pull sledges in the winter.

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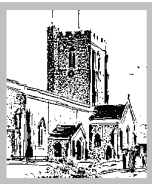
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Bringing out the best in us

**The Revd
Jonathan
Gordon writes**

I have never had any acting or singing ability, although I have great admiration for those who do. A few weeks ago we had a family trip into London to see a musical and we were seated three rows from the front. The energy and exuberance of the show was fantastic and being so close to the stage enabled us to see how well choreographed all the action was and how well the sets were designed. What was particularly impressive was that this was the second show of the evening of a long running production, yet to observe the vitality of the performance you would have thought that it was the first night. The shared experience of being drawn into a story, whether it is through film, books or the theatre, not only brings people together, it can also lift your mood, allow you to consider something in a new way and even change how you think.

The early part of January is marked by the Feast of the Epiphany that tells of the journey of the Magi from the East to Bethlehem. It is a story of pilgrimage, unintentional mistakes and faith. At its heart is the appearance of a star that inspires them to seek out the child and journey towards Bethlehem in the west. St Matthew is able to show early in the Gospel that the infant child Jesus will have a significance that will reach out beyond his own homeland and will be seen by others a great distance away. Maybe part of the attraction of the Epiphany story is that the Magi are drawn by the star and sensing its importance they are compelled to follow it until their journey's end. They respond to the light and are drawn to it and it is a light that

review Northchurch & Wigginton

has its own power and radiance. It is as if the star draws out from them the best side of their personalities: determination, patience, vision, discernment, and at the journey's conclusion joy and contentment.

As we go into 2010 a good resolution for a church is that it should be a place that brings out the best in us. What makes a church community distinctive is that it is a place where we can feel valued and accepted. A place where we feel cared for and respected: a place where everyone can feel that they belong. At a time when there is so much around us that is worrying and unstable, in its own small way, the church might just be a place of safety and perspective, a light that can provide a glimpse of different values and hope. ❖

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← p19 from Kulusuk to Reykjavik

The puppies were all running free whilst the adult dogs were tethered to a chain that completely encircled the village.

Children ran towards us as we approached the first house, offering us bead necklaces for sale. We were soon surrounded but we had no Danish Kroner. However we thought it might be possible to change some currency at the Post Office ... if we could get through the surging throngs of children. The two Inuit girls behind the counter were thrown into a tizzy as we offered all sorts of currency for exchange. It was a laborious business and the room became very hot with so many of us crammed in. The man in charge obligingly stamped all our passports with the *Trading Post Kulusuk, Angmagssalik*, stamp. He also extracted 10 Danish Kroner. for posting my two air letters.

The children soon realised that we now had Danish Kroner and stuck to us like limpets to sell their wares. There were one or two carvings from whale's teeth but it was mostly the beaded work. I bought a red and white necklace with a pendant designed as the outline of Greenland. The child was delighted at his sale and his face wreathed in smiles.

We progressed up the track towards the little wooden church which was built in 1923 by shipwrecked Danish sailors. The church has electricity and radiator heating but normal homes don't have pipe water or WC's, so their life is very primitive. At the church, our guide, Baldur spoke about the settlement of Kap Dan and Greenland in general. He said that the litter problem is something that they will have to learn to handle. They used to live mostly on fish and seals, eating them and using practically every remaining part - the skins for clothing and boots and the insides fed to the dogs. Any small pieces left were deposited in the sea. But when the Americans came in the Second World War the Inuit were introduced to packaged and tinned foods, hence the litter.

Leaving the church we saw an Inuit in a

kayak rounding the point. He gave us a demonstration of its manoeuvrability and the use of his harpoon for fishing and sealing. He drifted to the rocks, climbed out and shouldering the kayak climbed up past us on his way back to his house.

Then an old lady came with a young man – possibly her son – and they sang for us. He had a drum rather like a tambourine and a stick with which he produced a peculiar beat on the rim of the drum. He leant forward to play this and at the same time swayed from the knees. He had wild eyes and his teeth were all gaps. The swinging and swaying was evidently tiring and he soon sighed and sat down. Then Mum had a go – she didn't roll her eyes or sway quite so energetically but that was not surprising since we were told that she was 76. She had a cream dress with lots of beads and wore boots. Her hair, which was still dark and without any signs of grey, was pinned up with a bone ornament.

Then there was barely an hour left to get back to the plane so we had to move quite fast. We took off from Kulusuk on time and I don't think anyone could have prepared us for what we saw during the next half hour. The plane flew low over Angmagssalik and turned out of the fjord over the sea. There the pack ice formed a very dense jigsaw again with one or two icebergs glinting in vivid patches of icy colours. We turned back into the fjord and flew the 60km length of it which was comparatively ice-free. Then leaving the fjord behind, we saw row upon row of high jagged mountains as we flew northwards. What we saw was almost frightening, with enormous glaciers creeping down from the ice cap. Scott once said of the Antarctic *This is an awful place* and I think this could easily apply here. How on earth did Amundssen survive his crossing of the island with its dreadful ice cap and weather conditions.

Our flight back to Iceland was uneventful and we arrived at our hotel, very tired but thrilled with all that we had seen. ❖



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The newly refurbished Way Inn Christian Centre was seeking God's blessing on its new

A NEW WAY INN

Viv Dottridge writes

beginning and outreach, at the service there on Saturday 28 November. The overflowing congregation was aiming to be true to the original ethos and vision for the Way Inn - to be a Christian light on the High Street - whilst welcoming all - people of different faiths or none.

Over the last twenty years, since 1990, when the Association of Berkhamsted Churches bought the site including the Post Office, the Way Inn has provided caring, efficient service and a friendly welcome, especially for people needing to talk - often with prayer support if requested.

There have been great and efficient managers and caterers and a lovely band of volunteers.

There are now ten Christian counsellors - though they do not work on the premises - to protect their clients' privacy. The bookshop stock has multiplied, so a bigger shop became a priority.

Now the refurbishment has gone well. I was very impressed by the organisation of the refurbishment work. It was *Business as Usual*, safety and service being paramount. The Way Inn is very grateful to all customers for their patience during the upheaval. Supporters have been generous and the directors are thrilled that the bank has come up with the full loan required, so that loans from churches and individuals have been settled. The bookshop has been returned to the ground floor, with much more space and

light. A relaxed seating area by the windows is enhanced by an exciting drinks machine. The tables and chairs provide a

much needed facility for comfortable browsing, resting, reading, writing and wrapping parcels.

The upper room will be for meetings, people needing to talk or pray, stock rooms, staff breaks and so on. Everyone was very sad about losing the restaurant, the most recent manager and great cook, **Rod Cottrell** and his wonderful team, but there is now so much competition from other restaurants nearby, that it had become a struggle for it to remain financially viable. However, fortunately many of the volunteers now work in the bookshop.

I never fail to be amazed by the exciting and varied stock - the very comprehensive stationery section; the variety of Bibles, bible notes and hymnbooks; a wide spectrum of topical books, both helpful and challenging; wonderful cards and gifts for special occasions and celebrations; music and spoken-word CDs; children's and young peoples' Christian learning and support materials and a treasure trove of fun things to try out and buy. Youngsters are always especially welcome.

Do come and visit again, try out the new facilities, shop here, check out the bargains and special offers - so the bank loan can be paid off quickly!

God bless you and thank you for helping **The Way Inn** to thrive! ❖

No 7 Shrublands Road

In the mid 19th century along the south side of the lane that became Shrublands Road there were nurseries where No 7 now stands. Charles Street was already being developed and extended as far as Gilhams Lane, which we now know as Cross Oak Road. The terrace, of which No 7 is part, was built in 1898 by which time the plots on either side had already been developed. But who was HJF? A brief search in various obvious sources has failed to identify anyone with those initials. Was it the builder, or the architect, or perhaps the person for whom the houses were built. ❖



Not in his Bed

Jenny Sherwood writes:

With reference to **John Cook's** article in the December edition of the *review* I should like to put the record straight. Whilst it is true that **General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien** did not die in battle he did not die in his bed in Berkhamsted either. He died in Chippenham, Wiltshire as a result of injuries sustained in a car crash. Since his death is registered in Chippenham in the September quarter of 1930 it is probable that he died in hospital there. His body was brought back to Berkhamsted where he is buried.

review notes & notices

TUESDAY CLUB

The intriguing title of our November meeting *Fancy Falls and Clergy Copes* was explained to us by our speaker, **Mrs Sarah Garrett**. The Falls hang from the front of the pulpit. Mrs Garrett, a very gifted needlewoman, has for some years helped keep the St Albans Abbey copes, altar frontals, etc. in good order. She brought along to show us many photos of the work done in the Abbey, very intricate and hard on the eyesight. The fabric samples she showed us were wonderful and to hear how embroidery from a worn garment or altar frontal is recycled filled us with admiration. She has done work for St Peter's. On

The Cowper Society

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8:00pm in the Court House except 9th
February 8:00pm in St Peter's Church

Monday 25th January 8:00pm *Forty Years of Photographing Antiques Worldwide* **P-J Gates**, FBIPP, ARPS.

Monday 1st February 8:00pm
A Local Parish Scandal **Michael Soole**, QC

Tuesday 9th February 8:00pm
John Henry Newman **Monsignor Roderick Strange**, Rector of Beda College, Rome

Monday 22nd February 8:00pm
Geographical Globes **Bill Willett**.

Monday 8th March 8:00pm *Stonehenge - Its Archaeology and Geology*
Christopher Green

Tuesday, December 1st members and guests were splendidly wined and dined by our hard-working Committee, led by Chairman, **Barbara McKenna**. Our entertained on this occasion was magician **Michael Dix**, who gave an amusing talk on the history of Magic and amazed us with a selection of tricks from his prolific and varied repertoire.

BERKHAMSTED ART SOCIETY

Thursday, 25th January 2010

Demonstration of a landscape in "Atelier" acrylics by Denise Allen.

At the Civic Centre at 8:00pm

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.

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Monday and Tuesday 25th and 26th January 2010 *Is Anybody There?*

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BERKHAMSTED WEA

Friday, 29th January 2010 12-2:30pm
Victorian Poetry: Tennyson with David Pearce In the Friends' Meeting House £10 Contact Hazel Ward 875899. Bring own lunch.

reviewnotes¬ices

BERKHAMSTED JAZZ

Saturday, 9th January 2010 at 7:30pm in the Civic Centre. Bob Wilbur Quartet.

Saturday, 30th January 2010 at 7:30pm in the Civic Centre. Trudi Kerr with the Derek Nash Quartet.

Tickets Members £8, visitors £12, Students and Children half price available on the door.

BERKHAMSTED CASTLE WI



Judith Lowther, Joint President welcomed members to our December meeting and we were pleased to see a festive Bring and Buy Stall with plenty of festive goodies for sale. Judith, together with secretary **Janet Mitchell** took us through the business matters of the Institute and informed us of forthcoming events during the next year. Our speaker was **Beryl Hulbert** who paid us a return visit and spoke to us of a recent holiday to the Seychelles Islands. She advised us that October and November were the best months to visit to avoid the rain! Wonderful scenery and beaches with rare and lovely birds for us to view with her excellent slides kept us entertained. A vote of thanks was given by **Ali Saunders**. During teatime the raffle was drawn and the competitions judged. Our next meeting is on Friday, 8th January at the Court House, Berkhamsted at 2:00pm A New Start – why not start the New Year by paying us a visit?

BERKHAMSTED & TRING WEA

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Tues 26th Jan 2010 10:00am - 11.30am

Tutor: Premen Addy 10 weeks
Friends' Meeting House

Cathedral Cities

Wed 20th Jan 2010 2.30pm - 4:00pm

Tutor: Peter Coburn 10 weeks
Baptist Church Hall, 1 Ravens Lane

Astronomy

Wed 3rd Feb 2010 7.30 – 9.30 pm

Tutor: Neale Monks 7 weeks
Meeting Room, Civic Centre

London Architecture

Thurs 14th Jan 2010 10 – 12

Tutor: Madeline Edmead 10 week
New Mill Social Centre, Tring

Contact **Hazel Ward** (875899) for Fri afternoon and Sat schools sessions or get leaflet at the library.

OXFAM & CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Friday 5th February 2010 7:45pm at The Royal Albert Hall - A benefit performance of The Cirque du Soleil spectacular *Varekai* to raise funds for Oxfam's work with young people. The project being supported will directly benefit 80,000 children and over 1,700 teachers in Shinyanga, north Tanzania. In Shinyanga there was very poor achievement in primary schools & not many students were continuing on to secondary education. Teachers had had little training & teaching methods were poor and outdated – with teachers simply dictating to children with very few books or resources. Oxfam has been working on a project to improve teaching since 2003. Since then, the quality of teaching has risen dramatically, exam results have improved by 30% and the number of children progressing on to secondary school has doubled. With your support, Oxfam can ensure these improvements are continued and replicated nationally to benefit thousands more children in Tanzania - for a better education and a better start in life.

January

SUN *St Peter's*

8:00am Eucharist

9:30am Sung Eucharist

6:00pm Evensong

All Saints' 3rd 10:00am Morning Worship and Holy Baptism

10th 8:00am Holy Communion

10:00am Morning Worship

17th 10:00am Covenant service including Holy Communion

24th 10:00am Eucharist

4:00pm Service of Wholeness and Healing

31st 11:00am Morning Worship and Holy Baptism

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'

January / February

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>
Sat	16	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast	<i>tba</i>
Tue	19	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>Was Jesus lost?</i> ...	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sun	24	6:00pm	Meditation Service.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Mon	25	8:00pm	The Cowper Society Winter Talk 1	<i>The Court House</i>
Sat	30	10:30am	Bellringing - Full Peal (until 2pm)	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	31	9:30am	Candlemas Sung Eucharist- The Presentation of Christ in the Temple	<i>St Peter's</i>

FEBRUARY

Mon	1	8:00pm	The Cowper Society Winter Talk 2	<i>The Court House</i>
Tue	2	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers' service <i>What a lot of fish</i> ...	<i>All Saints'</i>
Fri	5	10:00am	Little Fishes Service	<i>St Peter's</i>
Tue	9	8:00pm	The Cowper Society Winter Talk 3	<i>The Court House</i>
Sat	13	8:00pm	The Cowper Soc. presents: Berkhamsted Music Society <i>London Concertante</i> Octet.....	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sun	14	6:00pm	Choral Evensong	<i>St Peter's</i>
Wed	17	8:00pm	Ash Wednesday Sung Eucharist for the Beginning of Lent	<i>St Peter's</i>
Sat	20	8:00am	Association of Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast	<i>tba</i>
Mon	22	8:00pm	The Cowper Society Winter Talk 4	<i>The Court House</i>
Tue	23	10:15am	Chuckles Toddlers service <i>Jesus makes a little girl better</i>	<i>All Saints'</i>
Sat	27	7:30pm	The Cowper Soc. presents: Berkhamsted Choral Society <i>Fauré's Favourite</i>	<i>St Peter's</i>

reviewregisters

Baptisms (St Peter's)

1st November Ronnie Philippa Martina Chandler, Lucas Frank Green

Funerals

26 November Vera Kathleen (Kath) Allen All Saints' Church (Chilterns)

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	Pastor Ray Toms	864393
	Dr Richard Walker	875614
St Peter's	Revd Dr Michael Bowie	864194
	Mrs Jean Green	878227
Berkhamsted Baptist	Mrs Pat Ginger	865817
St Michael & All Angels,	Revd David Abbott	865100
Sunnyside	Mrs S Bright	875025
St John the Evangelist,	Revd David Abbott	865100
Bourne End	Revd Dick Clarkson	873014

review notes & notices

FRIENDS OF ASHRIDGE NATIONAL TRUST

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.

LOCAL HISTORY & MUSEUM SOCIETY

Wednesday, 20th January 2010
at 8:00pm at the Civic Centre. *The Work of the British Film Institute and the National Film Archive* – **Steve Bryant**
Visitors £2.50 at the door

FAR RIGHT POLITICS

A clear conclusion was reached at a recent meeting of the Racial Justice Network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland on the subject of *Responding to the Far Right*. It was that Churches Together Groups organising a husting in the run up to the General Election are NOT obliged to follow the example of the BBC and have BNP candidates on the platform.

BERKHAMSTED & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Thursday, 28th January 2010 at 7:45pm
at Newcroft, Mill Street. *Mud Larking in the Thames at London. The City's History seen through river finds*: **Peter Clayton**.
Visitors £1.50 on the door.

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)

Director of Music: **Adrian Davis**

(875674)

Asst. Director of Music: **Jean Wild** (866859)

Organist: **Jonathan Lee** (0794 1113232)

Weddings and Funerals,

Banns of Marriage and

Baptisms:

Bellringers (St Peter's): **Fr Michael Bowie** (864194)

Helen Ruberry 22 Brook Street, Tring (890949)

<http://stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk>

Choirmaster: **Peter McMunn** (874894)

All Saints' is an Anglican / Methodist

Local Ecumenical Partnership.

<http://allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk>

St Peter's

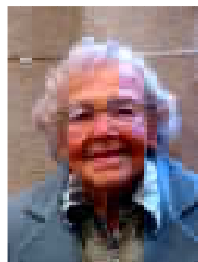
All Saints'

Personalities in the Parish



Answer next month

Last month's Personality



Nancy *rabbit face* Lawrenson in 1929



← p19 clockwise from top left -
iceberg, beads for sale, Kap Dan,
wooden church, huskies and an Inuit
in a kayak.