

the magazine for town and parish

February 2013

your **Berkhamsted**



Winners of the Young Writers Competition revealed!
Discover why Berkhamsted has a totem pole
Young Berkhamsted - our new page for kids

50p

From the Editor February 2013



*The Parish Magazine of
St Peter's
Great Berkhamsted*

Welcome to the February 2013 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

Now that January has passed and those new year's resolutions have begun to wane, we enter the shortest month. February is not however short of its own important dates with Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lent and Shrove Tuesday when many of us make pancakes. There's also Valentines Day of course for those feeling amorous.

In this month's magazine we reveal the winners of the Years 7 to 8 category in our Young Writer Competition. You can read the winning entries on pages 12-15. Next month we will announce the Years 5 to 6 winners.

Staying with children we feature a new 'Young Berkhamsted' page, plus news on how to learn about classical music with the Bridgewater Sinfonia.

We welcome a new columnist, Vernon Mildew, who describes himself as someone 'trying to make sense of the modern world'. I'm sure over the coming months his opinions will make for some interesting reading. Along with our regular features this should provide plenty to get you through to March when Spring should hopefully be on the horizon.

Finally, thank you to all of our subscribers who have signed up again to receive a monthly copy of the magazine. For anyone who would like to become a new subscriber please see p.31.

Helen Dowley, Editor

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Your Berkhamsted Leader by Canon Basil Jones



I was Confirmed about 76 years ago at St Mark's, North Audley Street where I was a choirboy. The instruction was given by the Curate, Jewry-Harbert but I do not recall the Bishop. It

was probably the Bishop of London.

When I came to Berkhamsted in 1964 as a youngish Deacon with Doreen and the children, one of my tasks as a Curate was to prepare our teenagers for Confirmation. My work was made easier by the fact that most of the candidates were members of Crosskeys, the name of the Youth Club at that time and in addition we were able to get to know each other well at the Easter Monday Youth Pilgrimage and a weekend spent together at Veralum House in St Albans, a Diocesan Retreat House run extremely efficiently and well by nuns from the Community of the Holy Name. It was the young ones' first experience of women under vows and they were invariably impressed.

The course lasted about three months and my candidates were normally taught squeezed into my study in Manor Close. The Rector dealt with the Adults and the Girl's School candidates who were instructed at the Rectory. The Boy's School were separate and under the care of their Chaplain, then the late Father Jim Lawrenson, well known to many of you. Although we had passed the era of the Catechism (see Book of Common Prayer) my lessons were pretty basic I remember and based on the Creeds. As every parent

and teacher will tell you the nurture of the young is a very sensitive task and to dare to guide them into the spiritualities can be daunting. However I am still in touch with a few, now old friends, and they sometimes take me out to lunch so it couldn't have been that bad.

The truth is of course that there are times when we can all have a unique opportunity of influencing another life for good. You don't have to be a priest, but you may be able to show a way.

I do not know what has happened in the lives of the majority of the candidates, both young and old, that have been entrusted to me for a brief moment. I like to think that I remember most of them and I certainly prayed for them at the Altar wherever I was living.

I used to give the young ones at St Peter's a postcard of the Court House, sepia then, and type on the back the prayer of St Richard of Chichester. I wonder if any of them have still got it. A bit old fashioned in style perhaps but here it is:-

Thanks be to thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which thou hast given us, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for us, O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, now and evermore. Amen.

Do you still remember your special moment with your Creator?

Thanks be to thee, O lord Jesus.

JB

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Around the town

Events presented by the Cowper Society at St Peter's Church or the Court House, Berkhamsted

Mon 4th Feb at 8.00pm: ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church - Adrian Davis, St Peter's Church Director of Music. Free Entry. Retiring collection.
Mon 11th Feb at 8.00pm: WINTER TALK in the Court House – Brian Barton 'History of Ashridge and the Deer'. Free Entry. Retiring Collection.

Mon 25th Feb at 8.00pm: WINTER TALK in the Court House – Peter White 'Recording Oral History'. Free Entry. Retiring Collection.

Sat 2nd Mar at 7.30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Bridgewater Sinfonia. Elgar 'Overture: Froissart'; Britten 'Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings Op 31' Jeremy Budd, tenor, Nicholas Korth, horn; Vaughan Williams 'Symphony No 5'. Tickets: £15, U18s free from Aitchisons or www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk.

Mon 4th Mar at 8.00pm: ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church - Gavin Roberts, St Marylebone Parish Church, London. Free Entry. Retiring Collection.

Mon 11th Mar at 8.00pm: WINTER TALK in the Court House – Margaret Noakes 'The Black Poplars of the Vale of Aylesbury'. Free Entry. Retiring Collection.

Arts events in Berkhamsted

If you're interested in the arts there are plenty of local events happening at the Civic Centre this month:

Berkhamsted Music Society:

9th Feb at 7.30pm, Civic Centre: International piano soloist James Lisney plays Liszt, Chopin, Schubert and Schumann, www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk, 01442 862798, annual sub £43, Visitors £13, U18s Free.

Berkhamsted Film Society:

11th & 12th Feb at 8pm, Civic Centre: Route Irish – Thriller directed by Ken Loach about a private security contractor in Iraq who uncovers the truth about his friend's death. Cert 15.

25th & 26th Feb at 8pm, Civic Centre: MicMacs – Crime Comedy. When video store clerk Bazil finds his life in ruins he and his friends take revenge on two big weapons manufacturers. Cert 12A. www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk, 01442 863155, annual sub: joint £58, single £30 (conc £52 and £27), Dacorum Card, visitors £5 at door, (no conc).

Berkhamsted Jazz:

16th Feb at 8pm, Civic Centre: Darius Brubeck Quartet, www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk, 01442 824173, Members £10, Visitors £13, Dacorum Card £10.

Berkhamsted Art Society:

A demonstration of portrait painting in acrylics by Keith Morton
21st Feb, 8pm-10pm, Civic Centre, Visitors £3.

Make a Mother's Day

Would you like to make another's mother's day? Support the Mothers' Union Mothering Sunday appeal by purchasing gifts that will help change lives of people all over the world.

Buying clean water, helping someone learn to write, supporting parenting programmes or helping a family out of poverty raised £150,000 in 2012. With your help this and more can be achieved this year; and you can request a card for your mother or one in her memory.

Catalogues will be at the back of the church, or phone 020 7222 5533 or go online at www.makeamothersday.org. **JB**

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Read all about us!

Julian Dawson looks at varied and surprising references to our town in the media

Christmas may now be a distant memory, but the *Berkhamsted and Tring Gazette* was delighted to report the increasing success of the Christmas Tree recycling initiative. I availed myself of the service, and have even taken back some of the chippings that my wife as chief gardener will liberally mulch across our flowerbeds. In future years, if you don't know where the chipping is taking place, just follow the trail of pine needles, breadcrumb like, through the streets of the town. You won't go far wrong.

Many of you will have been amused, entertained and otherwise driven mad by the Gangnam style phenomenon which went viral last year, originating from a posh Seoul suburb. The *Buckinghamshire Advertiser* reports on a group of "glamorous" housewives who have produced their own version of the dance raising £5,000 for cancer charities. The ladies tongue in cheek version includes such lyrics as "mop, mop, mop, we've got housewife style" and has received well over 100,000 hits on YouTube.

If you thought that at last this would be an Olympic free issue, think again! Somewhat tenuously *Hemel Today* reports that a champion roller skater who performed as a Dementor at the Olympic Opening Ceremony will be teaching children to skate at Sportspace. Amanda Constantino has also performed for Robbie Williams and Madonna. Meanwhile the *Hemel Hempstead Gazette* reports on events affecting our local canal, the M1 of the waterways. The lock at Marsworth near Tring was drained in January giving a rare opportunity to see

what lies at the bottom. The Friends of Tring Reservoirs (a fine upstanding organisation) reports on their website that the lock gates are being replaced and work is being carried out to the brick structure of this historic lock. The reservoirs at Tring, which are always worth a visit, exist to supply the water to the various arms that lurch off from the Grand Union in the area, including the Aylesbury and Wendover Arms, the latter being partially restored along its length.

Further afield I have discovered what turns out to be a Swedish fashion blogspot entitled 'I would kill for fashion'.

Interestingly they have appropriated Berkhamsted as a fashion label. I'm intrigued as to how they chose our town for that privilege, but it crossed my mind that really we should be protecting our town brand, and not letting any Scandinavian fashionista exploit it without us having a say in the matter. The site includes such postings such as "...Ellen is also a beautiful, young woman. Naturally, she is related to me. Beauty runs in the family." Please may that be said in irony. You will recall my inviting comment on what might be the oldest eating place in the town. Priscilla Watt who has seen many such places come and go believes that the Yeovil Cafe might take the honours. And if reflects, as we discussed, the changing face of catering over the years. 40 years ago and more, tea rooms and cafes (without the French inflection) were the places to have a rare treat, and no one ate out much in the evenings. Does anyone have any recollections to share of eating places down the years? **JB**

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The Cowper Society and Bridgewater Sinfonia are members of Berkhamsted Arts Trust which is financially supported by Dacorum Borough Council

Junior Friends of Bridgewater

A chance for children to experience an orchestra first hand and learn more about classical music.

With music disappearing fast from the school curriculum, the Trustees of Bridgewater Sinfonia have decided to promote classical music in a different way: they have started the ***Junior Friends of Bridgewater*** scheme.

There have been Friends of Bridgewater Sinfonia since the orchestra started in 1998. Together with the help of the Berkhamsted Arts Trust, their commitment and their financial support have helped to make it possible for the orchestra to continue to perform four concerts a year in St Peter's church, and it is a great pleasure to know that there are so many musical enthusiasts in Berkhamsted. If music is no longer a high priority in schools, something else must be done to encourage the next generation of concert-goers to join in and enjoy the wonderful repertoire available right here on our doorstep.

Entry to concerts in St Peter's is free to anyone under the age of 18, though they must obtain a ticket; however, for the very young, a 7:30pm start means a rather late night. Junior Friends are invited to come with their parents to the Saturday afternoon rehearsal. They meet in the Court House first, to find out something about one of the pieces of music being performed that day – in November, Ravel's *Bolero* was the work of choice, for the next concert in March it will be Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings*. After a short chat about what to look out for, and some discussion of the work, they go into the church and choose which instruments of the orchestra they

would like to sit with. Then they are allowed to sit right in the middle of the orchestra in their chosen section while the work is rehearsed. We may need to supply earplugs – it is a very noisy experience, but one which the young people thoroughly enjoyed on the first occasion, last November.

Junior Friends are given a membership card similar to the one Friends of the orchestra receive. The senior Friends make a donation towards orchestra funds – we are a charitable trust and can also collect GiftAid – and are given certain privileges in return: reserved seats for concerts if they ring to book them in advance, a free glass of wine at the interval, an invitation to the after-concert reception where they can meet the musicians, and the right to attend the AGM and vote for the committee (or even sit on the committee.) Junior Friends are not asked for any kind of financial contribution, they will not be getting free wine, and are not eligible to sit on the committee; however, they do have a chance to meet the musicians. They do not have to obtain tickets for concerts and they are welcome to reserve seats for themselves and their parents if they want to come to an evening concert. They will have a small section of the printed programme where they can express their opinions, and we hope that they will give us suggestions for further activities they would like to join in with.

If you are interested in the scheme, please contact Kate Perera on 01442 875945 or through the website: www.bridgewatersinfonia.org.uk . She will be delighted to hear from you.

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A history of Berkhamsted's football club

Matt Dawson

From Berkhamsted Town to Berkhamsted FC, both have had great successes, albeit they are practically the same team. Berkhamsted Town dissolved in January 2009 following outstanding debts. However the same year, a new club was formed, simply known by the name Berkhamsted FC.

Berkhamsted Town were formed in 1919, by ex-servicemen, and were originally named Berkhamsted Comrades. A name later given to the team re-formed in 2009. The club were entered into two leagues, the first being Division One of the West Herts League and the other being the West Division of the Herts County League. Three years later, the club joined Division two of the Spartan League which covers London and the surrounding counties and changed its name to 'Berkhamsted Town FC'.

Berkhamsted's main football team is deep in history and one of its most famous players included Frank Broome. Broome played for the club in 1933 scoring a massive 53 goals in one season. He was then quickly snapped up by Aston Villa and also went on to play for clubs such as Derby County and Crewe Alexandra whilst also winning 7 England caps in the process.

The club's more recent history consists of success in the FA Vase trophy. In 1985 they reached the last 32 for the first time and then they reached the final in the 2000/01 season. The final was played at Aston Villa's Villa Park in which 8,439 fans witnessed the game, one of them being me at the age of just 4 years old. Berko lost the game though as they succumbed to a 2-1 defeat to Taunton

Town. However tougher times were ahead for the club as after years of struggling with finances, Berko Town became no more after attempts to resolve debts failed.



The team's major honours consist of:

- Herts Senior Cup winners in 1952/53 and 2002/03.
- FA Vase Runners-Up 2000/01
- London Spartan League Premier Division Champions in 1979/80
- Spartan League Division 2A Champions.

The best League that they've featured in has been the Isthmian Division One North in which they finished seventh in 2002/03. Meanwhile the club's first relegation in their history took place in 1999.

In 2009, the same year as the club dissolving, it was then re-formed again. This time it was named Berkhamsted FC, having the nick-name of 'The Comrades'. The team continued to play their football at their Broadwater ground as before with the original Berkhamsted team. The club currently plays in the 'Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division'. In their first season they gained promotion from the South Midlands Division after winning the league. They then followed that up with winning Division one the next season meaning they were to play in the Premier Division this current season. This season, Berkhamsted FC managed to reach the second qualifying round of the FA Cup in which they were knocked out

And the winners are...!



Back in November last year we ran a competition to celebrate National Short Story Week and asked Berkhamsted schoolchildren to write a story based on the title "The Choice". There were two age-groups for the competition, years 5 to 6 and years 7 to 8. We would like to thank everybody who entered the competition – the judges thoroughly enjoyed reading your stories.

This month we can reveal the winners of the years 7 to 8 category. As we had no year 8 entries this time, the judge has chosen a second year 7 story which was "highly commended".

Congratulations go to...

Winner: Emily Ineson, Bridgewater School

Highly commended: Louis Brookes, Thomas Coram School

We hope you enjoy reading their stories.

The prize for each winner is a £20 book token and a choice of any book by local author Sue Hampton.

Look out for the winning entries of the Years 5 to 6 category which will be revealed in the March edition of *Your Berkhamsted*.

Winner:

The Choice by Emily Ineson, Year 7
"Beep beep beep!!!"

My alarm clock went off and I knew today was the day I had to make a big decision. I had two choices.

It is my birthday today and also my grandma's funeral. I don't know why it was arranged on this day and definitely don't like that they are both today.

My mum and dad agreed that I was a 12 year old girl and so I was old enough to make my own decision.

I don't know about you guys but I often wish I did have my own choice but definitely not today.

I don't know what to do, my party has already been arranged and I can't change it!!

"Amy you can have the school day to come up with a choice but after school you need to know whether you are going to celebrate your birthday or go to your grandma's funeral," explained Mum approaching me.

"OK thanks Mum!" I replied nervously I really have absolutely no idea whatsoever!

I asked my friends at school what they thought but they all agreed that as it was an important choice for me to make. I was annoyed with their answers because they didn't help me but I also felt happy because I felt like I had their support, which told me that whatever I chose they wouldn't mind.

This party was going to be my first disco and I invited 80 people. I was very excited to open all their presents.

If I don't go to my grandma's funeral, I feel disrespectful, but I really don't want to miss my party.

Should I toss a coin, roll a dice or

choose? Oh I need help!

I'm going to think of the positives and negatives for each choice. OK, so if I go to my party I will enjoy my birthday, have new clothes and money etc. but I won't ever forget that I missed my grandma's funeral. If I go to the funeral, I will feel respectful towards my grandma and won't have to worry about missing it. The bad side is I don't get to celebrate my birthday, so I will feel sad and on birthdays you are meant to feel happy.

What should I do????? I'm completely stuck!!!

Tears are pouring down my face like a waterfall. My brain is as crazy as the mad hatter, my eyes are stinging like they are being pulled out. Why are they on the same day?

While I've been at school I have been thinking and have decided on going to the funeral.

I texted my friends who were coming to the disco and told them what's happening and how sorry I am. Luckily they were all fine with it. What could I do without them?

I went downstairs and told my parents. They were both fine with the decision and happy I had come to a choice.

When we arrived at the church, everyone was crying even before anything had been said. I didn't want to be crying on my birthday so I forced myself not to.

I was starting to think I had made the wrong decision, though I managed to persuade myself that it was right.

It was time to go in.

We were all talked to about how she lived a great life and that she was a great woman who helped out with others' feelings and died in a calm restful sleep.

If she was to come back as an animal it would be a calm animal such as an

elephant or a dolphin.

He finally came onto the will.

This was my first funeral so I didn't quite know what it was. I asked my mum what it was and she said it is when the person who has died gives his belongings to family and friends.

My mum was given all the money that my grandma owned, as she was the oldest child out of her and her younger brother. It was up to her what she did with it.

My uncle was given the house as he was the son. Again it was up to him what to do with it. He could sell it, live in it, or give it to someone else.

My older brother got the sports car as he was nearly 20 and would need a car.

My younger sister got all her books as she loved books.

I was last and the priest asked me to come to the front and read out the speech.

I slowly stood up and carefully took my place up on the stage and read it out.

"I know that I told Amy to read this out and you are all probably thinking why, well I will tell you why.

As you know I have passed away now.

The doctors told me that I would die a week before I did so I had a week to tell the things I wanted to tell.

I asked my daughter, Emma to put my funeral on this particular day. She asked me if I knew it was on Amy's birthday and I told her I did and would tell her why on that day."

"If this is being read out I feel respected and honoured because this was a test for you Amy, a test to see whether I should give you a birthday present or not."

I had to stop there. I was crying like mad but I felt like my grandma gave me a nudge to carry on so I did.

"Priest if you have the key could you please give it to Amy."

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

He gave me a key and told me to carry on reading.

“Amy now you’ve got the key I would like you to open the box on your right.”

I did and a puppy jumped out and his name was CHOICE.

Judge's comment: Emily's story posed an interesting dilemma - as we get older we are often faced with choices between what we want to do and what we think we ought to do.

Highly Commended:

The Choice by Louis Brookes, Year 7

“Come ON Samuel, we’re going to be late!” Mum shouted to me from across the hall, aggravated.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Samuel Tucker, a regular old boy living in south London. I have two brothers: Stanley who’s seven, and Jonty who’s five. They’re annoying, but I love them really. I was packing my bags with Stanley – for all I knew Jonty was smearing Nutella all over his face in our kitchen.

It was three in the morning, and as we all know, everyone can be cranky at three in the morning.

By the time everyone was ready, it was nearer five a.m., and our flight to Vancouver Island (Mum had been saving money for this trip ever since Dad left, two years ago. I don’t see her much as she is working two jobs) was due to leave at seven a.m.

There was one more thing I needed to do before we left. I jogged up the stairs to my room and went over to my old chest of drawers, which had a picture on it. Me, Stanley, Jonty, Mum, AND Dad. That was when I was nine. I felt a tear well up

in my eye, remembering our simple, yet fun camping trip. We had all been happy then. I wished Dad was back, so we could enjoy this holiday together.

“Okay, kids, can you please be quiet until we get to the airport?... Sam, would you mind keeping them in order?”

“Sure Mum,” I said cheerfully, trying to help.

Mum pulled out of the small driveway onto our street, and we set off....

As we crossed the Gatwick departure lounge Mum seemed sad about something, but I was determined to enjoy the holiday, and didn’t want to set a bad vibe. After queuing for ages we were all cleared through the security machine. The flight was already boarding, so we half ran, half jogged to the departure gate and joined the line. We all let out a deep breath; Mum smiled at me, so I’m thinking “whatever she was sad about, she’s alright now. I know we can have a fun holiday as three quarters of a family”. I smiled back, pleased.

I had been up most of last night thinking about Dad, and wanted to get some rest. This was an eleven-hour journey, and I wanted to sleep 10 hours at least. I slumped down in my economy seat and before I knew it my eyes were closing. I woke up confused but then saw the mini T.V. on my seat. I checked the flight monitor. Half an hour to go. I switched on some cartoons and let the time go. Suddenly my ears were going crazy – we were landing, so I sat up, my ears pumping with pain. I started screaming. Everyone looked at me and mum was trying to calm me down. I felt myself drift off, and before I knew it I had blacked out.

I woke up in an unfamiliar room with two wooden bunk beds, and a small nineties T.V. on the desk. I didn’t know where I

was and I didn't care. I just wanted to sleep. So I did.

The next morning I trudged downstairs, rubbing my eyes to see Mum and the boys eating breakfast, in dressing gowns and PJ's. "Thank goodness you're OK Sammy", Mum said, with a sigh of relief. "It's alright Mum, I'm fine now."

"Good. We're going to the beach today, is that alright?"

I went back upstairs and got dressed in some jeans and a t-shirt, and we all got in the hire car. I looked out the window and took in the beautiful scenery – but got slightly worried when I saw the 'Tsunami Warning' sign.

I got out of the car and bounded down the beach, in high spirits. I grabbed my beach ball and threw it to Mum, and all of us started playing catch.

Suddenly, it started getting quieter. I held the beach ball and looked around. People were looking into the horizon with horror in their eyes, looking terrified.

Then I saw it. It was as big if not bigger than a skyscraper. People scrambled from their places on the beach; I heard screams from women, children, as they sprinted up the beach in terror. My eyes widened as I started slowly backing away, not taking my eyes off the huge skyscraper wave. I turned and ran.

Mum was sobbing, dragging the two little ones as fast as she could, praying as she ran. The huge wave loomed over me, and crashed down on all of us.

When we surfaced, Mum was nowhere to be seen. Through stinging, salty eyes I saw Jonty and Stanley struggling in the water.

I knew I had to choose – I didn't have the strength to support both of them. Stanley was older and more able, more likely to be able to help himself. As the water rushed into my nose I grabbed Jonty, said a last

"I'm sorry" to Stanley and went under again.

Coming to on the sand I saw drowned bodies all around me. I started wrenching a mixture of blood and seawater, sobbing. I felt something move in my arms and felt a sparkle of hope. Jonty sprang to life screaming and crying. I held him tight as I tried to stand up, seeing the carnage the wave had caused. All buildings had been demolished, destroyed. I looked at the wave of bodies, searching for any signs of life. I saw Stanley.

I staggered over to my seven year old brother's body and fell to my knees, feeling guilt and sickness inside. I heard a distant sound. Chopper rotor blades. Three medics and a stretcher crew stepped cautiously towards me. I knew they couldn't help Stanley. The medics checked his pulse: "I'm sorry my boy, he's gone."

"No! NOOOOOOO!" I screamed, trying to blame the medic, but I knew it was my fault. I grabbed the doctor's bag and snatched a syringe, hoping it would take me to a better place. I stabbed myself and immediately became drowsy, feeling myself go...

"Ahhhhhh!!" I shrieked, breathing heavily as I woke up. I looked over and saw Jonty, Mum AND Stanley looking at me across the aisle in economy. I leaned over and hugged Stanley. "I'll never give up on you again," I sobbed.

The judge says: This was an enjoyable and well written story that keeps you gripped."

yB

The Hospice of St Francis – Hospice News

Make 2013 a year of Renewal

The beginning of the year always brings with it a time of contemplation as well as a commitment to do things differently during the year ahead. Whilst for some this means that January is a month of austerity for others it can be about taking up new and exciting challenges.

For 2013, The Hospice of St Francis is encouraging people to fundraise for the charity and try something completely different which will change their own lives, together with the lives of patients and their families at the Hospice. There really is something to appeal to all from planning to join a trek or cycle ride, taking part in a 100ft abseil, losing some weight or running a marathon.

Some of the challenges the Hospice has on offer during 2013 include:

Trek Vietnam Open Evening Wed 13th March

Attend a special Open Evening to hear all about this once-in-a-lifetime fundraising challenge, taking place in May 2014, through the beautiful and remote forests in Vietnam. You will join a team and take in hillside villages, visit indigenous families and participate in a community project to help abandoned elderly and disabled people near Hanoi. The Hospice also has places on treks leaving for Kilimanjaro, Machu Picchu and the Sahara in October and November 2013. All that is required is a reasonable level of fitness and a commitment to fundraise to pay for your participation.

Biggest Loser 2013, 13th March – early June

Take on a sponsored weight loss and

fitness challenge and compete to become

The Hospice of St Francis' Biggest

Loser 2013 (the

person who has lost the highest percentage of their body weight). The challenge includes free Sportspace membership and personal training sessions at the Hemel Hempstead gym as well as a personalised nutritional programme from Alyson Carter of Nutrition 4 Life. Entries must be received by 27th February 2013. Minimum sponsorship required for participation is £500.

Abseil Challenge Sunday 24th March

If you have always wanted to abseil off a building but never had the opportunity, the Hospice is running a challenge where you can abseil 100ft off the Dixons Retail Building in Hemel Hempstead. No training is required prior to the event just a commitment to raise £100 for the Hospice (plus £25 registration fee). Children over 10 can also take part and only need to raise £50 (£20 for under 18s). Great to do as a family!

The Hospice also has places to run the Brighton and London marathons in April

and participate in Ride London, a 100km bike ride taking place in August, which follows the route of the Olympic cyclists in the Surrey Hills and through the Capital.

For further information on all these challenges, please visit:

www.stfrancis.org.uk/

events or contact the

Fundraising team on: 01442 869555 or

email: fundraising@stfrancis.org.uk. **JB**



Vietnam Trek

Street Pastor Initiative

Churches in Hemel Hempstead have launched a Street Pastor initiative in the town which is due to go live at the beginning of March. A launch was held on 24 October 2012 at South Hill Centre. Those that came along found out more about the scheme, how to become a Street Pastor and other ways people can help out.

Street Pastors is an inter-denominational Church response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care, listen and dialogue. It was pioneered in London in January 2003 by Rev Les Isaac, Director of the Ascension Trust, and has seen some remarkable results, including drops in crime in areas where

teams have been working. There are now some 9,000 trained volunteers in around 250 teams around the UK.

Each city project is set up by Ascension Trust and run by a local co-ordinator with support from Ascension Trust and local churches and community groups, in partnership with Police, Council and other statutory agencies. The progress of Hemel Hempstead Street Pastors can be followed at http://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/pages/Hemel-Hempstead-Street-Pastors/449139051799210?fref=ts **JB**



CAP Money

Christians Against Poverty

Parishioners and friends are again able to take advantage of a chance to attend a FREE money management course to help get their household finances in order. Christians Against Poverty, are running its next three session course starting on 25 February at Make Believe Cafe (behind Tesco), starting at 7.30pm. To join the course, simply call Mike Wallis, the local CAP Money co-ordinator, on 07891 760244 or send an email to

capmoneyberkhamsted@yahoo.co.uk. For more information visit www.capmoney.org

What CAP Money teaches.

CAP Money is a three-session course that features DVD presentations by John Kirkby, CAP's Founder and International Director, and Matt Barlow, CAP's UK Chief Executive. During the three sessions attendees will learn:

1. How to build and live on a budget.

This is the cornerstone of managing your money well. The session includes advice on how to increase your income and how to cut costs.

2. The CAP Money system. This system will help to simplify your money and make it understandable. It operates using three accounts for your money: a regular payments account, a cash account and a savings account.

3. How to live from week to week using cash. Living on cash and getting away from cards means you know exactly where you are and helps you to spend less money. It's statistically proven that you spend 33% less money when paying by cash rather than cards.

By applying these three principles, attendees will learn how to manage their money, and live their life! **JB**

Regular Church Activities

3rd Mon	Pastoral Network, 7:45pm, The Court House. Contact Philippa Seldon 871534
Tue	Chuckles Parent & Toddler Group, 10-11:30am. All Saints' Church Hall. Song Time or short service as announced. Contact Jenny Wells, 870981
Tue	St Peter's Choir, Children 5:15-6:15pm. St Peter's. Adrian Davis 01296 632263 or Jean Wild 866859
1st Tue	Tuesday Club, 7:30pm A lively women's group with guest speaker. The Court House. Contact Barbara McKenna 871159
3rd Tue	Mothers' Union, meet in members' houses at 2.30pm. New members always welcome. Contact Kathie Lally, 863526
4th Tue	Mothers' Union Prayer Group, 2:30pm. 17 Shaftesbury Court. Tell us if anyone needs your prayers. Contact Jenny Wells 870981
Wed	Julian Meeting, meets about twice a month. 11:30am. All welcome. At Jenny Wells, 57 Meadow Rd, 870981 or at Ruth Treves Brown, 1 Montague Rd, 863268
Thu	Bellringing, 8pm, St Peters. Contact Helen Ruberry, 890949
Fri	Little Fishes Parent & Toddler Group 9:30-11:30am. The Court House. Weekly, with short service on 1st Friday in St Peter's (10am). Tracy Robinson 863559
Fri	St Peter's Choir, Children 7-8:30pm, Adults 7:30-8:30pm. St Peter's. Adrian Davis 01296 632263 or Jean Wild 866859
3rd Sat	ABC Prayer Breakfast, 8am for breakfast & prayers. Various local churches.
1st Sun	Sundays Together Lunch 12.30pm Court House. For anyone on their own on a Sunday. Liz Jackson 864382

Services	Regular Sunday services 8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist with crèche, Sunday school and Pathfinders 6:00pm Evensong
	Regular weekday services Morning Prayer: Monday– Thursday 7:30am; Friday 8:00am, Saturday 9:30am Eucharist: Monday 6:00pm; Tuesday 9:30am at All Saints' Shrublands Road; Wednesday 8:00am; Thursday Holy Communion 12:30pm; Friday 7:30am; Saturday 10:00am Evening Prayer: Monday 5:45pm, Tuesday – Saturday 5:00pm

Further information available from our church websites:

www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk **and at** www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk

All Saints

- 3rd Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)
8am Holy Communion, Revd. Rachael Hawkins
10am Morning Worship, Richard Hackworth and Penny O'Neill
- 10th Sunday next before Lent: 10am Holy Communion, Revd. Rachael Hawkins and Tracy Robinson
- 17th First Sunday of Lent: 10am Morning Worship, Ruth Treves Brown and David Brider
- 24th Second Sunday of Lent
10am Holy Communion, Revd. John Kirkby

St Peter's Services

Sunday 3rd February 6pm, Choral Evensong
Ash Wednesday 13th February 8pm, Sung Eucharist with The Imposition of Ashes

St Peter's

Cowper Society present:

Mon 4 Feb, 8pm: Cowper Society presents: Organ Recital: Adrian Davis

Mon 11 Feb, 8pm: Cowper Society Winter Talk II: *History of Ashridge and the Deer* Brian Barton, in the Court House

Tues 26 Feb, 12 noon-1.30pm: Christian Aid Lent Lunch in the Court House

Weddings

1st December 2012: Stuart Turner and Trudy Ann Masson (St Peter's)

Funerals

14th December 2012: Alma (Polly) Rachel Rafter (St Peter's)

4 January: Joyce Halford (All Saints)

Your Berkhamsted Team

Editor: Helen Dowley, editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk

Advertising: John Gerry, 07774 850508, advertising@yourberkhamsted.org.uk

Circulation: Joanne Lloyd-Evans, 865417, joanne.lloydevans@gmail.com

Features: Ian Skillicorn, Julian Dawson, Dan Parry, Matthew Dawson, Joanne Lloyd-Evans

Layout: Sam Limbert

Key Church Contacts

Parish Office, Hilary Armstrong and Kate Perera, Court House, 878227.

Fr. Michael Bowie, 864194 (day off Fri). Team Rector, St Peter's.

The Revd. Rachael Hawkins, All Saints'.

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Fairtrade: Hug a Mug—Will you make a small holder for a small holder?

What?! Traidcraft is encouraging people holding Big Brew Coffee Mornings to make or buy a 'Mug Hug' to keep your Fairtrade drink hot for longer! A Mug Hug can be knitted or made from felt or any other material.

Why? To raise funds and show support for some of the world's poorest producers and their families.

Where? The Court House, behind St Peter's Church.

When? Tuesday 5th March, 9.30 – 12noon.

If you are crafty it would be great if you could use up your odds and ends and make mug hugs for us to sell. If you wish to make and donate a mug hug, knitting patterns and design ideas are available online at www.traidcraftschools.co.uk/



[fairtrade fortnight](http://fairtrade fortnight.org).

If you would like some help making a mug hug we will supply materials for you to make one while you enjoy your coffee and homemade cake. But you don't have to make a mug hug! Everyone is welcome. For the non-crafty, you could purchase a unique example at the coffee morning (or from our Fairtrade stall on the High Street on Saturday 9 March). Fairtrade food, crafts and cards will also be on sale, plus Fairtrade homemade cakes.

Fairtrade Fortnight, this year is from 25th February to 10th March 2013.

Contacts to offer help or for more information: Angela Morris 866992 or

Red Noses at Oxfam

Whatever the weather there will be plenty of red noses at Oxfam during February. It's time to do something funny for money as Comic Relief Day on Friday March 15th approaches.

Oxfam, together with Sainsbury's, will again be the only outlet for the popular red noses. This year's colourful accessories will be Dinosaurs.

In addition to the noses, there will be pin badges, Deely Boppers and for the first time Red Nose Wristbands.

They will be on sale throughout February and early March but it is advisable to shop early as they are very popular. Look out for the nose with toes this year.

Red Nose Day may be about doing something funny for money but it has a

serious purpose.

Comic Relief helps people like Margret who, after seven years living with her family of nine in a tent made of black plastic bin bags in a Nairobi slum, now has her own home with clean water, sanitation and electricity. Rosetta in Kenya, who lost two little ones to malaria, is grateful that her surviving children are now protected by some of the 500,000 Comic Relief-funded mosquito nets which have cut infant deaths dramatically where they are available.

In this country Kyle and Jordan, who lost their mother in a car accident, are being supported by a Comic Relief project. Have fun helping others on Red Nose Day,

Friday 15th March. **yB**



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Grumpy Old(ish) Man

Vernon Mildew tries (and fails) to make sense of the modern world

"I'm on the phone."

Those of us of a certain age are lucky enough to remember a time B.M. - Before Mobiles. But it's hard to imagine now a street scene where the only people conversing would actually be walking alongside each other. What's more, it seems that these days fewer of our fellow men and women travel in quiet contemplation or are simply focussed on reaching their destinations. Instead, the chatter of a thousand daily lives is now all around us, and we are subjected to a level of detail about the humdrum and inane that would have been unthinkable a generation ago. When I got my first mobile phone in 1997 it was still considered the height of naughtiness to make a telephone call in public. Booming voiced show-offs conducting a private conversation in the street, or on a train, would be met with raised eyebrows and pursed lips (or was that always just me?). If I needed to make a call on my mobile while out in the street, I would find a quiet corner or shop doorway in which to make it. Just as my mother always taught me that "nice people don't eat in the street or on public transport", holding a private telephone call in public just felt wrong...

Fast forward to 2013 and people walk in the street engaging with disembodied voices, or with their ears plugged into a favourite music track, their eyes fixed on a screen, thumbs shooting over a keyboard. They are as far removed as possible from the physical space they inhabit and awareness of the other human beings around them. There is the constant, reassuring presence of the known - friends and family can be heard and seen even though they are not actually present - while the unknown masses are pushed to the edges of consciousness. But this antisocial behaviour isn't restricted to the streets. On recent train journeys I have been treated to full-volume videos of a hen night, a football match and a baby's first steps (the latter accompanied by a soundtrack of the 'ooohs' and 'aaahs' of proud parents who apparently first witnessed this milestone through a 2 and a half inch screen - but then, in today's world, something hasn't actually happened unless it has

been caught on film). This is not to mention the continual clicks, clacks, pings and dings, as well as the strangled muzak versions of popular pieces of classical music or TV theme tunes. Many times I have had to bite my lip to stop myself from screaming: "Did you know there is a silent mode on your phone?!!" or "Why don't you answer your b****y phone or switch it off?!!"

The lure of the screen has also altered the way in which many friends and couples interact with each other. Glance inside any coffee shop window and you will see people sitting silently opposite their companions, hunched over hand-held devices, immobile with their mobiles. Every so often they will show each other whatever hilarious video clip, candid photo or joke text has hypnotised them, then come to life as they laugh manically in an all too brief shared moment of hilarity, before heads are slumped back down towards the screen like battery-operated dolls that have suddenly been switched off.

Among my own friends I am both amazed and disappointed when the ubiquitous mobile is placed between us on the table in a restaurant or pub, presumably in case someone more interesting wants to make contact during our time together. It can be damaging to one's ego to feel your words are competing with the vibrations and whines of a small piece of metal and plastic, your interlocutor fidgety and distracted in a way that would have fascinated Pavlov had he lived to see it.

Is it too much to hope that future generations will marvel at how enslaved we were by these newfangled machines? Will we as a society learn to break free from gadget addiction - appreciating the benefits of new technology while also preserving our humanity? Sadly, I had to accept that all was lost while attending the funeral of a colleague last year. As the coffin silently rolled away behind the curtain, I was momentarily blinded by the glare of a white light. The source of this illumination was far from spiritual - a fellow colleague in the pew in front was holding up her Blackberry to check an incoming message. **JB**

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The witch and the two-headed serpent

When in Berkhamsted, Sisiutl, the two-headed sea serpent who is both the god of warrior invincibility and the guardian of the house of the sky people, lives beside the canal near Castle Street. A transformative creature of vast shamanic power, Sisiutl has a tendency to travel by killer whale. In Berkhamsted finding a killer whale isn't easy, ours being a land-locked town short of seals, which might explain why Sisiutl doesn't travel much beyond our 30ft totem pole, one of only six in the UK.

Why there should be a totem pole in Berkhamsted, what it means and who made it are questions that take us into the heart of the Pacific North-West. The pole sits beside Castle Street on a private piece of land known as Alsford Wharf, a name that gives us our first clue. This part of the canal, known as the Port of Berkhamsted, was long one of the town's centres of industrial activity, once associated with boat yards and the storage of cargoes. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries there were up to eight wharves where coal, grain, chemicals and timber were unloaded. Timber was one of the more important of these, and the area was well-known for its carpentry workshops. Job East and Son made tent poles among other things during the Crimean War, and William Key and Son operated a timber yard at Castle Wharf until the early 1960s. In 1963, the site was taken over by J. Alsford Ltd, a family-run timber firm from Leyton, east London. Roger Alsford, a great-grandson of the founder of the company, James Alsford (1841–1912), went to work at the Tahsis lumber mill on Vancouver Island. The remote mill was vulnerable to economic instability, and Roger found that a protracted strike left



him unable to buy food. Things reached the point where his only option was to accept help from the local Kwakiutl community. Today there are about 700 living Kwakiutls, who have inherited a tradition rich in history, culture and art. The anthropologist Franz Boas found that in contrast to most other societies, their wealth and status is not determined by how much they have, but by how much they have to give away. Their beliefs include the idea that every living thing has a spirit and that these are subservient to gods such as Sisiutl, traditionally a giant sea serpent whose glance can turn an adversary into stone. Cross beams of houses are sometimes carved with his protective appearance.

(Continued on page 27)



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(Continued from page 25)

Roger's brother William came out to Vancouver Island, and in gratitude for the hospitality of the local people he commissioned a totem pole from the First Nations artist Henry Hunt. Originally a logger and fisherman, Hunt is highly regarded as an exponent of monumental Southern Kwakiutl sculpture, and his work is exhibited internationally. He follows the Kwakwaka'wakw carving tradition, using minimum paint, and applying deep cuts with traditional tools. Selecting a western red cedar, Hunt worked on the pole at Thunderbird Park, a centre for First Nation monuments in Victoria, British Columbia.

The carvings represent four figures. A bird usually dominates the top of most poles, and at the top of ours sits Raven, the creator deity who brought light to the world. He sits on the head of Sunman – or Hawkman Sun – who has outstretched arms representing the rays of the sun and who wears a *copper* (a type of ceremonial skirt); he is essentially the essence of light. Sunman stands on the fearsome witch-spirit Dzunukwa, an ogress who steals children and carries them home in her basket to eat. She is shown with bright red, pursed lips because she is said to give the call "Hu!" Children are told that the sound of the wind blowing through cedar trees is actually the call of Dzunukwa. Some myths say that

she is able to bring herself back from the dead and repair any wound. She has limited eyesight, and can be easily avoided because she can barely see. She is also said to be rather drowsy and dim-witted. Below her is Sisiutl, in his role as a protector. One of his heads is at the very bottom of the pole and his serpent body goes up the side, with another head attached to it.

When finished, the pole was shipped to Britain and erected at Alsford's Wharf in 1968. When Alsford's warehouses were demolished and replaced in 1994, the pole was left in place and today it stands in the private grounds of flats, and is owned by the residents. It is one of only a handful of totem poles in the UK, with others on display at the British Museum, the Horniman Museum, Windsor Great Park, Bushy Park and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. In essence, our pole tells the story of how Raven brought light to the world and now Sisiutl is protecting it from evil. Next time you pass the pole, be sure to give him some love. In the dull days of February he needs all the help he can get. **yB**

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A century in and out of Berkhamsted

Nancy Lawrenson

Part 3 Student days

It was only when I left RNS that I realised what a very small world I had lived in – we were war babies (I was October 1915) which meant that many were fatherless and all of our teachers were either widows or spinsters.

In 1933 I went to Bedford College, London University - a much wider world, socially and geographically. I was reading History, Economics and Economic and Social History and could avoid more mathematical elements with the exception of one lecture by our Principal, Professor Geraldine Jebb. She was a sister of Eglantine Jebb, Principal of Roehampton College and founder of Save the Children which we have here in Berkhamsted and also in St Albans. My daughter Celia was Chairman of St Albans for some years and is now just a busy volunteer. Celia is an old girl of Berkhamsted School for Girls where I taught for 22 years. When Miss Russell asked me to help them out of a crisis I asked Celia if she would mind me teaching there when she was a pupil and she replied, “No Mum because you will be the only wife in the school and what’s more you’ve got me!”

At Bedford College Professor Jebb lectured, writing on the blackboard, on things like velocity of circulation, bimetallism currency and value of money. My tutor was Gertrude Williams, Professor of Social Economics and author of a 1950 book on *The Economics of Everyday Life* in which she addressed the question of what is money? Is this book on every teenage student booklist?

Freshers’ Day offered lots of societies to join as it was a difficult time with economic depression, the Spanish Civil War and Sidney and Beatrice Webbs’ welcome to

Marxist communism in the USSR. So I joined three – the League Against War and Fascism, Help for the Spanish Democratic Republic and the Women’s’ University Settlement in Southwark. Having younger brothers and knowing the enjoyment they seemed to have switching off lights and dashing about in the dark, in Southwark I volunteered to help with a junior boys evening club, learnt where all the light switches were and did not panic. I also volunteered for the Mothers and Babies clinic at Elephant and Castle where we kept the records of babies’ weights and also dished out powdered milk and cod-liver oil and malt.

Back at Bedford College we had an excellent Professor of Social History, Ivy Pinchbeck, author of a text book on the subject I greatly enjoyed teaching at BSG and Tring Park. At St Albans, daughter Celia is teaching teenage boys to write an official contemporary report on the plight of little chimney sweeps sent up winding chimneys as human brushes - the smaller the better to avoid getting stuck. I immediately referred to Charles Kingsley’s *Water Babies* with Mrs Doasyouwould bedoneby or Beatrix Potter’s *Tale of Samuel Whiskers*, where Tom Kitten gets made into a roly-poly pudding with soot as raisins. Says Celia, “It has to be an official, factual report without imaginations running haywire.”

I graduated in June 1936 and we were capped and hooded in the Royal Albert Hall where I had sung Handel’s *Messiah* with my school choir in which I was leader of Cantoris, and a friend Alison was leader of Decani. When the Hallelujah chorus is sung at St Peters, Berkhamsted, I sing along with the choir, enjoying the pointing but lamenting the lack of the Decani answering

Ale Chutney

Joanne Lloyd-Evans

Nice chutney can be so expensive, and yet it is very cheap to make, so I am feeling quite virtuous now that I have six jars in storage. I have loosely based this recipe on the ingredients of a lovely chutney I bought at the Wednesday Berkhamsted market, so if you don't fancy making your own, I would recommend the Real Ale Chutney by Cherry Tree Preserves.

You will need a number of sterilised jars to store the chutney in – it is hard to be precise with the numbers as sizes vary so much, but I would say around four large jars, six medium jars, or eight to ten small jars.

Ingredients

600g onions
250g swede
150g carrot
100g celery
200g bramley apple
3 cloves of garlic
100g dates
400ml ale (I used Old Speckled Hen)
250ml malt vinegar
400g soft brown sugar
2 tsp salt
½ sachet pectin, around 4g (optional)

Spices (optional – or mix and match with your own favourite spices)

1 tsp mustard powder
1 tsp ground cinnamon
3 cardamom pods, crushed
5 cloves
½ teaspoon of chilli powder

1. Finely dice the onions, swede, carrot, celery, apple, garlic and dates and put into a large pan.
2. Add the ale, malt vinegar, sugar and salt to the pan.
3. Add the spices – feel free to add or delete from this list and use quantities to suit your tastes.
4. Bring to the boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar, then simmer on a low heat for two hours, stirring occasionally.
5. While the chutney is cooking, sterilise your jars and lids. There are different ways of doing this, but the way I do it is to scrub the jars and lids in hot, soapy water,

rinse them well, and then place them in the oven on trays at 150C for about an hour. Keep them in the oven until you are ready to bottle the chutney.

5. Towards the end of the cooking time, add the pectin and stir well to ensure it is combined. You can omit the pectin, but your chutney may just be a little wetter.

6. When the chutney is ready, if it is too chunky for your liking, use a hand blender to blend some of the chutney so that you have a slighter smoother

consistency. Fill the sterilised jars with the chutney while everything is still hot and put the lids on tightly straight away.

7. The chutney should keep for up to a year, but I recommend keeping it in the fridge after opening or if your jar lids don't have a good seal.

yB



It's nearly Pancake Day!

Find out some interesting facts about pancake day and have a go at the pancake word search!

The long build up to Easter is called Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday. The day before Lent is called Shrove Tuesday. 'Shrove' means being forgiven for wrong-doings. It happens on a different date each year depending on when Easter is – this year February 12th.

Another name for Shrove Tuesday is of course Pancake Day. Long ago this was a day for feasting and having a good time. People would go to church to confess the bad things they had done and would be 'shriven' or forgiven before Lent.

Rich foods such as eggs were forbidden during Lent so one way of using them up would be to make pancakes.

In some parts of the UK people run in pancake races. This custom came about because of a legend dating back to 1445. On Shrove Tuesday one woman was still making her pancakes as the church bells rang out. Rather than be late she took her frying pan and pancake with her.

Names for Shrove Tuesday around the world:

United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia:

Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day

Brazil: Terça-feira gorda - Fat Tuesday - the final day of Brazilian Carnival.

Greece: Apocreas, which means "from the meat" since they don't eat meat during Lent either.

Sweden: Fettisdagen (Fat Tuesday).

USA: In Catholic and French-speaking parts it is called Mardi Gras.

Germany: "Fastnacht"

France: [Mardi Gras](#), meaning Grease or Fat Tuesday.

Iceland: "Sprengidagur" (*Bursting day*).

How many times can you find the word 'pancake'?



St Peter's Clock



As you've probably noticed, St Peter's clock has been unreliable for some time. Even though there are

occasions when it temporarily re-starts itself (apparently without human intervention) it is still in need of repair which could prove expensive.

Whether or not you attend the church, it is certainly one of the most regularly viewed timepieces in the town and something that we have all come to rely on at one time or another.

The extent of the repair has yet to be confirmed but if a potential new winding mechanism is needed the cost of the repair could be around £4,000. Considering the population of the town is now around 19,000 it would take just 22p each to reach this amount!!!

If you wish to make a donation* towards the repair of the St Peter's clock then please send your contributions to the Parish Office post box on the corner of the Court House.

**donations need not be limited to 22p!*

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Web: www.brittonroofing.co.uk