

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

January 2017

Poignant tribute to David Pearce

Julie Mayhew - book launch

Kick Start your New Year

Recycle your Christmas Trees



50p

Exploring the past, reflecting the present and looking to the future in Berkhamsted

In this issue...

Welcome to the January 2017 edition of Your Berkhamsted. Now all the festivities are over and a New Year started, some of us will be looking at what we want in 2017 – this could be a resolution or two – please see page 3 for kick-starting your New Year. Also there is information on where to recycle all things Christmassy. As promised, we have very moving eulogy to David Pearce, who was an outstanding figure within Berkhamsted and will be missed; it is a very poignant read by Father Tim. I have reviewed a recent book launch, for Julie Mayhew's latest book, a great night exploring Russian literature. *Our what's on page shows events in January in and around Berkhamsted, also look out for YB tweets on @Yourberkhamsted. Please see email below and get in touch if there are any ideas or stories you may have, either to publish or additions/changes to the magazine for consideration.*



Jacqueline, Editor
editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk

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Front cover: Thank you Andrew Dixon for the lovely picture of the snow covered canal. See Andrew's work on <http://andrewcochranedixon.com>

The Town and Parish Magazine of St Peter's Great Berkhamsted

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

Kick Start your New Year!



Julian Dawson is unable to do his regular slot this month and will be resuming Berkhamsted in the News from February.

Now it is the New Year! Do you want to change a habit? Lose weight. Exercise more. De-clutter. It will normally take about 21 days to change/start a new habit.

Here are some hints and tips and local resources to assist you.

Lose weight

- Eat plenty of vegetables to help you feel full.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Stay busy sometimes boredom can create the urge to eat
- Sit down and eat, don't eat on the go
- Don't skip meals
- Join a slimming club

Slimming World

Sacred Heart Church, Park Street, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 1HX
Mondays - 7:30pm
Linda - 07921 512596

Weight Watchers

Civic Centre

161/163 High Street, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HB

Tuesday - 9.45am

Angie Ross - [03456777788](tel:03456777788)

Berkhamsted Town Hall

196 High Street, Berkhamsted, HP4 3AP
Monday - 6.45pm
Rebecca Trowbridge
[03456777788](tel:03456777788)

Exercise more

- You do not have to spend hours in a gym – 30 mins; 3 times a week is a good start. This can improve your mental and emotional health.
- Don't beat yourself up if you miss a day – just start the next day.
- Keep your expectations real – don't expect too much too soon.
- Too busy – just bursts of 10/15 mins can help
- Too tired – energy begets energy and with regular exercise you will start to feel energised
- Do something you enjoy – walking, swimming or a team sport
Join a club or sports centre

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info@thefitnesssociety.co.uk

Chapel Gym

The Chapel,
Chapel Street,
Berkhamsted.
HP4 2EA
01442 866685

info@thechapelgym.co.uk

The Health Hub

Northbridge Road
Berkhamsted,
HP4 1EH

01442 862565 info@thehealthhub.net



Drawings of Berkhamsted by Jenni
Cator, Art at 88,
88 High Street,
Berkhamsted, HP4 2BW Tel. 01442
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De-clutter

- Visualise your tidy room
- Make lists per room:-
 - Items needed
 - To be repaired
 - To be replaced
- Designate a place for incoming papers, as they often account for a lot of our clutter. Use and inbox and then action, file or throw. Try and keep this up on a weekly basis. More often if possible.
- Start one room at a time and one area at a time. Do the bin/recycle, keep and action rule – have a box/bag for each. Action could be repair, not sure, recycle? Create a “maybe” box – there are things you may not use, but think you might want it or need it someday and you cannot bear to get rid of it – yet anyway! Revisit this box often. Pull everything out of a drawer or cupboard – this will help you put back only what you need/want.

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What's on

Berkhamsted Artisans, Arts & Crafts Market (**1st Saturday every month**)
10am to 4pm. The Town Hall, 196 High Street, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 3AP
Through the double doors above Carluccio's on the High St. Lift access at back. If you would like a stall contact Claire - Mob: 07968 627 179; Email: berkhamstedmarket@hotmail.co.uk; www.greatmarkets@vpweb.co.uk

Tring Farmers Market (**Alternate Saturdays**). The Marketplace, Brook Street, Tring 9.00am - 12.15pm. Tring Farmers Market promotes local food for local people For more info email: enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk

For Ashridge and a full list of events please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge or to book your place contact the Visitor Centre on 01442 851227 or Ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk— Latest events below

1st Jan @ 10am to 3.30pm – Children's Christmas Trail. Follow the Christmas trail to join Robin as he visits woodland creatures' homes and collect a present at the end. This event is for children and families. Dogs on leads are welcome. Meet at Visitor Centre and collect your trail. Child £3 .

1st to 9th Jan Feb @ 10am to 3.30pm – Christmas Pudding Walk - Follow the puddings on this way-marked route through the woodland. A gentle walk for adults through Old Copse then back to meet up with Monument Drive.

Not suitable for children. Dogs on leads are welcome. Meet at Visitor Centre.

1st Jan to 24th Feb @ 10am to 5pm – Capability Brown Anniversary Exhibition
- Come and admire Capability Brown's work at Ashridge in this fascinating exhibition. An extensive exhibition of Capability Brown's life and works with special reference to his work on the Ashridge Estate. Children are welcome with accompanying adults. Dogs on leads are welcome. Meet at Visitor Centre.

Sat, 7th January @11-4pm Frithsden Vineyard Opening Day. Open for the season, Tartiflette & green salad. Homemade Cakes, Launch of our Rosé Fizz. Sale on selected items. NO BOOKING REQUIRED. 01442 878723

Tues, 10th Jan @ 8pm - Encaustic wax painting. A demonstration of painting in encaustic wax by Phil Madley. Civic Centre.
www.berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk Subs £20, visitors £3 on the door, no DC

Weds, 11th Jan @ 8pm - Your Ancestors in Ireland 1818-1848. Society member Stephen Lally describes the dreadful life leading up to the Great Famine. Town Hall. www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk
Annual sub: joint £12, single £7, visitors £2.50 (no conc); DC.
KSherw9100@aol.com 865158

(Continued on page 8)

Sat, 14th Jan @ 8pm - Mark Nightingale Quintet "John Dankworth Charts"

Mark Nightingale (tbn), Andy Panayl (ts), John Horler (p), Alec Dankworth (b), Jim Hart (d). Civic Centre.

www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk Visitors £13, members £10. Annual: couples £15, singles £10. DC. SAE to Berkhamsted Jazz, 6 Longfield Gardens, Tring HP23 4DN. bjazztickets@gmail.com 824173

Sun, 15th January @ 7pm - Chroma Chamber Ensemble Presents: On an Overgrown Path

Join us as we revisit the overgrown forests of Bohemia with more music for the fabulous combination of violin, cello and accordion. From new arrangements of Janacek's exquisite piano work *On an Overgrown Path*, Dvorak's *Cypresses* and Smetena's amazing string quartet "From my Life" to Bartok's dramatic *Rhapsody* and more Horos and dances from Romania - Chroma musicians Dave Le Page, Ian Watson and Clare O'Connell take you back to a vanishing world. The Greene Room at the Kings Arms, Berkhamsted. concert tickets: £15/£12 concs CHROMA Going Steady/Confetti Friends £13/£10. To book: email chroma.concerts@me.com or available to purchase from Luminous and Vogue 24 Lower Kings Road (cash or cheques only)

<http://www.chromaensemble.co.uk>

Mon, 16 and Tues, 17 @ 8pm - Hail, Caesar! 50s Hollywood from the Coen brothers and an all-star cast. A studio fixer has to keep several films in production and the stars free from controversy.

Dirs: Joel & Ethan Coen/2016/USA,UK/Cert/106min. Civic Centre.

www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk Annual sub: joint £65, single £35, visitors £5 at door (no conc). 863155

Sun, 22nd @ 3pm – The Sleeping Beauty – The Bolshoi's younger generation in a live screening. Vyne Theatre, Berkhamsted Arts Centre, Northbridge Road. £16.50.

www.berkhamstedartcentre.co.uk

Mon, 23rd Jan to Mon, 3rd Apr @ 10.30am to 12.30pm - Understanding Islam with novels as a resource. Study novels to extend your knowledge and understanding of Islam in today's interconnected world. Friends Meeting House. www.weaberberkhamsted.co.uk £73.50 for 10 sessions. 872432

Mon, 23rd @ 7.45pm - Bronze Age Bodily Ornament. Dr Neil Wilkin, Curator, European Bronze Age, Dept of Prehistory, Europe and Britain, The British Museum. Music Room, Berkhamsted School. www.berkhamstedarchaeology.co.uk Annual sub £15, Family £17.50, junior £5. Members £1, visitors £3, DC. 254801

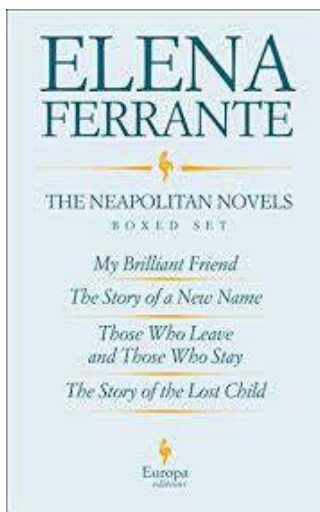
Tues, 24th Jan to Tues, 4th Apr @ 10.30am – 12.30pm - Russia: Stalin to Putin. Study the history of post-war Russia. Can Russia escape its past? Friends Meeting House. www.weaberberkhamsted.co.uk £73.50 for 10 sessions. 872432

Mon, 30th to Tues, 31st @ 8pm - Like Father, Like Son. Drama. Two very different families learn that their 6-year-old boys were inadvertently swapped at birth and agree to swap them back. Dir: Hirokazu Kore-eda/2013/Japan/Cert PG/121min/Subtitles. Civic Centre. www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk Annual sub: joint £65, single £35, visitors £5 at door (no conc). 863155

Book Review

by John Gerry

The Neapolitan novels by Elena Ferrante (a pseudonym)



I didn't think I would ever be so gripped by a quartet of books (a quadrology ?) describing a life-long friendship between two Italian girls, but I was utterly wrong. My daughter brought the first book to my attention, and that was it! One book rapidly followed the other as I became totally absorbed: sleep tended to go out of the window as I found it harder and harder to put the books down.

The Neapolitan novels follow Elena Greco and Lila Cerullo through a turbulent life. Beginning in a very poor suburb of Naples, the two girls are variously best friends and fierce rivals. The bookish Elena always feels that the unconventional and

rebellious Lila could outshine her if she tried. Lila never leaves Naples and develops a shoe manufacturing business whilst Elena "escapes" to Rome and a life as a successful novelist.

The plot is complex and cleverly interwoven: seemingly insignificant items erupt with new meaning later in the books. Sex, marriage, infidelity, politics and death are the background to this story of friendship. The lives of the two women, as well as their children and their men, are bound together right to the sad end of the final book where the issues of death and old age are fearlessly confronted.

Through this five decades of personal, social and political history shines Ferrante's wonderful lucid and descriptive prose that draws you inexorably on to devour the next chapter. This is a "must" read.

My Brilliant Friend (2012)

The Story of a New Name (2013)

Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay (2014)

The Story of a Lost Child (2015)

Post Christmas recycling

Bring your real Christmas tree to one of our chipping points on Sunday 8 January 2017 so it can be turned into plant bedding:

- ◆ **Berkhamsted:** Water Lane Car Park (behind Tesco Store), HP4 3AP. 9.30am – 4pm.
- ◆ **Hemel Hempstead:** Dacorum Borough Council Cupid Green Depot, HP2 7BA. 9.30am – 4pm.
- ◆ **Tring:** Tring Garden Centre, HP23 5HF. 10.30am – 4.30pm*

*This is a drop-off point. Chippings can be collected from here on Monday 9 January 9.30am – 12.30pm.

If you would like your Christmas tree chippings back to protect against weeds in your garden, please remember to bring your own bag. Any unclaimed chippings will be made into compost.

Missed the date? You can also take your tree to the [Household Waste Recycling Centre](#) on Eastman Way, Hemel Hempstead or Northbridge Road, Berkhamsted. Trees left at any other recycling sites will be treated as fly-tipping and you could be prosecuted.

Can't get your tree to a recycling site?

If you live in Tring or Berkhamsted, 1st Tring Scouts and 1st Berkhamsted Scout groups are offering to collect trees from your home for a minimum donation to the scout groups.

For a collection from Berkhamsted (not including Northchurch or surrounding villages) please leave a message on 07910 937497 or email 1stberkotrees@googlemail.com.

For a tree collection from Tring or Aldbury, please email tringscoutsxmas-trees@hotmail.com.

For a tree collection from Potten End or Frithsden, please email scoutxmastreecycle@gmail.com.

Christmas recycling—Christmas cards, including all greeting cards and wrapping paper without glitter or three dimensional decorations, can be recycled in the [blue-lidded bin](#). You can also recycle biscuit and sweet tins and plastic boxes, too.

Household items that **cannot be recycled or reused** should go in your [grey wheeled bin](#). For example:

- ◆ Glittery wrapping paper and embellished Christmas cards
- ◆ Decorative ribbons and bows
- ◆ Individual plastic sweet wrappers
- ◆ Plastic carrier bags/Cling film and polystyrene (such as meat trays)
- ◆ Used candles
- ◆ Cooking fat and gravy
- ◆ Broken decorations, baubles, tinsel and artificial Christmas trees
- ◆ Pet bedding.

There are some things we are unable to recycle and should **not** be put in your grey-lidded bin. These items should be taken to the [Household Waste Recycling centre](#):

- Broken electrical items, including Christmas tree lights
- Used batteries
- Paint.



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Julie Mayhew - Book Launch

I recently went to a 'Tales from Russia' night at Waterstones, which was to launch Julie Mayhew's latest book, *Mother Tongue*. The story is about a young Russian girl rebuilding her life after a terrorist attack. It was a delightful evening encompassing everything Russian including tea with jam and lovely cakes and sweets. Actors [Melissa Berry](#) and [Adrian Scarborough](#) joined Julie and read stories from Russian folklore and the country's most celebrated writers

such as Chekhov and Pushkin.

This event was one to ease readers into the



world of Russian literature – and two to raise cash for [Naked Heart](#), <http://www.nakedheart.org/en/> the charity started by supermodel Natalia Vodianova in the wake of the 2004 Beslan School siege (the real life event that features in *Mother Tongue*'s opening chapters). This was a success, I myself want to know more about Russian literature and more importantly £343 was raised for the charity.

Her previous novel, [The Big Lie](#), exploring what life would be like for girls in present-day Britain if the Nazis had won WW2, was published to critical acclaim in 2015, nominated for both the 2016 CILIP Carnegie Medal and

Peters Book of the Year, and won the 2015 Sidewise Award for Alternate History. Her debut [Red Ink](#), set in London and Crete, was nominated for the 2014 CILIP Carnegie Medal and shortlisted for the 2014 Branford Boase Award.

THE DAY OF KNOWLEDGE

I'm going to speak to you in Russian. If I speak in English, I won't know enough words. In the language of home, I know too many.

I got up early that day – neither light nor dawn. Word had spread the night before that the Day of Knowledge ceremony would begin one hour earlier than expected. I took the call. Everyone knew to speak to me, and not Mama. They had forgotten that I was Nika's sister. Afterwards, they remembered. Afterwards, it was an important distinction. I became a child again then, not a mother, so what would I know about pain?

My alarm went off and the moment that it did Nika was jumping on my bed. We shared a room. In that way we were like sisters. On one side: Nika's Barbie dolls, an alphabet poster, a mug of coloured pens. On my side: stacks of *Elle Girl* and *Oops!* magazine, a basket of stubby make-up. I had my latest collection of books from Yelena across the hall, not yet explored. I was hoping for more tales of romance but could see at least one dystopia in the pile. Nika stopped jumping – dropped the whole weight of her warm body on top of me. I pulled her close, squeezed a breath from her, then let her go. Today, I thought, in one small sense, is the day I can let her go.

Nika and I had been looking forward to the first day of school all summer. For different reasons. Nika said hers out loud, mine were kept wrapped in paper. I was her protector and that meant saving her from the ugliest of my thoughts too. I am drowning, Nika, my mind cried, I am so desperate for someone to share the weight of you. I was ready for that day, you understand. My little sister had been my responsibility for a long time. But, please, also understand that I loved her with all my heart. I loved her more than anything else in the world. More than my brothers. More than Papa. More than Mama. But when she started school, I would have some time to myself during the day. Time to work out what I was going to do with the rest of my life. The thing we did agree on, the thing that we could both say aloud, was that July and August needed to hurry up and end. Those months were there only to infuriate us and keep September out of reach.

Nika was giggling, chattering, full of energy. She kept saying that she had woken up 'bigger'.

'I am older today,' she said, as if someone had cast a spell overnight. Or removed one, perhaps. I knew that this could happen, because it had already. To me. When newborn Nika came home from the hospital but Mama stayed – abracadabra! A fizz and a pouf! – I became older. But there was no change in Nika that I could see – long, black hair, a buttery scent to her skin, a tilt to her head that meant one of her beautiful eyes was always ready to pin you down and make you do as she asked. Still a baby-girl though. She had Zaychik in her hand as she bounced about on my mattress that morning. Little bunny had come home with her from the hospital in lieu of Mama. It had been there from the start. Patches of its fur were worn away with love.

<http://www.juliemayhew.co.uk>

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Your Berkhamsted Clergy

DAVID PEARCE R.I.P.

David Rodney Aubrey Pearce: DRAP to generations of his pupils. As his faithful colleague & long-time friend was JAD... DRAP & Jad...the English dept. at Berkhamsted School for well over 30 yrs, always accompanied by the faithful & highly intelligent skeleton of an ape hanging by his desk... He once said, "DRAP" is an unexceptionable name, except that there is an obvious rhyming alternative that led the boys sometimes to refer to me as Colin:work that out at home Fr".....

Today, I have the unenviable task of doing the impossible, of fitting DRAP's life into a mere 15 mins or so.....Indeed I suggested to David that at least two of my esteemed predecessors might give the sermon, but he would have none of it. Wagging his finger....."I want you to do it: firm handshake & no nonsense Fr!" Wellwho dare say no to DRAP in full flight????

Many here will have memories enough to fill a book of this remarkable man who joined Berk School as a young married teacher, causing shock & disbelief in the largely bachelor Common Room back in those days. This same Pearce loved the school & this town so much that he & Liz stayed on into retirement.

David was educated at St Edmund's School Canterbury where he was known as "the Bishop" due to his sense of calling to be a priest from an early age. He decided that he needed A level

Greek but a single student was not enough to warrant that being in the syllabus. In his own inimitable style he changed all that by causing an explosion in the Science Labs: so Greek was then made available. And I suspect that from an early age he was used to getting his own way! But it was at this school, whilst being taught by masters who had served in the Great War & were full of shrapnel & terrifying eccentricities, whom he deeply admired, these formed the model for his own style of school-mastering.

I wonder how many of you know this little snippet????

David was offered a place to study theology at Lincoln College, Oxford but chose to read English at St Edmund Hall instead. Eventually he was sent for a clergy selection conference which he passed & the path was set for theological college & ordination....Well not quite...

A young girl called Liz whom he had known since age of 16, whom he married at 22, rather put a spanner in the works. His sponsoring Bishop disapproved of him so doing without his divine permission. You can imagine what Pearce said about that!....SO that changed the course of David's life.

Married & penniless in Dec 1960 David obtained the post of head of English- just with a term's teaching in a Secondary Modern under his belt. As Head of English at Stanbridge Earls, Romsey, as you might expect, the young Pearce made his mark...

He was in charge of cricket & hockey, ran a boarding house, took Confirmation classes (the bishop you see) & produced many school plays. He became infamous for his outdoor productions, not least Henry V with swords & a cannon made from a drain pipe which exploded at the dress rehearsal dispensing shrapnel to all around- no Health & Safety back then.

Here too were born 3 of his 4 children. In 1966 he came to Berkhamsted School where he stayed for 33 yrs. Here was a life full & rich as Head of English, as housemaster, boarding master looking after 50 boys....always with Liz at hand.

"Cane any?" I once asked – "Remember walloping them all in Incent's one evening...!...(pause & warm smile.)....." Great days".

David was richly blessed with gifts of language, a wide-range of interests & a zest for life. His contributions to the school, to the church, & to the town with his many & various interests were a source of pure joy for so many... His style was legendary as he enthused people with his belief in "buoyancy" dear boy: you must be buoyant!

As if all this wasn't enough, acting as Dr Aubrey in "Brief Lives", an old man with a straggling beard, messy habits & a chamber pot...Objections from ever patient Liz no doubt!... Long distance cycle rides even when he should have known better, going to the top of masts & rigging of sailing ships: he seemed unstoppable.

In addition to all that, in retirement the vocation to serve in the Church, first in the ringing chamber & then as Churchwarden here at St.Peter's. In this latter role he was a wise counsellor & a huge support to Fr Bowie, my predecessor, as well as to myself. In this role his warmth of greeting to newcomers swept them up into the life of the Church- shades of the bishop with his staff pulling people in...making them feel wanted & at home here.

Added to which was his life-long love of bee keeping and the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust which, with 2 others he co-founded, along with his founding membership of Friends of St Peter's, his talks to the men of Kent association & so many other groups at which he spoke, usually without a note in hand. All of this came from his deep knowledge & love of all things local, delivered with his puckish humour & sharp wit.

And then of course, there is his poetry, his sonnets, his deep personal thoughts as he wrestled with cancer these past 2 yrs, writing furiously almost until then end.

Yet who was David Pearce the man beneath the extrovert showman?

Married to Liz for over 55yrs, he was father to four children & grandpa, offering wisdom & encouragement wrapped around with a deep, deep love for them all & his own special humour & sheer joy at family gatherings. From the toys he made them when younger, the fun & joy that he gave, not least

Cont'd page 16

at one of the last family gatherings stretched out on the grass at midnight & looking up at the stars.....All of this underpinned with his lasting legacy to, “live life to the full, seize every opportunity & above all, to go GLORIOUSLY” .

And yet, at the deepest level, who was he?

If we wish to discover what made him tick then we need to consider the readings he has laid out for us in this service.....What might they tell us about DRAP?

Hypocrisy, can't, toadying of any sort was anathema.

From that first reading, the appearance of “Mr Honest” is no mere coincidenceEven if he did not always achieve it, this was clearly his goal.

To be honest is to be loyal to the truth as you know it. It means to speak the truth whenever you speak, and not to mislead others by your silence when you choose not to speak. None of us does this perfectly, and I'm sure David had his share of failings. But his life was marked by a persistent pursuit of truthful speaking and loyalty to others, and that gives us ample reason today for gratitude to almighty God.

Yet there is more, hinted at in the Pilgrim's Progress & made sharper by the Gospel reading.... “Grace reigns”

A confidence in God's gracious love & in that vision of God's glory which is Christ's promise to every pilgrim. Apart from buoyancy, GLORY was his other favourite

word, the glory of God.

Here is Christian hope & confidence which allowed David to approach death without fear... So what is this so-called “GLORY?”

He deliberately called this part of the service “the Firm handshake.” “Tell ‘em as it is, no holes barred Fr”

David's hope was based on the true understanding of what happens to us when we die. It's not this heretical half-baked watered down theological drivel one so often hears trotted out at funerals, which sees death as an escape from the body where the “soul” drifts heavenward like some celestial jelly fish.

No, David had it right: it is, as we affirm in the Creed, “the resurrection body”, to share as Blessed Mary did, in the glory of Christ's resurrection....NEW LIFE - but one in which we are recognised for who we are.

For that is why we are here....why we gathered in THIS place, soaked & sanctified by prayer.....because Jesus Christ is risen from the dead & death has no hold over us last the last word, a symbol of which is the Easter Candle which burns here today.() Like Our Lady Mother of God, we too are called, body & soul, we too are called to share in that glory.

You see David knew that deep within the very core of his being we call the soul....David was a CHRISTIAN.

So we miss the point of it all if we see today merely as marking the end of David's earthly life, the end of

relationships we have had with him. Today celebrates instead the start, the start of something new and wonderful, DRAP's intensified life with God, and the transfiguration of our relationships with him, as he becomes for us an emblem of hope, a reminder that for us too there are rooms waiting in our Father's house and a warm welcome home.

During one of our many deep discussions he said, "My faith means, & I think what it has always meant, that I have no fear of death itself. So do not fear for me: I do not.....My only worry is for all those whom I have caused to worry."

As he expressed it in his poem "Flip Side" to celebrate 50 yrs of marriage to his beloved Liz...

"Sad are those for whom none mourns
Not because Grief itself has bearing,
But Grief is Joy's collateral-
The rent we pay for sharing"

And here I want to pay a huge tribute to the ever patient, always supportive Liz & the family, because David's amazing talent & passion for all he undertook meant that they had to share him with everyone else. David was rooted in a deep, deep love for Liz & the four children, but he was that traditional schoolmaster in putting his boarding house charges first & always being available; & there is a high price to pay for that. So I want to say thank you to Liz, to Nicola, Philippa, Steven & Catherine on behalf of all here & beyond, thank you for what you gave too & for

what you had to go without, to share him with us & make his time & talents so generously available to us all.

Just before I went on holiday I visited David in the hospice: it was indeed a special time for us both.

Gripping both of my hands he said, "Tell them of the things that matter: Love, TRUTH, Beauty, & thank everyone – all of my many friends from around the world who have held me in their prayers .

And tell them that I have glimpsed the light under the door thro' which death calls... TELL THEM FR...It's REAL & TRUE....."

Whilst deeply influenced by Milton, our dear friend was generously & vibrantly Elizabethan in heart, so let one of England's other great poets bid farewell to him:

"His life was gentle; and the elements
So mixed in him, that nature might stand up

And say to the world:

"THIS WAS A MAN".....

Amen.

Father Tim, Rector

Regular Church Activities

3rd Mon	Pastoral Network, 7:45pm, The Court House. Contact Philippa Seldon 871534.
1st Tues	Tuesday Club, 7:30pm A lively women's group with guest speaker. The Court House. Contact Rosslyn Laidler: tel 01442 879992
Tues	Chuckles Parent & Toddler Group, 10–11:30am. All Saints' Church Hall. Song Time or short service as announced. Contact Jey Wells, 870981.
Tues	St Peter's Choir, Children 5:15–6:15pm. St Peter's. Adrian Davis 01296 632263 or Jean Wild 866859.
3rd Tues	Mothers' Union, meet in members' houses at 2.30pm. New members always welcome. Contact Kathie Lally, 863526.
4th Tues	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, 3 Sherwood Mews Park Street, Berkhamsted HP4 1HX
Thu	Bellringing, 8pm, St Peters. Contact David Burbidge 862139.
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	Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast, 8am, The Way Inn. Rachael Hawkins 866324.
1st Sun	Sundays Together Lunch 12.30pm, Court House. For anyone on their own on a Sunday. Carolynne Charman 869003

Regular Church Services

St Peter's

Regular Sunday services

8:00am Eucharist

9:30am Sung Eucharist and Sunday School

6:00pm Evensong

Regular weekday services

Morning Prayer – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am (St Peter's), Tuesday 9am (All Saints' Shrublands Road)

Eucharist – Tuesday 9:30am (All Saints'); Wednesday 8:30am, (St Peter's)

Evening Prayer Monday – Friday 5.00pm – Saturday 6:00pm (St Peter's)

Key Church contacts:

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

Fr. Tim Pilkington, 01442 879739, (day off Friday), Team Rector, St Peter's.

Simon Vivian, Assistant Curate

The Revd. Rachael Hawkins, All Saints' 01442 866324.

This Month's Diary

Your Berkhamsted January 2017 edition

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

Fri 27th Jan 1.10pm: Lunchtime RECITAL until 1.40pm in St Peter's Church. Berkhamsted School. Free Entry. Retiring Collection

Mon 30th Jan 8.00pm: TALK in the Court House. Cowper Society Winter Talk 1 – Christopher Green, The Romanesque. Free Entry. Retiring Collection.

St Peters

Baptisms

27 th November	Ottilie Elizabeth BAKER Alfred Rex PEPPETT Stanley Albert PEPPETT Zoe Catherine PINSON-ROXBURGH
---------------------------	--

Weddings - None

Funerals

21 st November	Margaret Smith Jackson-Fielden
23 rd November	Pearl Wiggins
28 th November	David Pearce

All Saints

January

1st	First Sunday of Christmas
10am	Morning Worship - Jenny Harris

8th	(The Baptism of Christ) - Epiphany
8am	Holy Communion— Revd Rachael Hawkins
10am	Holy Communion— Revd John Kirkby

15th	Second Sunday of Epiphany
10am	Covenant Service (with Holy Communion) - Revd Rachael Hawkins
4pm	Messy Church - Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group

22nd	Third Sunday of Epiphany (Sunday in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)
10am	Morning Worship - David Williamson
4pm	Holy Communion - with prayers for healing— Revd Rachael Hawkins, Tracy Robinson and Audrey Cox

29th	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
10am	Holy Communion— Revd Rachael Hawkins

Nothing in the registers – no baptisms or funerals.

Further information available from our church websites:

www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk and www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk.

News from the Hospice of St Francis



January 2017

10 years at Spring Garden Lane

This January we celebrate 10 years at our Spring Garden Lane home! Over the last decade, the Hospice has developed its patient services, reaching more people through the evolution of our day centre into the opening of our outpatient Spring Centre and also strengthening our community and IPU clinical teams. We now support over 2,000 every year who are living with, or affected by, a life-limiting illness; offering care and support when it matters most. Visibly, our seven acres of grounds have been transformed from a brown field site to the established, tranquil yet uplifting gardens, loved by patients and visitors alike and we have our team of dedicated volunteer gardeners to thank for making this happen.



Volunteering

Make 2017 your best year yet by pledging to volunteer with us! With nearly 1,000 volunteers from 14 – 104 years-old, the team gives their time in all manner of ways – from photographing and listing items for sale at our eBay warehouse, providing customer services at one of our many shops and specialist outlets, giving support at our popular fundraising events, in our gardens or regularly supporting patients in our Inpatient Unit.

Grace, from Berkhamsted, is the Hospice's oldest volunteer at 104 and gives her time by donating her knitted crafts for sale at local events. If you would like to give back to the Hospice – we have many roles available and are interested in hearing from people with different skills and life experiences – visit stfrancis.org.uk/volunteer.

Make 2017 Your Best Year Yet!

Thousands of you ran, walked, trekked, jogged, danced, and cycled for the Hospice in 2016, raising huge amounts of money to support our patients, and their loved ones, in West Herts and South Bucks. Make 2017 your best year yet and challenge yourself in support of the Hospice by doing something completely different:

Trek for us! We have two brand new and exciting trek events on the calendar that are perfect

for walking enthusiasts! TrekFest Beacons on June 3rd and 4th is the ultimate trek across the stunning Brecon Beacons, while TrekFest Peaks on September 2nd and 3rd will be a weekend of hiking in the picturesque Peak District. Or if you fancy taking the challenge further afield we still have a few places left on our once-in-a-life-time Trek China from the 30th – 8th October.



Ride for Us! We have places in the fantastic London cycling event NightRider on 10th/11th June. Setting off from Lee Valley Velo-Park at 10.30pm you'll ride through the night on a

100km or 50km circular route, taking in many of London's most famous landmarks. Or if you fancy taking on a challenging ride in the summer sunshine, RideLondon is back on 30th October, and we have places for a team of keen fundraisers to get stuck into this 100mile cycling challenge!

Lose weight and feel healthier! Join The Hospice of St Francis Biggest Loser Challenge in conjunction with Sportspace Hemel Hempstead. The challenge includes free 12 week Sportspace membership, personal training sessions, weekly weigh-ins and a personalised nutritional plan. Last year's winner Luke Jelfs

came away buzzing with confidence, richer in friends and delighted to have supported a wonderful charity". This competition starts in February 2017 with applications required by 27th January. Have a Home Box If you'd rather support us from the comfort of your own home, do request one of our purple home boxes to collect your spare change. All pennies will help go towards the £5million we need to raise every year to fund our care.

And finally.....

The bubbles are back! Bubble Rush will be returning in 2017 and in two fantastic locations! Keep an eye on our website for more information coming soon and register early for this popular event offering fun for all the family!



For more information or to register for any of these Hospice events visit www.stfrancis.org.uk/fundraising Keep up to date with stories of our care by following us on Facebook: TheHospiceofStFrancis.

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Below the contact information are several logos, including a watch, a heart, a globe, a seal, a landscape, and another watch.

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very reasonable. Please contact:
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Your Charities



Oxfam volunteers help raise £1 million

The Berkhamsted Oxfam shops were among 14 shops in the Hertfordshire area which helped to raise over £1 million for the charity's vital overseas aid work including helping some of the 65 million refugees in places such as Yemen, Syria, South Sudan and the Lake Chad Basin in Africa. Help was also given supplying farmers with drought-resistant seeds or programmes to prevent violence against women and girls as well as many

other projects.

But the shops can only raise money if they have volunteers to run them. Area Manager Natacha Terrot said "We have volunteers of all ages and have hours to suit everyone".

Perhaps your New Year resolution could be to volunteer in one of the local shops.

Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month



Dappy is a crossbreed who was born in August 2011. He has bags of character to match his slightly quirky appearance! Dappy is a very happy, friendly dog who loves people and is good with other dogs. He could live with a female pending introductions.

If you can offer Dappy or any of our other dogs a forever home, please call in at the kennels any day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or phone for more details.

Please note that there are restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under seven years of age. Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website, or please contact the kennels.

Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY

01525 220383 e-mail: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk

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Your Garden

Adventures in Boots by Helen Reeley



I haven't been trekking far and wide garden visiting since I last wrote for the magazine. I'm off to Sri Lanka in two weeks so my next post will be exotic but for now my adventures have been more of the local sort. During December I organise several Christmas willow wreath workshops which are proving more popular as each year passes. I find some of the wreath making materials in my client's gardens often as a result of



natural pruning and this year was no exception. However, my local willow supplier wasn't coming up trumps for a variety of reasons so I needed to find a new source. In doing this I've opened up a new book it seems. My

new supplier sells live willow structures, willow partition panels & raised bed supports all which I've already planned to use in projects for next year.

When I mentioned my new supplier & products to a local teacher she immediately wanted the contact details to buy a living willow structure for their school. I saw an opportunity to use a willow panel instead of a boring standard fence panel to plug a gap in a hedge here at Apple Tree Cottage. So, my move away from using a local supplier has paid dividends in some ways, however my new supplier is at least regional. It bothers me that my materials are not all immediately local but needs must & off to Bucks I must travel.



Willow work is relaxing & fun. It's not always easy to bend the rods but patience & application pay dividends. Everyone made and finished a wreath of their own design which can be used for years & years not just during December. Wreaths can be placed in the garden all year round hanging bare or can be dressed with fresh bounty for an outdoor occasion. Next year, I'll be discovering more types of willow some which I'll plant on my allotment & some which I'll weave into plant obelisks. There will be workshops available to make your own willow obelisk. Drop me a line if you want to take part. TTFN helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk 07708 643313

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Letter to Vernon Mildew

Dear Vernon,

Christmas has always been a rather lonely time, and I have always wanted some kind strangers to invite me round for the day. Well this year it happened! This followed from all the publicity surrounding my arrest by armed police after complaints of loitering. In the subsequent interrogation, I did confess to stealing sweets when I was 5 years old. Despite a lengthy search for anyone who could make an allegation, or for any sweet shops still trading, I was released with a caution, which presumably registers in the statistics as a success.

After my interview with Piers Morgan was televised, a lady from up the road called to invite me for Christmas lunch. Although she had no ID, I recognised her from when her 4x4 had almost run me down outside the school. Perhaps she remembered.

When I got there, I was not sure if I was expected by the other family members. The little girl said 'Who is that old lady and why does she smell funny?' I hoped it was the Chanel No.5 not mothballs. She tactfully added, 'Well, not as bad as grandpa'.

Grandpa was not there, so this was clearly not taken as a match characteristic for on-line dating.

The father had to take a call from the USA just as we were sitting down to eat, as the CEO's Rottweiler had eaten the presentation that he had missed 'It's a Wonderful Life' at the Rex to prepare. He tried to suggest re-printing

or looking at the screen, but it seems the computer literate servants were away and only the third wife was present, not the older ex with the children.

Fortunately, the father did not get sacked on Christmas Day, but the mother started to cry and bravely managed to convince the children that it was just that she had run out of Prozac.

A slightly awkward silence ensued, but thawed as I was appraised of how astonishingly gifted the children were in all areas of human endeavour.

Given my recent run-in with the law, I resisted stuffing a couple of sausages in my bag, it would have been rude and ungrateful anyway.

Presents were given after lunch and I got soap, which was a bit awkward. We then played a party game where you had to pick up a matchbox with your teeth. Technically I won as the rules said nothing about taking your teeth out first.

The 9-year old boy then started playing the 'Psycho Death Wish' game that he had just been given. By then I 'd had a little too much to drink and said that killing people isn't very nice. 'What do you know?' he said, with a look of pity and contempt. I bristled; 'Well actually.....', and everybody looked at me.

I had to explain to convince them I was not a Black Widow. The parents looked horrified but the children loved it. I don't think I will be invited back next year.

Vera



SOME MORE RECTORS OF ST. PETER'S

We have already written about some of the

Rectors of St Peter's who have merited an entire article. Others who have held that office over the centuries are little more than names. Others have distinguished themselves by particular events or held that position in a remarkable time in our history. We see the close connection with Kings and Queens and then later the Dukes of Cornwall. This justifies the reference by Henry Nash to Berkhamsted as our 'Royal' town. Then with the sale by the Duchy of Cornwall of the Manor of Berkhamsted, with the exception of the Castle and the living of St. Mary's Northchurch, to Earl Brownlow, he then becomes patron.

The very first Rector, of whom we have record, is Robert de Tuardo, instituted by Bishop Hugh Wells, in 1222. His patron was the Abbot and Convent of Grestein. The Convent of Grestein was near Honfleur, Normandy. Arletta, the mother of William the Conqueror is apparently buried there.

Although the Bishops who instituted the Rectors in each case changed, the Abbot remained patron until King Edward III took on that role in 1349. In 1357 it reverted briefly to the Abbot of Grestein, before returning to Edward III. The close relationship of St Peter's with the Crown can be traced through the centuries since Edward III was followed by Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V, Henry VI and Edward IV. The patronage of monarchs was broken at this point since between 1484 until her death in 1495 the patron

was Cicely Duchess of York. Of course, she was very close to the Crown and also a very religious person, especially in her later years. At this period of her life she spent a large amount of time in residence at Berkhamsted Castle and in her will bequeathed artefacts to the monastery at Ashridge, the convent at St Margaret's and to St Peter's, as well as money for the poor of the parish.

The next six Rectors had the patronage of Henry VII followed by two who enjoyed the patronage of Edward VI. It would be interesting to know what sort of man John Harris was and what alterations took place in the reign of Philip and Mary, when strict Roman Catholicism was reintroduced. Once again in the reign of Elizabeth, St Peter's returned to Protestantism and Elizabeth was patron to the next seven Rectors. The reign of John Napier as Rector of St Peter's is an interesting one since it was interrupted by the Cromwellian interregnum when one David Bramley, was listed as 'Intruded Minister' and 'Presented by Parliament' There seems to be some confusion about Napier's ejection and reinstatement. In the Vestry Book he signs as present in 1649 but Bramley signs the book in 1650, 52, 3. John Napier appears again in 1661 until his death in 1681. Between October 1648 and 1656 the birth of seven children of Ann and John Napier appear in the baptismal register. In the Burial Register the following appears 'John Napier late Rector of Berkhamsted St. Peter deceased was buried in Woollen as appears by Affidavit taken before John Sayer clerk, parson of the Parish of Berkhamsted St Mary, 23rd February 1681. Charles II was the patron of the next Rector, Robert Brabant and then from then onwards the

patronage came into the hands of the Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall, until the late 1860s when Earl Brownlow purchased the Manor and Honour of Berkhamsted.

During the 18th and 19th centuries much more is known of the Rectors of St Peter's. The first of these Rectors was John Cowper, posthumously known as the father of the poet William Cowper. He was no doubt a worthy and dedicated man, who suffered much personal loss and grief. When one looks at the baptismal and burial registers, one finds immediately the baptism of the five children of Ann and John Cowper and then very soon after, their burials in that register, as for example August 7th 1733, Theodora Judith Cowper Bapt. June 19th 1735 Theodora Cowper a child, all entries written in the Rector's hand.

William's baptism is also there 1730 Decer Ye 13 Willm ye son of John Cowper D.D. Rector of this Parish and Anne his wife was baptised. Only William and one other sibling survived. Ann Cowper was to die at the age of 34, when William was six years old. Anne is buried in the tomb of her mother Catherine Donne together with her husband, John and five of their children, Spencer, John, Ann, Theodora Judith and Thomas. A loving tribute was paid to Ann by her friend, Lady Walsingham on a memorial tablet.

The next Rector was John Jeffries (sometimes Jeffreys), who was Rector for forty- two years living to the age of 81. His wife, Elizabeth, quite a bit younger, outlived him. She was in charge of a group of wet nurses and foster mothers who took care of infants until the age of five for the Thomas Coram Foundling Hospital. As an educated middle-class

woman she was able to supervise to a certain extent the care of these children. She wrote to the Secretary of the Hospital in 1767 ' Sir- I intend sending Mary Johnson up to the Hospital next Thursday by the Waggon.' 'The poor child has the Itch and needs looking after' Mrs Jeffreys then continues 'I have enclosed patterns of the lace the Children make. There is no other employment for them at this place, the Nurses teach them to Read and say their Catechism, but most of them are backward in Reading, and it cannot be expected that common Nurses are capable of teaching them well.'

The incumbent after Jeffreys was Charles de Guiffardiere. He has already had an article dedicated to him. His comparatively brief term of office was followed by John Crofts who was Rector for forty years. It was he who demolished the old rectory, the birthplace of William Cowper, and built himself a new one higher up the hill. He was also against the establishment of the Mechanics' Institute, believing that study of the Arts and Sciences was unnecessary for working men. In his forty years he must have achieved much that was positive. For example he purchased an adjoining meadow, which he donated to the 'living'. This now forms part of the upper cemetery. In his attitude to the education of the working classes he was only reflecting that of many of his contemporaries, advanced in years.

His successor, a much younger man, James Hutchinson, the last Rector whose patron was the Duke of Cornwall, was a great supporter of the idea of

Cont 'd page 30

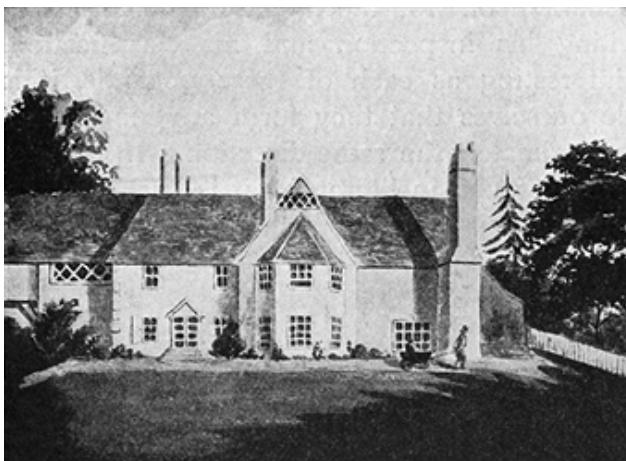
Mechanics' Institutes and was their President for a number of years. He had formerly been Chaplain to the Duke of Cambridge and British Chaplain at Rome. James Hutchinson was followed by John Wolstenholm Cobb, who has also had his own article. He was already well-known at St Peter's as he had previously served there as curate.

Arthur Johnson who followed the much-loved Cobb was Prebendary of Kerswell in the chapel within the Castle of Exeter in 1889 and Rural Dean of Berkhamsted 1892-1901. In his later years he was involved in the negotiations with Earl Brownlow over the plans to build All Saints Church to provide for the growing population in Kitsbury. In the early years of his incumbency he initiated the erection of the brass, by public subscription, on which the names of the Rectors is inscribed.

Henry George Constable-Curtis had connections with the Curtis family at the Hall, Berkhamsted, an example of the younger member of an aristocratic family taking orders. The Rector, who followed him,

Reginald Aubrey de Vere Hart-Davies, who was Rector from 1908-1920 steered the parish through the difficult years of World War I, and when one studies his letters and comforting words in St Peter's Parochial Review, one can see what a difficult task he faced and how well suited he was to his position. All sections of the community were devastated by loss, the congregation had diminished, was dispirited, the cemetery was neglected. They all needed help to come together and needed help in coming together again. Perhaps it is understandable that Hart-Davies needed a change. In 1920 he exchanged 'livings' with William Chipcase-Stainsby of Chigwell Row, Essex. He, it was, who was going to steer the parish through the difficult 1930s and WWII when we welcomed the many evacuees into our community. This brings us almost to the present day and posterity may later look back and comment on the further five Rectors we have had before our present incumbent, the Rev. Timothy Pilkington came to our ancient parish of Great Berkhamsted.

Jenny Sherwood



HELP

Your Berkhamsted magazine would like some help to review its distribution system and see how it could be improved.

Might you be able to help us do this?

We distribute in the region of 500 copies of the magazine each month, either direct to subscribers or through local shops and we want to think about how we could do this better.

Basic data about subscribers and costs etc is available. We want to someone with relevant skills to help us analyse this and identify options for how we could distribute the magazine more efficiently.

This is a one-off exercise and would not commit you to any on-going support of the magazine. Of course, if you find you would like to continue to work with us in some way we would be delighted to explore this with you.

If you are interested please contact the Editor and we will be delighted to give you more background and to talk further. We think this exercise will require something like 5 or so days, but of course we would review this with you when you know more about what is required.

Editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk

THANK YOU!

Copy Dates:	11 Jan	11 Feb	11 March
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