

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

May 2018

**Chelsea Flower
Show Garden
to go to the
Hospice of St
Francis**

**Gordon
Beningfield -
life and work**

**Bicentenary of
Berkhamsted
Quaker
Meeting House**

**Walks and
Talks at
Rectory Lane
Cemetery**

50p



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

In this issue...

WELCOME TO THE MAY 2018 EDITION OF YOUR BERKHAMSTED.

In this packed edition, we have a wonderful tribute to Gordon Beningfield as 2018 marks the 20th anniversary of his death and this dedication gives a wonderful insight to Gordon and his life. There is also information on the events celebrating his work. Talking of events there are some walks and talks at the Rectory Lane Cemetery. May has a National Cemeteries 'week' and this is a chance to learn about volunteer work within the 'Adopt a Grave' programme. Jenny Sherwood as ever has given us history of the Canal and Berkhamsted – our history is of such a wide range, I do not think there will ever be a shortage of topics. John Gerry asks "Where in Berkhamsted, do you find your favourite cappuccino?" John and a small team drank copious amounts of coffee at Berkhamsted's many coffee shops and these are their views. Though each of us have our own favourite spot. There are some other great stories so a good time to buy a cup of coffee and enjoy the read. Our 'what's on' page shows events in May in and around Berkhamsted and 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@yourberkhamsted.org.uk

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Front cover: Thank you Sarah Dawson and her son James for the wonderful front cover montage of Berkhamsted coffee shops.

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.

Berkhamsted in the news by Julian Dawson



We begin this month with the impact of money laundering rules on the likes of you and I in the High Street. dailymail.co.uk reports that it is no longer possible to pay cash into a family member's account without proof of identity. Nationwide customer Simon Icke was caught out by the new regulations when he tried to pay money into his wife's account and was prevented from doing so. However it seems perfectly reasonable that we should be able to prove who we are when transferring money so that we can prevent the money launderers getting off scot free. It seems a small price to pay. And as if to prove the point, mix96.co.uk stated that police were wanting to question two men concerning allegations of fraud. The incident happened in my own street begad. The victim was a man in his 80s. He answered the door to three men who told him they had identified a water leak to the rear of his property. They then asked for a blank cheque for more than £18,000 for work allegedly carried out. The cheque was fortunately later cancelled.

Whether it was coincidence or not, money laundering and fraud was the

least of the problems for our local branch of Santander which found itself on the wrong side of a bank raid, reported breathlessly by hemelto-day.co.uk. The raid occurred at 11:20 at night, the robbers smashing glass to enter the bank and making off with an undisclosed sum of money. All this whilst employees were still in the branch.

As we reached the business end of the football season watfordobserver.co.uk reports on a ten goal thriller as Berkhamsted and neighbours Leverstock Green shared in a 5-5 goal fest. The result ensured that the local team remains second in the league at time of writing, and we will need to await the machinations of the league pyramid to discover whether promotion awaits. thametoday.co.uk reports on matters of the stage. The Centenary Theatre hosted Thame's Stagecoach Performing Arts group who raised funds for YoungMinds and Haydn's Wish. A cast of 200 was able to raise £2500 for each charity through a performance of *Picture the Impossible*, an extravaganza by all accounts.

Cont page 5

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This month's blog is rich1698.wordpress.com which jumps on the Graham Greene bandwagon and tells us a whole load of information we've heard before. So this month's RGF (Random Greene Fact) - Henry Graham Greene, OM, CH, passed away 3 April 1991 in Vevey, Switzerland. Just a few months before I became a resident. Of Berkhamsted that is, not Vevey.

News of our, well, competitors I guess. The "much-loved and respected" Tring Living and Berkhamsted Living magazines are passing

hands from this summer's issues. Alison Page of Alison Page Marketing (APM) has taken over the reins of these quarterly publications from founder Sandra Boothroyd-Todd and editorial director David Guest. This according to prlog.org. Finally, if you just feel like stuffing all this in your pipe and smoking it look no further than bestsmoking-pipes.com. A C. Crop London Victorian Clay Pipe can be collected at their Berkhamsted Retail & Trading Reception office. Puff away to your heart's content.

Drawings of Berkhamsted by
Jenni Cator,



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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

www.wea.org.uk. (Adult Learning Courses) £74 for a 10-week course, 2 hours a week. 0300 3033464; information 872432

Fri 4th May 2018 to Mon 7th May 2018 - Berkhamsted RCTA Mayday BH Floating market

A way to spend a few hours in the open air sharing the towpath space & meeting traders who live & work on the canals. Arts & crafts, food & "Not on the High Street" goods. FREE 10am - 5pm daily weather permitting. **Grand Union Canal towpath adjacent to Waitrose Hertfordshire HP4 1HS** [07450230303](tel:07450230303) Call to check latest times or cancellations.

Sat, 5th May @ 8pm - Berkhamsted Jazz. Glen Manby Quintet. Glen Manby (as), Steve Waterman (tpt), Leon Greening (p), Adam King (b), Matt Home (d). Civic Centre. www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk

Thurs 10th May - Rip-Roaring 1920s Night

The Pepper Foundation (reg. charity 1056823) is holding a fundraiser in support of Pepper Nurses at The Gatsby in Berkhamsted and celebrating all things 1920s.

There will be dancing, a live jazz band, hot two-course buffet, a raffle and more!

Mark and Hoc Ewing from Cambs & Beds Lindy Experience will be performing popular dances of the era and will show you some simple Charleston dance steps so you can kick your heels up to the wonderful music of the naughty 20's.

So why not grab some tickets, your beads and feathers and Shimmy,Varsity Drag or Lindy Hop over to Berkhamsted for our Spring fundraiser and help raise funds to support life-limited children in Bucks and Herts. 1920's dress optional.

7.00 pm Tickets £35.00 each (includes buffet)

The Gatsby Restaurant & Piano Bar, High Street, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 2DG

Sunday 13th May - 50th Berkhamsted Walk. 6, 12 or 18 miles through the bluebells. We challenge all 50 year olds to take part in this special event , raising money for The Children's Society. Photo competition for best pictures we can use on the website! Start from 10 -11.30am at the Court House or 11am till 2pm at Ashridge College. www.berkhamstedwalk.com

Sun 13th to Sat 19th May @2.30pm - Berkhamsted Art Society - Art Exhibition: a wide range of members' artwork in all media, including ceramics, to view and for sale. Civic Centre. www.berkhamstedartsociety.com Free entry, all welcome.

Sun, 20th May @ 3.30pm - Dacorum Symphony Orchestra. Orchestral Concert. Programme to include: Brahms 'Academic Festival Overture', Kodaly 'Hary Janos Suite', piano concerto tba, conductor Thomas Loten, soloist Joseph Beadle. Centenary Theatre. <http://dacorumso.org>. 01494 727240, DC

26th May @ 8pm - Berkhamsted Jazz - Chris Garrick Quintet – Spirit of Stephane. Chris Garrick (vi), Jez Cook (g), Andy Crowdy (b), Eddie Hession (acc), Tom Hooper (d). Civic Centre. www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk

OFFER YOUR TALENTS FOR ST

PETER'S CHARITIES: There will be a silent auction as part of this year's Petertide Fair. (30th June) People will bid for services and events offered

by you, our parishioners. What skills can you offer?..Cooking, woodwork, decorating, gardening, music, rides, training, art, care? Could you or a friend offer tickets to an event? Please send your offers to silally111@gmail.com

Showing at the [The Vyne Theatre, Berkhamsted Arts Centre](http://www.vynettheatre.co.uk)
www.vynettheatre.co.uk

Manon - The Royal Ballet

Sun 6th May 2:00pm. Live recording

Macbeth - National Theatre Live

Sun 13th May 6:00pm . Live recording

Herts Litfest for children and adults
<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/events-and-things-to-do/events-and-things-to-do-at-libraries.aspx>



[things-to-do-at-libraries.aspx](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/events-and-things-to-do/events-and-things-to-do-at-libraries.aspx)

[Berkhamsted Library](#)

[@ellygriffiths](#) is with us to talk about her latest novel: The Dark Angel. Book online, in the

library or by phone :

01707 281533.

[https://www.civicaepay.co.uk/HERTFORDSHIREESTORE/ESTORE/default/catalog/index?](https://www.civicaepay.co.uk/HERTFORDSHIREESTORE/ESTORE/default/catalog/index?catalogueitemreference=E0000512)
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or <http://bit.ly/LitfestDAconc> . #Hert-sLitFest18

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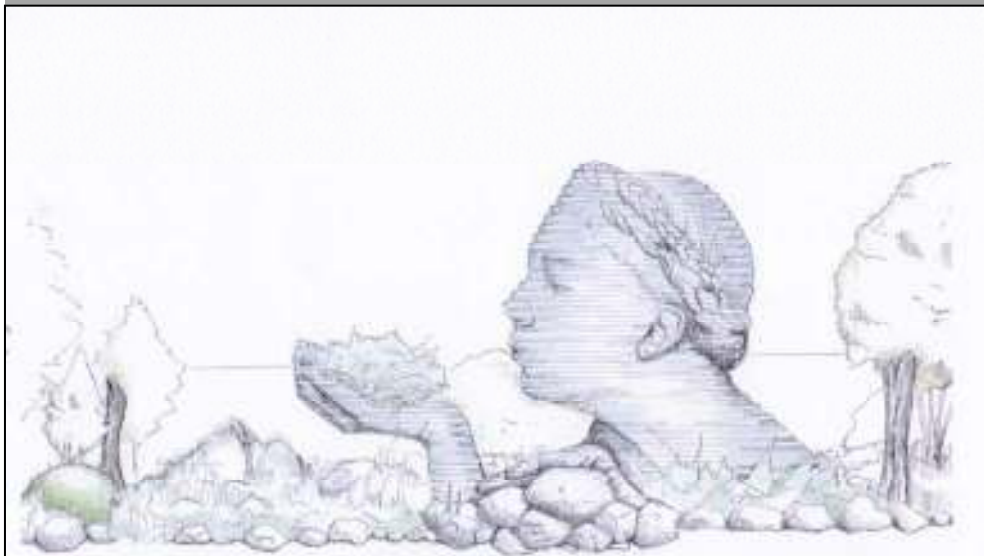
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Chelsea Flower Show Garden to go to the Hospice of St Francis



In 2016 Peter King who lives in Great Gaddesden, lost first his brother Graham and then his wife Gill to Myeloma, which is cancer of the bone marrow.

Myeloma UK, a registered charity, is the only organization in the UK dealing exclusively with Myeloma. It provides support to patients and their families as well as sponsoring research into treatments and clinical trials. Because unlike most cancers there are no lumps or tumours Myeloma has one of the highest rates of delay in diagnosis.

Inspired by Peter, MyelomaUK are having a Garden at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. It has been designed by RHS Gold Medal winner John Everiss in conjunction with Francesca Murrell. The aim of the Garden is to raise Myeloma awareness.

Gill died at the Hospice of St Francis and it is Peter's aim that after the Flower Show the garden is moved to a permanent home at the Hospice for which purpose he has set up a crowd funding page with BtDonate. It can be found at **<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/peterking4garden-hospice>**

Peter's aim is to get support for this from the local community and hopes that many will donate £10 to this project. Please look at his page and play the video.

THE CANAL AND BERKHAMSTED



Although the building of the Canal did not meet with the same level of resistance that would occur with the coming of the railway in the

next century, the owners of the Upper Mill and the Lower (Bank) Mill feared that the Bulbourne would be completely drained, leaving their wheels high and dry and inoperable. The Millers' rights were, however, safeguarded and although the canal no doubt lessened the flow of the river both mills functioned until early in the twentieth century. In fact, the building of the canal improved the health of those living in the valley since it lessened the flooding of the water meadows which became malarial swamps, as a writer in 1776 said 'Berkhamsted stretches along the south side of a swamp'.

This area from Boxmoor through to beyond Tring presented a tremendous challenge to engineers necessitating a large number of locks to get through the height of the Tring Gap. To take the roads over the Canal required the building of a number of little hump-backed bridges most still there today. Perhaps the best-known one, which is doubly interesting because the towpath changes sides, is that in Castle Street. Here the

raising of the road to get over the Canal resulted in the Elizabethan cottages (demolished in the 1960s) becoming the 'sunken cottages' because they were then below the level of the road.

The Canal, the Grand Junction Canal, as it was first known, brought valuable trading opportunities to the town of Berkhamsted. Wharves were built alongside its banks and connections between London and Birmingham were established. For

the first time, coal in appreciable quantities reached the town, bringing the opportunity of setting up steam driven machines in the timber and other trades.



Horse-drawn barges increased the trade for local blacksmiths and the numerous little firms which produced bowls and spoons were able to think and develop on a much larger scale. Among these a firm of boatbuilders was established and its successors continued into the early 20th century. The original boatbuilder, one John Hatton, was later taken over by Costin's. Many a Berkhamsted youngster had fond memories of a Sunday School outing leaving from Costin's yard, when the barge crammed to the hilt with excited children departed for New Ground, from whence they walked up to the Bridgewater Monument. Few children probably realised the significance of that when they enjoyed their picnic and were

posterity sitting at the foot of the monument to the creator of Canals, the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater.

The building of the Canal brought with it the 'water gypsies', a race apart with a distinctive costume, the women in tight-waisted and elaborately embroidered dresses. During the day they worked in the open-air but at night they slept in very cramped conditions. These cramped living conditions necessitated inspection by the local authority which in Berkhamsted was the responsibility of the Surveyor who inspected up to 100 boats a year. We are fortunate that some of these canal registers survive in the Society's collection, giving us a clearer understanding of life

on these boats. Besides reporting minor infringements of the Canal Boats Act such as illegible lettering or lack of certificate of registration the inspector was on the alert for major offences of exceeding the number of persons authorised to sleep in the tiny cabins. Berkhamsted was one of the registration authorities for the Canal and from these registers we learn the name, number, owner, master, customary route, mode of propulsion, dimension of cabin, permitted number of occupants. Almost all the boats are described as 'wide boat drawn by horse' or 'narrow boat drawn by horse' The nature of the traffic produced a variety of answers; 'timber, rags and paper, general

dry goods, flour, corn, bricks, gravel, sand, manure'.

We spoke earlier about the wharves which existed along the banks of the Canal. How many people today can identify where those wharves were? Many people will remember the campaign to save the last remaining wharf where Bridgewater Boats once was, and which sadly failed. All these wharves had their own function. Where were they and what was their function? In an attempt to save some-

thing of the important history of the Canal in Berkhamsted and its Port, Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society, in conjunction with Berkhamsted Citizens Association is launching this year a guided walk as part of the



Heritage Open Days in September. This will give locals and visitors to our town the opportunity to learn more of our Canal which once played such an important part in the development of our town and is still an attractive feature today. Make sure you come on this guided walk and unlock the sluice gates to this hidden history. Full details of this event and other Heritage Open Days, 6th -9th September and 13th -16th September will be available later on the BCA website, BLHMS website www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk and on HOD website www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Jenny Sherwood

GORDON BENINGFIELD ANNIVERSARY

by Dennis Furnell

2018 marks 20 years since the death of Gordon Beningfield – artistic polymath, master of the art of watercolour painting, sculpture and stained glass. He was also a doughty advocate for the preservation of all that was diverse and beautiful in the British countryside.

Best known for his exquisite depictions of butterflies, birds and landscapes, Gordon was born in London where his father, himself a talented amateur artist, was a lighterman on the River Thames. Gordon showed a talent for drawing from an early age and, during the Second World War, filled pages with drawings of Spitfires and Bombers. As the Blitz on London increased he was evacuated with his mother to London Colney, Hertfordshire where he was in his element, rapidly developing a knowledge of nature and skill as a draftsman.

By his own admission he was an undistinguished scholar, suffering from what we know today as dyslexia. Happily, one of his teachers recognised his budding talent and encouraged him to develop as an artist. Despite his difficulty with reading and writing, he was widely read and well able to hold his own in debate, a skill used to good effect when lecturing - and on television and radio programmes when it concerned his passion for the

countryside and its wildlife.



Gordon always planned to become a gamekeeper. Luckily, his parents secured him a place as an apprentice with Faithcraft, St. Albans; a company involved in ecclesiastic art and restoration. Here he learned many skills from sweeping floors and making the tea to mixing colours; but it soon became apparent that he had a remarkable talent ranging from carving and sculpture, painting to heraldry, gilding and that most ancient of crafts, stained glass. He enrolled at St. Albans School of Art where he quickly found his niche as an artist and soon his paintings of wildlife were in high demand; so much so that when he

completed his apprenticeship he decided to branch out on his own. Not an easy decision, especially when you have a family to consider. He married Betty Boyce in 1958 and they had two daughters, Sally and Sarah.

It was round about this time, in the latter part of the 1960's that he and I met when we both exhibited paintings at the first World Wildlife Fund Exhibition held at the Civic Centre in Hemel Hempstead.... and began a friendship that was to last for 30 years. We shared a passion for the countryside and were influenced by the same wildlife artists. We were passionate about reducing the scale of damage and loss of wildlife caused by intensive agriculture, forestry and particularly straw burning for the damage caused to hedgerows, field trees and farmland wildlife, particularly butterflies and wild flowers.

During this time Gordon was developing his undoubted talent and was beginning to be widely recognised for his exceptional natural technique. He produced a number of beautiful books illustrated with exquisite paintings and drawings. One of his specialities was butterflies which seemed almost as if they might flutter their wings and fly from the page. His commissions from the G.P.O. to paint a series of stamps depicting butterflies and insects gave him immense satisfaction as did his invitation to become a Freeman of the City of Lon

don and Liveryman of the Glass Sellers Company. Gordon's public persona was that of a quiet polite man, but to his friends, and he had many, he showed a schoolboy's sense of humour and a wicked sense of fun. He was a delightful companion and, until his final illness made it too difficult for him to travel, he and I spent many happy hours exploring the English countryside together - particularly his beloved Dorset - Thomas Hardy's Wessex. Much of his finest work was inspired by the quiet coombs and deep tangled oak woodlands of this quiet county

To his family and friends, his death from cancer on the 4th of May 1998 left a deep sense of loss and sadness, but pride and joy too that we were fortunate enough to have enjoyed and shared his love of life and of the countryside.



Events to Celebrate Gordon's Life & Work

Big Wild Weekend at Great Gaddesden. 15th, 16th, 17th June

15th at 7.00pm Ticket only reception and talk by Beningfield's close friend, 'The Nature Man' Dennis Furnell at St. John the Baptist Church. Tickets from Peter King, Tel. 01442 256556

16th– 17th Flower Festival celebrating Beningfield's English countryside at St. John the Baptist Church. The Church will be open to the public 10.30-4.30 on Saturday 16th and 11.45-4.30pm on the Sunday (*Please note - church service at 10.30am on Sunday morning.*)

16th & 17th Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust are holding family-oriented activities and events in the water meadows along the River Gade at Great Gaddesden to coincide with the flower festival at the church.

16th & 17th Water End and Upper Gade Conservation Society guided walks – a walk will leave from the churchyard each day at 2pm. **Sign-up on the day** in the gazebo in the churchyard; walks will be 1-1.5 hours, highlighting the local wildlife and landscape much loved by Gordon; each walk will end up back at the church where cream teas will be served.

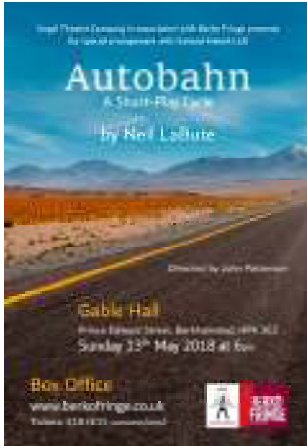
July

6th–8th July Beningfield's Wildlife Weekend at the Natural History Museum in Tring. Starting with an evening reception on Friday 6th (ticketed event). The weekend exhibition, is a **free** display, which will be a reminder to some and an introduction to others of Gordon's skill as an artist and his passion as a campaigner for countryside conservation. It is a rare chance to see selected original artworks. Friday & Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 2-5pm.



Gordon and Dennis at Ashridge

Berko Fringe Presents – **Autobahn** by Neil LaBute



Join us on Sunday 13th May at 6pm at Gable Hall, Prince Edward Street, Berkhamsted, as we welcome back The Angel Theatre Company to perform for us. A professional theatre company, they are dedicated to producing London fringe theatre of the highest calibre, aiming to give audiences the same quality of production as a West End theatre.

As one of America's most celebrated playwrights, Neil LaBute has enthralled audiences all over the world with his layered characters, sharp dialogue and subtle social commentaries. In *Autobahn, A Short-Play Cycle*, he gives us seven scenes, each set within the confines of a car - an environment from which there is no escape! Inside the car the characters are forced, no matter how reluctantly, to engage in conversation. Each vignette offers a brief insight into the world of a variety of couples, resulting in a montage of intriguing character driven duologues.

From the humorous to the unsettling, *Autobahn* offers its audience the most intriguing of theatrical road trips! Suitable for 14 years+

From the humorous to the unsettling, *Autobahn* offers its audience the most intriguing of theatrical road trips! Suitable for 14 years+

Angel Theatre Company director, John Patterson will give a short talk followed by a Q&A session after the performance for anyone wishing to stay.

Tickets are £18/£15 concessions, available now from www.berkofringe.co.uk

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12 High Street
Kings Langley
WD4 6BH

Your Berkhamsted Clergy

“Who should I obey?” That is a tricky question, and was one even before people emerged from their animal ancestry. If you do not obey the powerful then expect to be killed or banished. The powerful will do anything to remain in charge. That is the law of the jungle. If we believe we are more sophisticated, present wars and emerging dictatorships remind us that the powerful will still have people conform to their wishes or be destroyed or banished.

This has been a tricky question for the Church, even if St Paul did, kind of, suggest we should unquestioningly obey the governing authority. His own behaviour indicated that obedience was not to be blind or unquestioning. He stuck to his Christian principles at some cost.

In a democratic society the idea is we elect the people who make the laws which demand our obedience and set the penalties for disobedience. A modern problem is that few of us know the people we are electing except through news of one kind or another, including gossip and “fake” news.

All this is not irrelevant to the celebration of the Ascension of Christ which happens this month. “Crown him with many crowns!” urges the hymn writer. A strange kind of king, funny sort of dictator he has turned out to be, indeed. Certainly not like the “rulers of this world”. It is this oddness which means we can give our loyalty to Christ as we have come to know him: his teaching, his way of life, the moral principles he demonstrated, his vision of what lies beyond the apparent.

The person of Jesus, and the writings about him must be the most picked over, closely examined of any in the world. The well-documented history of the Church shows how people over the ages have lived out their obedience to Christ in very many different societies and cultures. The history shows the good bits and the bad bits. Following Jesus has led to much generosity, kindness, bravery in the face of adversity, but we also recognise how some claiming to do the will of God have shamelessly grabbed power and violently lived the law of the jungle.

Electing to try to follow the Christian way, joining others on the same path, is certainly to begin a learning experience. It is not sign up, the election is over, and that is it! We work out our obedience in the real world. We shall differ and argue with our fellow travellers as we seek an appropriate response to what is going on. That has to be better than struggling alone, being so sure we know it all, or even contemptuous of those who seek something deeper and more significant than what is obvious.

Giving loyalty to God through Jesus Christ certainly makes one very aware of the dangers of any kind of dictatorship which seeks to control everyone and everything. It alerts us to the abuse of power in relationships, from between individuals to the ways nations treat each other.

Obedience to Christ sounds fierce and controlling, but put into practice it can bring a quiet confidence and provide a steady focus as we meet changing and, sometimes, violent times.

Fr Anthony Lathe

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 Kate Spall 873470 .
- 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. 120 Valley Road. Tell us if anyone needs your prayers. Contact Margaret Burbidge 862139
- Wed Julian Meeting, meets about twice a month, 11:30am. All welcome. At Ruth Treves Brown, 3 Sherwood Mews, Park Street, Berkhamsted HP4 1HX. Tel 863268.
- 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. Peggy Sear 01296 584530.
- 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 (day off Friday), Team Rector, St Peter's.

Simon Vivian, Assistant Curate. 01442 864199. curate@greatberkhamsted.org.uk

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

This Month's Diary

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

Tue 1st May at 6.15am: MAY MORNING MADRIGALS sung from the Tower of St Peter's Church under the direction of Adrian Davis, followed by BREAKFAST in the Court House. Donations for breakfast please.

Sat 12th May at 7.30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's – Dacorum Youth Orchestra directed by Claudio Di Meo. Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2, soloist Manuel Cini; Tchaikovsky Swan Lake Suite; Bizet Excerpts from Carmen. Admission by donation.

St Peter's

Baptisms - None

Weddings - None

Funerals - None

All Saints

6th	Sixth Sunday of Easter
10am	Morning Worship - Chris O'Reilly
10th	Ascension Day (Thursday)
8pm	Holy Communion - Revd Rachael Hawkins
13th	Seventh Sunday of Easter
10am	Holy Communion - Revd John Kirkby
20th	Pentecost
10am	All Age Holy Communion - Revd Rachael Hawkins
4pm	Messy Church - Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Team
27th	Trinity Sunday
10am	Holy Communion - Revd Janet Ridgway
4pm	Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing - Revd Rachael Hawkins & Audrey Cox & Tracy Robinson

Baptism - 11 March - Ethan James Butler

Further information available from our church websites:

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

News from the Hospice of St Francis



May 2018

As the blossom appears on the trees, the days get longer and

the weather starts to warm up, minds start to turn to spending time outdoors and enjoying the open air – and we have loads of great events lined up throughout the warmer months to help you get together with friends and family and make the most of the great outdoors.

All our fundraising events help us to raise the over £5 million we need each year to fund our free care and support for people living with life-limiting illnesses across Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Without your support we could not bring peace, comfort and confidence to so many people - as in-patients, outpatients and at home - helping them to live life to the full and providing essential support for their families and carers.

Midnight Walk is back!

Old and new walkers are being invited to join us for a Saturday night out with a difference as this special night time challenge returns to Hemel Hempstead with two new and exciting, candlelit routes to choose from.



For the first time, parts of the route will be illuminated by candlelight as walkers make their way around the town on **Saturday 16th June.**

An illuminated 'magical wood' in the grounds of Abbots Hill School, will give walkers a chance to make a wish under twinkling lights before glowing neon bright in the ultra violet chill out zone. All walkers are being encouraged to carry tea light lanterns as they make their way along the route. The lanterns will then be placed together at the end of the walk as a symbol of the care and support the Hospice offers patients and their families. The fun begins at 9pm at Hemel Hempstead School when registration opens before walkers embark on their chosen route at 10pm. At the finish line all walkers will be rewarded with a finisher's medal, a hot cuppa and cake. For more information visit www.stfrancis.org.uk/midnightwalk

Garden Party

We're once again gearing up for our ever popular annual Garden Party in the beautiful grounds of Ashridge House. Taking place on **Sunday 3rd June**, a wide range of activities and attractions will be on offer to keep the whole family entertained. Party-goers can look forward to regular attractions like cream teas on the terrace, live jazz, Pimms on the lawn and a wide range of speciality, locally produced food and drink.

There will also be a variety of children's entertainment to keep the little ones happy including pony rides, face painting, circus skills, Punch and Judy shows and even sumo wrestling.

The family-friendly event draws crowds in

their thousands who come to soak up the festival atmosphere and enjoy the opportunity to explore the extensive grounds of Ashridge House, which has played host to what is now the largest event in the charity's fundraising calendar since 2001.



As usual, it will feature a Shopping Village selling jewellery, crafts, plants and much more. If you'd like to apply for a stall, please visit www.stfrancis.org.uk/gardenpartystalls

Markyate Plant Sale

From modest beginnings the Markyate Plant Sale has evolved into a full-blown garden party and raised nearly £85,000 for the Hospice.

This year's sale is on **Saturday 26th May** in the picturesque gardens of **64 High Street, Markyate**. As well as masses of colourful bedding plants the sale will feature a selection of hanging baskets, perennials, herbs and vegetables. To complete your visit, you can enjoy home baked cakes, rolls and refreshments whilst being entertained by live music. Entry is free.

Other dates for your Diaries

Dacorum Steam and Country Fayre –

Saturday 28th - Sunday 29th July at Green Croft Farm, Potten End, nr Hemel Hempstead.

Stocks Golf Day – The Challenge Trophy

– Friday 27th July at Stocks Golf Club.

Ashridge Golf Day – Wednesday 12th September at Ashridge Golf Club.

Mud Pack Challenge – Sunday 21st October at Ashridge House.

For further details of all our events visit www.stfrancis.org.uk/events or call [01442 869555](tel:01442869555)

Follow us on Facebook: the hospice of st francis, **Twitter:** [Hospicstfrancis](https://twitter.com/Hospicstfrancis) and **Instagram:** [Hospicestfrancis](https://www.instagram.com/Hospicestfrancis)

Exhibition Display Opportunity

If any local charity or organisation would like to use the Long Room of the Court House (the room at the front) to mount a short exhibition or display on a Saturday morning between 9am and 12 noon this space is available free of charge. To check availability and make your reservation contact Kathie Lally at kathleenlally21@gmail.com



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McQuinn, Sharon L. *Journal of the Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain* 36 (2006) 1–12.

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BICENTENARY OF BERKHAMSTED QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

289 High Street.



This year Quakers in Berkhamsted, Tring and the surrounding villages are celebrating the bicentenary of our Meeting

House. We are plan-

ning to have Open House and Garden on Saturday 7 July and Sunday 8 July when we look forward to welcoming many of you. You will be able to talk with Quakers, browse among information about the Society of Friends (another way of describing Quakers), view a selection of books available to purchase and see a small exhibition by the local History and Museum Society. There will also be a community feel to the day as there will be information about the many groups who use the building for their meetings.

Teas and coffees will be available on the Saturday between 10.30 am – 2.00pm, when we hope that the Mayor will be on hand to cut a celebration cake. Cream teas will be available between 2.30 – 4.00pm.

From 7.00 – 8.00 pm on the Saturday evening a Quaker couple known as 'The Journeymen' will present a play called *"The Bundle"*, about refugees.

On Sunday 8 July there will be a half hour Meeting for Worship, followed by questions and discussion and a shared lunch at which all are welcome.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has its roots in the turbulent times of the Reformation, initially among the yeoman farmers of the northern Pennines and

Lakeland fells: they were strongly sceptical about the demands and rituals of the Anglican church at the time. They became an ever-growing band of people who called themselves "Seekers" as they sought after religious truth.

The first meeting houses, including several in this area, appeared as religious toleration eventually increased during the seventeenth century.

One of these houses was in Tring based in a cottage which stood at the corner of Park Road and Hastoe Lane. Nothing of it remains but the adjacent burial ground still survives, holding the unmarked graves of eighty Quakers interred between 1678 and 1809.

Our present Meeting House was completed in 1818 on part of the grounds of Boxwell House, owned and then made available by the Littleboy family, well-known local Quakers. Another local Quaker family, the Squires, was involved in raising the money to build the Meeting House. Once built, Tring Quakers transferred to Berkhamsted.

Unfortunately the Meeting House suffered from dampness throughout the nineteenth century and much of the twentieth century too having been built over a spring which flowed down to St. John's Well. Co-incidentally in the middle of the nineteenth century the Society had become somewhat inward looking and the number of people attending meetings generally declined, and in fact the Meeting House was closed between 1892 and 1899.

After the First World War the Meeting House provided a venue for the Adult School Movement; during the Second World War it supported two Quaker sisters, Kathleen and Winifred Rawlins who moved to Berkhamsted in 1940, to set up a hostel in Charles Street for Jewish refugees; at times the Meeting House was used as temporary accommodation for an overflow from the hostel.

Immediately after the war it became a collection point for clothes and money for food which was sent to destitute families in Germany via the newly formed Oxfam.

By the 1960s much major work needed to be done on the building and it was closed between July 1964 and October 1965 for this purpose.

Today we are pleased that the two rooms in the Meeting House are well used by local groups including the Workers Educational Association (W.E.A.), The University of the Third Age (U3A), the Berkhamsted Speakers, children's groups, and many children's birthday parties!

To give a flavour of what Quakers believe, we believe that there is "that of God in everyone" – some people will use other words, such as Spirit, the Divine, the Light, but all are seeking to understand this more fully and to practise it in their everyday lives. We also believe that "we should let our lives speak" and that this should be expressed in trying to be loving and caring. The Quaker testimonies of *Equality, Justice, Peace, Simplicity and Truth* provide a basis for how we try to live in the world.

In our local Meetings for Worship which are held on the second and last Sundays of the month at 10.30 am we sit in a circle in stillness and seek to feel the power of God's love drawing us together and leading us. From time to time, spontaneously, anyone in the group may speak briefly, giving food for thought.

Everyone is welcome at these meetings.

Moir Thomson
Member of Berkhamsted Quakers



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Walks and Talks at Rectory Lane Cemetery

May looks like it will be a busy month! The National Federation of Cemetery Friends has designated May 12th - 20th as National Cemeteries 'week', so we will be welcoming new volunteers onto our 'Adopt a Grave' programme. Current volunteers find it a very rewarding task and quickly get caught up in researching the life of the person whose grave they are rescuing from neglect. Anyone interested should contact Campbell-kate01@gmail.com or come and see us at our Market stall outside Tesco on the morning of Saturday 12th May.

We are proud to participate in the Chiltern Walking Festival 2018. We are offering *Cemetery Circulars* at 10.00am on Saturday May 19th and 26th and a walk aimed at children to coincide with half term at 2pm on Wednesday 30th. Intriguingly, walkers will get an insight into the Cemetery from a certain Jane Ghost, the wife of our Victorian grave digger Richard Ghost, who will lead the walk along with Kate Campbell, our Community Engagement Officer.

All walks begin outside St Peter's Church on the High Street and refreshments will be available at the end of the walk at The Court House next to St Peter's Church.

The walks are free but because numbers are limited, anyone wishing to join needs to book: <https://www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest.html>. Saturday 19th is walk 61, Saturday 26th is walk 62 and Wednesday 30th is walk 63.

On a similar theme, the excellent Dacorum Health Walks initiative will also be visiting the Cemetery on May 15th as part of their summer programme of evening walks. While in the Cemetery they will hear about the Cemetery Project – its history and our plans – from Kate Campbell. This walk starts out from outside the front of Tesco on the High Street at 7pm and there is no charge; all are welcome. These are the activities that we know about as YB goes to press but do keep an eye on our website and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stpetersberkhamstedfriends/> for updates



From Ethiopia to Berkhamsted - the Coffee Journey

Where is your favourite Cappuccino?

Popular legend has it that a goat herder in Ethiopia noticed his animals showing more energy after eating from the fruit of a particular plant, and that local monks brewed the first coffee from these berries. Other sources say it developed in the Arab Peninsula, particularly in Yemen. The beans were first roasted in the 15th century in Europe, and the first recorded coffee shop in England was opened in 1652 in Cornhill, London. After a rocky start when coffee houses got a bad reputation and were indeed briefly banned by James 2nd, they developed into social and political hubs where books were written and political parties formed. By mid 18th century, John Wilkes was using them to form his famous band of supporters seeking libertarian reform.

In that century, coffee was introduced to the New World, and became increasingly popular in the US after the Boston Tea Party made it unpatriotic to drink tea.

From there it developed rapidly and is currently the second largest legally traded commodity after oil. It is rumoured that Teddy Roosevelt drank a gallon of coffee a day, and it is true that some 2.25 billion cups are consumed every day. In the 1960's specialty coffees were developed and the

first Starbucks opened in 1971. Since then the grass roots coffee movement has grown worldwide with the spread, not only of the massive chains, but with independents using sustainable fair trade beans.

So, where in Berkhamsted, do you find your favourite cappuccino? "Your Berkhamsted" set out to experience the different coffee shops in the town and to try to form an opinion as to their relative merits. The first task was to establish a panel of independent coffee drinkers with the time to tour the coffee shops. It was decided to include only those outlets whose main purpose is the sale of coffee - if you are devotees of Waterstone's cafe or I love Food, you will not find them ranked here. Our journey took us round five coffee shops, alphabetically Bel Caffé, Black Goo, Costa, Epicure and Fred & Ginger.

We rated each of them against the actual coffee experience, service, ambience, coffee selection and snack selection. Coffee experience was up-weighted to represent its importance. You will not be surprised to find that they all had their strengths and weaknesses.. Maybe Costa suffered on ambience whilst Black Goo had a lot of stairs. But then again, Black Goo had a great snack selection

and Costa was very reliable. Ultimately the scoring was very close - we are blessed in Berkhamsted with several very good coffee establishments. Our valiant panel, many cups of coffee later, scored Epicure in first place, closely followed by Bel Caffè and Black Goo. Fred & Ginger and

Costa were only a whisker behind.

Only the opinion of one panel, and, of course every coffee shop can have good and bad days. What do you think? Where is YOUR favourite cappuccino?

John Gerry



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FREE Compost Giveaway!

Sunday 13 May
9:00 - 11:00am
Cupid Green Depot
Redbourn Road
Hemel Hempstead
HP2 7BA

Come and collect pre-bagged compost
made from your garden waste for **FREE**.
Compost will be issued on a **first come, first served** basis and
limited to **TWO** bags per car.

To celebrate International Compost Awareness Week (6-12 May), Dacorum Borough Council is giving away free compost to residents to use on their gardens.

Anyone who lives in Dacorum can come to Cupid Green Depot, Redbourn Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 7BA, on **Sunday 13 May between 9am – 11am** to pick up a free bag of compost. The compost will be pre-bagged and strictly limited to **two bags per vehicle**. The compost will be given away on a **first-come, first-served basis** – so please arrive early to avoid disappointment.

Last year, by putting grass cuttings, leaves, twigs, flowers and weeds into their green-lidded bins, Dacorum's residents diverted over 10,000 tonnes of garden waste from land-fill so that it could be recycled into compost instead. D Williams and Co. are the company responsible for converting the contents of the green-lidded bin into this nutrient rich compost which will be on offer at the giveaway.

Compost has a range of benefits, such as; improving soil quality, growing healthy plants, reducing the use of fertiliser and pesticides and is even an effective method of reducing harmful greenhouse gases.

Portfolio Holder for Environment Sustainability and Regulatory Services, Councillor Janice Marshall, said "Our annual Compost Giveaway is a fantastic opportunity to show the value of recycling in your kerbside bins. I hope that our green-fingered residents take the chance to see what their garden waste gets turned into, and enjoy taking this nutrient-rich compost home to reuse on their own gardens to help grow strong, healthy plants and vegetables."

For more information about the Free Compost Giveaway event visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/compost. Please note, no cardboard or food waste should be going into your green-lidded bin, for a reminder of what materials can go in, visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/greenbin.

Family Law Solicitors raise nearly £8,500 for Local Charity

Family law solicitors, Rayden Solicitors, presented local charity, The Hospice of St Francis, with a cheque for nearly £8,500 on Friday (6 April) - raised by the team at various fundraising events held throughout the year.

The Hospice of St Francis was the firm's Charity of the Year for 2017 as voted for by their team across their offices in St Albans and Berkhamsted. The Hospice of St Francis provides free, expert care for people living with life-limiting illnesses in West Herts and South Bucks. It also supports their families, carers and those close to them.

Head of Corporate Fundraising, Carolyn Addison, said *"Here at The Hospice of St Francis, we are continually inspired by and grateful for the incredible things that organisations do to help us meet the challenge of funding our*

vital services - firms like Rayden Solicitors who have raised a staggering £8,496 for the Hospice after choosing us as their Charity of the Year for 2017. The next year will bring challenges and opportunities for us all, the biggest of which will be raising the over £5million we need every year to continue to provide care and

support to patients and families when it matters most. I'd like to thank all at Rayden Solicitors for their continued support, which will enable us to continue to make a huge difference to people's lives."

Senior Partner, Katherine Rayden, said *"I am so pleased that the team has worked so hard to raise such a fantastic sum for the Hospice, a local charity vital to our community. Thanks must also go to our local business communities who have supported our events so generously including our well attended annual quiz night and musical evening with Gary Williams."*



Rayden Solicitors, Berkhamsted office, will continue to support The Hospice of St Francis as its Charity of the Year for 2018. Their next event for the Hospice will be a musical evening with Gary Williams, star of the West End's Rat Pack, with a "Frank Sinatra Jukebox"

offering the audience the opportunity to request their favourite Sinatra songs. This event will be held at the Gatsby, Berkhamsted on 6 June 2018.

Picture - Rayden Solicitors team with Carolyn Addison at the cheque presentation.

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Published by Great Berkhamsted Parochial Church Council. Registered charity no 1130108
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