

## SERVICES

**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> EASTER DAY**  
 8am Holy Communion  
 10.15am Parish Communion  
 6.30pm Songs of Praise

**THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup>**  
 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

**SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> Easter 2**  
 8am Holy Communion  
 10.15am Parish Communion  
 6.30pm Evensong

**THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

**SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> Easter 3**  
 8am Holy Communion  
 10.15am Morning Worship  
 6.30pm Holy Communion with  
 Laying-on of Hands for  
 Healing

**THURSDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

**SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> Easter 4**  
 8am Holy Communion  
 10.15am Parish Communion followed  
 by Annual Meetings  
 No evening service  
 7.30pm CONCERT

**THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup>**  
 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

**SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> May Easter 5**  
 8am Holy Communion  
 10.15am First Sunday  
 6.30pm Evensong

solution to puzzle on page 3

3	1	2	5	7	4	6	9	8
9	7	4	8	6	2	5	1	3
8	5	6	9	1	3	4	7	2
4	9	1	6	3	7	8	2	5
6	8	5	1	2	9	3	4	7
7	2	3	4	5	8	1	6	9
5	6	9	2	8	1	7	3	4
1	4	7	3	9	5	2	8	6
2	3	8	7	4	6	9	5	1

## REGULAR EVENTS

**Refreshments** are served each Sunday after the 10.15am service and after Holy Communion on Thursdays.

**Sunday School** meets each Sunday at the 10.15am service, leaving after the first hymn, on all but the first Sunday in the month when there is a special Children's Service. (All ages welcome).

**St. Peter's Choir** sings at 10.15am services apart from the First Sunday service. Choir practices are on Sunday mornings. Contact Adrian on 409612. New members welcome.

**Women's Fellowship** meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 2.30pm the Chapter House  
 Details from Doris Hoskins Tel: 304424

**Cruse** holds a coffee morning in the Chapter House on **Tuesdays from 10am - 12 noon** for those trying to come to terms with bereavement. Tel: 340321 for further details.

**The Pastoral visiting team** helps to care for the sick, elderly & housebound. Offers of help and requests for visits to Do Vesey. Tel: 353024

**St. Peter's eight bells** are rung each Sunday from 9.40am. Practices are at **7.30pm on Thursdays**.  
 Details from Richard Entwistle. Tel: 360095

**The Mothers' Union** meets at **10.30am on the first Wednesday of each month** at 8, de Parys Avenue for coffee, prayer and Bible study. "Modern Mums" meet by arrangement at **8pm**.  
 Details from Pam Coppenhall Tel: 357903

**Grapevine Parent & Toddler group** meets from 9.30 - 11.30am on Fridays.  
 Details from Andrea Spice. Tel: 341861

**St. Peter's Coffee Shop** is open from **10am on Saturdays** with books, sweets and (occasionally) cakes for sale. Donations of cakes and offers of help gratefully received.  
 Details from Tricia Oakley. Tel: 211499

[www.stpeter.org.uk](http://www.stpeter.org.uk)

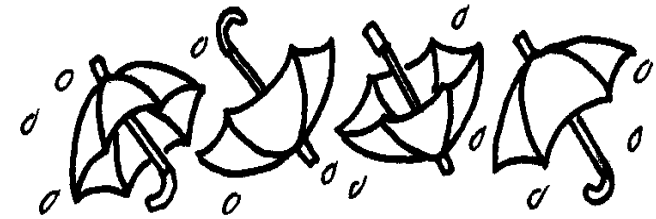
The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter De Merton with St Cuthbert

Registered Charity Number 1132799

# NETWORK

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER DE MERTON WITH ST. CUTHBERT

April 2010



Inside this month's magazine

First Friday appreciation  
 A bit of Church History  
 Caring for God's Acre

## Churchyards under the spotlight this summer

In a couple of months time, churchyards will be in the news because the charity Caring for God's Acre (CfGA) is celebrating its tenth anniversary by launching a new national initiative 'Cherishing Churchyards Week' (19 to 27 June).

This provides an opportunity to link with the UN's International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). If you are interested, take a look at the CfGA website (see below) for inspiration.

CfGA started in Shropshire but now works across the country. In South Shropshire and Herefordshire alone, it has helped local people to bring in over £250,000 towards their own churchyard conservation projects.

The charity's manager, Sue Cooper, says: "Churchyards are a precious resource which can make a huge contribution to the biodiversity of the area and, at the same time, engage and educate the wider community. Sensitive churchyard care can also enhance them for local people and others who are visiting the graves of family or friends."

GfGA has lots of support and advice for groups joining in the special Week. The CofE is one of 300 UK partners who have joined the global IYB, in which almost 1,000 organisations are involved.

In St Albans diocese, St Peter & St Paul with St Andrew, Flitwick, has recorded more than 100 species of wildflowers in its churchyard. Another Bedfordshire church – All Saints, Odell – has won an award from the Campaign to Protect Rural England, for the example it has set with its community-led conservation project, which includes 'adopt a grave'.

In London, St Andrew Fulham Fields has created the Fulham Fields wildlife garden where most of the hardware (including material for a 'wildlife tower' and the herbaceous plants, have been either donated or found locally.

Judith Evans, promoter of the Living Churchyard scheme for St Albans, points out that the yards often support species of plants and animals which have disappeared from the surrounding area or are in danger of doing so. Advice is available from the many local wildlife trusts as well as from the CfGA (visit [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)).

They can also be contacted at 6 West Street, Leominster HR6 8ES (Telephone 01568 611154).

*Preb Michael Harding writes and collects graces. Here are some light-hearted ones.*

### For GRACE as we eat....

For food and friendship, we thank you Lord  
- even for foods (like sprouts) which repeat on us.  
Amen Amen Amen Amen Amen

Lancelot Fleming, Dean of Windsor, is credited with the following:  
O Lord, grant that we may not be like porridge (stiff, stodgy and hard to stir):  
but may be like cornflakes -  
crisp, fresh . . . and ready to serve.  
Amen

BUT there was this Scottish Grace as a riposte:  
O Lord, grant that we may not be like cornflakes (lightweight, brittle and cold):  
but may be like porridge -  
warm, comforting, and full of natural goodness.  
Amen

God of goodness, who blessed our food,  
Keep us now in pleasant mood.  
Bless the cook, and all who serve us.  
From indigestion, Lord, preserve us.  
Amen

## Letter from the Rector

Dear All,

I am writing this on the cusp of Easter. Good Friday is nearly over (with its different moods; the reflectiveness of our morning service, then the much louder Witness in the middle of town, and the wonderful thing of keeping our doors open for those who want to come and pray, which is so much valued). Tomorrow is a time of preparation, in church and inside. And for us, the excitement of Lucinda and Steve's Confirmation! And Easter Day is all Joy!

These three days, moving from their lamentation and darkness through a time of waiting patiently to the exuberance of celebration – they are the pattern of so much of our Christian worship, which is, of course the heart of what we are about. Bishop Alan, when we heard him preach at St. Alban's Abbey on Maundy Thursday, reminded us of this. Because it is the supreme offering of God's church (but indivisible from our service and mission), we must make sure our worship is as good as it can be – beautiful, coherent, as well as heart-felt. We are so fortunate at St. Peter's to have so many people who play their part so well. And our music and our beautiful building (which we can so easily take for granted) make that all the easier.

We are entering a time of uncertainty. There's an election looming; economic stringency is bound to cause casualties; there's still much illness around and the world doesn't seem to be getting any more peaceful. Our task, through it all, is to keep praising God – in that same pattern these three Holy Days give us – time to lament, to wait and to rejoice. The better we learn to do that, the more wonderfully will we be able to serve God and usher in his Kingdom, and prepare for Heaven.

May these days of Easter bring us all much joy and confidence, and many Alleluias!

*With my love,*  
*Mike*

### Spring Sudoku - solution on back page

					9			
	4	8	2					
5	6					7	2	
	1			7	8		5	
7	3	4			1			
5	6				7	3		
			3	5	2			
	3							

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## DIARY

### April

- 12<sup>th</sup> Women's Fellowship 2.30pm.  
 16<sup>th</sup> Safe Space meeting at Russel  
 Park Baptist church  
 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Church Meetings  
 11.30am  
 Concert 7.30pm. NBYCO  
 26<sup>th</sup> Women's Fellowship 2.30pm.  
 28<sup>th</sup> Social Committee meets at th  
 Rectory 8pm

### May

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Treasure Hunt (Bank  
 Holiday)  
 8<sup>th</sup> Spring Fair

## St Peter's Spring Fair for Christian Aid

Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup> in the  
 Chapter House.  
 Stalls, refreshments,  
 Tombola, Raffle.

Requests for stalls or  
 offers of help to Mike or  
 Tricia, please

North Beds Youth Chamber Orchestra  
 return to St Peter's with a delightful  
 programme as part of the  
 Ouse Valley Festival

*Mozart*  
 Overture to The Marriage of Figaro  
*Suk*  
 Serenade for strings  
*Brahms'*  
 Haydn Variations for Strings  
*Haydn*  
 Symphony no 103 (The Drum Roll)

**Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**

### A SPRING FAYRE

## IN AID OF ARTHRITIS RESEARCH U.K.

(formerly The Arthritis Research Campaign)  
 is being held in the Village Hall, Nodders  
 Way, Biddenham

**On SATURDAY 24th APRIL 2010, from  
 10.00am until noon.**

There will be the usual stalls of cakes &  
 preserves, local honey, toys, gifts & cards,  
 books & CDs, crafts & paintings, jigsaws,  
 plants and Bric-a-Brac, together with the sale  
 of some Norfolk Lavender Farm products,  
 and of course refreshments.

Admission is still only 20p!

Again this year, for your entertainment, our  
 treasurer will be demonstrating his skills on  
 an old street organ!

Do please come along and bring your  
 families, neighbours and friends, and if you  
 have any items you think would be suitable  
 for any of the stalls, particularly cakes &  
 preserves, please do not hesitate to let me  
 know.

We look forward to seeing you all on the day.

Gloria Clarke. Tele No 357676.

## Bedford St Luke's:

A Bit of Church History

*David Bunney*

Published by Athena Press

ISBN 978-1-84748-694-3 £8.99

This history tells the remarkable  
 story of St Luke's United Church  
 in Bedford, which had to close in  
 2008 after more than two-and-a-  
 half centuries of witness and  
 service.

Originally a Moravian foundation  
 from 1745, two further  
 denominations found a welcome  
 within, before they became a  
 fourth in becoming part of the  
 United Reformed Church. The  
 book summarises the  
 backgrounds to the Moravian,  
 Congregational and Presbyterian  
 churches, and outlines their  
 achievements in Bedford - indeed  
 the place in the town of the  
 Presbyterian church has never  
 been chronicled before in this  
 way.

St Luke's grew to become a  
 significant and respected force for  
 mission and witness, contributing  
 to the religious and civic life of the  
 community in so many ways. Its  
 work for the mentally  
 handicapped and the homeless is  
 particularly remembered. The story  
 has been described as "an interesting,  
 heartening and fine story of  
 ecumenical cooperation".

The author, who was the last Minister  
 of St Luke's, grew up and went to  
 school in Bedford; he now lives in  
 retirement in Berkshire.

The book makes a valuable  
 contribution to a wider understanding  
 of the contribution the Reformed  
 tradition has made both locally and  
 beyond. It is available through trade  
 channels and through Amazon.

## DIRECTORY

Clergy	Mike Fudger (Rector)	354543
	Cyril Harris (Hon. Asst)	344927
Churchwardens	Alison Davis	267480
	Dave Hoskins	304424
Assistant	Bruce Reid	267137
Churchwardens	Liz McHale	210620
PCC Secretary	Tricia Oakley	211499
Treasurers	Hannah Potter	352675
	Anthony Chestney	351719
Planned Giving Officer	Gloria Clarke	357676
Electoral Roll Officer	Roy Jupp	213468
Bookings:		
Chapter House	Ann Lawrence	358950



Church Flowers: Please see the Rota at the back of  
 the church or ring 270514

I was in the express lane at the  
 supermarket quietly fuming. Completely  
 ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me  
 had slipped into the checkout line pushing  
 a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine  
 my delight when the cashier beckoned  
 the woman to come forward, looked into  
 the cart and asked sweetly, "So which six  
 items would you like to buy?"

## FIRST FRIDAY IN THE MONTH Gray's Elegy and All That!

### Heather Harris

This was definitely an eagerly awaited talk in the First Friday in the Month series. There was a promise that Heather Harris would 'spill the beans' on vicarage life in Stoke Poges! What we were treated to was something that wouldn't make the sensational Sunday tabloids but provided a glimpse into a lifetime of service in a parish which both Heather and Cyril clearly loved.

Heather started with some facts about the name of Stoke Poges and a description of the parish using notes to jog the memory. But soon the notes disappeared and centring the talk around Gray's *Elegy in a Country Churchyard*, Heather shared with us

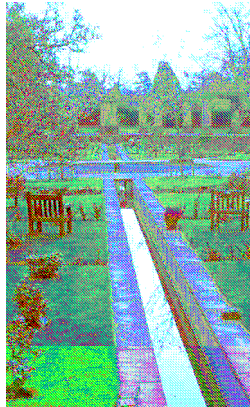


the richness of their lives there. It is believed that Gray used the

churchyard as the inspiration for his poem and he is certainly buried there. We heard a bit about his life and how people come from all over the world to visit the church. Cyril and Heather realised the opportunity this gave them and soon there was a small stall in a hut selling pictures, some of which were drawn and painted by Cyril. These were followed by bookmarks, booklets, engraved goblets and later first edition of stamps marking Gray's bicentenary. Soon it seemed the world came to their door: Perry Como was mentioned; the Crown Prince and Princess of Japan to whom Heather became an impromptu lady-in-waiting; later John Betjeman visited and chose to ride in Cyril and

Heather's car rather than the official one laid on!

Although this was fun and important, you could tell that it was the work they did to welcome and support ordinary people from the parish and beyond which gave them most satisfaction. The Memorial Gardens between Stoke Poges and Slough (as beautiful as Kew, Heather told us) contain the memorial to the Prince of Wales Own Gurkhas. This led to Cyril, as the vicar of Stoke Poges, becoming their chaplain and being presented with the ceremonial kukri (dagger) emblazoned with a depiction of Stoke Poges church. But again, it was the personal contact they made with the Gurkhas that one remembers. While Cyril and Heather were in the parish the Thalidomide tragedy happened and in subsequent years they organised support for the children and their parents which led to holiday breaks for the families and included a visit by Douglas Bader one summer. So many memories: the familiar tramps who were given odd jobs and were never turned away from their door including Michael who described himself as an 'ecclesiastical gardener'; the parties they hosted serving people through the window of their vicarage; the war memorial in the village and Heather's imaginative leap of connection to the now long dead T. Trinder; or the theft of the Medieval helmets from the church which the thieves offered to the Tower of London not realising that all helmets are known to the authorities thus leading to their arrest.



It was a joyous evening with much to look at: pictures painted by Cyril of the parish, photos of the family and fascinating memorabilia from newspapers. But to return to Gray's *Elegy in a Country Churchyard*, Heather clearly loves the poem and pointed out to us how much Gray empathised with the ordinary working man. And this finally, is what you came away with from the talk. The love Cyril and Heather showed for everyone in the parish, their Christian humility and the sense of privilege they felt in having served the parish of Stoke Poges.

Sylvia MacDowell



Diary Dates for  
Christian Aid Week  
9 – 15 May 2010

As a church we are asked to collect in local roads both inside and outside our parish. Be part of this with us. Collect on your own or with a friend in roads you chose or join us in a collecting party in the Turner Way area distributing envelopes in the afternoon of Monday 10 May and collecting envelopes early evening on Wednesday 12 May. Lists to sign will be in the church soon.

Reasons to help:

- join more than 20,000 churches and 300,000 volunteers in an unparalleled act of Christian witness
- be part of the vision to end poverty and help change the lives of people
- be part of the Christian heritage of demonstrating faithfulness to helping the poor
- in such hard financial times, the world's poorest people need our time, prayers and financial support more than ever
- Christian Aid's campaigning brings about real change in the world such as 'dropping the debt' and trade justice.

## ST. PETER'S ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Everyone is welcome to come along to our annual meeting on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 11.30am in the church.

Although there are certain formalities to be observed, the meeting does give an opportunity for people to reflect on what has been going on at St Peter's over the past year, to look ahead to new developments, and to focus on some of the issues that need our attention.

The meeting will include elections:

- of churchwardens and assistant churchwardens;
- of 4 members of the PCC.

Those PCC members due to retire this year (and who may be re-elected for a further 3 years) are: Anthony Chestney, Bruce Reid, Margaret Staddon and Valerie Tarlo.



### ST PETER'S SPRING CLEAN

I would like to say a huge thank you to all those dedicated people who beavered away over three days last month making St.

Peter's look and smell refreshed. It is always dangerous to list those who have taken part, but I will mention those who I have seen. Mike, Maureen, Pam and Eric, Tricia, Rosemary, Jean, Anthony (who climbed to great heights) Sylvia and Robert, Wendy and Steve. Apologies to those I have missed.

Well done everyone.

Ann Dew