


DIRECTORY

Clergy	Mike Fudger (Rector)	354543
	Cyril Harris (Hon. Asst)	344927
Churchwardens	Alison Davis	267480
	Maureen Tompkins	360495
Assistant Churchwardens	Dave Hoskins	304424
	Bruce Reid	267137
PCC Secretary	Tricia Oakley	211499
Treasurers	Hannah Potter	352675
	Anthony Chestney	351719
Planned Giving Officer	Gloria Clarke	357676
Electoral Roll Officer	Jean Brown	270052
Bookings:		
Chapter House Until March	(Ann Lawrence)	358950
	Tricia Oakley	211499
St. Cuthbert's Hall	Hannah Potter	352675
		
Church Flowers:	Hazel Bentley	353424
	Gwen Farmer	

This is a Leap Year - February has 29 days in it, bringing the total days for 2008 to 366.

Leap years happen every four years, but this one is more unusual: this February has five Fridays in it. The last time a February had 5 Fridays was in 1980 and next time will be in 2036. So - which years are leap years? In the Gregorian calendar, used by most modern countries, the following rules decide which years are leap years:

- Every year divisible by 4 is a leap year.
- But every year divisible by 100 is NOT a leap year
- Unless the year is also divisible by 400, then it is still a leap year. This means that year 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300 and 2500 are NOT leap years, while 2000 and 2400 ARE leap years. (Not that any of us will be around in 2400 to care.)

FEBRUARY DIARY

- 1st First Friday
- 5th Beetle Drive and Pancakes at Bunyan Meeting 7.30pm
- 6th ASH WEDNESDAY
Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes 7.30pm
- 12th Lent Group at the Hoskins' 7.30pm
- 14th /Valentine's Day
Lent Group at Heather's 2.15pm
- 19th Lent Group at the Hoskins' 7.30pm
- 21st Lent Group at Heather's 2.15pm
Deanery Synod at the Transfiguration 7.30pm
- 26th Film Society 7pm
Lent Group at the Hoskins' 7.30pm
- 28th Lent Group at Heather's 2.15pm
Lent Evening 7pm
- 29th Standing Committee at the Potter's 10.30am

FIRST FRIDAY

Friday 7th March

7.30pm in the Chapter House

A tidy house is a sign of a wasted life!

Margaret Walden, a member of the Embroiderers' Guild, will show samples and talk about her embroidery and quilting and the history of embroidery from the time of the Renaissance.

PRAYER COLUMN

Dear Friends,

At this dark, dull time of year it is easy to feel rather at a low ebb. I try to dwell on the wisdom my Mother taught my brother and me, it was to count our blessings!! She often quoted or sang that old hymn

"Count your blessings, name them one by one and you will be amazed at what the Lord has done"

In this vein I commend to us all the old prayers - "The General Confession"- endeavouring to read it in a new and fresh light and so benefit by it.

Heather L Harris

The General Thanksgiving

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants
give you most humble and hearty thanks
for all your goodness and loving kindness.
We thank you for our creation, preservation
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world
by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace,
and for the hope of glory.
Give us, we pray,
such a sense of all your mercies
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
and that we show forth your praise,
not only with our lips but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, for ever and ever.
Amen*

from Common Worship 2000

STEWARDSHIP GROUP

If we are serious about doing something with stewardship this year, we need not only to pray about it - but to plan, too!

Gloria, Maureen and Mike have said they will be part of a steering group to do this. But we are aware that we need a couple more people and the gifts they would bring to this.

Could this be you?

Do speak with us if you think it might be...

Leave those emails alone!

Want a good night's sleep tonight? Avoid your laptop, BlackBerry and mobile phone for at least an hour before you go to bed. Checking any one of them can have the same effect on your sleep as drinking two espressos.

Recent research by the Edinburgh Sleep centre has discovered that the light from a BlackBerry or laptop is concentrated enough to signal your brain to stop production of melatonin, a natural hormone known to aid sleep disturbances. And checking emails - especially to do with work - will shut down the brain's natural preparations for sleep.

No wonder that the average Briton suffers an estimated 55 nights of poor quality sleep a year.

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I asked my nephew whether he bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day. "Yes", he said, "I bought her a belt and a bag."

"That was very nice of you", I replied, "I hope she appreciated the thought." He said, "So do I, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now."

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday 3rd Feb 8am 10.15am 6.30pm	Presentation of Christ Holy Communion First Sunday Holy Communion with laying-on of hands for healing
Wednesday 6th Feb 7.30pm	ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
THURSDAY 7th 10.30am	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 10th 8am 10.15am 6.30pm	Lent 1 Holy Communion Parish Communion Evensong
THURSDAY 14th 10.30am	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 17th 8am 10.15am 6.30pm	Lent 2 Holy Communion URC Morning Worship with St. Luke's led by Revd. David Bunney Choral Evensong
THURSDAY 21st 10.30am	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 24th 8am 10.15am 6.30pm	Lent 3 Holy Communion Parish Communion Evensong
THURSDAY 28th 10.30am	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 2nd March 8am 10.15am 6.30pm	Mothering Sunday Holy Communion First Sunday Holy Communion with laying-on of hands for healing

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Refreshments are served every 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 all 10.15am and 6.30pm services apart from the First Sunday service. A Choral Evensong is sung on the third Sunday of each month with the help of extra singers. Practices are on **Mondays at 7.30pm and 20 minutes before sung services**. Contact Graham on 300654. Junior choir practices on Sunday morning. Contact Adrian on 409612. New members welcome.

Women's Fellowship meets on 2nd and 4th Mondays at 2.30pm in St. Cuthbert's Hall. Details from Margaret Smith. Tel: 266201

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 Heather Harris. Tel: 344927

Grapevine Parent & Toddler group meets from 9.30 - 11.30am on Fridays. Details from Angela Pendleton. Tel: 297259

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

For further details of what's on, visit St. Peter's newly updated website
www.stpeter.org.uk

NETWORK

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PETER DE MERTON WITH ST. CUTHBERT
February 2008

Dear All,

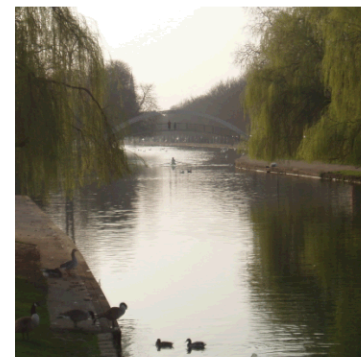
I am writing this soon after the Church has celebrated the feast of the conversion of St Paul.

Now I know that Paul isn't everyone's cup of tea. His theology – writing about God in his letters – can be difficult to fathom; he has some ideas about a lot of things that don't resonate easily with our current culture. But the single most important thing about Paul was what happened to him as he journeyed along the road to Damascus. Without that there would be nothing.

And what happened there? Paul had an encounter with the Risen Christ that changed his life. How? First it brought this confident, certain, ruthless man to his knees – literally! And then, when he'd begun to absorb what the encounter meant, after he'd allowed it to become part of him, he spent the rest of his life trying to share it with others, trying to persuade them to make themselves vulnerable to such an encounter themselves.

Lent is nearly upon us. If we want to spend these next weeks as some kind of preparation for Easter, how best shall we do that? There are, of course, countless ways. But study – reading a book, either alone or as part of a study group; reflecting more deeply about our faith and what it means to us – and prayer – the practice of being with God – are near the heart of it.

Another axis of our preparation at St Peter's needs to be for our Stewardship work that we've said we will do later in the year. When Michael and Chris came from Marshalswick to share their experience of 'doing' stewardship, the thing that stays most clearly in my head is what they said about prayer being the single most important element.



So, prayer is where we learn humility before God, to temper our confidence in ourselves with a radical dependence on God. And prayer is where we learn that, for the Gospel really to be good news for us, we have to want to share it, to give it away to others.

One of the ways they did that at Marshalswick was to offer to all who were part of the church there a 'spiritual MOT'. The mind boggles, I know. But however reliable we think our faith is, however well we look after it, it can be good to look at it with fresh eyes every so often. It seems a good idea to me. What do you think as a project for the future?

We all need to pray. Prayer is the life-blood of our faith. And in a world that seems to value activity and 'outcomes' more than anything, how much more important is the discipline of learning to be still and centred. It's one of the immense privileges of being a priest that we are given time and permission to pray. So most mornings I will start in church saying morning prayer, and often simply being still. And when I listen to the traffic whirling about outside, I remember how it matters that if all our edges aren't to be frayed, we need to find a still place in our lives, that 'still point in a turning world' that T.S. Eliot wrote of. It's a place where we learn dependence on God, and a place we so love that we want others to find it too.

So in the days of Lent, whatever else we do, may we perhaps look for new disciplines and habits that bring us to that 'still point'. Not just for our own soul's sake, but for the sake of the church and the Gospel we love and share.

With my love,
Mike

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

10 December	Beryl Pearce
11 December	Lorna Newton
13 December	Esme Lewis
8 January	John Flippant