

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	Roy Jupp	213468
Bookings:		
Chapter House	Ann Lawrence	358950
St. Cuthbert's Hall	Hannah Potter	352675



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

FIRST FRIDAY IN THE MONTH

Friday 6th February 2009

Paul Edwards
The Wesley Family - some things you might not know about them!

in the Chapter House at 7.30pm

No admission charge but donations towards expenses will not be refused

DIARY

February

- 3rd QUIET EVENING 7.30pm
 9th Film Club meets 7pm to view LITTLE VOICE
 12th PCC meets 7.30pm
 23rd Doubtters Anonymous discuss 'Happiness' at 73 Bushmead 7.30pm
 24th Shrove Tuesday Beetle Drive and Pancake Party 7.30pm
 25th Bible Study at the Rectory 3pm

March

- 3rd Lent Group 7.30pm
 4th Lent service St. Martin's 1.10pm
 5th Lent Group 2.30pm
 9th Film Club meets 7pm
 11th Lent service St. Paul's 1.10pm
 12th Riding Lights present 'Redemption Song'
 14th QUIZ and tea 4pm
 21st CONCERT. The Eagle Choir sings Carmina Burana. 7.30pm

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 6th March
'IN CHRIST THERE ARE MANY MEMBERS YET ONE BODY'

Services at 2pm (St. Joseph's) and 7.30pm (St. Andrew's)

Full details may be found on the posters displayed in church and will be published in next month's issue

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Dear Friends,

The New Year is hardly underway and we all face it with anxiety about the effects of the Credit Crunch.

The Church of England's rapid response prayers unit recommends we use the following prayer for ourselves and for others who may be affected by today's uncertainty.

HLH

Thank you, Heavenly Father, that in the middle of the sadness, the anger, the uncertainty, the pain, I can talk to you.

Hear me as I cry out in confusion, help me to think clearly, and calm my soul.

As life carries on, may I know your presence with me each and every day.

Stewardship (Today's Stewards for Tomorrow)

Having had all sorts of conversations about our vision for St Peter's and its future, we are now entering the next stage, when we think about what resources we have to make it happen. For that there are two necessary things – people and money.

Soon we will be distributing the results of our 'envisioning', and the things that we need everyone's help to do, so keep thinking about your gifts, and how you feel God is wanting you to use them.

On 1st March, we have a guest preacher, Philip Lovegrove, who used to be Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance. And he is going to talk about – you've guessed – money, and its part in our discipleship.

We do hope lots of people will be there, to listen, to comment and to ask questions about this important matter.

CHURCH FLOWERS

The rota for 2009 is on display at the back of the church and lists the person who will be responsible for arranging the flowers each fortnight.

If you wish to make a gift of flowers in memory of a loved one, anniversary or birthday, please enter your name against the preferred date and give your donation (gift-aided if possible) to the person whose name is on the list to arrange the flowers that week. Failing this, please give it to a Churchwarden.

Thank you

Lent is coming!

It begins, of course, on Ash Wednesday, 25th February (with a Communion service at 7.30pm.) And before that a pancake party in the Chapter House...

As last year, we are going to have two Lent Discussion Groups;

On Thursday afternoons, from 2.30pm to 4pm we will be with Pam and Eric at 14 Arrow Leys, and on Tuesday evenings, from 7.30pm to 9 pm we will be with Dave and Doris at 9, Bure Close. Many thanks to them for opening their homes for us.

There are a number of different Lent Books that we have to choose from, a selection of which are in church. Do have a look at them, and tell me which you prefer.

In addition to a book for group study, we might also choose one that is more suitable for private reading, and we can come together one lunchtime to talk about it sometime in March.

Again, the traditional Wednesday lunchtime services will be held around the town centre churches with a variety of speakers. See the weekly notice sheet for details.

May we use our Lent well, that our Easter will be even more special.

SERVICES

SUNDAY 1st **Candlemas**
(Presentation of Christ)
8am Holy Communion
10.15am First Sunday
4.00pm Evensong

THURSDAY 5th
10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 8th **3rd before Lent**
8am Holy Communion
10.15am Parish Communion
4.00pm Holy Communion with Laying-on of Hands for Healing

THURSDAY 12th
10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 15th **2nd before Lent**
8am Holy Communion
10.15am Morning Worship
4.00pm Evensong

THURSDAY 19th
10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 22nd **Sunday Next before Lent**
8am Holy Communion
10.15am Parish Communion
4pm Evensong

WEDNESDAY 25th **Ash Wednesday**
7.30pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

THURSDAY 26th
10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 1st **Lent 1**
8am Holy Communion
10.15am First Sunday
4.00pm Evensong

THURSDAY 5th
10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

JANUARY FUNERALS

5 th	Leonard Anstee
6 th	William Caiger
12 th	George Ludlam
16 th	Christina Constanduros
22 nd	Philip Pugh

It's with great sadness that we say 'Goodbye' to Philip. He became part of the Thursday morning congregation at St. Peter's with Val, and will be missed there. He was a remarkable person, very private but fiercely loyal and outstanding in his many fields – as those privileged to be at his funeral will know. We keep Val and her family in our prayers.

REGULAR EVENTS

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 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 2nd and 4th Mondays at 2.30pm in St. Cuthbert's Hall. 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 Heather Harris. Tel: 344927

Grapevine Parent & Toddler group meets again in September 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

Be my Valentine

Young man: Do you love me?
Young lady: Yes.
He: But can you live on my income?
She: *Certainly. Though – what will you live on?*

NETWORK

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

February 2009

Dear All,

It's those squirrels again!

They love the seed we put out for the birds, and steal most of it. So, for Christmas we bought ourselves (and the birds) a new 'feeding station' (a posh bird table...) complete with anti-squirrel baffle. It took us a little time to put it up, but when we did it did look very smart.

Imagine, then, our horror when we looked out one morning and saw a rather tubby squirrel looking very pleased with itself astride our new feeding station – where it certainly had no right to be! How on earth had it managed it? We watched and watched as other squirrels tried to conquer the baffle – but they all gave up in the end. Except the rather clever one that we'd disturbed; it came back for more and – squirrel watchers will have worked this out already! – climbed our old bird table and launched itself through the air and landed with incredible dexterity on the new one. The two tables weren't close to each other; if we hadn't seen it with our own eyes we wouldn't have thought it was possible.

Clever things, those squirrels! What they have is a big appetite, and a wonderful imagination. If you can't do something the way you've done it in the past, then try something else; and keep trying until you succeed.

We live in interesting times! The news is full of the credit crunch, and it's becoming clearer and clearer that this is something that is going to affect us all, and the communities we belong to. And it appears that old solutions aren't going to resolve it; we need to seek imaginative ways forward.

We've also, in the last few days, watched a new American President begin to govern in a very different way, with an emphasis on listening, rather than talking and acting. It looks like an impossible job,

internally and externally, but we hope and pray that Obama and his colleagues will do, if not miracles, then good, imaginative things.

The Church, too, is coming to recognise that the world is changing rapidly; that old ways of doing things – worship, discipleship, service – aren't enough, and we need to explore new ways of being communities of Christ. Our new Diocesan Bishop, Alan, brings with him considerable experience of 'New Expressions' – the Anglican experience of being church in different ways. I expect he will encourage us more than ever to be imaginative in what we do, too.

At our PCC meeting last week we were, in different ways, thinking the same; how we so organise ourselves that more people can be involved in the church's work; how we help everyone to see not only our responsibilities, but also our gifts and all the possibilities God shows us. It isn't easy; change never is. But I always remember those wise words – to become perfect is to change often.

Squirrels obviously know that. It's a gift they've inherited, which is presumably why they flourish as they do. It's about wanting something badly enough never to give up on it, and always, always to look for different ways of getting it. Didn't Jesus say something about that? Another squirrel-parable for us, for our church and for our world.

With my love,

Mike

Please email any comments on the magazine to Network@stpeter.org.uk