

SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY 7th	2nd before Lent
8am	Holy Communion
10.15am	First Sunday
4.00pm	Evensong
SUNDAY 14th	Next before Lent
8am	Holy Communion
10.15am	Parish Communion
4.00pm	Evensong
ASH WEDNESDAY 17th	
7.30pm	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
SUNDAY 21st	Lent 1
8am	Holy Communion
10.15am	Morning Worship
4.00pm	Holy Communion with Laying-on of Hands for Healing
SUNDAY 28th	Lent 2
8am	Holy Communion
10.15am	Parish Communion
4.00pm	Evensong
SUNDAY 7th MARCH Lent 3	
8am	Holy Communion
10.15am	First Sunday
6.30pm	Evensong

EACH THURSDAY
10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

solution to puzzle on page 5

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

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 until the end of the year from which time meetings will be held in 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

NETWORK

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

February 2010

Dear All,

Forgive me if I write here quite personally, and even more falteringly than usual.

We, my mother all my family, have been quite overwhelmed by everyone's kindness after my father's death. It's a very humbling thing to feel so much love and so many prayers. Thank you!

As we look forward later this month to the beginning of Lent, it brings with it the challenges of a faith that doesn't offer easy answers, but rather the demands and promises of God who loves us too much to evade our questions.

I have been reading a book by a priest who'd worked at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London. She writes:

'In a clergy staff meeting, someone commented "Of course, we do Good Friday at St. Martin's much better than we do Easter. Because we do Good Friday all the time."'

I suspect that's true of most of our churches; we live with the mess of our lives and our world, with human experience as it is for most of us at least some of the time - painful, hard and uncompromising. So Good Friday is something we know about. I know we are an Easter People, but Easter is so much harder to do. We don't know how to describe the offer, the reality of something that's so hard to understand and to touch, and yet in which we invest such hope.

And yet, and as we all approach the horizon of death, either our own or that of someone we love, we have to struggle to make sense of it. And I guess that Lent is a time we can do that, together.

I write this in that strange time between the bereavement and the funeral, and it very much feels like that peculiar space between Good Friday and Easter: when all you can really do is wait.

But someone reminded me the other day of this lovely thought: the past has gone, the future is not yet, all we have is now; and that is why it's called our 'present'.

In the Easter Liturgy, there's the lovely Exsultet, which says this:

'Most blessed of all night, when wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away, lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy. Night truly blessed, when heaven is wedded to earth and all creation reconciled to God!'

All I can say to that is 'Yes!' As the Brazilian theologian Rubem Alves so wonderfully expresses it: 'Hope is hearing the melody of the future. Faith is to dance it.' I promise I will try to do that, sometimes with wobbly knees, but always believing more deeply than I can say, that heaven is home - my father's, mine and ours. And, thank God, we have eternity to learn exactly what that means.

With my love, and thanks,
 Mike

DIRECTORY

Clergy	Mike Fudger (Rector) 354543 Cyril Harris (Hon. Asst) 344927
Churchwardens	Alison Davis 267480 Dave Hoskins 304424
Assistant Churchwardens	Bruce Reid 267137 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

FIRST FRIDAY IN THE MONTH

March 5th 7.30pm
Michael Rose OBE
Rossini v Bruckner

Tuesday March 23rd
An evening of Readings and
Music on the theme of
Passiontide.

Please see the weekly notice sheet nearer the time for final details.

DIARY

February

- 5th First Friday 7.30pm.
8th Women's Fellowship 2.30pm -
Maggie Taylor talks about
EST. Film Club 7pm. *The
Wages of Fear* (postponed
from January)
24th Snowdrop Walk
MARCH
5th First Friday
8th Doubters Anonymous
15th PCC 7.30pm.
18th Spring Clean through to
20th
23rd Lent Evening 7.30pm (see
below)
29th Film Club 7pm. Babette's
Feast.

Trips to local gardens

During this coming year we are planning to arrange some informal visits to local gardens. We will be offering lifts, visiting open gardens and having a morning cup of coffee or afternoon tea.



The first trip is to the snowdrop walk at Moggerhanger Park. It is a winding path through the wooded area in the gardens. The suggested date is Wednesday 24 February leaving about 10am. So, if you would like to come, phone 01234 309409 or talk to me in church and we will arrange cars.

Sylvia MacDowell

Doubters Anonymous

There was a meeting of Doubters Anonymous held at Do Vesey's house on 18th January under the heading of 'Fundamentalism and Forgiveness' Grace Crookall-Greenings, a member of the Friends Meeting House opened the proceedings by quoting from Karen Armstrong's book 'The Battle for God' on fundamentalism in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Although the larger perspective of fundamentalism was investigated, it led to us all realizing that in general we tend to have certain 'fundamentals' in our own belief which are more important to us than others and feel that other people should share these. When they do not, this can lead to conflict. Even the 8 of us who were there had to admit to these feelings in certain areas.

The next stage was to respect the needs of others' beliefs and not incessantly fight our own corner without recourse to discussion of any sort with the other side. Established rituals in different liturgical contexts have led to conflict over the centuries based on what is often defined by the words 'mythos' and 'logos' In the premodern world, mythical knowledge was seen to be complementary to the rational, logical or scientific discourse.

Forgiveness and understanding prove more difficult to define. Failure to listen to the other point of view resulted too often in the breakdown of communication leading to anger and sometimes war.

'Doubters' would welcome more members to enlarge discussion and relevance of our own inquiries. We have decided to have an afternoon meeting on Monday 8th March at 2.30 pm by kind permission of Do Vesey at 73 Bushmead Avenue. The subject on that occasion will be Christianity and Wealth. Do come and join us.

Margaret Phillips

Women's Fellowship

WF is now meeting in St. Peter's Chapter House on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the month - born in 1949 it is still going strong.

Why was there need of a Women's Fellowship?

Early in 1949 the first Church Army Sister was appointed to St. Cuthbert's Church to help the Rector in the pastoral care of the parish. She visited the sick and elderly in their homes and discovered there were many lonely women who had little or no connection with the church. Although at the time there was a flourishing Mothers' Union branch, it was felt there was a need for another women's meeting open to all. Invitations were sent out and on 23rd May 1949 about 20 women met in St. Cuthbert's Hall.

The group flourished and until 1965 was in the overall charge of three successive Church Army Sisters - Taylor, Cornyard and Matthias. On Sister Matthias' departure, Miss Adams and Mrs. Tait took over joint leadership until the former was involved in a serious accident and died in 1978. Mrs. Tait continued with Mrs. Birkert.

When St. Cuthbert's became redundant and merged with St. Peter's, ladies from this church quickly joined the group and it was a very successful and happy integration from the outset.

Margaret Smith

In the next issue of NETWORK there will be an article about three special people who have died recently - Bob Linger, Robert Miller and Mary Brain - having been so much a part of the life of St Peter's.

Friends of St. Peter's

The first move towards the formation of The Friends occurred, more or less, in April 2002 at a meeting chaired by our last Rector, Guy Buckler. Margaret Staddon agreed to act as Chairman while others volunteered to be fund-raisers, the main purpose of the scheme being to help the church raise funds specifically for meeting the costs of the care and restoration of this Bedford landmark. Companies within the parish and people with links to St., peter's were approached inviting them to become Friends, as individuals, families or corporately, either for life or on an annually renewable basis.

Since 2004 members have, once a year, been sent a newsletter listing forthcoming events and enclosing an article wither on one of the features of this ancient church, or outlining its historical background. St. Peter's has the advantage of great age on its side in one respect – that it is this which attracted both single visitors and groups from the Retirement Education Centre, the Beds. and Herts. Historic Churches Trust and the Bedford Archaeological and Local History society. Informative contact with representatives of Albion Archaeology at St. Mary's church and Bedford Museum has stimulated interest here, resulting in marvellous photographs of St. Peter's taking their place amongst the display at the Saxon Gold, Gods and Kings Exhibition held locally in partnership with the British Museum ion 2007. Articles on St. Peter's have appeared articles on St. Peter's have appeared in the newsletters of the Bedfordshire Local History Association and the Friends of St. Thomas a Becket Church in Clapham. Pleased with our contributions to Art'icle, the editor of the Bedford Arts Forum magazine selected St. Peter's to be the host church for the recent Bedford Jersey Arts Festival. Singers and speakers flew from the island to entertain audiences with music and its story.

In May some half dozen members of our congregation accepted the invitation of the Friends of Merton Priory in Wimbledon to attend a rare service at St. Mary's Hardmead, like St. Peter's a Merton Priory church but redundant and able only to have a service every fifth Sunday in the month...

To date there has been discouragingly limited return from tours, talks and Open Days despite obvious goodwill from the wider community. A Friends leaflet has been delivered to all residents of the combined parishes of St. Peter's and St. Cuthbert's; even for non-church goers it is never too late to respond, by stepping over the threshold and becoming a friend, making a donation or leaving a legacy ensuring that, during these hard times, the fabric of St. Peter's gets the attention it deserves. Repair work Is now in hand on the stonework of the west gables and porch of St. Peter's as well as part of the tower and battlements over the south aisle which have to be replaced. This work, costing more than £30,000, should be finished by the middle of 2010.

Worship has taken place on this site for over a thousand years, although the church may have been in ruins before restoration in the 13th century. History must not be allowed to repeat itself – so we must be prepared, with money in reserve for recommendations made at the next Quinquennial Inspection. The greater the number of supporters, the greater the possibility of a variety of activities for The Friends.

Please join!

Rosemary Evans

2.1.09



"But, apart from the pews, the sermon, the hymns, the coffee and, 'all that praying', you'd come again?"

With Spring just around the corner (I hope!), Maureen has sent in this 'Gardeners Hymn'

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention,
although gardeners know it's true,
Is when he made the goodies,
he made the baddies too.

All things spray and swat-able,
disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable,
the Lord God made them all.

The greenfly on the roses,
the maggots in the peas,
Manure that fills our noses,
He gave us all of these.

The fungus in the goose-gags,
the club root in the greens,
The slugs that eat the lettuce
and chew the aubergines.

The drought that kills the fuchsias,
the frost that nips the buds,
The rain that drowns the seedlings,
the blight that hits the spuds.

The midges and mosquitoes,
the nettles and the weeds,
The pigeons in the green stuff,
the sparrows on the seeds.

The fly that gets the carrots,
the wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardener's outlook,
though green may be his thumbs.

But still we gardener's labour,
midst vegetables and flowers,
And pray what hits our neighbours,
will somehow bypass ours.


All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

Anon.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

December




2009

29th

Su Fogg

January



2010

5th

15th

18th

21st

29th

Bob Linger

Mina McReedy

Beryl Hilyard

Robert Miller

Stella Forster

Mary Brain

Lent 2010

Alan, our new Bishop, has encouraged us this year to take part in the special Lent Course that he and his colleagues have written for the Diocese. It seems to be a good chance to share the journey with the rest of the Church here, so.... This is what our bishops have written:

Words of Challenge, Words of Life

Written by the Bishops of St Albans, Hertford and Bedford

'I'm giving up chocolate this Lent – I need to lose a bit of weight anyway.' Many people think that Lent is about simply giving things up, as though God delights in making our lives more difficult. The true focus of Lent is actually about making more space for God in our lives. We give things up to get rid of the clutter that gets in God's way, so that He can inhabit us more fully. Lent is about hearing afresh God's life-giving words to us. It's about renewing our discipleship of Jesus Christ, which is why we are inviting Christians this Lent to engage in three things.

First, to join a Lent group and reflect with others on the gospel readings which are set for each Sunday.

We have written a course which we hope will both inspire and encourage you in your faith. If your church or chaplaincy is not arranging groups, see if you can find one or two other Christians (perhaps from other denominations) to meet together each week to follow this course. The course is set out below, along with some ideas about how you might use the material. For those who would like a bible commentary to give extra background material, we are recommending Wansbrough's Luke: The People's Bible Commentary published by BRF (£7.99).

The course website is at: www.stalbans.anglican.org/Mission/Lent-Course-2010

Second, you may like to participate in Challenge, which complements the Lent Course. We are asking as many people as possible to join us during Lent in daring to make a difference by living the words of Jesus. The idea is to learn some of the words of Jesus Christ by heart each day and then pray that God will give us the chance to put them into action.

Read it, learn it, pray it, do it!

The short daily passages, all taken from the Gospel of Luke, will be downloadable from the internet and can be distributed to members of the youth group or congregation (or in the case of schools, to the pupils). Alternatively you can opt to receive them by text message, email, Twitter or RSS. You will be able to register on the Challenge website at www.challenge2010.org from Advent Sunday. We hope that this challenge will be taken up by people in the churches, as well as seekers and enquirers who would like to explore the words of Jesus Christ. It would be great, for example, to advertise it at Christmas services.

The Challenge website will give further details and ideas about how to make the Challenge a shared exercise within your congregation or among your friends. In particular you will be able to write comments on the website and upload short video clips, via YouTube, so that you can share with others what the passage means to you and how you have lived it out that day.

Third, you are invited to come and join the Easter Monday Pilgrimage on 5th April at the Cathedral in St Albans. This year we are delighted that the community choir from South Oxhey (as featured on the television programme The Choir, led by Gareth Malone) will be with us. You can come by yourself, or with a group. We are inviting all the Lent Groups and those who have done the Challenge to be involved in the Pilgrimage and to make it a way to celebrate and to

bring to God all that has been learned, all that has been done and pledges of future action. This will be a wonderful way to express our individual and our corporate commitment to our risen Lord and Saviour, in whose resurrection life we dare to make a difference in our communities and in the world.

Details of the day may be found at www.stalbans.anglican.org/Mission/Easter-Monday-Pilgrimage, and on the

Challenge website at www.challenge2010.org

So, those who wish to be part of this who are lucky enough to have a computer (and even luckier in knowing how to use it) can find the website.

For those who don't (or can't), we'll find a way of giving the texts week by week.

And for those who'd like to meet together to study the Course, we at St. Peter's will meet after the Thursday morning Communion service (at about 11.30am – coffee at 11!) in the Chapter House, and end our study with a shared lunch.

And for those who can't do that, we have been invited to join in with the groups at St. Andrew's – (Monday evenings, Wednesday afternoons and evenings in the Quiet Room in St. Andrew's Church.)

More details about all of this will follow. But do think about joining in with as much of this as you can.

Mike

ST PETER'S SPRING CLEAN 2010

Please set aside an hour or more between 18th and 20th March to come and help us with our annual Spring Clean.

Believe it or not, this is always an enjoyable occasion with a variety of tasks on offer to suit all levels of physical fitness!

Look out for further information in the weekly notice sheets.

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

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Sudoku solution on back page

Lent Services

Once again there will be a lunchtime service at Bunyan Meeting throughout Lent. This year's theme is 'Christ in the Community' and the speakers will be as follows.

24 Feb	BeChar
3 March	Friends for Life
10 March	University
17 March	Street Angels
24 March	Hospice

Services start at 1.10pm and lunch is available from 12 noon.

CHURCH FLOWERS

If you would like to mark a special date with a flower arrangement at the Book of Remembrance, please consult the list at the back and find the date nearest to your chosen time.

If there is still a space there, write your name in the centre column and look to see who will be responsible for the flowers that weekend. She will be happy to receive your donation (suggested minimum £20) and discuss any special requests with you.

Gwen Farmer