

## SERVICES

<b>SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lent 3</b>
8am	Holy Communion
10.15am	First Sunday
4.00pm	Evensong
<b>SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mothering Sunday</b>
8am	Holy Communion
10.15am	Parish Communion
4.00pm	Evensong
<b>SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Lent 5</b>
8am	Holy Communion
10.15am	Morning Worship
4.00pm	Holy Communion with Laying-on of Hands for Healing
<b>SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
8am	Holy Communion
10.15am	Parish Communion
4.00pm	Evensong
<b>THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
7.30pm	Holy Communion
<b>FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
10.00am	Service for Good Friday
12 noon	Good Friday witness at Harpur Square
<b>SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>EASTER DAY</b>
8am	Holy Communion
10.15am	First Sunday
6.30pm	Evensong
<b>EACH THURSDAY</b>	
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>

solution to puzzle on page 4

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

## REGULAR 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 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 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](http://www.stpeter.org.uk)

# NETWORK

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

March 2010



Inside this month's magazine

Fairtrade Fashion Show  
Riding Lights  
Friends for Life  
In memoriam  
Pilgrimage to Walsingham

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, CLAPHAM  
ROAD, BEDFORD WALSINGHAM  
PILGRIMAGE - SATURDAY 22 MAY  
2010

*I am writing to let you know that St Martin's Church will be off on Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 22 May 2010 and to ask whether anyone from your Church would like to join us on the day.*

*I have again booked a 35-seater coach with Souls Coaches, to take us to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham in Norfolk. The coach will leave St Martin's at 8 am. It should take us just over 2 hours to get to Walsingham. We have Mass booked for 12 noon. We will eat at about 1 pm - I hope in the Shrine Refectory. Sprinkling is at 2: 15 pm and Benediction is at about 4 pm. We aim to leave Norfolk at 6 pm, with the arrival back at St Martin's at about 8.15 pm.*

*As I said, I have booked a 35-seater coach. I have yet to work out the cost of the coach travel but it will be about £17. I do not yet know the cost of lunch at the Shrine but I expect it to be under £10. I was wondering at this early stage whether anyone from St Peter's would be interested in joining us on the Pilgrimage. If people are interested, please could you let me know.*

*Do have a word with me if you would like any more information about the Pilgrimage. In the meantime I hope all still goes well with you and everyone at St Peter's.*

*With best wishes*

ANDREW N HAYES

Tel 01234-268574

## Fairtrade Fashion Show

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm at St.

Andrew's

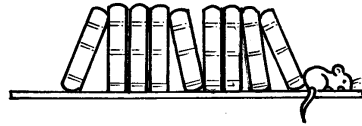
Tickets from Mike.

You can pay on the door, but I'd advise you to be there in plenty of time as it fills up quite quickly.

The format of the show will be the same as in previous years - the models will show off the clothes, jewellery and accessories and then it will be your chance to try on anything you fancy and hopefully make some purchases. You'll also be able to visit our fair trade shop in the foyer where there will be a wide range of food, stationery and crafts on display. and time to enjoy the fairly traded and home-made refreshments.

This is a show where we can all really make a difference. By buying fairly traded goods we can show our solidarity with the world's poor and help to bring some justice into the retail market. I'm ever hopeful that you'll be able to come once again.

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 11am - 12.15 all the goods from the evening before will be on display again in St Andrew's Hall. If you can't make it on the Saturday, come then - all you'll miss are the models!



**LIVING OASIS BEDFORD  
OFFICIAL OPENING BY  
BISHOP OF BEDFORD  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

I am delighted to announce that the Right Reverend Richard Inwood, Bishop of Bedford has kindly agreed to officially open the new Living Oasis bookshop at 4.30 pm on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March. It would be great to see as many people as possible to celebrate this occasion.

## LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear All,

Spring is in the air! After what feels like a particularly long, hard winter, the days are drawing out, buds are appearing, and there's even been some sunshine!

The word Lent, of course, comes from a Germanic root meaning 'Spring'. And I guess none of us needs reminding of the rhythms of dying and rising in nature that are echoed and reinterpreted by the Christian story of the last part of Christ's journey and all its deep significance for us.

It can't help but feel particularly poignant this year, though, as we remember how many of our friends and fellow pilgrims at St. Peter's have died since, and just before Christmas.

Mary Briggs, June Oakley, Olga Wilson, Ted Loughlin, Robert Miller, Mina McCreedy, Bob Linger, Mary Brain, John Fudger, John Noble, Edna Fenning, Doris Curran: all of them have been part of our community of faith - some for only a short time, some for very many years. And yes, all of them had fulfilled by far their three score years and ten. But still, we miss them and we need to acknowledge the gap they leave behind them.

In our sadness, as always, we also need to engage with what our faith tells us - about the inevitability of dying and the hope of Resurrection. And the focus of our remembering, our liturgies and the stories they celebrate are all to do with that as we move closer to Passiontide and Easter.

This leads on to other, rather random, thoughts....

There has been a lot in the news over recent months about growing older and our right to do so with dignity, together with wider issue of assisted

dying. It's an important area for debate that we, the Church, have much to contribute to. We know only too well the pressures of growing older - for ourselves, and for those who care for and about us.

As I hope most of you already know, the local Anglican deanery and Methodist Circuit have been developing a project, Friends for Life, to help us relate to the Care Homes in our midst - of which there are so many! This is an important piece of work which we should applaud - and even better, support and share. (Notice the opportunity coming along later this month!) Both as individuals, and as a church community, all these recent deaths can only have to made us realise our fragility even more. So if for no other reason we should be thinking of ways that we can engage in this ministry to those growing older.

You might remember that Margaret-Anne Tibbs came to preach about this at St. Peter's last summer. We have invited her back for a meeting to help us look at how we might more effectively help others, and each other, in this inevitable process. How our spiritual needs change as we get older, how our priorities change, the whole area of loss. Margaret-Ann is coming to Do Vesey's home on 28<sup>th</sup> April at 3pm. Please think about whether you might come to share this conversation.

But all this is important for us as an institution as well. As we approach another Annual Meeting (Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April!), we have to acknowledge too that our resources as a church become smaller - not least

Continued on page 4

## 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

Tuesday March 23rd

An evening of Readings and Music on the theme of Passiontide.

7.30pm in the Chapter House

## DIARY

### March

- 5<sup>th</sup> First Friday 7.30pm.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Doubter's Anonymous - Christianit and Wealth - 2.30pm at Do's. Women's Fellowship 2.30pm - Heather Harris talks about Vicarage Life.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Lent Service at Bunyan 1.10pm Speaker Revd. Cassandra Howes - *University Chaplain*
- 11<sup>th</sup> Lent Group meets in the Chapter House 11.30am
- 15<sup>th</sup> PCC 7.30pm.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Lent Service at Bunyan 1.10pm Various Speakers. *Street Angels*
- 18<sup>th</sup> Lent Group meets in the Chapter House 11.30am. Spring Clean - first phase
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Lenten Anthology 7.30pm Chapter House
- 24<sup>th</sup> Lent Service at Bunyan 1.10pm Speaker Dominic Carte. *The work of the Hospice*
- 25<sup>th</sup> Lent Group meets 11.30am Chapter House
- 28<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday breakfast 9am
- 29<sup>th</sup> Film Club 7pm. Babette's Feast.
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
Confirmation of Steve Edwards and Lucinda Goodall 8pm at St Paul's

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### FUNERALS

22<sup>nd</sup> February Eric Dunning  
3<sup>rd</sup> March John Noble  
5<sup>th</sup> March Edna Fenning

## RIDING LIGHTS

The Parish Church of All Saints Queens Park is hosting *The Narrow Road* by Riding Lights Theatre Company on Sunday, 21 March at 6.30 pm. The production opened in Lincoln Cathedral to critical acclaim. *The Narrow Road* combines theatre, meditation and corporate worship. Tickets are £5 from the Elijah Trust (45 Howbury Street, Bedford MK40 3QU). People may email [office@elijahtrust.org](mailto:office@elijahtrust.org) to purchase or reserve tickets.



### ST PETER'S SPRING CLEAN 2010

Please set aside an hour or more between 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Where does your time go?

Have you ever got to the end of the day and wondered where the time has gone? Days, weeks, months can fly past. Before we know where we are there is another birthday or anniversary. Maybe it's time to pause and reflect on the day or year, notice what is around, discover God in the middle of it all Here are some ideas you may like to try.

**Listen** Try simply listening. Listen to whatever sounds are around with complete attention for a few minutes. How many sounds can you hear? Is there anything you have not noticed before?

**Feel** Hold a smooth pebble. Take some time to feel the smoothness of the stone. Look at its colour and texture. Feel its weight in your hand. Great forces have gone into the making of your stone. Now it is small and still. Hold it as you talk to God about what is in your mind.

**Look** Let a candle, a cross, a picture or icon become a focus for your attentiveness. Or sit in the garden and let a tree, leaf etc. be that focus. Sit and look at it. Allow yourself to look at it rather than think about it. When you are ready, talk to God about what you see.

**Breathe** Choose a short prayer or a few words from the Bible. Repeat it in time with your breathing. The Jesus Prayer can be used in this way "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, be merciful to me, a sinner". Or simply, "Jesus". Try to breathe naturally, without over breathing.

**An empty chair** Sometimes a chair becomes something to pile things on to—a bag of knitting, books, newspapers..... Take a chair and put it near the place where you are sitting. In your imagination put onto it anything you are finding difficult or heavy at the moment. Share it with God. Put onto it anything that you are glad about. Appreciate it and enjoy God appreciating it with you.....

Or you may like to simply imagine Jesus sitting on the empty chair. Sit in his company. Talk with him if you want to. Tell him about your day. Listen to him as well.

because of the age of many of us in the congregation. We've talked long and hard about what our strategies should be to respond to this crisis/opportunity – but it's still not clear. Any talking we do around the subject of mission and ministry – what we have to offer the life of the world around us – matters very much.

The PCC decided in January that our experiment with St. Peter's Green had really not paid dividends – there was no evidence that anyone outside our church community was reading it. So we'll go back to a monthly Network (and any ideas and offers of help to make this happen as well and as imaginatively as possible would be gratefully received).

There is always good news. Steve and Lucinda are making the great journey towards Confirmation, and the service will be at St Paul's on Easter Eve. Please come and support them there, and by your prayers.

Finally, let me leave you with this thought, about the task God calls us all to share : Dying and rising as disciples of Jesus.

'Ministry exists to 'prompt' that drama [of human life lived and performed before God] and coax human minds and hearts into life by pointing them to the hints, echoes and foresights of the kingdom of God, asking in effect, 'Do you see what I see?' It exists to lead and serve the Church's witness to the possibilities of justice, love and truth that the promise of the kingdom offers. Wisdom looks for what God intends for the good of his whole creation. This, and only this, is the beginning and end of ministry. Nothing else matters.'

*With my love,*

*Mike*

## *Friends for Life* CARE HOME WORSHIP WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010  
PRIORY METHODIST CHURCH  
9.30am-2.00pm

An opportunity for all those who have contact with care homes to come together to share experiences and gain an insight into the way care homes work. Find out how Friends for Life can support you in the provision of spiritual care to residents.

You may be visiting on an individual basis or part of a worship group, be a Minister providing communion or a pastoral care co-ordinator or wish to explore what your involvement might be, all are welcome.

This is a free event and a light lunch will be provided.

For more information or to register please contact:

John Bassill, Project Co-Ordinator  
01234 325227

Or Joanne Barrow, Project Administrator  
01234 213038

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

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**Sudoku solution on back page**

### In memoriam

I did say in the last Network that we would include some words to remember those who've died recently. Realistically, there are so many, and they are all worthy of much more than room allows here. They were all God's saints who, in their own way, touched our lives with their particular gift of love, care, courage and faith. Each were given their 'Goodbye' words at their funeral. Rather than repeat them, let us simply keep their memory warm with our gratitude and our prayers. And here is a lovely poem many of you will know already.

*You can shed tears that she is gone  
Or you can smile because she has lived*

*You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back  
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left*

*Your heart can be empty because you can't see her  
Or you can be full of the love that you shared*

*You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday*

*You can remember her and only that she is gone  
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on*

*You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back  
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on*

### 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.

- 3 March Friends for Life
- 10 March The work of the University  
Rev. Cassandra Howe
- 17 March The work of the Street Angels  
various speakers
- 24 March The work of the Hospice  
Mr Dominic Carte

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

### Services for Holy Week

29/30/31 March  
7pm Communion at St. Paul's

1<sup>st</sup> April  
10.30am Holy Communion  
7.30pm Holy Communion with  
washing of feet

2<sup>nd</sup> April  
10am Service for Good Friday