

## DIRECTORY

Clergy	Mike Fudger (Rector) Cyril Harris (Hon. Asst)	354543 344927
Churchwardens	Alison Davis Dave Hoskins	267480 304424
Assistant Churchwardens	Bruce Reid Liz McHale	267137
PCC Secretary	Tricia Oakley	211499
Treasurers	Hannah Potter Anthony Chestney	352675 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

## MAY DIARY

- 4<sup>th</sup> Bedford/Jersey Arts Festival. Talks all day in the Chapter House. Concert 8pm. Cantamus pays tribute to Paul Edwards.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Mother's Union Bible Study at The Gables 10.30am. Modern Mums meet there at 8pm.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Quiz night at St. Andrew's
- 11<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy at The Gables from 10am. Film Club meets 7pm.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Faith Walk 7pm. Social Committee meets at the Rectory 8pm.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Stewardship Group meets at the Rectory
- 21<sup>st</sup> Ascension Day
- 24<sup>th</sup> BigSing4Kids. Practice in St. Peter's for event in Erskine May Hall

### FAITH WALK TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup>

Please dress modestly

Bedford Council of Faiths Annual Walk meets at Bedford Central Jamee Mosque, 34 Brereton Road (shoes need to be removed and heads covered) for a talk on Islamic Beliefs and Worship. At 7.45pm walk to Quaker Meeting House for a talk on Hindu Beliefs and Worship. At 8.30pm move to the Meeting Room for a talk on Quaker Beliefs and Worship.

Light refreshments will be provided at 9pm. A donation of £1.00 per person would be appreciated. Parking in Greyfriars or Landsdowne Road

### FILM CLUB Chapter House

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm

This month's film is 'Scenes from a Marriage' directed by Ingmar Bergman.

After 10 years they appear the perfect married couple BUT ....

This film was once described as "one of the truest, most luminous love stories ever made"  
Admission free

**A Quiet Evening will be held in the church on June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

## Active Bedford - Short Steps to Health

I am writing to you to ask for your help and participation in developing our 'Short Steps to Health' project - a free walking scheme for older people living in Bedford.

Through the scheme, we want to reach those older people who, though still able to walk short distances, are currently not taking exercise for one reason or another.

To take the project forward as quickly as possible, I am getting in touch with you to ask if your group/s can take part in the scheme by assisting as volunteer walk leaders, and by letting me know of older less able people who are in need of such help.

As I am sure you are aware, for these people their inactivity can contribute towards ill health, and just as importantly a loss of independence and lack of social contact. Our scheme aims to combat this by linking these people with others who can regularly accompany them on short and informal group walks.

□ □



Please email your comments on the magazine to [network@stpeter.org.uk](mailto:network@stpeter.org.uk)

## 'Short Steps to Health' scheme

The scheme is part of an ongoing Active Bedford project. It is funded by Sport England and is being managed for Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust by BRCC under the Walk 4 Health Initiative (WHI).

Walks

Walks will be organized to reflect the ability of the walkers, and can thus be anything from 10 to 45 minutes. Ideally walks will take place at the same time every week. .

As many of the older people will be residents of care homes and sheltered housing, or visitors to day centres, most of the walks will begin and end at these premises, though other meeting places can also be used if they can be easily reached by the walkers.

Ideally we would like to begin researching starting points and walk routes as soon as possible, with the idea of starting them in March.

Walk Leaders

Leaders will undertake a free half day Health Walk Leader training session (locally) before working with the older people. This is designed to give them with the confidence to organize and lead the walks and will provide them with WHI Health Walk Leader insurance.

Walk helpers (untrained) are also needed to support the trained leaders.

Paperwork This will be kept to a minimum, but will include a register and a walker's questionnaire.

Support

As Bedfordshire's 'Walks 4 Health' Manager, I will support walk leaders with any issues that arise, and can advise on such things as walk routes, risk assessments and data gathering.

If you have any questions or would like me to visit your group, please call or email me as below

Mike Fayers  
Bedfordshire Healthy Walking Manager  
01767 626453  
[mikef@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:mikef@bedsrcc.org.uk)



## Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2009

Catherine, Volunteer Development Officer with Christian Aid, came to speak to us in the Chapter House on the first Friday in April.

The talk was mainly about the HIV/Aids programmes being run by Christian Aid, both in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South East Asia – and as she has been “out in the field” herself, she was speaking with in-depth knowledge, backed up with some poignant pictures showing individuals she has met and worked with.

Catherine began by telling us about the ‘Vicious Virus Circle’ – a cycle showing how one thing leads to another. The cycle was broken down into: International Debts, leading to cutbacks in Health, leading to insufficient education about HIV/Aids, leading to people becoming HIV positive, leading to full blown Aids, leading to T.B. and other related diseases, leading to.....Death. (But also orphaned children and whole families facing enormous hardships, both emotional and financial).

She spoke also about the Philippines and the effect of large corporation owned mining, which creates pollution from the toxic waste, leading to urban migration, poverty, decreased options for making a living, increased prostitution and once again, an increased risk of HIV/Aids. (There were some distressing pictures of the slums of Manila particularly).

Catherine quoted a frightening statistic, which is that 80 – 90% of people who are HIV Positive, don’t know they are (and therefore can pass it on), due to the huge stigma about being tested. This social stigma is one of the main reasons why people are reluctant to talk about the disease and to get help (even supposing that help is available).

But, it was not all doom and gloom.

We heard about the fact that Christian Aid has been working with partner organisations

such as Vorsi-Congo – an initiative master-minded by a Dr. Kamarthe, who saw the need. Vorsi-Congo (the name means Widows and Children and their symbol is a huge hand holding some people lovingly in the palm), works on an inter-faith level, to educate communities about HIV/AIDS. The fact that religious leaders of all faiths have become involved is helping to break down the barrier of social stigma by encouraging an acceptance of people with the disease.

In Cambodia, the Mary Knoll Foundation (another partner), works in Pnom Phen, organising community education. Their own poll has come up with the figure of 20,000 people who will die this year of HIV/Aids in Cambodia, but that is a drop on figures in previous years, largely due to the work of the foundation. Similarly in Burma (where the Government is reluctant to even admit the problem of Aids), the Myanmar Council of Churches is now running education programmes, (helped by Christian Aid).

Returning to the Congo, one of the heartening pictures we saw was that of a little girl aged seven called Angel, an orphan, who had been taken in and cared for by a Minister’s family. In the first picture, she was emaciated and the despair could be seen in her expression. In the second, she was smiling happily in her new home, healthily rounded out, showing the effects of good nutrition and anti-virals in only a few months. (Sadly, many people get neither). Another case we saw was that of Giselle, a young woman in her twenties. The first slide showed a sad, thin young woman whose family had disowned her because she was HIV Positive. With the intervention of a local priest, who educated the family about the disease, she was accepted back and later, went on to get married.

A good way of remembering the way forward in the fight against HIV/Aids is the

acronym SAVE, standing for SAFER PRACTICES, AVAILABLE MEDICATIONS, VOLUNTARY TESTING AND COUNSELLING and EMPOWERMENT for those with the disease and their families.

Thanks to Catherine’s excellent presentation, I went away from the evening knowing much more about how people contract this disease, the wider effects it can have on individuals families and communities and above all, the contribution we can make to help. It was good to know that when those little Christian Aid envelopes come through the door, the money may be helping someone like Angel or Giselle.

Valerie Tarlo

### Prayer for Christian Aid Week

God of love, who is love,  
Melt my indifferent heart of stone.  
Open my eyes to your  
children’s suffering  
And lift my head to see your  
perfect  
love again.  
Work a miracle in my life  
That through your Spirit  
And my softened heart’s  
obedience  
I might give my very self to keep  
hope alive,  
And to be the change you require.  
Amen.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

As you have read, Christian Aid’s focus this year will be the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is a country where there has been conflict for more than ten years, where fighting still continues, atrocities still happen and where the balance between coping and not coping is very thin.

It is a country where a little money and support can be the difference between life and death.

The campaign will stress the importance of empowering powerless people so that they are not dependent on charity but are able to have the dignity of being self-sufficient.

These are great goals, so help Christian Aid to achieve them. Come and collect in the streets allocated to St. Peters. There are sign up sheets at the back of church.

- Either sign up to collect in a road by yourself or with a friend at any time between 10-16 May.
- Or, join a group to deliver envelopes Monday afternoon 11 May and/or collect envelopes at 6.30pm on Wednesday 13 May. It’s fun to work together as a team!

Sign the list or speak to Robert or Sylvia MacDowell (tel: 309409)

### A collector’s prayer

Father God,  
Remind me again for your love for the poor,  
For the marginalised,  
And the oppressed.  
I want to follow your example and make a difference  
With my time and my prayers,  
Through collecting and donating  
So that a glimpse of heaven is seen on earth,  
As hope replaces despair  
And peace overcomes violence.  
Fill me with your spirit and strength,  
So that your name will be glorified  
This week and forever.  
Amen.

## SERVICES

<b>SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup></b> 8am 10.15am 6.30pm	<b>Easter 4</b> Holy Communion Parish Communion Evensong
<b>THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup></b> 10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup></b> 8am 10.15am 6.30pm	<b>Easter 5</b> Holy Communion Parish Communion Evensong
<b>THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup></b> 10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup></b> 8am 10.15am 6.30pm	<b>Easter 6</b> Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion with Laying-on of Hands for Healing
<b>THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup></b> 10.30am 7.30pm	<b>Ascension Day</b> Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion
<b>SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup></b> 8am 10.15am 6.30pm	<b>Easter 7</b> Holy Communion Parish Communion (John Tibbs) Evensong
<b>THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup></b> 10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup></b> 8am 10.15am 6.30pm	<b>Pentecost</b> Holy Communion Parish Communion Evensong
<b>THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> June</b> 10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>SUNDAY 7<sup>h</sup></b> 8am 10.15am 6.30pm	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> Holy Communion First Sunday Evensong

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

#### WEDDING

28<sup>th</sup> March Kevin and Leander Gandy

#### FUNERALS

18 <sup>th</sup> February	Robert Luff
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Maureen Short
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Ellen Campbell
	Ida Edwards
27 <sup>th</sup> April	David Murphy

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Pam Copenhall Tel: 357903

**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

### ***KNOCK KNOCK ...***

*Found by Eric in another church magazine (he suggests you try looking up the references for yourself!)*

A new Rector moved into town and went out one Saturday to visit some of his less mobile parishioners. All went well until he came to one house. It was obvious that someone was home, but no-one came to the door even after he had knocked several times. Finally, he took out his card, wrote on the back "*Revelations 3 : 20*" and stuck it in the door. The next day, as the offering was being counted he was handed back his card which had been placed on the collection plate. Below his message was added "*Genesis 3 : 10*".

# NETWORK

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

May 2009

Dear All,

The Annual Meeting is a strange affair.

It is a bureaucratic necessity, but it's also a chance to take stock – to look back with thanks and forward with hope.

This year's meeting was good , and marked some significant changes.

Maureen stepped down from being Churchwarden for six years; she has done a wonderful job, and we told her so!

We also said 'Goodbye' to a number of people who have served on the PCC for many years – Tony, Eric, Gloria and Cora.

And we welcomed Dave as the new Churchwarden, working with Alison, and Liz as a new Deputy, as well as new faces on the PCC – John Davy (officially now!) and Wendy Edwards.

We received reports about all aspects of the life of St. Peter's – a humbling experience, because it shows just how many people do such a lot for us and amongst us.

We also talked about Stewardship, giving the results so far. These have been quite encouraging, both in terms of money and the offers of help – though there are still a lot of replies to arrive! (It's not too late; we'd greatly appreciate your response as soon as you can make it....)

There has been a good range of offers, and the whole process has given us much food for thought. The Stewardship Committee will in due course produce the final results (as far as any of this can be 'final') in a way that is as helpful as we can make it.

One of the recurrent issues in this past year has been the shape of 'church' that is emerging in the world around us. It's both exciting and scary, as change so often is. And there is, of course, no blueprint. All we can do is be as faithful, as imaginative and as attentive as we can possibly be – no easy task, I know!

There are all sorts of books being published about all this all the time. One that caught my eye is called 'High Street Monasteries', by someone who is passionate about the Celtic church, and what its history can teach us. I haven't read it yet, but this is what the 'blurb' says about it:

It explores 'a new wave of committed Christianity' where a 'new monasticism is becoming the heart of our global village, focusing on community, peace and beauty, and the fact that the Holy Spirit is speaking through us all.'

Community, peace and beauty – aren't these exactly what we would say St. Peter's is all about? And allowing the Holy Spirit room, and practising some of the old monastic arts like welcoming, hospitality, generosity. Finding new and appropriate ways of doing, and being, all this seems to be the primary task of our generations – as I never tire of saying!

It is a daunting task – but a truly exciting one, too. And we have all that God has given us to help us along the way: each other, a wonderful building and space to meet, and at the heart of it a God who longs to walk with us.

It's a privileged place to be – as I realise more and more, and thank God for each day. A whole year stretches out before us before we arrive at the next strange Annual Meeting. I wonder where we will be by then?

*With my love,*

*Mike*

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