

*Contd. from previous page*

"I wasn't sure quite what to expect but was looking forward to something perhaps a little different. It was certainly 'in your face'. Overall I enjoyed it, although I found Mary Magdalene a bit too mad (may just be that I'm ignorant of other portrayals) and Christ a bit too explosively angry (may be I'm guilty of too many other calm portrayals). It was interesting having a bit of worship/prayer between sections, but this didn't break the thread of the story. I found the part when the audience came to lay a pebble very powerful and the words of the last hymn are brilliant."

*I saw it at St Peter's Bedford and thought it ingenious. The actors played their parts well, but for me it was altogether too emotional. All the parts were charged with emotion and the foreboding of tragedy. Where was the joy of being with the Lord for those memorable three years before the shadow of the passion came over them?*

*At the end there was the pressure to conform in proceeding to the front of the church - everyone did go forward to place a stone "at the foot of the Cross" we were told. I thought this pressure to conform was not what the Gospel is all about. I would have preferred the play to come to a finish and people after the show with a bit of time to think might then have gone forward to place a stone if they felt moved to do so. It could have been a far deeper sign of commitment, and would not have caused some embarrassment to any who were not committed.*

I found the whole experience powerful and yet not emotional. Quite often such portrayals of The Passion use emotion to evoke the message.

The historical theme running throughout was a very interesting way of explaining the 'tradition' and really made me 'think'. Such a fresh, invigorating and thought provoking play.

Thank you to all who made this possible.  
Linda Parry

## Happy birthday to the Prophet Muhammad!

On Saturday March 14th there was a parade by Muslims through the town and down the High Street to celebrate the birth of the prophet Muhammad. You may have seen the photo and article on the front page of Beds on Sunday. I was there as they passed by and was struck by the number of Muslims who wanted to walk and proclaim that Islam is a religion that preaches peace not the hatred seen the previous week on the streets of Luton when the East Anglian regiment marched in the town. There were many children smiling and waving on a float; others were giving out sweets to mark the birthday and they handed out leaflets which clearly wanted to demonstrate how much Christians and Muslims share. In particular the leaflet asked "What do Muslims think about Jesus?" The answer was that they respect and revere Jesus and await his Second Coming. They consider him one of the greatest of God's messengers to mankind. I was also struck by the overlap with the story of the virgin birth. According to the leaflet the Qur'an records how the Angel came to Mary saying "Behold! God has chosen you, and purified you, and chosen you above the women of all nations. O Mary, God gives you good news of a word from Him, whose name shall be the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, honoured in this world and the Hereafter, and one of those brought near to God." She replies: "O my Lord! How shall I have a son when no man has touched me?" He said, "Even so; God creates what He will. When He decrees a thing, He says to it, 'Be!' and it is." (Qur'an 3:42-7) Yes, there are differences in belief but it is right, as they were saying by walking through the streets, that we recognise what we have in common - not just the similarities in our Holy texts but a shared search for peace, mercy, forgiveness through a relationship with God.

Sylvia MacDowell

## Editorial. Easter ... waiting for God?

We went to see Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot' last week. It was a truly wonderful production; a set that sent shivers down my spine, and acting that was sublime. The only thing we found difficult was the amount of laughter around us. We know the play is full of irony and sharp moments of pathos - but sometimes it felt as though folk thought they were watching a farce (which it most certainly isn't!)

Why?

Is it, I wonder, because the seriousness and precariousness of the human condition is too hard to bear for long? Certainly the play, with its claustrophobic depiction of the monotony and hopelessness of two men, whose only answer to their lives is that they are 'waiting for Godot' is quite tough going. In the end, many people do decide to laugh, that taking it seriously and staying with it is just much too demanding.

The Christian faith does take the human predicament seriously. And it has at the centre of it, of both its worship and belief, a God who takes it seriously too. That at least is what marks this season of the church's year - when we remember the story of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. It takes the predicaments known to all of us at some stage or other of our lives, those of suffering, betrayal and death, and weaves them into a narrative that is demanding, painful, but ultimately full of hope. (Just how we see, believe or imagine the Resurrection is a massive subject in itself - but it is undoubtedly about hope!)

How, we were invited at a recent clergy training session, would you sum up the Old Testament in one word? Quite a challenge. The one who asked us said his word would be 'Wait'. Moses, the

prophets, the people of Israel - all were told over and over again by God to wait - and they did, with varying degrees of patience. And when they didn't, or forgot to, they quickly were shown the error of their ways. We live in a very different world, one where the instant is demanded in almost every sphere of life. (Can you think of many exceptions? Wine-making comes to my mind, strangely..) And the other need that dominates is to be entertained, distracted, so that the human predicament isn't allowed to impinge too deeply into our everyday lives. When it does, of course, through death or illness or tragedy, then it comes particularly hard.

Nothing much happens in 'Waiting for Godot'; its plot is very thin, and the silences are many. Responding with laughter is one option - and it was often of the nervous variety, I thought. Because to face the full implications of our human existence, where the most important things that happen to us - being born, dying, falling in love, being let down, and all the most mysterious parts of our existence, require of us nothing but an ability to wait and let it happen to us - can be terrifying. And we are so bad at it!

The Gospel of Christ is about doing that; waiting, but waiting hopefully for a God who won't ultimately let us down or not show up. In the events we celebrate these next few days, the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, we are witnesses to just what that means, its demands and its promise. It's a story the world needs to hear today as much as it ever did.

May Easter be a time of joy and hope to sustain us in all our waiting.

Mike Fudger

## DIARY

- 3<sup>rd</sup> April Talk by Catherine Loy in the Chapter House 7.30pm
- 6<sup>th</sup> April Film Club 'The Gospel according to St Matthew' 7pm
- 27<sup>th</sup> April Doubtters Anonymous
- 8<sup>th</sup> May Quiz night at St Andrew's for Christian Aid
- 11<sup>th</sup> May Coffee Morning at the Gables  
Film Club 'Scenes from a marriage' 7pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> May BCoF Faith Walk
- 21<sup>st</sup> May Ascension Day services of Holy Communion at 10.30am and 7.30pm

### CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

Dr. Mary Fenske and Mrs Heather Harris will be hosting a

### Coffee Morning and

### Bring and Buy

event in aid of Christian Aid

This will take place at The Gables,  
8 de Parys Avenue Bedford  
between 10am and 12 noon

on

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May

Do come and bring your

St. Peter's is designated the 'Festival Church' for the duration of the Bedford-Jersey Arts Festival which is taking place during May and June.

## EVENTS IN ST PETER'S

**Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

10.15am Festival service

**Bank Holiday Monday 4<sup>th</sup>**

Series of talks throughout the day with refreshments. Evening concert.

11am Jersey, a cultural history

1pm A Peculiar Occupation

3pm Bedford at War - in words & pictures

4.30pm Zanussi, Transatlantic Balloon

7.30pm Paul Edwards and his music. Cantamus pays tribute.

**Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>** 1.30pm Big Sing4Kidz

**Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>**

3 concerts

2pm Tribute to Alfred Deller

4pm Amity Singers

7.30pm Concord Singers

The brainchild of Sandra Dudley, Editor of art'icle magazine, the festival is dedicated to the musical life of Kenneth Allen ARCM, Sandra's father.

As well as holding the inaugural service, St. Peter's is playing host to choirs and speakers for a number of events.

Programmes are available giving details of everything that has been planned so far and Sandra would be grateful if we could distribute flyers and display posters to advertise all the events - please tell Mike or Tricia if you are able to help out.

Tickets are available from the Central Box Office or online at  
[www.bedfordcornexchange.co.uk](http://www.bedfordcornexchange.co.uk)

## DID YOU KNOW.....?

..... that Humpty Dumpty was the name of a cannon placed on a wall of a church in Colchester to defend the city from attack. During the Civil War (1642-1649) Colchester was occupied by the Royalists. The Parliamentary army tried to seize the city, and a shot from one of their cannons damaged the wall under Humpty Dumpty which fell to the ground. The Royalists ('all the King's men') tried to move the cannon to another part of the wall, but were unsuccessful, even with the help of 'all the King's horses'. After a siege of eleven weeks the Parliamentarians captured the city.

## The path to faith via doubt.

Evolution is very topical this year. Darwin's revolutionary ideas about how we human beings have evolved over millennia challenged so many fundamental assumptions about the special place of the human animal in the universe. There had been previous challenges, of course, primarily regarding the ordering of the solar system. The astronomers of the Renaissance and earlier had established that the sun, rather than our planet, was the centre of the solar system around which all other planets revolved. Some had fallen foul of traditional authorities who saw this as a challenge to their claim to supremacy in the universe, and they had suffered persecution as a result.

But Darwin was different. His ideas did not simply concern the order of planets in the solar system: they came closer to home. They challenged the age-old traditions explaining the origin of Man on earth - they were about you and me and our place in the order of things. In the last hundred years, more and more

evidence has accrued to confirm the basic accuracy of Darwin's conclusions.

At the same time, authority at every level has been challenged. No longer are dogmatic statements accepted without question. Parental authority is questioned as are political and religious authority. Trust, respect and authority itself have to be earned and justified. They can no longer be demanded as a right. Pilate's question: "What is the truth?" has added significance. One person's truth is another person's illusion.

So, what of 'faith'? Blind faith has had to give way to questioning faith. Orthodoxy tried to channel faith into prescribed directions, but for many people orthodoxy does not hold water and they find other ways to satisfy their spiritual needs. They discover there are many ways to find faith and meaning through questioning and searching.

The group that calls itself 'Doubters Anonymous' exists for those who are puzzled by many things relating to 'belief'. Its discussions are open-ended, and they offer opportunities for each individual to examine, discuss and try to clarify what 'faith' means to them. It starts from the acceptance that there is no absolute claim to the truth, that there are many facets of which each individual may perceive one or two. There are no absolutely right answers: there are a variety of different answers, each of which may have something of value to all.

The group meets once a month. There is a topic, but no formal agenda. It is an open forum to which all searchers with questions and thoughts are welcome.

**The next meeting is on Monday 27<sup>th</sup>  
April at 7.30 p.m. at 73 Bushmead  
Avenue.**

## SERVICES

### EVERY THURSDAY

10.30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April

8.00am Holy Communion  
9.30am Procession to St. Mary's Gardens  
10.15am First Sunday  
6.30pm Evensong

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April

7.30pm **Maundy Thursday**  
Holy Communion

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April

10.00am **Good Friday**  
12 noon Reflections at the Cross  
Town Centre Act of Witness

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

8.00am **EASTER DAY**  
10.15am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Parish Communion  
Easter Songs of Praise

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April

8.00am **Easter 2**  
10.15am Holy Communion  
Morning Worship

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

8.00am **Easter 3**  
10.15am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Parish Communion followed  
by Annual Meetings  
Evensong

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

8.00am **Easter 4**  
10.15am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Festival Service  
Evensong

## PICTURE QUIZ



Can you recognise this building?  
The answer may be found in next month's magazine or on the website  
[www.stpeter.org.uk](http://www.stpeter.org.uk)

## 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 all 10.15am and 6.30pm services apart from the First Sunday service. Choir practices on Sunday morning. New members welcome. Details from Adrian Quarry Tel: 409612.

**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 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

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Comments on the magazine may be sent to  
[network@stpeter.org.uk](mailto:network@stpeter.org.uk)

# ST. PETER'S GREEN

Spring 2009



## Inside this issue

An interview with  
Elizabeth Scora

St. Peter's Pantry

What do you  
think?

Doubters  
Anonymous

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Did you know?

Redemption Song

## EASTER SERVICES AT ST PETER'S

Maundy Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup>

Holy Communion at  
10.30am and at 7.30pm  
followed by The Watch

Good Friday Service 10am

## EASTER DAY

Holy Communion 8am

Parish Communion  
10.15am

Easter Songs of Praise  
6.30pm

ST. PETER DE MERTON WITH ST. CUTHBERT BEDFORD  
[www.stpeter.org.uk](http://www.stpeter.org.uk)

## What do you think?

The benches opposite church have been removed. It was done to persuade those who used to frequent them to move elsewhere, where they won't be such a 'nuisance'.

Some of us, many perhaps, feel that this was a bad decision. The folk who used to gather there during the day formed a little community who were generally very supportive of one another. And the gathering each evening for tea and sandwiches has been a feature for a long time, and much appreciated by all involved. Removing the seats has changed that.

Conversations are continuing about this matter. It is clearly complex, and different voices have to be heard. My worry is that those who are most affected are the ones who so often are voiceless.

Tell us what you think.....



[Network@stpeter.org.uk](mailto:Network@stpeter.org.uk)



Please hand to a Warden or leave in the box at the back of the church.

It has been confirmed that the Rt Revd Alan Smith will be installed as tenth Bishop of St Albans in St Albans Cathedral on **Saturday, 19th September 2009, at 2:30pm**. Details about the service, tickets, robing etc will be made known later, but this announcement is made now to assist people with their diaries.

## The St. Peter's Green Interview

In this issue we have an interview with a musician. Elizabeth Scorah is a young, professional harpist who also has a busy diary of peripatetic teaching at several different schools.

### How did you become interested in the harp?

I started at the age of 6 (18 years ago) because I saw it on TV (my parents aren't at all musical, my older brother is a maths whizz). I actually saw it a year before but it took that long to get hold of a teacher. Then, I just fell in love with it. When the post came in the morning and it was new music I would rip it open dying to know how it goes and my mum would be hanging out of the window calling "The school coach is here" and I would reply "I've just got to get to the end!".

I wanted to play night and day, but I also wanted to be a 'normal child'. I would go to school and people would say "Cor, did you see Blue Peter yesterday?". So as not to miss out, my parents put the harp in front of the TV, so I could do both! (Note; not the best way to practise always but it did the trick!).

### What came next?

By the age of 10 I had won scholarships to America and Edinburgh to have lessons and I went on to win a scholarship to the Purcell School of Music for the next 7 years where I boarded. While there I got some great gigs and played for Prince Charles in Paris with my flautist and at an investiture at Buckingham Palace. I remember telephoning my mum to say, "I'm playing for some really nice guy who says he plays the organ, he's called Edward Heath." I'm sure I wasn't the only 12 year old that didn't know every past prime minister!

### It sounds very intensive, did you manage "normal school" as well?

Yes, whilst sitting backstage at the Royal Festival Hall waiting to play a solo, I read my History revision notes as I had my GCSE the next day. That month I also performed solo at the Royal Albert Hall and as a result of getting both engagements (two different

competitions) my parents said I could have any concert dress I wished. We spent two long days trailing around the shops and couldn't find the perfect one. Mum bought some blue silk and made it the night before I played! I'm still wearing it now.....

### Do you have your own harp?

I actually have several. I spent 4 years from the age of 13 playing every weekend at weddings to raise £13000 for my first pedal harp. Mum and Dad bought a Volvo estate and gave up every weekend to take me, and I sat and played hoping one day I could get my own harp. Not many parents would do that!

I then had to save up to buy myself an estate car- not very flattering for a 17 year old!



### How often do you perform?

My playing life is so varied, for example from playing a solo recital in a little church or playing for a wedding, for afternoon tea at any of the big London hotels, I could be checking and playing through music that is to be published, recording music for adverts and west end shows, openings of exhibitions at places like the Royal Academy of Arts, fashion launches for well known (and expensive!) designers, playing in harp ensembles and leading school workshops. What I do most is playing in a symphony orchestra and I travel a lot as a result. It changes from day to day.

In October 2008 I went to Bosnia for a week to run workshops and perform. It was an amazing trip....until we took off to fly home and the person working with me looked out of the window and said, "Oh, isn't that your harp still standing on the

runway?" needless to say I reached for the emergency button.

### Are you still studying?

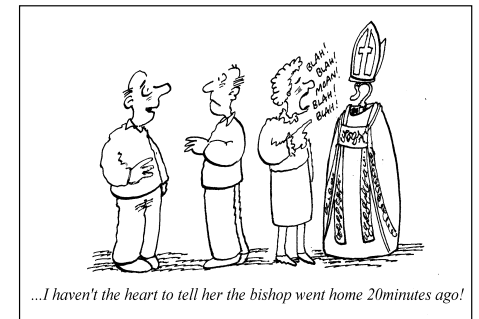
I'm just coming to the end of my 2 year Master's degree having been a scholar at the Royal Academy of Music in London and got my Bachelor's Degree. I wish I could stay there longer, I just love it! We have classes in orchestral, solo, contemporary, early harp, technique, opera, sight-reading and even jazz. It's a lot to fit in, but it's amazing to be playing to the best harpists in the world each day. No pressure to practise or anything.....

### How did you become involved in teaching?

My first teacher moved away from the area so I started teaching a girl who was 10 when I was 16. Next I took on a 70 year old. I still see them both now! My pupils have grown in numbers and are a massive part of my life. It's not just the teaching but I have watched some of them grow progressively bigger with the harp as the stool has become progressively lower! I also teach at Bedford and Westminster school and deputise at Guildhall Juniors.

### What are your future plans?

I'm currently saving up to study with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for a couple of months in October, followed by a spell in Paris (and in January there's a little trip to Cuba for a month....salsa harp?!)



**St. Peter's each year supports a number of national and local charities financially. BeCHaR is one of them, and the gifts brought to Harvest Festival are passed on to the Centre.**

**Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless (BeCHaR)**

In 1993 a number of Bedfordians recognised the need to make some provision for those who, for one reason or another, were on the streets and inadequately housed and provided for. It became apparent that this was in fact a permanent need, and funds were found to purchase 12 Prebend Street to serve as a Day Centre.

In due course 14 Prebend Street was also bought and the site restructured for the purpose. It now provides offices, storerooms, medical centre, meeting room, showers and toilets, a games room, sitting room, dining room and kitchen, all surrounding a delightful courtyard with picnic tables and benches.

Five full-time workers manage the Centre, supported by a band of volunteers. It is open to 'guests' on weekdays from 8.30 a.m. to 3.45 p.m. Adam the cook prepares a full English breakfast for 70p and lunch for 70p (pudding is extra at 30p). At weekends it is open from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., with snack refreshments available free of charge.

On a normal day between 40 and 60 guests 'come' through the doors. On the day I visited the Centre, Adam had served 20 breakfasts and 40 lunches. Some of the 'guests' are regulars who rely on the centre for at least one good meal a day. A number invest in 'meal cards' on which they buy credit on the day they get their 'benefit' to make sure that their money does not disappear on 'other purchases'. The Centre has to

buy some fresh food to cook, but the bulk of their meals comes from gifts – they hope that the supplies of tins from schools and churches at Harvest Festivals will last them through the year. At least 20 tins a day are used for lunches.

There are other services at the Centre. There is a clothing store from which they 'guests' can replenish their wardrobe at 10p per item. A doctor holds a clinic once a week. There are weekly meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. The full-time staff are always available for informal counselling and to help with dealing with bureaucracy.

The Centre is strictly a drop-in day centre. It cannot offer accommodation at the Centre, but the staff has contacts with a number of private landlords and other agencies who are able to offer a room, and they are skilled in negotiating on behalf of their 'guests'.

Through a Guests' Committee with members elected by the regulars which meets weekly with the Centre's Manager, those who use the facilities share in the management and accept some responsibility for what goes on.

How is this all paid for? The Chairman, Rob Huddart, writes: "Funding is through grants from the Borough/County Council (45%), private Charitable Trusts (30%) and donations from Churches, Schools and private individuals (25%). The facilities for the guests at the centre are in fair to good condition, but the staff offices are in poor condition, and urgently need refurbishment. We are embarking on a programme to tackle this problem, but funds, as always, are scarce. We need all the help we can get!"

From the staff's perspective, the most pressing anxiety is that they may not have enough tins in stock to see them through until the next Harvest Festival season..

## Redemption Song

On March 12<sup>th</sup> RIDING LIGHTS Theatre Company from York put on a performance at St. Peter's of their latest play, written by Les Ellison. The play explores the 'different Jesus-es' perceived by those who met him. Members of the audience were invited to write their spontaneous reaction to it for this publication.

The production of "Redemption Song" a music and drama act of Worship staged at St. Peter's was well attended. The music was well rehearsed and beautifully played, making an essential contribution to the performance.

The theatre company were vigorously directed and acted their parts well. For an audience of church going Christians, the story was a commentary, often witty and insightful, on how the man Jesus lived his life of witness to his Father. Just who his Father is, was not made clear. To a non Christian, the story line could hardly have been a basic introduction to the Gospel. Why did Mary Magdalene have to be portrayed as a visionary lunatic? The "spin" put on the machinations of Judas Iscariot was interesting but there is no evidence to support this interpretation of his motives.

Nevertheless, the evening was at times moving, the singing uplifting and the opportunity for self examination in the light of what Christ suffered for us, very valuable. All in all, the Riding Lights Company are to be congratulated on giving us a valuable Lenten experience.

John F Woods

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- *A much needed encouragement for all in this time of doom and gloom.*
- *Challenging to the Church members and genuine enquirers who feel Christ's agenda for life and peace.*
- *Uplifting and refreshing to see young actors generating an energy in the church*
- *A welcome way of proclaiming the Gospel*
- *In conclusion a very memorable evening that can produce positive by-products in our confidence as Christians.*

Firstly I was very pleased to have had the opportunity to attend a Riding Lights production locally! A big thank you to all involved in the organisation.

The production was first rate, skillfully interpreted into a modern format. It took a little time for me to adjust to the forthright boldness of the actors, and I was anxious that it could have been quite frightening for the young children, but as it progressed it did bring home the reality of the Passion.

I thought the use of 'Mary Magdalene' to bring in the OT passages was particularly ingenious.

The actors certainly put 'their all' into it! I found the interspersed worship worked well. Thank you once again  
Wendy Waters

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"Who do you say I am?" was the recurring question in Redemption Song. This 21<sup>st</sup> century morality play did not present a convincing answer. In fact, in the context of St. Peter's Church it was a non-question. Probably the audience had already decided on their individual answers that were unlikely to be identical and certainly not challenged. If there was any doubt what the official answer was expected to be, then the commentary and the congregational singing left little room for speculation.

So, what of the performance? A mixture of pretentiousness, simplistic judgements and blatant playing on the emotions. Very noisy, very physical. The absence of spiritual depth. We are all too accustomed to the tragedy of those who fall foul of authority – whether those who stand up to the Taliban or Robert Mugabe or the prisoners in Guantanamo Bay. So what did this evening add? Not much. A bit of self-flagellation perhaps? An invitation to seek happiness through self-denial? But for me at least no 'searing bright light' and no deepening of understanding.

As I left, someone commented to me: "Very different from the St. Matthew Passion." How accurate! But I suppose like everything else it's all a matter of personal taste.

contd. over



## Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

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. Peter's. There will be sign up sheets at the back of church later in April. These are the dates for your diary!

- Either sign up to collect in a road by yourself or with a friend at any time during 10-16 May.
- Or, join a group to deliver envelopes Monday afternoon 12 May and/or collect envelopes at 6.30pm on Wednesday 14 May. It's fun to work together as a team!

## PRAYER COLUMN

Friends

As Lent draws on and our Lord's passion culminates in the Resurrection, may we be aware of the total freedom His sacrifice has won for us all who profess to be Christian.

I leave you with one of my favourite prayers from William Barclay

Heather L Harris

*O God,  
Help me to live one day at a time,  
not to be thinking of what might have been,  
not to be worrying about what may be.  
Help me to accept the fact  
that I cannot undo the past  
and I cannot foresee the future.  
Help me to remember  
that I will never be tried beyond what I  
can bear,  
that a Father's hand will never cause  
his child a needless tear,  
that I can never drift beyond your love  
and care.*

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## ANNUAL MEETINGS

All members of St Peter's are invited (encouraged, even!) to come to the Church Annual Meeting on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

In addition to conducting the formal business, like adopting the accounts, we have the opportunity to share ideas about our life and ministry at St Peter's, and to look at the opportunities and challenges for the future.

## ST PETER'S PANTRY

Easter biscuits  
James Martin



**Preparation time less than 30 mins**  
**Cooking time 10 to 30 mins**

### Ingredients

110g/4oz caster sugar  
110g/4oz butter  
1 egg, separated  
225g/8oz plain flour  
good pinch mixed spice  
55g/2oz currants  
30g/1oz candied peel  
3 tbsp milk  
a little extra caster sugar, to finish

### Method

1. Preheat the oven 160C/325F/Gas 3 and grease a baking sheet.
2. Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy and beat in the egg yolk.
3. Sieve the flour and fold into the mixture together with the mixed spice, currants and candied peel. Add just enough milk to make a stiff dough.
4. Roll out the dough and cut out the biscuits with a fluted cutter. Place them on the prepared baking sheet and bake for about 10 minutes.
5. Remove, brush with the egg white, sprinkle with sugar and return to the oven for 5-10 minutes until they are a pale golden brown.
6. Remove from the tray and cool on a wire rack

## Why not come to the pictures at St. Peter's?

St. Peter's Film Club meets once a month from September to June.

The films are chosen by the members and are very varied. Some offer a feel-good reaction: others are provocative: all are excellent examples of world cinema. Foreign films are sub-titled. Presentations begin at 7 p.m. in St. Peter's Chapter House, and the show is followed by discussion over a glass of wine and nibbles. There is no charge, but contributions for the refreshments are invited.

The next programme for **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> April** has been chosen for its suitability for the Easter season. Pier Paolo Pasolini's 1964 film of **["The Gospel according to Saint Matthew"]** was nominated for awards at the Venice film festival and for Oscars. One American critic wrote:

"Pasolini's is one of the most effective films on a religious theme I have ever seen, perhaps because it was made by a nonbeliever who did not preach, glorify, underline, sentimentalize or romanticize his famous story, but tried his best to simply record it." Pasolini himself responded: "If you know that I am an unbeliever, then you know me better than I do myself. I may be an unbeliever, but I am an unbeliever who has a nostalgia for a belief." So forget the Cecil B. deMille epics and sample something different.

For the presentation on **Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> May** a change of mood. Ingmar Bergman produced a TV mini-series of **["Scenes from a Marriage"]** in 1973. He subsequently edited it to become a film for the cinema which won a Golden Globe Award for the Best Foreign Film in 1975. There's a fantastic performance by Bergman's favourite actress Liv Ullmann as the wife. It is a remarkable exposition of the tensions, the joys and the agonies of a man-woman relationship.

So.....

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