

DIRECTORY

Clergy	Mike Fudger (Rector) Cyril Harris (Hon. Asst)	354543 344927
Churchwardens	Alison Davis Maureen Tompkins	267480 360495
Assistant Churchwardens	Dave Hoskins Bruce Reid	304424 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:	Hazel Bentley Gwen Farmer	353424
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FLOWER FESTIVALS

16-17 August	Meppershall St. Mary the Virgin	
19-21 September	Eaton Bray	St. Mary
27-28 September	Clophill	St. Mary

BELIEF

Making sense of Scripture with the Very Revd. Dr. Jeffrey John, Dean of St. Albans.
Saturday September 27th 10am -1pm at St. Andrew's Church.
£15.00 waged, £10.00 unwaged
Please ask Mike for a booking form or ring Stephen Heap on 293688 or email office@beliefbeds.org.uk

DIARY

August

- 4th 'Gathering' at The Rectory 2.30pm
12th 'Gathering' at the Chapter House 2.30pm
15th Peace Day Service at 11am
21st Film Club planning meeting at the Potter's 7pm
28th 'Gathering' at 14 Arrow Leys 2.30pm

September

- 8th Women's Fellowship AGM 2.30pm
9th PCC Meeting 7.30pm
21st King's Chamber Orchestra concert: at 4.30pm and 7.30pm (see article on page 7)
23rd Quiet Evening
26th 'Gathering' at 50 The Baulk 10.30am
30th 'Gathering' at 58 Kimbolton Road 7.30pm

CRUSE BEDFORDSHIRE

is offering a course to explore Grief, Bereavement and Loss

At St. John's Hospice from 7-10pm on Tuesday evenings during September to November plus three Saturdays 9.30am-3.30pm

COURSE FEE £200

Mike has a booking form

For further details contact

Petra Waker
The Yews
25 Bedford Road
Northill
Beds.
SG18 9AL
01767 627340

New arrangements for church flowers

A team has agreed to arrange flowers throughout the year rather than an individual. A rota will be displayed at the back of the church listing the person who will be responsible 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 who will be responsible for the flowers that week, or to the church warden.

Pat Tollman

THE KINGS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA COMES TO ST. PETER'S

KCO's members are distinguished musicians, committed Christians, and friends whom founder member Gerard le Feuvre has gathered together while freelancing with some of the finest orchestras in the country. They share an interest in breaking down traditional walls for the sake of reaching a new generation. The orchestra's enthusiasm and humour, and a unique ability to touch the public with improvisations and worship, has attracted large and often unprecedented audiences wherever it has regularly performed. During the last twenty years KCO has broadcast, recorded, and performed in a variety of venues ranging from the Royal Albert Hall to a number of more local venues in the "shires".

In this area the orchestra performs regularly at Bromham Village Show and at Olney Church and has just given a concert as part of the Oundle Music Festival. For more information about the orchestra and a wealth of rave reviews, visit their website - www.kingschamberorchestra.co.uk.

St. Peter's is privileged to be hosting two concerts on Sunday 21st September. Please spread the word and encourage as many folk as you can to come along - the orchestra is not used to playing to audiences of fewer than 300 - so that St. Peter's is full of music and laughter (and people!). It will be a wonderful experience.

The 'Teddy Bears' Picnic' starts at 4.30pm and promises a hilarious trip through music past and present - bring a child (or three), a sense of humour, a teddy bear and be prepared for some interactive fun. This will include music by Boccherini, Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Van Der Schplitz. Admission is £5.00. Family tickets are available at £10.00 to admit up to two adults and up to three children.

'English Pastures Green' will feature Elgar, Grainger, Holst and Friends and the concert starts at 7.30pm. If you think you can help selling tickets (£10.00 each with no concessions) please get in touch with Gloria, Maureen or Tricia.

Well done Charlie!

Our warmest congratulations go to Charles Oakley who graduated from Oxford on July 19th with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

SERVICES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

each THURSDAY

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 3rd Trinity 11

8am Holy Communion
10.15am First Sunday
5.30pm Service on Longholme Circus Site

SUNDAY 10th Trinity 12

8am Holy Communion
10.15am Parish Communion
6.00pm Evening Worship at Salvation Army

FRIDAY 15th Peace Day Service

11am

SUNDAY 17th Trinity 13

8am Holy Communion
10.15am URC Morning Worship
6.30pm Evening Worship at St. Martin's

SUNDAY 24th St. Bartholemew

8am Holy Communion
10.15am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship at Bunyan Meeting

SUNDAY 31st Trinity 15

8am Holy Communion
10.15am Mattins with St. Luke's
6.00pm Evening Worship at St. Andrew's

SUNDAY 7th Trinity 16

8am Holy Communion
10.15am First Sunday
6.30pm Holy Communion with laying-on of hands for healing

SUNDAY 14th Trinity 17

8am Holy Communion
10.15am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong

SUNDAY 21st Trinity 18

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship at St. Luke's
4.30pm Teddy Bears' Picnic
7.30pm English Pastures Green

SUNDAY 28th HARVEST FESTIVAL

8am Holy Communion
10.15am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S PICTURE QUIZ

The photo was of the horse trough in St. Peter's Street, filled with marigolds.

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

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Refreshments are served every Sunday after the 10.15am service and after Holy Communion on Thursdays.

Sunday School takes a break during August but will meet again on September 14th.

St. Peter's Choir is on holiday during August. New members welcome. Contact Adrian on 409612.

Women's Fellowship will meet again on Monday 8th September at 2.30pm in St. Cuthbert's Hall. Details from Margaret Smith. Tel: 266201

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 Angela Pendleton. Tel: 297259

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

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

13 th June	Charles Fisher
16 th June	Betty Linger
19 th June	Dorothy Cooper
1 st August	Gladys Harrison

BAPTISM

20 th July	Charlotte Kent
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www.stpeter.org.uk
Please email your comments to
pcc@stpeter.org.uk

NETWORK

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

August/September 2008

Dear All,

The Summer Holidays offer us a little glimpse of heaven. Away from the deadlines and routines and commitments that rule so much of our lives, and in a different place to discover and explore, we can have a taste of eternity. And a bit of sun can help too; somehow it's easier to be in touch with ourselves, to slow down and savour the passing moments, when it is warm, and everyone is moving more slowly too!

It's a gift we must be grateful for – and we must be sure to embrace it and make the most of it, so it can work its magic on us. To move more slowly, and to appreciate the gifts around us – they are such wonderful ways of giving God space in our lives.

But it's over too soon, and we then have to struggle to get back into our normal rhythms again as autumn and winter approach all too quickly. And what a struggle it can be!

Glimpses of heaven; tastes of eternity – they matter so much as encouragements on our journey through life. And it isn't only summer and holidays; all sorts of things can do it for us – breathtaking landscapes, being with friends, any kind of adventure and beauty.

And music does it, too, of course! That is one of the ways the Church though the ages has pointed us towards heaven in her liturgies – from the plainchant of the first monks and nuns to the elaborate choral music composed and sung today. It is a gift. And if we at St. Peter's have to recognise our limitations, we are fortunate to have the loyal choir we have, and Adrian at the organ; we love our hymn singing, and try to be more

adventurous too from time to time. And all to the glory of God.

Later in September, we are lucky enough to be welcoming the King's Chamber Orchestra into our midst. There is more about them further on in this month's Network, but it is important to see them in their true context: they make music to praise God, and to help others to praise God. They are expensive, because they are so good – which is why we all need to be busy telling our friends and neighbours about them and selling lots of tickets! But when we talked about it in the PCC, we were clear that we were inviting the Orchestra as part of our mission, using the beautiful music they bring to help others to get in touch with eternity, and the God who invites us to share it with him.

So let's enjoy the summer; it will be with us all too briefly. May it be a time of refreshment and adventure, and nourish our souls and bodies with good things for the chilly months to come.

And put Sunday 21st September in your diaries – a date when eternity will come close to us, we pray.

With my love,

Mike

a large stone sunken in the ground. This is exposed for the remembrance service when a ray of light passes across the stone visible for exactly one minute during which the Last Post is sounded.

We went into St Paul's cathedral a beautiful building in the city, and was surprised to see the nave was entirely full of women at a mid week morning service, it happened to be the Festival service of the Mothers' Union Diocese of Melbourne for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A coincidence one morning when we were having breakfast in an Italian bakery, the only other person there, a businessman about to leave came up and spoke. He asked where we came from and we were surprised to learn that he knew Bedford well, had worked at one time for W H Robertson, former rolling mill factory in Amptill Road and also knew a number of people associated with Queen's Engineering works of Bedford, my own original employer. He is now the chairman of a company near Coburg. A small world, when you consider we were 10,000 miles away.

It was whilst we were in Australia, that the Melbourne Grand Prix, won by Lewis Hamilton, took place during that excessive hot period of over 40 degrees C. The finish happened to be on Palm Sunday which attracted over 100,000 people. In contrast it was on this day we saw families with young children carrying olive branches as they left the Catholic church services.

On a Monday morning we went along to our grand-daughters school for assembly, held outside in the playground. This happens every week when the Head Principal makes announcements to the whole school and the Australian National Anthem is sung by everyone, accompanied by the Head on the guitar. Awards are then presented to the students that have shown the best efforts in the previous week based on house points. We were introduced to the Principal 'Peter' and had a good chat as he referred to Pam and me as 'You Guys'.

We used the city tour tram frequently, being very useful finding ones way around

as it passed all the main buildings, Parliament, Treasury, museum, state library and many other features, running alongside the river Yarra and passing through docklands.

On Good Friday we attended the St Peters' Eastern Hill church for a special evening Tenebrae service. It was a meditative service of prayer and music lasting for over 2 hours generally similar to the Anglican 3 hours service. The service of Tenebrae (or 'Darkness') is an amalgam of the Monastic offices of Matins and Lauds comprising of two main components, the Psalms and the readings with their responsories. The readings interspersed with a series of responses sung by the choir to polyphonic settings. Throughout the service candles are slowly extinguished until the church is in darkness and after the final prayers, one candle returns signifying the hope of resurrection . The silence at the end of the service is broken by a loud and violent noise symbolizing the earthquake that followed Christ's death. This also indicates to the congregation that they may depart.

We visited St Kilda and Brighton beaches on the outskirts of Melbourne, a residential district with high class houses overlooking the sea.

Travelling into the countryside , we went to a number of wine and olive tasting vineries situated in lovely valleys surrounded by impressive trees and distant hillside.

We flew to Sydney, about 700 miles from Melbourne and stayed for one week in a luxury apartment. Lots of sightseeing in the city and then a ferry crossing, with good views of Sydney harbour bridge and the Royal Opera house, to Manly a seaside resort.

On a very hot day we spent the entire day walking, the best way to see places. Starting at the Victorian building in the city with its magnificent décor inside, past the state theatre which has a gilt decorated foyer, on past the sky tower,

across Pyremont bridge and right around Darling harbour. Through the Chinese gardens, very tranquil with rocks, water, bonsai and many other unusual trees into China town. From there into a very old area known as 'The Rocks' and along a circular quay past ferry wharves, around the grand quay to the Sydney Opera House, alongside the harbour bridge, through the Botanical Gardens and the Domain to the art gallery, finishing through St James Park. An interesting feature in the Botanical Gardens was the very high trees with so many flying foxes(fruit bats) that feed on fruit and nectar, suspended high above in the branches.

We went to the top of Sydney tower which is more than four times as high as the opera house and more than double the height of the harbour bridge. From the observation deck you could see 55km (about 35 miles) out to sea compared to someone at Bondai beach who can see just 5km to the horizon. We also went to the well known Bondai beach and walked along a coastal terraced path through Tamarama and Bronte bays and sandy beaches.

We travelled about 200 miles by car (the only car for miles ahead of us) into the wild countryside, and stayed for a weekend at a cottage in Rutherglen, another vista of olive groves and vineyards. This was originally an old gold mining area and together with surrounding places have been preserved to keep the mining communities tradition. The timbered buildings with open fronted verandahs reminiscent of the wild west era.

Now back in Melbourne itself we visited lots more places, too many to mention here but some of them, Footscray, Newport, Yarravale, and in particular Williamstown. This was the first port where in 1835 John Batman inspected the mouth of the river Yarra and recognised the potential of the Melbourne town site for settlement. It still retains its charm of a maritime village.

On the day we went in the Melbourne State Library, a marvellous building, we were fortunate to see the Illuminated Manuscripts which had previously been on show at Cambridge in the UK.

Spent some time at South Melbourne port where the 'Spirit of Tasmania' ferry was in dock. This does an overnight trip to Tasmania and another day trip one returns to South Melbourne.

We visited two other interesting areas, Bendigo city which grew out of the Victorian gold rush and is noted for its Victorian architectural heritage and gold mining. Castlemaine, another mining settlement that once employed about 30,000 miners where in 1851 gold was found in the Specimen valley.

Being very keen on cricket, we had to visit the MCG (home of test matches), and spend some time there, but at the present time it is used for the Australian football league games. Close by was the Melbourne 1956 Olympic outside arena and almost adjoining the MCG is another famous sports centre, the Rod Laver tennis stadium where the Australian Open tennis championships are held and it felt good to just walk onto one of the famous open air courts, ('Margaret Court' court).

It was great to see a number of different birds on our travels, mainly cockatoos, kookaburras, crimson rosellas, wattle birds (honey eaters) and bell birds whose birdsong is that of a shrill tinkling bell. We also sighted kangaroos in the fields, and even camels on a farm but sadly no koala bears (only those in Melbourne zoo)

We had been looked after so well by Barry and Martha and it was really good to be with Sophie again so a wonderful experience in Australia ended as we parted from the family at the airport.

Eric J Coppenhall

St. Luke's

As our friends at St. Luke's approach the last part of their journey as a community of faith, please hold them in your prayers. It is a demanding time for them. Let us remember those who will soon be joining us, and also those who will be going to worship at Bunyan Meeting and elsewhere.

We are going to join them for the last time for their Morning Service on Sunday 21st September at 10.30am, and we have also been invited to their final service at 2.30pm on Sunday 5th October.

Also, there is an interesting course of lecture at St. Luke's to which, again, we have been warmly invited.

A BIT OF CHURCH HISTORY!

Four talks will take place in St Luke's United Church, St Peter's Street, Bedford, MK40 2NN at 7.30 p.m. on **Wednesday evenings** in September 2008.

Over the 263 years of its history four denominations have operated from the Church and these will be acknowledged as follows:

- 3 September **What it means to be Moravian**
The Rt Revd John McOwat
Bishop of the British Province of the Moravian Church
- 10 September **What it means to be Presbyterian**
Prof Revd Dr Alan Sell formerly
Theology Secretary of World
Alliance of Reformed Churches
- 17 September **What it means to be Congregational**
Revd Dr Stephen Orchard
former Principal of Westminster
College, Cambridge and
Moderator of URC General
Assembly
- 24 September **What it means to be Reformed**
Revd Dr Janet Tollington
Director of Old Testament Studies
Westminster College, Cambridge

These sessions are free and booking is not necessary. They are organised by St Luke's from whose Minister, Revd David Bunney, further details can be obtained. Phone 01234 344306

Women's Fellowship

With our usual attendance of 18 members, we have come to the end of our 60th year. After many interesting talks we were blessed with beautiful weather for a garden tea party at the Vesey's and an outing to Upper Stowe (described below)

The next meeting is on Monday 8th September at 2.30pm in St. Cuthbert's Hall. New members welcome.

Margaret Smith

The Fellowship had their outing on Monday 14th July to Upper Stowe between Weedon and Towcester.

After a slight delay and losing our way, the trip through the countryside was very pretty and we went through Bugbrooke, which was voted the Best Village, then on to the Old Dairy Farm Shopping and Craft Centre. This is in a lovely position centred around various shops.

The art and most of the craftwork sold there are made by local people. Their work includes Basket Making, Pottery, Wood Turning, Wool Spinning, Floristry and Photography.

They have a small selection of animals – Alpacas, Shetland ponies, Kure Kure pigs, goats, sheep and chickens.

An enjoyable time was spent by all around the shops. And this was followed by cream teas at the Restaurant.

Jean Clarke



I think it refers to the Olympic Motto – not, unfortunately, to his actual sermon

Visit to Oz

It was on 4th March 2008 that Pam & I left home to spend nine weeks with our eldest son Barry, his wife Martha and grand-daughter Sophie who live in Melbourne, Victoria on the south east coast of Australia. After a 23 hour long arduous flight it was lovely to be met by them all as we arrived late at night at Melbourne airport.

From Coburg where their home is in Melbourne, the main Sydney road takes you straight into the city, it is a long road with shops, cafes and bars that cater for all kinds of nationalities, mainly Chinese, Vietnamese, Italian, Indian etc stretching over several miles and passing through some open parkland. Melbourne still seems to retain its old way of life with hints of Queen Victoria throughout. The state of Victoria began as a settlement in 1830s as a farming community and with the discovery of gold in 1851 transformed into a leading industrial and commercial centre. The colourful Victorian market covers a massive area selling a large range of goods but mostly popular for its fresh fruit and vegetables, fish meat and cheeses.

Melbourne is one of only three cities in Australia that still operates a tram system. The trams having right of way with their own rules of the road run frequently. Passengers need to purchase travel cards before hand which cover a number of rides when validated upon entering. The same card can also be used when travelling by train. A special tour tram runs around the city free of charge with a running commentary relayed.

One of the places we visited was Merri Creek, the river Yarra running through the creek right into and through the city. There was also a well constructed cycle and pedestrian track that went for miles to the city. Our first impression though, was of all the great trees, especially the native gum trees, eucalyptus, tee tree, etc standing majestically with their whitish, grey, silvery and black trunks. On the second day there was a sudden

downpour of rain in the morning and then it turned out to be a bright hot sunny day. Melbourne is noted for its climate variation, the saying goes that it can have four seasons in one day and we did experience this occasionally. Although it was the end of summer and just entering into autumn during our stay we had some excessive heat at the beginning, sometimes temperatures of over 40 degrees C but a quite bearable dry heat in contrast to a more humid heat in Sydney.

Visited a large natural area known as 'Hanging Rock' Reserve, an amazing place of rare volcanic rock formation formed around 6 million years ago set in a densely wooded area 718 metres above sea level and at ground level an open tree lined park. Gas fired barbecues for free public use in the park, and this was a general feature throughout Melbourne.

We often used the train from 'Batman' station (named after John Batman, the only native born Australian to found a state capital) into the city exploring many of the main central parts. There are a lot of interesting lanes and arcades besides the wide expanse of high class shops. Spent some time in the main art centre, a great building of most unusual internal structure, that included a number of galleries, comprising of static displays, special featured art works and a permanent aboriginal art collection. Sydney Nolan, the well known Australian born artist who lived in England for a time and died in England, had his works on show at the time.

We went over the Yarra river bridge, with a view of the Melbourne cricket ground (MCG) in the near distance and on through the Victoria park with its beautiful flower beds and borders and a statue of Queen Victoria set amongst them. This took us into the Botanical Gardens with fabulous trees of many varieties. In the park is a war memorial with its own shrine which has