

DIARY October

- 1st First Friday 7.30pm
- 6th Mothers' Union Bible Study
- 11th Women's Fellowship 2.30pm. Film Club 7pm - *The Hurt Locker*
- 14th Bible Study and lunch after the 10.30am Communion service.
- 25th Women's Fellowship 2.30pm Bring and Buy.

November

- 3rd Mothers' Union Bible Study
- 4th Bible Study and lunch
- 5th Finance and Buildings Group 2pm
- 8th Women's Fellowship BINGO. Film Club 7pm - *Fleeing by Night*
- 12th First Friday 7.30pm. Michael Rose.
- 15th PCC 7.30pm
- 18th Deanery Synod at St. Peter's
- 20th Christmas Bazaar
- 22nd Women's Fellowship Bring and Buy
- 28th Ceremony of Carols 4pm

St. Peter's Christmas Bazaar will be held in the Chapter House on Saturday November 20th. If you would like a stall or could spare the time to help out in any way, please let Tricia know. It is not too early to start looking out for suitable gifts for the Raffle and Tombola ! Boxes will be provided at the back of the church for your donations at the end of this month.

Bible Sunday – 24 October

Thousands of people in Tanzania are now reading the Bible for the first time, thanks to Bible Society's work to put God's Word into their own language.

For years, 33 year-old farmer Josephine Mkala-Mungi, had to use a Bible written in Swahili, but now she has been set free to read the New Testament in Kikagulu, her mother tongue.

'It feels as if God is my best friend because he is now speaking to me directly,' she said.

For this year's Bible Sunday, on 24 October, the Bible Society will be asking churchgoers across the UK to support Bible translation work in Tanzania and to think about how the Bible's message can bring new-found freedom to those who read it.

In Tanzania some 56 per cent of Josephine's tribe, which numbers a third of a million people, don't speak the national language, Swahili. Even more can't read it. So, the Bible has literally been a closed book to them. Bible Society's translation work has changed all that.

Translator Michael Nhonya spent four years working on the new Bible. 'This is great,' he said. 'To finally hear and read it feels like I'm in heaven. It feels like Jesus is speaking in the synagogue, only he's speaking here. It means that Christianity will grow here.'

You can support Bible Society's translation work in Tanzania by visiting: www.biblesociety.org.uk/biblesunday2010

Bruce and Hazel Reid have moved to
7 Ladyslaude Court
Bramley Way
BEDFORD
MK41 7FX



FRIENDS OF ST. PETER'S CARDS

Blank greetings cards in two attractive 'religious' designs have been produced for sale in aid of the Friends.

These are available from the bookstall at the back of the church for 50p.

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Solution on back page

FAIRTRADE AT THE COFFEE SHOP

The few of you who still meet for a coffee and a chat at St. Peter's Coffee Shop on a Saturday will have noticed that we now have a stall selling Traidcraft products.

Occasionally Jean leaves the items on display for folk to see after the Sunday morning service.

The new Autumn / Christmas catalogue is now available and I shall be happy to take orders from you or receive suggestions for goods you think would sell well at the Coffee Shop.

The Ginger cookies appear to be as popular as ever and there is a new and particularly 'naughty' item – Chocolate covered toffee popcorn – which I have had to re-order already!

I can personally recommend both the English Breakfast Teabags and the African Gold which has been on a special offer.

Do drop into the Coffee Shop and try something for yourself.

Tricia

DIRECTORY

Clergy	Mike Fudger (Rector) <i>on Sabbatical leave</i>	
		Cyril Harris (Hon. Asst) 344927
Churchwardens	Wendy Edwards Dave Hoskins	266210 304424
Assistant Churchwardens	Bruce Reid Liz McHale	267137 210620
PCC Secretary	Tricia Oakley	211499
Treasurers	Hannah Potter Anthony Chestney	352675 351719
Planned Giving Officer	Gloria Clarke	357676
Electoral Roll Officer	Roy Jupp	213468
Chapter House Bookings	Ann Lawrence	358950
Church Flowers	Please see the Rota at the back of the church or ring 270514	

EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY DAY

At St. Andrew's Church on Saturday 23rd October. From 10am – 3pm.

The theme is Spirituality, Creativity and The Arts and the keynote Speaker is Revd. Nicholas Cranfield, Vicar of Blackheath and Arts correspondent for the Church Times. Choice of six workshops. Cost £8.00 or £10.00 on the day.

Please contact Tricia for an application form. This has to be returned by 11th October.

The old jokes are still the best...

Three elderly church ministers, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one sunny spring morning. The Methodist minister observed, "Windy, isn't it?" "No," the Baptist pastor said, "it's Thursday." The Anglican vicar agreed: "So am I! Let's go get a pin."

THE BIG SING

On Sunday 12th September four members of the congregation of St Peter's joined members of All Saints, Queens Park and The Transfiguration, Kempston for the recording of the BBC's Songs of Praise Annual Big Sing from the spectacular setting of The Royal Albert Hall, London.

The audience of 5000 came from all corners of the country to be part of this extravaganza, as did four of the nations best choirs. There was a wonderful Big Sing orchestra and conductor and, of course, the one and only Aled Jones. Special guests had been invited (I won't give their names away) and we settled down in our seats to record the first of two programmes. A few pieces had to be re-recorded for either technical or lighting problems, but it all seemed to go very well. There was a short interval while the stage and audience were decorated in Christmas decorations and then we were ready for the Christmas edition to be recorded. It did seem slightly surreal singing Christmas hymns and carols in September, with the sun shining brightly and very warmly outside, and us pretending it was the joyous season, but I hope it worked – we shall soon see! When the BBC production team were happy with the recordings it was time to leave the Royal Albert Hall, jump on the coach and travel home, tired but very happy.

My abiding memory of the evening will be the sound of the magnificent Royal Albert Hall organ, beautifully played by Daniel Moulton, and my first experience of singing with a huge number of people. It was all very stimulating and an amazing experience. I feel extremely privileged to have been there and I can recommend turning on your television and watching the two programmes when they are aired.

You never know, you may see a face or two you recognise in the audience!

The Songs of Praise Big Sing will be transmitted on the following dates:

Sunday 31st October 2010 and
Boxing Day, Sunday 26th December 2010

Wendy Edwards

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

WEDDINGS

23rd July
Michael Morris & Frances Napthine
24th July
Christopher Dredge & Helen August
12th August
Andrew Heaton and Jacinta Quinton
21st August
Godfrey Muhwati & Paidamoyo Mahova
29th August
Martin Goodwin and Lynn Fuller
11th September
Michael Kirby & Kelly Trabucchi

BAPTISMS

12th August Ella and William Heaton

90th Birthday Invitation.

It is Brian's birthday on October 11th. If you would like to join the family for a cup of tea and a slice of cake on Sunday 17th, please let me know. He would be delighted to see friends from St. Peter's.

Thank you,
Tricia.

Tel: 211499
Email: tricioakley@msn.com

contd..

great periods when the laity have worked enthusiastically together to keep the flag flying. It has even been suggested that we don't really need a Rector, we can get on quite well without one. Maybe we would feel differently if the vacancy went on indefinitely!

How would I sum up the qualities of St. Peter's in one or two words?

Well, maybe three words..... tolerance, flexibility, freedom. Long may it remain so!

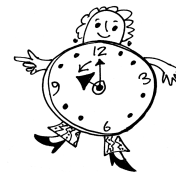
Greetings to you all,
Michael Potter



Andrew, Cinta, Ella and Will Heaton wish to thank all our friends at St Peter's for the support and kindness our family received on our special day in August.

Your hard work made the day a real joy. The Church looked beautiful; the bells, music and flowers created such a friendly and loving atmosphere it was perfect for our marriage and the children's' baptism service. We have been asked to pass on the warmest best wishes from all our family and friends who thoroughly enjoyed their time at St Peter's.

Thank you once again for sharing this day with us.



DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS BACK BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY 30th OR YOU'LL MISS THAT EXTRA HOUR !

Prayer for the Month

Dear Friends,

Winter approaches, the thought of which is enough to make us all a bit low in spirits and to cap it all, the Church seems to be under attack from the likes of Professor Dawkins and Stephen Hawkins' disbelief.

It is the old chestnut of Religion versus Science, yet there are many eminent scientists convinced in their faith in God. It is all to do with the mystery of faith and the great leap in faith it takes to be a believer.

Encouraged as we should be by the recent visit of Pope Benedict and his robust challenge to Godlessness and secularism, let us remember today's uncertainties are not new and will be with us until Judgement Day and take to ourselves this prayer of Bishop George Ridding (1828-1904)

In times of doubts and questionings, when our belief is perplexed by new learning, new teaching, new thought, when our faith is strained by creeds, by doctrines, by mysteries beyond our understanding, give us the faithfulness of learners and the courage of believers in thee; give us boldness to examine and faith to trust all truth; patience and insight to master difficulties; stability to hold fast our tradition with enlightened interpretation to admit all fresh truth made known to us, and in times of trouble, to grasp new knowledge readily and to combine it loyally and honestly with the old; alike from stubborn rejections of new revelations, and from hasty assurance that we are wiser than our fathers,

Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

SERVICES

SUNDAY 3rd **Trinity 18**
 8am Holy Communion
 10.15am First Sunday
 6.30pm Evensong

THURSDAY 7th
 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 10th **Trinity 19**
 10.15am Parish Communion
 6.30pm Sung Evensong

THURSDAY 14th
 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 17th **Trinity 20**
 10.15am Morning Worship
 6.30pm Holy Communion with Laying-on of Hands for Healing

THURSDAY 21st
 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 24th **Last after Trinity**
 10.15am Parish Communion
 6.30pm Evensong

THURSDAY 28th
 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 31st **All Saints**
 10.15am Parish Communion
 3.00pm All Saint's Centenary Service at Queen's Park. Preacher Bishop Richard.

No evening service in St. Peter's

NB The time of evening services in St. Peter's now changes to 4pm

SUNDAY 7th Nov 3rd before Advent
 8am Holy Communion
 10.15am First Sunday
 Deanery Evensong

Solution to puzzle on page 7

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REGULAR EVENTS

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

Sunday School meets 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. New members welcome. Contact Adrian Quarry on 409612.

Women's Fellowship meets on 2nd and 4th Mondays at 2.30pm 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 Fairtrade items for sale. Donations of cakes and offers of help gratefully received. Details from Tricia Oakley. Tel: 211499

www.stpeter.org.uk

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter De Merton with St Cuthbert

Registered Charity Number 1132799

COPY DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE IS OCTOBER 17th

NETWORK

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

October 2010

Dear fellow parishioners at St. Peter's,

In Mike's absence on sabbatical I have been ask to write the letter for this month's Newsletter. I feel singularly ill-qualified to write a spiritual exhortation, but when the call comes.....

It occurred to me that I might write something about what I value at St. Peter's and why I am still involved. What, to me, are its special qualities that has drawn me to it for nearly fifty years? People and Rectors come and go - David Fricker, John Schild, Guy Buckler, Mike Fudger - but St. Peter's essential characteristics seem to remain.

Quite remarkable, when otherwise all around change and decay we see!

The first thing that comes to my mind is the way in which all are accepted as they are, at the stage where they are, with the doubts and hang-ups that they have. Underlying everything is the recognition that every journey of faith is individual, that no one path is entirely 'right', that each one's needs are different. In this house there are indeed many mansions, and each one is furnished differently. Your taste may not be my taste, and my taste may not be your taste, but ultimately it is only a matter of taste, not of 'rightness' or 'wrongness'. There is no rigid dogma in St. Peter's, no straitjacket of belief into which all are expected to fit. Inevitably we see many

things in different ways, but we each respect the other's point of view. Yet, when all the variations of approach are swept away, there is one foundation that all acknowledge - the uniqueness of Jesus Christ, his life, his values, his teachings.

From this characteristic of St. Peter's there follows inevitably the warmth, and the friendship that most who come through the doors quickly sense and become aware of. As a town centre church, it will attract the casual visitor - some out of curiosity, some because they need a place for reflection and quiet. The building is immediately recognizable as a place of worship: it encourages tranquility, it is well-cared for. But it is not stuffy: it inspires respect, but not awe: it has a human feel, is not pretentious. Those who come in for the first time and meet 'St. Peter's people' can easily relax and feel more or less at home.

Of course, not everything goes right at St. Peter's all the time. There are crises from time to time, but in the words of the old Commercial Union advert, at St. Peter's we "do not make a drama out of a crisis". Anyone who is around buckles down and sorts it out. By and large, we work very well together.

There have been three vacancies between Rectors since I have been around. No disrespect to the clergy, but these have been generally

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