

SERVICES

SUNDAY 1st May Easter 2

8.00am Holy Communion
10.15am First Sunday
12 noon Baptism
6.30pm Evensong

THURSDAY 5th

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 8th Easter 3

8am Holy Communion
10.15am Parish Communion with Baptism
6.30pm Evensong

THURSDAY 12th

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 15th Easter 4

8am Holy Communion
10.15am Morning Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion with Ministry of Healing

THURSDAY 19th

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 22nd Easter 5

8.00am Holy Communion
10.15am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong

THURSDAY 26th

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 29th Easter 6

8am Holy Communion
10.15am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evensong

THURSDAY 2nd June

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 5th Easter 7

8.00am Holy Communion
10.15am First Sunday
6.30pm Evensong

www.stpeter.org.uk

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

Registered Charity Number 1132799

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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 in the Chapter House. Details from Gwenda Flude Tel: 851670

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

solution to Sudoku on page 4

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

NETWORK

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

MAY 2011

Dear Everyone,

In the Rectory garden, just below our patio, we have a honeysuckle tree. During these last few lovely days there's been a wonderfully soothing sound coming from it; the buzz of busy bees. It's a soft and summery sound made for lazy days and sunshine. It's a joy to sit there (when I'm allowed...) and listen and think of all that wonderful labour going on and the honey being made. What a wonderful image of God's Church!

Being the Easter People isn't about being busy – but there is work to be done. God's Kingdom doesn't just happen – it needs building and filling. What kind of work, then? Well, our foremost activity must be to worship God, to remember him present amongst us – that's our Sunday business. But that leads on to everything else.

At our Annual Parochial Meeting before Easter, we reviewed our work at St. Peter's over the last year – far too much to mention here! But the headlines, as they say... Dave and Wendy were re-elected as churchwardens, but Bruce decided it's time to stand down as assistant warden (huge thanks to him for all he's done over the years, with Hazel's support and encouragement) and Maureen was chosen to join Liz in this role for the next year. We thanked all our officers, particularly Hannah, Anthony and Gloria and all their financial wizardry without which we'd be lost.

We also recognised the huge gap that Tricia is going to leave as she makes her way to Devon. There will be time later to begin to say our 'au revoirs' to her, but we have to start planning for life without her. As you'll know we've already advertised for a Parish Administrator for some of the essential work to go on. But as I also mentioned at the APCM, there is a list of things that Tricia has done over the years that aren't really the responsibility of an administrator, but which belong to us all. When I look at it, it reminds me of the busy bees in our garden.

At St. Peter's we are very fortunate to have so many people doing so many things, and doing them so well. But it's always a challenge to us not to take this, and each other, for granted. On page 3 is that list of jobs that need to be taken on by us, if we want to continue doing what we do. If there is no-one to do them, then simply they won't get done, which would be a shame – but that's the reality. And some, of course, would be sorely missed by the wider community, which also has its implications for our life together,

So please will you look at the list, and think carefully about whether there is something there you can help with. And if you think there is, talk to Tricia or me about what it involves. And always remember the bees, the wonderful summery sounds they make, and the sweet product of all their labours – and how much sweeter is the Kingdom of God, which is our promise and our goal.

With love

Mike

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Puthuir School, Chennai – our Lent Project



It was our privilege to be taken to visit this Special School during our first few days in India.

It certainly coloured the way we saw all that followed. The children who attend the school were amongst the most vulnerable and deprived we met. They not only came from the poorest areas of the city, but they all also had special needs, and but for the work of the school would otherwise be lost and forgotten, with no other possibility of any education.

Why did it make such an impression? The dedicated staff, all working for what we would consider a pittance, but who seemed to put their heart and soul into everything they did. The headteacher was an impressive man

whose gentleness and generosity infected the whole place. The school is funded by the Diocese of Madras, and the Bishop's representative there, Carmen, was equally impressive with her deep pride for the school's work and the value of each of its children, and her tireless determination to chase funding that would improve the work that goes on there.

As well as more formal education, we saw wonderful dance classes, vocational skills being taught, parenting classes for young parents. Such are the local contacts that every child who leaves the school has a job to go to.

Money has a key part to play, inevitably. The school runs on a shoestring. Its facilities are very basic. But what it does have, money can't buy – a deep sense of love, loyalty and hope fills the place. The children and the



staff have a warmth about them which completely disarmed us – as our memories of them continue to do!

We both think Puthuir School presents a wonderful opportunity to build links that would enrich our understanding, our faith and our hope. And what can we do for them? Any money we give them would be gratefully, joyously received, and would go straight to the work for which the school exists – the children who attend it.

Please give generously – and for those who already have, on behalf of our friends there – Thank you!

Mike and Janet



CATERING

- Lunches for Deanery Chapter etc
- Meals for visiting groups as required – KCO – Riding Lights
- Food Hygiene certificate (now called Level 2 award in Food Safety)
- Social Committee – lists for events – publicity - tickets

CHAPTER HOUSE

- Management Group
- Bookings (occasional) Showing round
- Cleaning – cooker – fridge – freezer (defrost) Dishwasher – water softener
- Troubleshooting with Anthony (frozen pipes / loos)
- Spring Clean

CHOIR

- Hymnsheets
- Wardrobe mistress
- Librarian
- Copying music

COFFEE SHOP

- Rota – plus filling in gaps
- Buying supplies – coffee – biscuits – handwash – cleaning products – Bookers (Cash and Carry) – sweets – bagging up. D'washer liquid / salt
- Traidcraft – orders and collection of goods
- Setting up when Dave not available
- Sales and Bazaars – coordinating – lunches
- Laundering talecloths

CONCERTS

- Taking bookings – liaising – coordinating
- Piano tuner – booking, providing keys
- Setting up church – meeting/greeting – arranging access
- Printing Tickets
- Organising refreshments – buying – serving – washing up
- Clearing up – pews/hassocks/carpet/lighting towers
- Locking up

CYCLE RIDE

- Paperwork
- Rota for the day
- Sponsorship forms - collecting monies/ sending cheque

An article from the Beds. Standard 17.8.1923 sent in by Rosemary Evans.

Does anyone know how long the tree survived after this article was published?

NOTABLE CHESTNUT TREE AT BEDFORD

One of the most admired chestnut trees which flower in Bedford is probably that which stands in St. Peter's Churchyard; there is scarcely a Bedford-born resident in the town today who has not in his time indulged in throwing stones at this tree in order that he might obtain some "conkers" so that he might conquer some of his schoolmates with the "conker on the string". But we venture to think that notwithstanding the many years that have elapsed since this tree first became the object of admiration, there are indeed very few who know how the tree first became planted in the churchyard. The explanation was given the other day to our representative by Mr. Barnard Davis, of 2 Grove Place, Bedford. Mr. Davis, who formerly carried on a butcher's business in St. Loyes Street- having succeeded his father, Mr. Barnard Dimmock-Davis – made the following statement: "It must be 72 years since the chestnut tree was planted in St. Peter's Churchyard. I remember when I was a child my mother sent me to know how her father was; his name was William Crawley and he was a whip-maker, residing at a shop where Messrs. Blott's premises now stand, at the corner of Lurke Street. I saw my grandfather and he told me he was quite all right and that he had his whips ready for the Hitchin market; at that time there was no railway there. When I came out of school I saw the shop was closed and was told my grandfather had dropped down dead. He was buried in St. Peter's Churchyard and my grandmother said she would plant a chestnut tree at the foot of the grave so that she would always know where her husband was buried. Later a tombstone was erected and as years rolled on the tree grew so rapidly that instead of removing it the church authorities removed the tombstone and this can be seen at the present day, standing with two others, facing the Broadway and within a few feet of the trunk of the tree." The inscription on the stone is still very clear and reads as follows: "In loving memory of William Crawley, late whip manufacturer of this town, who departed this life on the 11th March 1851; aged 54 years. In the midst of life we are in death"

DIARY

May

- 4th Bible Study at The Rectory 3pm
 5th Bible Study 11.30am. Confirmation Group at the Rectory 7.30pm
 7th Mozart Requiem and Clarinet Quintet in church 7.30pm
 9th Women's Fellowship 2.30pm. Film Club 7pm - Il Postino
 11th Prayer Group in church 7.30pm
 13th Ministry Group meets at the Rectory 2.45pm
 14th - 28th Art Exhibition
 15th - 21st Christian Aid Week
 16th Envelope drop for Christian Aid 2.30pm. PCC meets in the church at 7.30pm
 17th Faith Walk (see notice sheets)
 18th Envelope collection
 19th Deanery Synod at Christ Church 7.30pm
 21st Quiz Evening 7pm
 23rd Women's Fellowship 2.30pm. Social Ctee meets at the Potter's 7.30pm

June

- 4th Organ Recital in church 7.30pm
 7th Doubtters Anonymous at Do's 7.45pm - The Creeds
 11th Concert 7.30pm - Joska (Chamber Choir from Rovigo)
 16th Trip to Stevington

Traditional Quiz Night

Saturday 21 May

Starts 7pm in the Chapter House.

Another chance to sharpen your wits and enjoy yourselves.

Tables of up to 6 people.

£4.00 per person to cover a Quiche and Salad supper with soft drinks.

(Feel free to bring your own wine or beer for your table.)

Any profits will go to Christian Aid.

Please sign list at back of church or phone Robert or Sylvia on 309409.

Make up a table or put your name down individually and we will put you in a team.

An evening with roses, music and wine.

Thursday 16th June between 6-9pm

£5.00 per person with proceeds going to NGS charities.

This is another chance to visit the beautiful gardens of Kathy Brown in Stevington.

The roses and clematis should be in full flower and we can wander around admiring her large garden, sip wine or soft drinks (for which there may be a charge) and be entertained by music in the gardens - The Eagle Choir has been 'booked' again.

It was a lovely event last year and we hope you will join us this year. Please sign if you are interested in coming with or without a car and we will try to arrange lifts for everyone to get there.

Prayer for the Month

Dear Friends,

In this post Easter period we carry with us the remembrance that we are redeemed - God loves us so much that his son, Jesus, was sacrificed on the cross that we may start afresh each day facing the world in the knowledge that we are valued just as we are.

Let us remember we, here at St. Peter's, are part of the family of God and pray:

O God who has bound us together in this bundle of life, give us grace to understand how our lives depend on the courage, industry, honesty and integrity of each other. May we be mindful of the needs of others, grateful for the faithfulness one to another, and faithful in our responsibilities to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Heather L Harris

Organ recitals at St Peter's

I am delighted that St Peter's is hosting two celebrity organ recitals this year, on Saturday 4 June at 7.30pm and on Sunday 25 September at 4pm.

The June recital will be given by Francesca Massey who is currently Assistant Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral. Francesca is a brilliant young organist who has given recitals in many major concert halls and cathedrals in the UK. She has also performed throughout South Africa, Sardinia, Sweden and Denmark.

This promises to be a very enjoyable evening of richly varied and wonderful organ music. Please do make a note of this date in your diary and come along if possibly can - you will not be disappointed!

Tickets are available in advance, priced at £7 (£4 concessions) from Tricia or me.

Adrian

DIRECTORY

Clergy	Mike Fudger (Rector)	354543
	Cyril Harris (Hon. Asst)	344927
Churchwardens	Wendy Edwards	266210
	Dave Hoskins	304424
Assistant Churchwardens	Maureen Tompkins	360495
	Liz McHale	210620
PCC Secretary	vacant	
Treasurers	Hannah Potter	352675
	Anthony Chestney	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



St. Peter's Open Gardens

This is our very own home grown Open Gardens scheme.

Some people have gardens which we are happy to have others visit. So, during the summer we plan to advertise Open Days when friends from St Peters would be welcomed to enjoy the flowers and a cup of tea in somebody's garden. We will announce these through the Notice sheet. As a start for your diary, Robert and Sylvia's garden has a splendid rambling rose which looks its best at the end of June. A suggested date to see this is Thursday 30 June but it will be confirmed. You never know what the weather or the rose will do. If you have a garden you are happy to share for an afternoon, let Sylvia know on 309409.



Christian Aid Week
15-21 May 2011

Please sign up to help with the yearly door-to-door collection. There are lists with roads for people to collect individually or come and join a group of us in the Turner Way area of Brickhill as we distribute envelopes on Monday 16 May at 2.30pm and then collect as a group on Wednesday at 6.30pm. Any queries, please contact Sylvia or Robert on 309409.

General Garden Maintenance
No job too small - please ask

- Lawn mowing
- Weeding, planting, digging and general tidy up
- Hedge trimming
- Garden clearance
- Pressure cleaning paths, patios and patio furniture
- Fence and shed painting

Nigel Tompkins
Phone: 01234 781433 or 07766 624459

St. James the Least of All

The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

On the perils of holding a rose queen celebration

The Rectory

St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

On reflection, inviting your parishioners to join in our annual rose queen celebrations may not have been entirely wise. It was cheering to see that your people arrived on carnival floats, although less happy that they should be being pursued by the police trying to recover lorries temporarily liberated from your local coal merchant.

Once the procession started, your drivers did not seem to have grasped the fact that the vehicles were expected to tour the village slowly, for the benefit of spectators, instead of treating it as a competitive race, resorting to driving anti-clockwise around roundabouts in order to queue-jump. I noticed that numbers on your floats gradually diminished as they were flung off while careering round corners. Those who had a walk of several miles back home while dressed as pirates and ballerinas had my sympathy. Our tea ladies however, were less sympathetic when hay bales were spun off as your drivers demonstrated handbrake turns in the car park, felling our Women's Guild like a row of skittles.

The local police normally use the afternoon to do a little gentle point duty while drinking gallons of sweet tea; this year, the number of tickets issued for unsafe vehicles, dangerous driving and assorted tax and insurance lapses should boost our constabulary's figures for the next twelve months.

I must concede that the group who decided to make a *papier mache* swan for one of your floats showed great imagination. It was such a pity that they did not know a fifteen foot swan would be driven under a twelve foot bridge. The drama of its emergence, headless, was only exceeded by the following float which appeared to have a group of Brownies being savaged by a demented, bodiless, vulture.

I am sure that some of your people's offers to help this year's Princesses campaign for election for Rose Queen next year were well-meant. However, outlining systems for vote rigging and elector intimidation take a competitive spirit a little too far.

The crowning of the Rose Queen is always a high point to the afternoon, but could I point out that the "gold" crown is metal foil and the "diamond" sceptre is a piece of yellow glass. So could we please have them returned before next year?

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Sudoku solution on back page

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

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ART EXHIBITION

From 14th - 28th May the walls of the Chapter House will once more be adorned with works of art, this time created by members of Bedford Guild House Art Groups. See posters for opening times.

Daring to dream the impossible

Christian Aid partner Soppexcca (pronounced so-pecks-ka) is an organisation with a vision. It is passionately committed to helping poor Nicaraguan coffee farmers to beat poverty.

Ten years ago, when Soppexcca was established, this seemed impossible. But now Soppexcca is a thriving collective of small cooperatives which helps farmers produce good-quality coffee, market it and put funds back into their own communities. It works with communities to understand their needs and empowers them to make their own visions a reality.

Gustavo Adolfo Talavera, an illiterate coffee farmer, had few prospects until Soppexcca gave him a loan, allowing him to expand his farm and build a small and environmentally sound processing plant. He had a dream of his children being able to read and write, and be educated.

His dream became a reality when Soppexcca helped members of the community get enough resources together, and a group of parents built a school themselves.

Ten years ago, education would have seemed an impossible dream for Gustavo. But Soppexcca is enabling his community to dream dreams – and then to do what where it seems to be impossible; where life is brought to the world.

And the gospel stories are clear that life is about more than just survival.

The life that Jesus speaks of is abundant life, rich with possibility and hope and promise. For people in Gustavo's community, it's about education and prospects.

Cooperative living is about this abundant life. It's about seeing something achievable beyond oneself and working together to make life better for everyone.

Fátima Ismael, Soppexcca's director,

says: 'We're not just about bread for today, but also for tomorrow. But we don't just want bread, we want bread and honey and milk.' People like Fátima and Gustavo are seeing the bigger picture – going beyond what seems initially achievable and working together to make it a reality. The good news is that we can be a part of this bigger picture too. When we give our time, money and energy this Christian Aid Week, we are looking beyond ourselves and if we really believed in abundant life for all. It's the world that Jesus showed us in his life and ministry: a world where we stop living for ourselves and start living for others, a world where we don't put limits on love and justice, a world where the concept of our neighbour is startlingly redefined. It's a bigger world and it's an unsettling world. But it's a world that allows for transformation in ways that we may never have imagined, to dream dreams and to do what people tell us is impossible. Of course it's about transformation for people like Gustavo. But it's also a world that offers huge transformation to ourselves and to our churches, as we place ourselves in the frame of a bigger picture where the power of love has no limits. Christian Aid Week is a time to celebrate transformation, and an opportunity to put ourselves in the frame of God's kingdom. Join us, and we'll give you the resources to make the impossible happen.

Help people in poverty out of poverty

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

14th April
28th April

Jim Desics
Geoffrey Booth