



Church of England

**North Bedford
Church Partnership**

St. Mark's Church



Methodist Church

The Church of England and the
Methodist Church in partnership
at both St. Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church

**Consecration of
the Chapel and Vestry
of St. Mark's Church, Bedford**

We are pleased to welcome

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable
the Lord Runcie of Cuddesdon

The Reverend Garth Rogers
Chairman of the London North West District
of the Methodist Church

The Reverend Canon Robin Brown
Rural Dean of Bedford

Monday December 15, 1997 7.30pm

THE ENTRANCE

The procession led by the Bishop and Chairman will gather outside the doors of the new chapel. The architect hands the key to the Bishop who strikes the door of the chapel and then opens it. The following words are then said.

Bishop: Peace be to this house from God our Heavenly Father
Chairman: Peace be to this house from the Son who is our peace
Rural Dean: Peace be to this house from the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

We stand to sing our opening hymn. As the hymn is sung the procession will enter the church through the chapel.

HYMN

Thy hand, O God has guided, thy flock from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written, full clear on every page;
our fathers owned thy goodness, and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness: One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings, to greatest as to least;
they bade men rise and hasten to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching in every deed and word;
to all alike proclaiming: One church, one Faith, one Lord

Through many a day of darkness, through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely to guard the nation's life.
Their Gospel of redemption, sin pardoned men restored,
was all in this enfolded: One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us, nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us, the victory shall be won;
and then by men and angels, thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem: One Church, one Faith, one Lord

THE WELCOME

St. Mark's Church Leadership Team

(This team is formed from six members of the church who perform the traditional duties of churchwardens and stewards).

Team: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
we welcome you tonight to this place.
The Lord be with you

All: **And also with you**

OPENING PRAYER

Chairman:

Almighty God to whose glory this church stands, we thank you for the many blessings which you have given to those who worship here. Especially we praise you today for the unity and love which is shared between your people who come together from different church backgrounds. We thank you for the vision which has characterised the life of this church enabling it to reach out in faith. Today we give thanks for the generosity of all those who have contributed towards the chapel extension, and for all your grace displayed in the life of this congregation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION

The Chairman will lead us all in saying together

**When we lose patience
when we are unkind
when we are envious
when we are rude or proud
when we are selfish or irritable
and when we will not forgive others:
have mercy on us, O God.**

(continued over....)

**Help us not to delight in evil,
but to rejoice in the truth;
help us always to protect, to trust,
to hope and to persevere:
then shall we see you face to face,
and learn to love you as you love us
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Chairman will proclaim God's words of forgiveness, then we sing

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever, Amen.**

HYMN

The children are invited to play their instruments

The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin;
the gates of heaven are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.
The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin;
the gates of heaven are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.

*Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight,
come and revel in heaven's love and light;
take your place at the table of the King,
the feast is ready to begin, the feast is ready to begin.*

Tables are laden with good things, O taste the peace and joy he brings;
he'll fill you up with love divine, he'll turn your water into wine.

The hungry heart he satisfies, offers the poor his paradise;
now hear all heaven and earth applaud, the amazing goodness of the Lord.

*The procession will now enter the vestry and then assemble in the Chapel.
The Petition of Consecration is presented to the Bishop by the churchwardens
saying:*

THE PETITION FOR CONSECRATION
Of the Chapel and Vestry extension

Architect: We who have sought to design this building for prayer and service to the church and community offer it to God for his glory.

Builder: We who have brought our skills to the task of building now offer the work of our hands to God's Church

Stained glass artist: I have designed and made this window which proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ

Ministers: Father in God, we who have given with joy and prayed with faith have known God's blessing in providing us with this chapel. We pray you now to consecrate this chapel to the glory of God.

Representatives of the Leadership Team:

Reverend Father in God, we humbly pray that your Lordship (or Grace) will be pleased to consecrate this chapel and Vestry to be set apart as places of prayer and service for God's people.

Chairman:

Let us pray to the Father and ask for the gift of his Holy Spirit. Almighty and everliving God the heaven of heavens cannot contain you and your glory is in all the world, yet you hallow places for worship and in them pour out your grace upon your people. Be pleased to take possession of this chapel extension to be consecrated to your glory, that it may be a place of meeting between you and your people, where your presence is known, your truth declared, your name magnified and your gifts of grace bestowed. Protect all who meet here and give to them a perpetual reverence of your name, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, worshipped for ever.

All: Amen

The Bishop makes the sign of the cross to West, South and North.

Facing West he shall say:

Bishop: May the cross of Christ drive away all evil

Turning to the South

Bishop: May the cross of Christ triumph evermore

Turning to the North

Bishop: May the cross of Christ save all who worship here

I sign this extension to the church with the sign of the cross, the sign of Christ, that it may be used to the glory of God the Father, who calls us by his grace: to the glory of God the Son who loved us and gave himself for us: to the glory of God the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth. The Blessing of the Eternal God be upon this place to sanctify it and keep it hallowed and holy, from henceforth until the day of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

We remain seated to sing

**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise him, all creatures here below
Praise him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

THE WITNESS OF CONSECRATION

The Bishop will ask Mr David Cheetham, Registrar of the Diocese of St. Albans, to read the Sentence of Consecration and the Bishop will sign it. The Bishop shall then declare the Consecration by saying;

Bishop:

By virtue of our sacred office in the Church of God, we Robert, by divine permission, commissary for the Right Reverend Christopher Lord Bishop of St. Albans, do now Consecrate and set apart from all profane and common uses this Chapel and vestry extension of the church and set it apart for the celebration of Divine Offices.

The procession will now move back into the church

THE CHOIR

‘Christ is our Cornerstone’

Music Malcolm Archer

Text translated from Latin by J Chandler

Our Musical Director Mrs Pauline Leeson

AN EXPRESSION OF THANKS

Mrs Margaret Appleton

Church Leadership Team

HYMN

Sing to God new songs of worship, all his deeds are marvellous.
He has brought salvation to us with his hand and holy arm.
He has shown to all the nations righteousness and saving power.
He recalled his truth and mercy to his people Israel.

Sing to God new songs of worship, earth has seen his victory.
Let the lands of earth be joyful, praising him with thankfulness.
Sound upon the harp his praises, play to him with melody.
Let the trumpets sound his triumphs, show your joy to God the King!

Sing to God new songs of worship, let the sea now make a noise.
All on earth and in the waters, sound your praises to the Lord.
Let the hills be joyful together, let the rivers clap their hands.
For with righteousness and justice, he will come to judge the earth.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Collect prayer

Eternal and everlasting God, the heaven of heavens cannot contain you, much less the work of human hands; but you have promised through your Son that where your people gather in his name, you are in the midst of them. Fill this house with the glory of your presence, that everyone who seeks you here may find you, and filled with the Holy Spirit may become a living temple acceptable to you: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ephesians Chapter 3 verse 14-21

Miss Jennie Coppenhall

After the reading the reader will say

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

THE SERMON

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable
the Lord Runcie of Cuddesdon

OFFERING HYMN

Lord for the years your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord for that Word, the Word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the Word, receive your people' praise.

Lord, for that land in this our generation,
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
For young and old , for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord for our world, where men disown and doubt you,
Loveless in strength and comfortless in pain.
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
Past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

We remain standing for

OFFERING PRAYER

Yours Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour,
and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

PRAYERS

HYMN

To Him we come - Jesus Christ our Lord,
God's own living Word, His dear Son.
In Him there is no east or west,
in Him all nations shall be blessed,
to all he offers peace and rest - *loving Lord!*

In him we live - Christ our strength and stay,
life and truth and way, friend divine.
His power can break the chains of sin,
still all life's storms without, within,
help us the daily fight to win - *living Lord!*

For him we go - soldiers of the cross,
counting all things loss, him to know..
Going to every land and race,
preaching to all redeeming grace,
building his church in every place - *conquering Lord!*

With Him we serve - his the work we share,
with saints everywhere, near and far.
One in the task which faith requires,
one in the zeal which never tires,
one in the hope His love inspires - *coming Lord!*

Onward we go - faithful bold and true,
called His will to do, day by day.
Till at the last with joy we'll see
Jesus in glorious majesty,
live with Him through eternity - *reigning Lord!*

FINAL PRAYERS

The Reverend Garth Rogers

Go with us, O Lord, when we enter into your holy house; and go with us as we return to take up the common duties of life. In worship and in work alike let us know your presence near us; till work itself be worship, and every thought be to your praise. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

May the Holy Father keep you united in his truth; may the Holy Son protect you under the wings of his cross; may the Holy Spirit grant you courage to make you temples and dwelling places for his glory. May the Holy and undivided Trinity bless you and grant you peace all the days of your lives.

Chairman: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Choir will sing
'Joy to The World'
as the procession leaves

We express our thanks to the many people who have contributed to the building of this new church, without whose vision, hard work and generosity it could not have been completed.

The Builder

Mr Harry Noble
Relmfield

The Architect

Mr Ian Cording
Cording and Allen Partnership

The Stained Glass Artist

Mr Joseph Nuttgens

Mr Peter Aspinall - Arnolds Funeral Service

Donation of the stone plaque with Consecration Cross

The Registrar of the Diocese of St. Albans

Mr David Cheetham

All contributors to the building fund

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Following this service tea and coffee will be served in the hall
We hope that you will also feel able to take time
to enter and view the chapel

It is always a pleasure to welcome visitors to our church and community centre. If you have not yet received a copy of our welcome brochure these are available in the foyer after the service with abbreviated copies in different languages. Please feel free to take extra copies for friends.

Should you wish to know any further information about St. Mark's Church or our sister church Putnoe Heights, then please telephone the church centre office weekdays 9.00am - 5.00pm. Please feel able to speak with one of the Ministers who will be pleased to help you with any matter.

St. Mark's Church Community Centre Office
Tel/Fax 01234 342613