

Following the service you are all invited to share refreshments which will be served in the church



Methodist Church

**North Bedford Church Partnership
St Mark's Church &
Putnoe Heights Church**



Church of England

We would like to express our thanks to all who have contributed towards the cost of this Garden of Remembrance and also to those who have given of their building expertise.

N. J. Farrar - Main Contractor
Cording Allen Partnership - Architects
Mr. Steve Gray - Electrician
Mr. Alan Charnock - Plumber
Mr. Doug Smith - Carpentry
Mr Raymond Francis - Aquazone
Mr Peter Aspinall - Arnolds Funeral Service
Mr Peter Roper - Columbaria Company

Consecration of the new extension to the Garden of Remembrance

By

The Right Reverend Richard Inwood
Lord Bishop Suffragan of Bedford

Also to the Diocese of St. Albans for their considered advice in the design of our scheme.

It is our prayer that this Garden will continue to serve as a place of beauty for Christian interment for people in Bedford for many years to come.

"Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
Psalm 46:10

Thursday 13th March 2003
3.00pm

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: Praise God who has created us
All: **And given us hearts to worship him.**

Minister: Praise God who has sent us his Son, Jesus Christ,
All: **And given us a Gospel to proclaim.**

Minister: Praise God who has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us,
All: **And given us voices to sing his praise.
Praise God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Bishop will pronounce the Blessing

Bishop: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
All: **In the name of Christ. Amen**

Prayers

Leader:

Let us pray to God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray that God's presence may always be found in this place by all who turn to him:

When you people gather here to seek your face and offer praise and prayer.

When we commend your servants into your hands to pass through death to you.

When we seek forgiveness and grace here, peace and reassurance, strength and consolation.

Leader: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

Go before us, Lord, in all that we do,
with your most gracious favour,
and guide us with your continual help,
that in all our works,
begun, continued and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

At the end of the prayers

We say together

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The service will take place in the
Garden of Remembrance. The Bishop of
Bedford will consecrate the Garden.**

Introduction

Minister In the name of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
we welcome you this afternoon to this place.

The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection, and I am the life; he who believes in me, though he die yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.'

Let us pray with confidence to God our Father, who raised Christ his Son from the dead for the salvation of all.

Our generous God of your great goodness you have given your people the vision, generosity and skill to build this churchyard. It is to be set apart as a place of quiet peace where the ashes of the departed may rest. We ask that all those who seek comfort and the reassurance of your presence may find it here and that they may be blest with the knowledge of your salvation.

Bible Reading John Chapter 20:1

When she is crying and full of grief, the resurrected Jesus reveals himself to Mary in the Garden. Mary thinks Jesus is a gardener.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the

tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Consecration

Bishop:

Almighty God in you we live and move and have our being; so we pray that you will keep us in death as in life. We pray that as we set aside this Garden of Remembrance as a holy place, so you will bless, hallow and consecrate it, that those who rest here may after this life attain the joys of life eternal.

The Bishop will process around the boundary of the ground to be Consecrated. The Petition of Consecration is then presented to the Bishop by the churchwardens saying:

Churchwardens: *(Members of our Churches Leadership Teams)*

Reverend Father in God, we humbly pray that your Lordship will be pleased to consecrate this land to be set apart as a churchyard for this parish for the interment of cremated remains of our people.

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

Bishop:

By virtue of our authority in the church of God we do now Consecrate and set apart from all profane and common uses, this ground to be a resting place for the cremated remains of those who have departed in the Lord: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.