

Bedfordshire Local History Association

BLHA Autumn Event

A visit to

The Church of St Peter de Merton with St Cuthbert, Bedford

Monday 26th October 2015 from 2.30pm

Beyond the Green at the top end of Bedford's High Street lies the parish church of St Peter's, on a site where people have worshipped for over 1000 years.

An illustrated presentation will be followed by a brief introduction by Rosemary Evans, Head of the Friends of St Peter's and enthusiastic researcher of the church's history. Masonry in the tower and chancel dating back to the late 10th or early 11th century is a reminder of the building's great age, particular interest arising from Bedford's position at the time of the creation of the Danelaw boundary. There will be the opportunity to go up the turreted spiral staircase into the Ringers' Chamber in the Saxon tower to see a unique runic stone (which bears no runes!) and, at ground level, the magnificent South doorway and other little known features of the church, extended by the Victorians from 1845 - 1885. You will be at liberty to wander freely around the church and churchyard, which contains a rare well, older even than St Peter's itself.

All visitors will be given a copy of 'A History & Guide for Visitors' as they enter. The afternoon will include a 35-40 minute presentation followed by a short discussion at the East End of the Church. A visit to the Bell Tower for small groups that wish to go will be available (a rope extends up the spiral staircase). There will be a bell-ringer available up the tower to answer questions regarding the bells and the runic stone in the Saxon doorway. Refreshments may be taken while waiting a turn to visit the tower.

We hope you will be able to join us in what is going to be a fascinating afternoon.

Date and Time - Monday 26th October commencing at 2.30pm and ending around 4.30pm.

Parking – This is available in the new car park in The Broadway, opposite St Peter's where the charge is 80p per hour.

Meeting Point – The West Door entrance of St Peter's Bedford at the foot of De Parys Avenue. Toilets are available in the Chapter House. Postcode for the church is MK40 2TP

Cost and Booking – The cost of the event is £10 per person, this includes refreshments. All proceeds will go to the Friends of St Peter's Bedford.

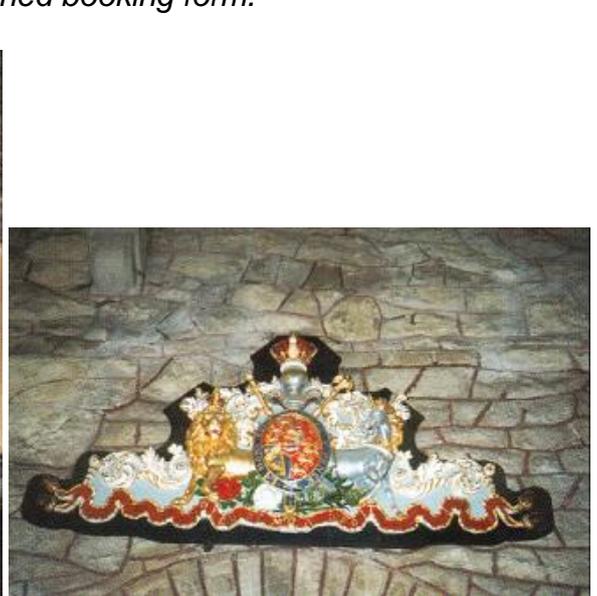
To reserve a place please complete and return the attached booking form.



St Peter de Merton with St Cuthbert



Octagonal 14th century font



Hanovarian Coat of Arms

Bedfordshire Local History Association

BLHA Autumn Event
A visit to

The Church of St Peter de Merton with St Cuthbert, Bedford

Booking Form

Please reserveplace/s @ £10.00 each for the 'BLHA Autumn Event' on Monday 26th October 2015.

I enclose a cheque to the value of £.....

Cheques payable to: **Bedfordshire Local History Association**

Receipt of the booking form will be confirmed by email or telephone.

Name(s):.....

Society:.....

Address:.....

.....

..... Postcode:.....

Telephone:

Email:.....

Please return the form with payment by Monday 19th October 2015 to:

Mike Turner, Treasurer BLHA, 117 High St, Clophill, Beds, MK45 4BJ

Telephone: 01525 862285

Email: dtu1687146@aol.com