



Partnership News

10 February 2013

Sunday next before Lent

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church



8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

Today 10 February

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr John Bassill

Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank

Intercessions –Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr John Bassill

Leadership – Mr Gordon Evans

Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Sunday 17 February Lent 1

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart

Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership – Mr Barry Southam

Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Readings 1.Deuternomy 26:1-11 2.Romans 10: 8b-13
3. Luke 4:1-13

Midweek Holy Communion at St Mark's Chapel every
Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir William Harpur House
on first Monday of every month at 10.00am

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Elsie Slack in loving memory of her husband Hartley, and by Julia Furnell in loving memory of her husband Hugh and twin sister Florence.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by the Appleton family in celebration of Margaret's 70th birthday.

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota on the foyers

Prayer for Sunday

Above all things, O Lord, let us rejoice in your presence. Let our hearts love you and let our mouths proclaim you. Let our souls hunger for you and let our whole being desire you; until we are one with you, for you are God, blessed for ever. Amen.

Anselm of Canterbury (c.1033-1109)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a Vice
President for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre 365630

jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website
www.ThisChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com

Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846

Leadership Team Mrs. Jean Kirk 317699

Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188

Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Morag Stewart 360103

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685
8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**
(See website for more details)
.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955
10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (see contact details below)
12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thischurch.com 365630
1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys,songs,story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk .
2pm U3A Music Appreciation (see contact details below)
4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.
6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571
6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081
7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson 353518
7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020
7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 18 February Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567
7.45pm Opus Choir at St Mark's Mrs Sutherland 269100
8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016
9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389
10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704
11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)
1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552
1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp. St Mark's (contacts details below)
1–3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's (contacts details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details)
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895
2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs 406784.
4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957
7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390
6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648
6.30pm MT Karate (all ages) Karen King 07941264885
7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455
7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo 07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk
7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club (Meets fortnightly). Next meeting '19 February 'Wood Carving' Neil Kinselly. Details Janet King 313946
8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers Workshop St. Mark's 3rd Tuesday in month. Next meeting 26 February Shirley Sadler 01767 651767

Wednesday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly. Contact Marion Sutton 217647
9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.
9.30am Discovery & Do (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666
10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.
10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. (contact below)
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)
10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe (contact below)
11.15am U3A Keep Fit
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 13 February 2013 Putnoe Heights Office 365630
1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)
1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)
2.00pm Fifty Plus Keep Fit Mrs Webster 856966
2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan
2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966
3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 20th February Wendy Waters /401834
4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha

Mistry 01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994.

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King 079412 64885

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows 407725

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 20 February AGM. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green 244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

110-11.30am Gentle Yoga For more details contact Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305

12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 363283

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays St. Mark's 267444

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552.

2pm -Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's (contact below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Mary Rich 272470

5.00pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Carol Plant 01832710504

8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton 01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass 294220

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

Friday

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks (see contact details below)

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (contact details below)

2pm U3A Italian-Putnoe Heights (contact details below)

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights

4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker (07900 232648

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.St Marks(2nd week) Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard 01234 782414

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

6.45pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger 212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

10am—5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday Feb/ Apr/Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

Messy Church Dates

Weds 20 February	Weds 17 May	Weds 16 October
Weds 20 March	Weds 19 June	Weds 20 November
Weds 17 April	Weds 18 Sept	Weds 11 December
Wednesday 15 May		
Wednesday 19 June		
Wednesday 19 October		
Wednesday 16 November		
Wednesday 14 December		
All 3.45 to 5.30pm		

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 19 Feb, 11 June

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Annual Congregational Meetings 28 April 2013

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 February, 3 June

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 24 January

Putnoe Church Council - 19 February, 10 June, 24 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 6.30pm

Circuit meeting - 7 February

Deanery Meeting - 28th February

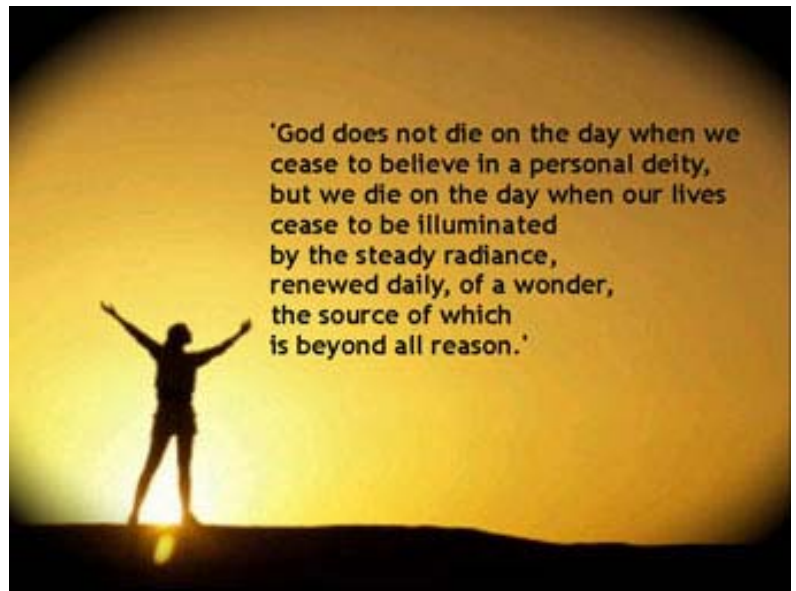
Woodland Burial Trustees— AGM —Sunday 9th June

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting—4th Feb. 1.30pm

Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Sunday Next Before Lent

Think back over the past weeks since Christmas. At his baptism, Jesus' glory was seen when he was declared God's Son. At Cana, his Glory was evident in his power to change nature- water into wine. At Nazareth, his preaching revealed his glory. In the calling of the disciples, Jesus' glory was acknowledged by those who left everything to follow him. During the last Sundays of this Epiphany season, we have seen the glory reflected in his teachings. Today, at the Transfiguration, everything comes together: Jesus reflects in his person, the glory of God, and the past is fulfilled with the approval of Moses and Elijah. The whole scene is surrounded by symbolic meaning; an aura of unnatural brightness is linked with mystical appearances in Exodus and Acts, "dazzling white" is a symbol of transcendence, the "cloud" is a symbol of God's presence and the words from it recall Jesus' baptism, and add "listen to him!"



Introductory Sentence - Psalm 99

The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name-- he is holy.

Collect Prayer

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen *Common Worship*

First Reading —Exodus 34:29 –35

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai. When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered the Lord's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD

(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians Chapter 3:12 - 4:2

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Jesus took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfilment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no-one at that time what they had seen. The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not." "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.
(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father, who's Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of His glory, that He may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for He is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymns and Psalms)

1. What shall our greeting be 806
2. Seek ye first 138
3. O loving Lord 798
4. The Church of Christ 804
5. Tell out my soul 86



The Transfiguration by Raphael

Commentary

Here we are at the start of Lent and we finish Epiphany and turn with Jesus towards Jerusalem. Today we have the episode which we refer to as The Transfiguration. In this midst of this astonishing scene Peter clearly feels as though he should 'do' something and so he offers to build tents for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. We often feel that we have to be busy with making or doing something, instead God says that the disciples must 'listen' to Jesus.

This is my Son, my chosen listen to Him'

In the midst of all the activity of mission and ministry, Jesus calls his disciple side to be with him, to pray and know God's presence with them. This was important because they were engaged in dangerous activities. The mountain top experience was not intended to take them away from all the suffering that was to follow on the road to Calvary, rather it was to sustain them and give them courage for the difficult days ahead.

So what is this for us? Perhaps a word of caution, that in God's presence we do not need to say too much. God wants the disciples to listen to the voice of Jesus and it is enough to be in his presence. The days ahead for the disciples were to be filled with pain and failure, during such low times we do well with them to be able to look back to the 'highs' of life and recognise that God is equally present in both, even if we don't feel it. There are places where people 'feel closer' to God, it might be Iona or Lourdes, they are sometimes called thin places. Celtic spirituality is fond of these spots where heaven seems closer, places where cracks in the door allow us a glimpse of the world beyond. The trick of being able to stay sane in the world is to recognise that with Jesus

the Christian really doesn't need to search out thin places, for Jesus has parted the clouds and we no longer have to climb mountains. It might help us feel better to scale a nice big mountain and look upon God's creation with awe and wonder. Jesus has however transfigured our world and those with spiritual sight can see his transforming presence in all things and in all places along our spiritual journey. So where will we find God? We will discover God all around us in his creation, damaged and marred yet nonetheless there before us, speaking to us if we can only shut out the noise around us, and listen and see. As Jacob said,
"Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." Genesis 28:16

"We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all the time."

Thomas Merton

Meditation Friends for Life

This week we are joined by John Bassill who is the project co-ordinator of 'Friends for Life.' This is an ecumenical project of the Anglican Bedford Deanery and the North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit with the aim of co-ordinating and developing the churches ministry to care homes in Bedford and their carers. It also includes members of the other mainstream Christian churches and receives enthusiastic support from the care homes already involved in the scheme.

"Friends for Life seeks to promote the spiritual care of residents in care homes in Bedford and district by befriending them and encouraging regular visiting and worship through the churches in the area."

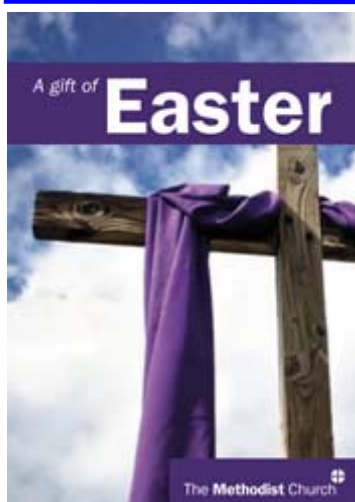
Mission Statement Dec 2009

Background A report commissioned in November 2005 by the sponsoring churches assessed data from churches of all denominations and the many homes in the area about the pastoral care provided by the churches in Bedford for the residential and nursing homes in their area. This highlighted that many residents in homes across the town were spending the last years of their lives with few and in some cases no visitors at all. Also whilst many churches were providing worship opportunities such as Holy Communion and hymn singing this was random and un co-ordinated.

How have we developed North Bedfordshire Churches Care Home Support was created with a dedicated Co-ordinator to address these needs. The name 'Friends for Life' was adopted in January 2008 followed by the first training sessions for the new Personal Befrienders. The success of a pilot scheme encouraged more volunteers to come forward and the appointment of Joanne Barrow as Project Administrator allowed Margaret-Anne Tibbs (the first Co-ordinator and an experienced dementia specialist) to concentrate on training and other aspects of the work. John Bassill was appointed Project Co-ordinator in September 2009 to succeed Chris Izzard, the first Project Director.

Where are we now We currently have over 30 volunteers as Personal Befrienders, visiting in 13 homes across Bedford. We also facilitate group visits from churches. Although all our volunteers are from a Christian background the purpose of the visit is that of friendship, not to preach, "We befriend and visit Care Home residents of any faith or none – offering them the gift of friendship".

Future aims. In the short term, although our befrienders are doing a sterling job, demand far outstretches supply so recruiting more volunteers is the immediate priority. Another aim of the scheme is to encourage all churches of all denominations providing ministry to come under the Friends for Life umbrella for support and direction to allow co-ordination for all residents in all homes to be able to access spiritual support and feel part of the Church Community.



Lent is a time to prepare

The Methodist Church have made available an Easter booklet telling the Easter Story. This second edition contains brand new images and quotations from classic Easter hymns alongside the enduring Scripture passages found in the first edition. A great way to share the hope of Easter with friends and neighbours, the booklet is an engaging resource for churches to use in their communities. You can download the book free <http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/760145/gift-of-easter-2013-0113.pdf>

The following is written for this week.

Lent is a time to prepare for Easter - it represents the time when Jesus was tempted in the desert. During this time he fasted and the Lenten tradition of abstinence is continued today by many who choose to give up something specific such as chocolate or alcohol. Lent always starts on a Wednesday, so people went to confession on the day before. The old middle English word 'shrive' meaning to go to confession gave the day its name of Shrove

Tuesday which became Shrove Tuesday. This was the last chance to indulge yourself and to use up the foods that were not allowed during Lent so pancakes became a tradition – using sugar, fat, flour and eggs. The first day of Lent is called Ash Wednesday – the name comes from the tradition of putting a small cross of ash on people's forehead at church services as a sign of mourning and repentance. We will have our Ash Wednesday service at St Mark's this week at 7.30pm. On Maundy Thursday we will have our Last Supper meal at Putnoe Heights Church on Thursday 28 March at 7.30pm

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church will be 10 years old this May. If you would like to celebrate this milestone on Saturday 11th May 2013 please can you let me know. Carolyn email Youth@thisischurch.com

John Bunyan's 'Childish Toys' a one day course for readers of all ages on 16 March 10am—4pm at Bunyan Meeting. Tutors Dr. Pat Pinset and Professor Bob Owens. For further information contact Dr. Clare Walsh 01234 793091 email clare.walsh@beds.ac.uk

Belief Co-ordinator Belief is an ecumenical forum for education and faith providing educational opportunities for Christians across Bedfordshire. (www.beliefbeds.org) We seek the services of a part time Co-ordinator to ensure that the decisions of the Management Committee are carried out in a timely and professional manner. We anticipate that this interesting and important work will probably amount to around a hundred hours per year. For job description and further information please see the notice board at Putnoe or email Chris.lzzard@ntlworld.com

One Billion Rising is a global event to show solidarity with women who are victims of violence. We are invited to dance as a sign of our commitment to this cause! Priory Methodist Church will have a short service of Prayer and Singing (and some dancing!) on Feb 14th (Valentine's Day) at 6pm. All are welcome, male and female, to stand together against violence. For more information, contact glayne.worgan@methodist.org.uk or 01234340167

Telecare - It is of enormous value for us to be able to keep in touch with Church members by Telecare. If you are elderly, especially if you live alone, please register for Telecare. We will just ensure that somebody calls you every fortnight to make sure that all is ok. Please advise the ministers.

Hilda Hicks cordially invites everyone from Putnoe Heights and St Marks churches to join her in the celebration of her 90th birthday party on Saturday 9 March from 4-7pm at Putnoe Heights church. RSVP by Thursday 28th February please, to daughter Linda at lindatongue@yahoo.co.uk, telephone 01480 350345 or reply direct to Hilda on 01234 354289.

Do you need a reliable, hardworking cleaner with good references? £10 per hour. Please call 07725054480.

Our monthly Messy Church sessions continue to attract between 20 to 40 children, accompanied by 15 to 20 adults. We currently have, and need, a willing team of 15 to 20 members from the Sunday congregation. However there are times when, due to absence, it would be very helpful to have others who would be willing to help occasionally. In particular with supervising simple crafts from 4pm to 5pm on 3rd Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in helping please speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters

Christian Aid Super Soup Lent Lunch
Putnoe Heights Church Sunday 17th February 12.30pm. Come and join us for homemade soup with bread and cheese on the first Sunday in Lent in return for a donation to Christian Aid. If you would like to come please add your name to the list in the welcome area so that we know how much soup to make. Further details from Carolyn or Sue.



Woodland AGM -Sunday 9th June 2013 at 12.30pm.
Woodland Open Day– Saturday 20th July 2013 2pm—5pm.

Priory Methodist Church –Saturday 2 March
A Different Drum –We are privileged to have a visit to Priory by the well-known theatre company Riding Lights when they present this show which tells stories of resistance, sacrifice and love in action. Beginning in 17th century Derbyshire, where the village of Eyam chooses a bold path of isolation in the face of the plague, the show follows a thread through history, picking up accounts of similar men and women who dare to break the boundaries of self-interest. For Christians and non-Christians alike, the stories told by 'A Different Drum' ask us to consider what would happen if we planted the seeds of Christ's revolutionary love in our community. Tickets cost £10 per person including refreshments and can be bought from Priory Church Office or by calling the Riding Lights Box Office on 01904 613000. Tickets MUST be booked and paid for in advance. Do take this opportunity to see the show and bring your friends.

St. Mark's Craft Stall Easter novelties will be on sale shortly. At £1 each

Please can everybody save plastic bottle tops until the end of February for Aleta's school charity. She and Jaana will collect them on Sundays after church.

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Putnoe Heights Leadership Team have agreed to ask the forthcoming Church Council to agree changes which will see the pre-school expand to take All Day Care for children aged from 2years from September. If members of Church Council would like more information prior to the meeting please speak with a member of the Leadership Team.

Ash Wednesday Worship.
There will be an Ash Wednesday Communion at St Mark's Church on Wednesday this week at 7.30pm

Children's Easter Arrangements 2013
At Putnoe Heights Church
Friday 29 March Children's & Youth Good Friday Special Putnoe Heights Church. 12.15pm to 1.30PM





WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



'I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME'

Women's World Day of Prayer is a unique organisation; truly interdenominational and truly international, it speaks with the voices of women from all corners of the globe. Involvement in WWDP creates a network of Christian women on a worldwide scale.

This year the service has been prepared by women in France. When the French Committee met to work on the material for 2013 the theme chosen for them 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me' became close to their hearts.

France, like many other European countries, receives many asylum requests. The presence of these people in the country both enriches the culture and can cause social difficulties. Behind each request, each statistic, is the story of a life. Some of these stories are shared in the service which has a strongly French feel and flavour.

Local Services on Friday 1 March 2013

2pm. St. Paul's Church Speaker:- Revd. Cassandra Howes
Bedford University Co-ordinating Chaplain

7.30pm. Putnoe Heights Church Speaker:- Revd. Sharon
Grenham-Toze
Bedford Prison Chaplain

All are welcome to attend men, women and children

The symbol of the Women's World Day of Prayer comprises arrows converging from the four points of the compass, four figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and a circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

Trips Out !

I am writing to from you from a charity called NBFA Assisting the Elderly (<http://www.nbfa.org.uk>). We work to give disadvantaged and potentially isolated older people a chance to get back into society and encourage them to live independently, and one of the main ways we do so is by providing subsidised Day Trips around the country. We have a trip soon leaving from the Bedford area and we would like to help out as many people as we can. The trip to Sulgrave Manor House in Northamptonshire is scheduled for the 26th March, and will cost £7.00 per person, which includes transportation, admittance, and tour of the manor (the only thing it doesn't cover is refreshments etc). Once the tour has been conducted there will likely be free time to wander the grounds, get a coffee, and look around the house. As of yet we haven't finalised the pick up point and times, but it is likely to be somewhere near the Corn Exchange (and the pick up/drop off times will be reasonable!). I wondered if this trip might interest anyone from your various groups. If you would any more information regarding the trip please call us any week day on 020 7828 0200. You are of course welcome to email me back, but I'm only in on Mondays so it might be a slow correspondence.

Thank you for your time, and my kind regards,
Alex Gladstone, NBFA Volunteer
'volunteer@nbfa.org.uk'

Putnoe Heights Beavers/Cubs/Scouts news:

Beavers for 6yrs+ have spaces and no waiting list. Contact Colin Perkins 07563635952.

The Scout group are looking for a new leader[s] contact Tom Oldershaw 07974566509

The Cubs are interested in the history of the Scouting movement within Putnoe over the years.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for you are the one who removes the veil from our minds and transfigures us in the wondrous light of your glory. At the dawn of time your word lit up the sun and stars and dispelled the chaos to form the earth. You revealed your glory to your servant, Moses, and, from the cloud, you made a covenant with your people. In the timeless presence of Moses and Elijah you transfigured your Son, Jesus Christ, allowing his terrified followers to witness his glory and hear your voice from the awesome cloud. He was killed by those whose minds were hardened, but, by your mercy, his exodus through the waters of death led to resurrection life and freedom. Now, you have called us to listen to him and live our lives as an open statement of your truth. Through your Holy Spirit, you are transforming us into his image and clothing us with honour and majesty. Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer you thanks and praise at all times through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.

**Jocelyn Alfred Neil Burns
Theresa Baccarella
Florence Rose Day**

May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.'



Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.



Rest in Peace. Members of our churches will be saddened to hear news of the death of Jennie Cooper, she died on Saturday morning. Jennie celebrated her 100th birthday with us last year and she was a long standing worshipper at Putnoe Heights Church. She was a remarkable woman who will be greatly missed by us all.