



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

## 12 June 2011- Pentecost



Church of  
England

### Partnership Church Services Today

**8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday**  
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights  
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

### 12 June - 7th Sunday of Easter

**9.30 am - Morning Worship**  
Preacher – Revd. Charles Royden  
Leadership – Mrs. Laura Farthing  
Intercessions – Mr. Warwick Holden  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship**  
Preacher– Revd. Charles Royden  
Leadership – Mrs. Claire Peck  
Intercessions – Mr. Gordon Evans

### 19 June - Trinity Sunday

**9.30 am - Holy Communion**  
Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mr Mick Ovenden  
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion**  
Preacher– Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mrs Jenny Snelson  
Intercessions – Mr Alan Burgess

**Bible Readings** 1. Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-end  
2 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 3. Matthew 28: 16-20

**Midweek Worship 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 Dawn Allinson in memory of her husband Maurice.

*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 in the foyers.*

### Prayer for the Week

O heavenly Father,  
in whom we live and move  
and have our being,  
we humbly pray you  
so to guide and govern us  
by your Holy Spirit  
that in all the cares and occupations  
of our daily life  
we may never forget you, but remember  
that we are ever walking in your sight;  
for your own name's sake. Amen

#### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

#### Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE  
348091 Mobile 07807 146535  
jane@thisischurch.com

#### The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY  
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#### For Data Protection Purposes

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.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

#### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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.*

#### 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. Linda Hoar 782717  
**Treasurer** Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** John Hitt 404186  
**Youth Worker** Emma Gordon email - 07593266091 youth@thisischurch.com

#### St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** - Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Laura Farthing 210892

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

- 9.15 –3.45 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)  
Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634  
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 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 J Birks ☎219607
- 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 Emma Gordon ☎07593266091
- 2pm U3A Music Appreciation** - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623
- 3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747
- 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
- 7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm 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—20 June Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

- 9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp** - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation** fortnightly. Contact Mrs Reed ☎216623
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting June 21 Members Afternoon 'Favorite Hymns'**  
For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 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.
- 3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting June 14 'Quiz Evening ' For more details call Janet King 313946
- 8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

## Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - June 22 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834

**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

**6.00pm Shooting Stars.** Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 26 January.

**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. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

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

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be June 15 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 ,Valmai 219555 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

### 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 group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

**11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau** Putnoe Heights.

**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** St. Mark's ☎267444

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

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

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games** St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

**4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale ☎406094

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

**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 Law 825574.

**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 Jean Birks ☎219607

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pauline Hooper ☎350079

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography** (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

**9.00am Clubhouse** St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

**12.15pm U3A Photography** (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

**5-8pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.** St. Mark's. 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

**7.00pm 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

**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.

**1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice [www.bedfordtkd.com](http://www.bedfordtkd.com) or [bedfordtkd@googlemail.com](mailto:bedfordtkd@googlemail.com).

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council –**  
**St Mark's Leadership Team**  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -**  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .**  
**St Mark's Forum Meeting - 13 July**  
**Putnoe Church Council - 13 June –7.30pm**  
**Pastoral Group Meeting - 14th June**  
**Churchyard Committee -**  
**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -**  
**Circuit meeting -**  
**Deanery Meeting - .**  
**Woodland Burial Trustees –**  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 4th July**

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



## Opening Verse of Scripture

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Alleluia)

## Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by that same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen *Common Worship*



## First Bible Reading –Acts 2: 1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

## Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12: 3b –13

Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

## **Gospel Reading - John 20: 19-23**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."  
(This is the word of the Lord. - **Thanks be to God**)

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Hymns** (*Please distribute Pentecost Service Sheet and Mission Praise*)

1. O breath of life 488, 2. Come holy Ghost 90, 3. Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, (*Tune Sky Boat Song*) On service sheet, 4. Jesus is King 366 5. Spirit of Holiness 611, 6. Born by the Holy Spirit's breath 61 (*Tune Fulda*)

## **Commentary**

After Easter and Christmas, Pentecost is the most important celebration of the Christian calendar. The term comes from the Greek word 'pentekostos', meaning fiftieth. This is because Pentecost occurs fifty days after Passover when Jews celebrated the "Feast of Harvest" (Exodus 23:16) or "Feast of Weeks" (Leviticus 23:15–21). Pentecost became one of the great pilgrimage feasts of Judaism after the exile to Babylon, when Diaspora Jews returned to Jerusalem to worship. It was also an occasion which had become associated with remembering the law given by God to Moses on Mt Sinai.

Imagine that we are back with the disciples this morning as reported in the account in Acts Chapter 2. We are told that on this Pentecost "*God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven*" (Acts 2:5) clogged the streets of Jerusalem. People were in town from all over the Roman Empire, the entire known world, huge crowds of people, and, even though they had the same religion, they spoke many different languages. They were from everywhere, every single nation known to humankind – we know that, because in those days writers would provide a list just like the one Luke gives us here, and he even includes nations like the Parthians and the Medes, that, by that time, didn't exist any more, just to emphasize that he meant everybody was there.

They had been instructed by Jesus, before he ascended, to go back to Jerusalem and wait there for the promise to be fulfilled. So they got themselves together, filled Judas's empty spot in the roster of the twelve apostles, and then they went into an upper room, behind closed doors, and they prayed while they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit. In spite of everything they had witnessed, we suspect that they still had not the slightest idea what they were in for.

The day of Pentecost came and the Spirit of God descended upon the first followers of Jesus. Luke compares it to "the blowing of a violent wind" and "tongues of fire." We are told that as a result of the coming of the Spirit the disciples were empowered to communicate with everybody present. The differences of nationality and language were crossed. This is a reversal of the Tower of Babel story in which different languages effectively divided the peoples, one from another.

In the Old Testament in Genesis Chapter 11 there is the story of the story of the Tower of Babel or Babylon. Babel stood for all that was evil in the Jewish tradition and this was because the people of that city had dared to build a tower which reached up towards the heavens. Of course, there is a play on words here, because the word Babel has connotations of confusion, and the punishment for thinking that they could build such a tall tower was the confusion of their language. The Acts story reverses this judgement, and tells us how the Spirit of God now brought people from different countries, normally separated by their language together, and then enabled each of them to hear what being said in their own language. This meant that all the visitors to Jerusalem heard the disciples speaking in their own tongue. Luke's theological creativity has brought these two stories together and makes a point about the significance of language and speech, especially with regard to the preaching of the good news of Jesus Christ.

By the end of the day, and despite the mockery of critics, three thousand people joined the new movement committed to following Jesus. This was the start of the world's first fully globalized institution, the church. Luke repeatedly inserts summaries of the numeric growth and geographic expansion of the newborn church. The movement burgeoned to over 5,000 "men" (Acts 4:4). In Acts 6:7 he describes how *"the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith."* A few pages later he says that *"the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord"* (9:31). As Paul and Barnabas ministered in Antioch, *"the word of the Lord spread through the whole region"* (13:49).

Luke's story ends with the apostle Paul imprisoned in Rome, where tradition says he was martyred — but not before he had trekked 10,000 miles across Asia Minor preaching about Jesus and planting churches. In its first decades the early church fulfilled what Jesus had promised, that the presence of the Spirit meant witnessing with power — *"in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"* (Acts 1:8). Today, about a third of the world identifies itself as Christian, and no religion can claim more adherents.

The feast of Pentecost marks the birth of the Christian church, however Pentecost not only birthed the church, it also produced an institution and bureaucracy. The Spirit produced inspired people, but those people had to be organised. Then there was the whole business of authority and making decisions about things like worship, creed and traditions. They had to arrange the practicalities of collecting money to feed the poor, pay for missionary trips. The problem is one of trying to work out how to contain the spirit within the institution of the church with either extinguishing the flame or blowing up the church.

### Prayers for Pentecost Sunday and the week ahead

Almighty and Everlasting God look with favour upon your people. As on this day you sent upon the first disciples the gift of your Holy Spirit, so pour that Spirit out upon us this day. Open our hearts to your living power. Cleanse us from every impurity and forgive our sin as you have promised. Lead us and teach us and grace us with your presence. Grant us the dreams and visions you have promised and make us messengers of the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord. Indeed, unite us through the power of your Spirit so that all people may be moved by the witness we make and so that songs of praise may rise to you here and everywhere, both now and for ever more. **Amen**

Lord, lead us to be peace-makers, building connections between individuals, focusing on what unites people rather than on what separates us and highlights our differences. Lord, it's easy to harm relationships; forgive us the divisions and bitterness which we have created in our homes and families with friends and colleagues at work. Enable us to seek for a fresh start and give us the power of your Spirit to use opportunities to build up and make new the bonds between people. Gracious God, Spirit of Life, surging freely, loving generously, seeking endlessly, move upon the face of our world and embrace all its creatures with grace. Startle the powerful and the humble with your power and tenderness, your purpose and determination, your patience and mercy. **Amen**

O living God, come and make our souls temples of thy Spirit. **Sanctify us, O Lord.**

Baptise thy whole Church with fire, that the divisions soon may cease, and that it may stand before the world as a pillar and buttress of thy truth. **Sanctify us, O Lord.**

Grant us all the fruits of thy Holy Spirit: brotherly love, joy, peace, patience, goodwill and faithfulness.

**Sanctify us, O Lord.** May the Holy Spirit speak by the voice of thy servants, here and everywhere, as they preach thy word. **Sanctify us, O Lord.** Send thy Holy Spirit, the comforter, to all who face

adversity, or who are the victims of men's wickedness. **Sanctify us, O Lord.** Preserve all nations and their leaders from hatred and war, and build up a > community among nations, through the power of thy Spirit. **Sanctify us, O Lord.** Holy Spirit, Lord and source of life, giver of the seven gifts, **Sanctify us,**

**O Comforter.** Spirit of wisdom and understanding, Spirit of counsel and strength, **Sanctify us, O**

**Comforter.** Spirit of knowledge and devotion, Spirit of obedience to the Lord. **Sanctify us, O Comforter.**

*Prayer of Taize Community*

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength, now and always. Amen

O consuming fire, O Spirit of love, descend into the depth of my heart and there transform me until I am fire of your fire, love of your love, and Christ himself is formed in me. Amen *Elizabeth of Schonau, d.1184*

## The Partnership Pastoral Support Team

The Partnership Pastoral Support team works across our churches to visit the sick at home or in hospital, take communion to the housebound and meet with the bereaved. If you know of anybody who is in hospital then please do let us know so that we can make sure they are visited. We do want to make sure that anybody from our churches who goes into hospital for a period of time is visited by a minister so please always let us know. An email or telephone call to the Ministers and or the church offices is greatly appreciated. Mary Stubbs co-ordinates the team and can be contacted about any pastoral concerns. The following appears on every edition of Partnership news

### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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.*

The next meeting of the Pastoral Support Team is on Tuesday 14 June at 3.30pm

**Brickhill Scout Group** are holding a Family Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper at St Mark's Church on Friday 17 June, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Teams of up to 6 people. Adults £6 (inc supper). Children £4 (inc supper) Contact Caroline Romans on 07732 467823 or rcromans@btinternet.com

**Sue Ryder Charity Hog Roast** Friday 17 June at Cutler Hammer Sport & Social Club, Kempston, at 8pm. Music from live band 'Recover'. Tickets £15 and more details from 01234 357321 or 405278. All proceeds fro Sue Ryder Care.

**There will be a Putnoe Children and Youth meeting** on Monday 4 July

**Parish Church Extravaganza** Sunday 26 June will be Open Sunday at many parish churches in the archdeaconry of Bedford. The churches will be open all day for people to enjoy, with a special welcome which often includes refreshments, cream teas etc. Find out more from [www.stalbans.anglican.org](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org)

**Methodist Homes Sunday 12 June** is an opportunity to support the work of MHA in the excellent provision it makes in care of older people. With Anjulita Court in our locality, we can see it in practice. Our support is essential and donations are gratefully received. If you would like to contribute, please use the specially provided envelopes in the

welcome area and return in the collection plate. Thank you Pam Kinselley.

**The Rev. Martin Hounsfeld** leaves this circuit where he has been the Superintendent minister at the end of August and starts his retirement. Martin's leaving service is on July 17 and we would like to give him a gift as a thank you for the service he has given to this circuit and to remind him of his time in Bedfordshire. As Martin wants very little fuss we will combine the circuit giving with the Priory and Park Road collections and make a single gift. If you would like to make a donation please give this in a clearly marked envelope to the church treasurers or any member of the Leadership Team.

**Flower Festival and Bedford Town Concert Brass** at Priory Methodist Church Friday 1st July 11am-5pm Saturday 11am-2pm Sunday 2pm-5pm Refreshments throughout. Admission £5 Proceeds to Karibuni Trust.

**Annual Appeal for Arthritis Research UK** We were very short of collectors this year so if your road was not covered and you would like to give a donation. There is a basket with donation envelopes in the entrance hall at both St.Mark's and Putnoe Heights. Please put your donation in the basket or hand it into the Church Office. Thank you for your support for vital medical research into Arthritis diseases. Marian Goddard (Hon. Secretary Bedford Branch)

**Hymn Praise** In response to requests, a hymn praise service will be held at Putnoe Heights Church at 6-30p.m. on Sunday 11 September. Anyone who would like a favourite hymn included please email [eric.royden@gmail.com](mailto:eric.royden@gmail.com) or phone 294496.

### Meditation

Rather than "lifting us up" above others into a group that is somehow favoured by God, Pentecost "pulls us down" to connect with those that we would never naturally have the strength or inclination to relate to. Rather than leading us out of the world, Pentecost drives us back into it to proclaim and live the prophetic message of God's reign, as Christ did. In what ways is your church community tempted to separate itself from the world around it? In what ways do you sense the Spirit driving you out to proclaim God's grace and glory to those who are different from you? In what ways are you being equipped and called by the Spirit to bring people together and to serve those who need to experience God's presence and activity through human hands?



## Church does Politics

This week has seen a remarkable intervention from the Archbishop of Canterbury onto the political scene. You can read his comments and other sermons and speeches online at his website <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/2066/new-statesman-leader>

Meanwhile the Methodist Church has not been slow to get involved either with the following statement

### News from the Methodist Church Website

Church leaders oppose Government's decision to sign a £3 billion cheque for nuclear submarines that might not be bought

Church leaders have denounced the Government's decision to spend at least £3 billion on a nuclear weapons system. The Government has delayed a final vote on buying a replacement for the Trident weapons system until 2016, but Defence Secretary Liam Fox has announced his approval for the initial £3 billion phase of production. Leaders from The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and the United Reformed Church said the Government's backing of a new nuclear weapons system was "unaffordable, immoral and strategically unwise".

Paul Morrison, policy adviser for The Methodist Church, said: "The Government's decision means that we are committed to £3 billion of expenditure whether Parliament chooses to purchase the new Trident system in five years time or not. This comes at a time when communities are suffering from the impact of local government spending cuts. Youth services, SureStart Centres, Back-to-Work Clubs have all had their funding cut because we have been told that we can no longer afford to sustain them.

"The £3 billion the Government has committed could pay the entire budget for every SureStart Centre in the country for the next two years; £3 billion would

stop every council cut this year, and the first ten months of next year. Instead, that money is being used to purchase an option of whether to buy weapons of mass destruction."

According to government figures, a new nuclear weapons system would cost £25 billion in production costs and at least £4 billion a year to maintain. If Parliament votes against a Trident replacement, the £3 billion expenditure yesterday would be added to the country's deficit without anything to show for it.

Simon Loveitt, United Reformed Church spokesperson on public issues, said: "The Government's decision is to commit us to a massive piece of spending from which there is no going back – and yet they tell us their primary focus is to bring down the deficit. This is not what people voted for."

Graham Sparkes, Head of Faith and Unity at the Baptist Union of Great Britain, said: "If we buy these weapons the annual cost is predicted to be more than £4 billion for every year we have them. The total cuts across Government this year amount to £6.2 billion. With £4 billion each year we could double university funding, but if we buy these nuclear weapons, we will cast a shadow over the next generation."



Enrich us with the gifts of your grace, O God, that we may have a greater obedience to your will, a more fervent love for our neighbour and a stronger thirst for the truth of your word; through Christ our Lord. Amen William Tyndale (1494-1536)

### 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.

**Jean Herdman**  
**Kathleen Elsie Fuller**

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



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### Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of **Leslie Wilson Allan** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 16 June at 2.30pm

