



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

13 July 2014

Ordinary 15



Sunday Services

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

13 July - Ordinary 15

9.30 St Marks - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Organist - Mr. John Mower

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger
Leadership Team - Mrs. Sue Allen
Intercessions - Dr. Tim Wilkes
Organist - Mr. John Mower

20 July - Ordinary 16

9.30 St Marks - Holy Communion

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions - Mr Warwick Holden
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Ms Sylvia Cohen
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Genesis 28: 10 - 19a. 2. Romans 8: 12 - 25.
3. Matthew 13: 24 - 30, 36 - 43.

Midweek Holy communion at St. Mark's Chapel every
Wednesday at 10am and at Sir William Harpur House on
first Monday of every month at 10.00am.

Thank You

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 Sunday

Lord, when I am hungry,
give me someone in need of food;
when I am thirsty,
send me someone needing a drink;
when I am cold,
send me someone to warm;
when I am grieved,
offer me someone to console;
when my cross grows heavy,
let me share another's cross;
when I think only of myself,
draw my thoughts to another.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Canon 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

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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com
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 Friday 9am - 12pm,
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Managers Barry & Jenny Snelson 344417
Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417
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 - Mrs Jean Bank 355698
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm

For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

8.30-12.30pm St Mark's Pre-School Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's

9.00-3.45pm 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 M. Berry 211955

10.30am U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact

Janet King 313946

1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and

toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments

£1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234

342613 or Janine 01234 297481

12.00 noon Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the

under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon

and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based

story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris

youth@thisischurch.com 365630

2pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact

Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights— fortnightly

4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha

Mistry 01908 392698

5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe

Heights. For more details contact Emily Taverner 01234

792013

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 in month)

Pat Nicholson 353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in

month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.

7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club at St. Mark's 2nd week each

month) Cheryl Green 07729187399

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the

month).. Next meeting— 21 July Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of

Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane

Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking at Putnoe Heights. For

more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

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 Contact Janet King 313946

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided.

Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.

4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe

Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.30-8.30pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher

0789187957

7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie

07980447390

7.00pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455

(Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in September.

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightl 22 July Members evening. Details Janet King 313946

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights.

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

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 Janet King 313946

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Janet King 313946

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next

meeting 16 July Putnoe Heights Office 365630

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's.

Mr Barnes 261811

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights

Mrs Webster 856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in

month). for children of lower school age and their carers.

Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next

meeting 17 Sept 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel. 01234 353865

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

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 16 July 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 (Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

Thursday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Pre School Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus. at Putnoe Heights

10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

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 342613

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's (Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

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 Contact Janet King 313946

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210

3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th

week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Susan Perugi 300219

Friday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

8.30am Diabetic Centre St Mark's (1st week in month) Deborah Hennessey 792013

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

Saturday

9.00am Faith Temple Ministries St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593

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

Sunday

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

10 - 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 17 Sept, 15 Oct, 19 Nov, 10 Dec.

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 14 October

St Mark's Leadership Team - 9 September

Annual Congregational Meetings—

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 1 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting -25 September

Putnoe Church Council - 16 October

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service - 2nd November

Circuit meeting – 15 September

Deanery meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees—

Putnoe Heights Children

& Youth Meeting - 29 September at 2.00pm

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

Ordinary 15

Sentence of Scripture Romans Chapter 8 verse 14

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Bible Reading Genesis 25: 19 - 34

This is the account of Abraham's son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. The LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger." When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them. The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" That is why he was also called Edom. Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

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

Second Bible Reading - Romans Chapter 8: 1– 11

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set

on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those

controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet



A farmer went out to sow ...

your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew Chapter 13 : 1 - 9, 18 - 23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop--a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear." "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

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

Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymn Sheets*)

1. Crown him with many crowns
2. Majesty
3. Lord of all hopefulness (Tune Slane)
4. The light of the morning is breaking. (Tune Crugybar)
5. I cannot tell

Commentary

In the James Bond film "The spy who loved me" there is a scene when the mad scientist looks out on his underworld "kingdom" and says to 007 "You see everything there is: beauty, ugliness and death." Well certainly, in nature there is beauty and ugliness; and the ugliness is often destructive, leading to death. We can contrast the beauty of the sunrise (very early I know!) with the ugliness of a storm, a flood or a tsunami. Such things often dominate the news for a while.

In human relationships, at all scales, there is beauty and ugliness; and, again, the ugliness is often destructive, leading to death. We can contrast the beauty of love and compassion with the ugliness of hatred whose consequences often dominate the news - and Isis in Iraq is just the latest in a long sequence.. The death and suffering seem so final and powerful. And we often feel powerless to do anything. Not that this is anything new. Utopian "experiments" have failed and even the Good Friday agreement in N. Ireland has not completely resolved all the issues. Terrorist extremists seem unstoppable. Yet, among the seemingly all-powerful ugly darkness of death and destruction, Christians affirm life. We believe that there is beauty and ugliness (you really can't pretend otherwise) and LIFE! It requires, to become a feasible reality, a change in human nature. And they say "You can't change human nature." You know, "they" are right in that. "You" can't change human nature and nor can I. But God can. And through the teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus he can and does. He changes peoples' hearts and mind sets by his love.

This is what our reading from Romans deals with. It chimes well with the opening line of our third hymn "Lord of hopefulness, Lord of all joy". Paul talks about human nature in all its weakness and powerlessness - vulnerable as we all know to falling to temptation and doing what is wrong. He views human nature as sinful - separate from - indeed separated from - Jesus and God. It's like our lower nature controlling us. As Paul exclaimed elsewhere "Oh wretched man that I am".

But the passage is headed "Life through the Spirit" with the Hebrew word "ruach" conveying energy - something more than human. To Paul, Spirit represented a power which was divine and which surges into

the life of a believer enabling him or her to know victorious living rather than defeated existence.. It is a total transformation that is on offer here. No mere tinkering around the edges! We see it in Jesus who came into our world, born as one of us - "a helpless babe". And he lived our life, experienced all that we do, yet was sinless and was obedient to God - even to death on the cross. Paul argues that we can all be involved in Jesus' goodness, so can be filled and dominated by the Spirit of love and power that is not our own. This frees us from the past - all the skeletons in our cupboards are dealt with - and strength for the future is assured.

This is not to say that all is plain sailing and roses all the way. Life is just not like that: there will still be beauty and ugliness (after all Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief) - but the ugliness does not have the last word and need not consume us. For Paul says that Jesus suffered and died and also rose again. He conquered death, and Christians who are one with Christ, share in that victory. Believers experience in Jesus a new quality of existence in the here and now (verse 10) and will experience an eternal existence with God beyond death (verse 11).

So we have a hope that is "steadfast and certain" as the modern hymn says. We can confidently affirm that there is beauty, ugliness and life and as Jesus says in the parable in our Gospel reading "there will be an enormous harvest" despite all the apparent failure and doom and gloom in our world. I really do believe that "the light of the morning is breaking" as our fourth hymn begins.

I trust that we will all be able to trust in God, that we may more and more know Christ and experience the power of the resurrection as in this Ordinary Time we explore the teachings of our Lord. *Richard Ledger*

Meditation

There is a book called "The book of Forgiving" by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter The Reverend Mpho Tutu. A brief review I read says they make two important statements:

1. There is nothing that cannot be forgiven
2. There is no-one undeserving of forgiveness

Steve Chalke in his book "The lost message of Jesus" quotes Henri Nouwen: "God has no desire to punish people. They have already been punished excessively by their own waywardness. The Father wants simply to let them know that the love they have searched for in such distorted ways has been, is and always will be there for them."

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Holy Spirit, mighty wind of God, inhabit our darkness brood over our abyss and speak to our chaos; that we may breathe with your life and share your creation in the power of Jesus Christ. Amen. *Janet Morley From All Desires Known (SPCK, 1992, 2005)*

God of your goodness, give me yourself, for you are sufficient for me....If I were to ask anything less I should always be in want, for in you alone do I have all.

Julian of Norwich, Fourteenth Century

My dearest Lord, be thou a bright flame before me, be thou a guiding star above me, be thou a smooth path beneath me, be thou a kindly shepherd behind me, today and for evermore.

St. Columba of Iona, Sixth Century

There is no place where God is not, wherever I go, there God is. Now and always he upholds me with his power and keeps me safe in his love. *Author unknown*

Give us grace, O Lord, not only to hear thy word with our ears but also to receive it into our hearts and to show it forth in our lives; for the glory of thy great name. *Author unknown*

Let nothing disturb you, nothing alarm you: while all things fade away God is unchanging. Be patient and you will gain everything: for with God in your heart nothing is lacking, God meets your every need.

St. Teresa of Avila, Sixteenth Century

Eternal God, we confess to you our sinfulness. You made the world a paradise but we have turned our lands into places of tears and unhappiness. People are fighting with each other race against race. The holocaust of chauvinism sweeps through countries, devouring humanity, terrorizing us into submission. Liberating One, free us from all bondage so that our faith in you will make us free to create with courage a new world - new societies. *Prayer from Sri Lanka*

O Lord, my God, grant us your peace; already, indeed, you have made us rich in all things!

Give us that peace of being at rest, that sabbath peace, the peace which knows no end.

(St. Augustine)

Cash for Currency - Open House is offering a unique opportunity for people with learning disabilities to access a free service. Cheryl Green is the group organiser and she has seen the group expand dramatically with many more people joining. The group is entirely voluntary organised and receives no funding. In order to raise some funds to help provide this service we are asking you to search out any coins which you may have and give them to us. The coins may be British or foreign coins, we have somebody who will ensure that we receive the best value for them. It may be old foreign currency left over from that holiday years ago, or a few old British coins lying around. They may be no use to you but they are to us. We can turn every coin and note, no matter how old or how small, into cash to help fund our Openhouse project to help people with learning difficulties. So search out those old pesetas or shillings or whatever and bring them along to the Church Office anytime so we can sort them out and get the best possible value for everything you donate. Remember, everything can be used to generate funds for Openhouse. The last amount raised was £68, thanks to all who contributed.

MWiB—North Bedfordshire Circuit invite everyone to a Summer Garden Party on Wednesday 16 July from 2pm to 5pm at the home of Roger and Anna Skipper “Treize” Cranfield Road, Wootton Green, MK43 9EA. Proceeds to Zimbabwe Victims’ Support Fund.

Putnoe Heights Church will be welcoming the **Great Gappo** entertainer to visit on Monday 28 July at 12 noon to 1pm, followed by a sandwich lunch in the small hall from 1pm to 2pm. Tickets £2, available from the church office or Carolyn Morris, email Youth@thisischurch.com Raffle in aid of church funds, raffle prize donations welcome.

Farewell to Autism Bedfordshire

Autism Bedfordshire are leaving St Mark’s. They have grown to such an extent that new bigger accommodation has been necessary. Autism Bedfordshire started at St Mark’s in a Portakabin in 1994. Emma Reade Senior Manger writes -

‘The flexibility of St Mark’s over the years has allowed us to grow. The rent has been exceptionally reasonable, you have looked after our needs and created opportunities for us to grow from the portable cabin to the main office and then the upstairs office. Wendy and Charlie and your amazing team have made us feel welcome and part of St Mark’s family from the start and we will always be grateful for your support and treasure the time we have spent here.’

Commemorative Book - A Book has been produced by the Diocese to commemorate 100

years. Copies are available this week for the special price of £4. They will be available after the service and from the church office during the week

Strawberry Afternoon Tea Sunday 20 July

Join us from 3.00 - 5.00pm for an elegant afternoon tea (i.e. china crockery, finger sandwiches, home made cakes and scones) with strawberries and cream in the beautiful garden of Margaret and Eddy Peck, 30 The Ridgeway or at the Church if bad weather. Admission including afternoon tea £5.00. An estimate of numbers will be useful so please sign the lists at either church..

Lifts to The Afternoon Tea

If anyone would like to go to the Tea on 20 July but can't get there, please contact St Mark's office by Friday 18 July. Wendy Waters will then try to arrange lifts and contact you with pick up times.

Footprints Walk. Sunday 13 July. Meet at Great Barford Village Hall at the edge of the village towards Wilden (Green End Rd, street parking nearby) at 2.30pm. Easy three mile walk led by Eddy Peck and Sue Allen

Supporting Putnoe Heights and St Mark’s Church

How can you show your support for the work and mission of our churches?

1. Set up a regular donation
2. Make a one-off donation or gift for the work of the church
3. Leave a gift in your will
4. Offer some time as a volunteer



When you do your shopping please shop at www.thisischurch.com

Thank you for shopping using the link on ThisisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases and we receive a commission. You can shop at John Lewis, M&S etc - please always shop through www.thisischurch.com

St Mark's Chat and Make / Play Last term time meetings are Monday July 14 and Thursday July 17. Holiday meetings will be August 7 and August 21 from 9.30 to 11.30am. Chat and Make/Play start again on Monday 8 at 1.30pm and Thursday 11 at 9.30am Please contact Janine 01234 297481 for more details. **Story Box** starts again on 4 September at 12 noon.

Partners in Sacrifice The new prayer handbook of the Methodist Church will soon be available. It is regarded as a source of inspiration and support in prayer and a spiritual gem for use throughout the year. If interested please contact Vera Pearson on Bedford 270737 for more information.

Bedford Hospital at Risk. Are you concerned about the possible loss of services at Bedford Hospital ? Especially A & E. Are you horrified at the thought of going to Luton and Dunstable or Milton Keynes to access these vital services which are needed here in our own town. If you go to www.savebedfordhospital.org.uk and sign the on line petition or download it and get neighbours, friends and family to sign, or sign the petitions at Putnoe Heights or St. Mark's. Don't lose the services without a fight. Margaret Massey.

Note

Options for the future of Bedford Hospital have now been narrowed to a short list of five variations, all involving a major downgrading for either Milton Keynes or Bedford hospital, including the option of 'no beds on site'.

It's Your Funeral -

Please remember that copies of our booklet 'It's Your Funeral' are available for church members to help make funeral arrangements. If you wish a copy can then be kept confidentially by the ministers. Malcolm Jones, a member of St Mark's Church, is the local funeral director at Molyneux Jones in St Cuthberts Street and he encourages planning in advance.

'Making your funeral wishes known in advance can make the process of funeral arranging less distressing and daunting for family and friends. Many people have a favourite song, or have very definite ideas about whether they want burial or cremation, but don't let their wishes be known'

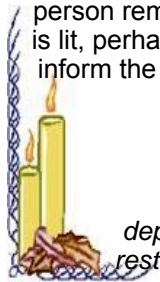
Malcolm managed large corporate funeral businesses for 15 years before returning to Bedford in 2011 to open his own business in St Cuthberts Street. Opening Molyneux Jones Funeral Directors has allowed him the freedom to give talks on funeral choices and funeral directing to local organisations such as WI's and the British Legion. These talks aim to inform whilst allowing attendees the opportunity to ask questions – dispelling myths and discussing funeral options available. So if you have any questions you would like answered, need advice or would like to discuss available options, you can contact Malcolm on 01234 363191 or e-mail him on malcolm@molyneuxjones.co.uk

Indoor Short Mat Bowls

For some time we have been collecting together the resources which we need to start an indoor bowling facility at St Mark's Church. We would like to provide an opportunity on Sunday afternoons for people to enjoy getting together and being able to meet all year round whilst perhaps also enjoying some light physical activity. It is also perfectly acceptable just to watch ! We are grateful to Ray Seymour who has kindly agreed to get things going with a bowls taster session on Sunday 17 August 2 - 4.30pm. Now is a great time to think about a new activity, if you would like to come to watch or play, then please let St Mark's office know so that we can ensure we have enough refreshments and equipment on the day.

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



Ken Wigginton

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



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Mary Dickie, late of Puttenhoe care home, will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 3.15 pm on Monday July 21st