



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
14 June 2015
Ordinary 11



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

14 June Ordinary 11

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr. Keith Lilley
Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions - Ministers
Organist - Miss Marion Prior
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr. Keith Lilley
Leadership - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen
Organist - Mr. Alan Bunker

21 June Ordinary 12 - Feast of St. Alban

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mr. Ian Farthing
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Sue Allen
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds
Readings 1. Job 38:1-11 2. 2 Corinthians 6:1-13
3. Mark 4: 35-41
Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's
Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur
House on first Monday of every month.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights
Have been given by Eddy and Margaret Peck in celebration of their wedding anniversary and Eddy's birthday.



Prayer for Sunday

Look upon your servants,
O Lord,
weak in faith
but praying for your strength;
cold in heart,
but seeking the fire of love;
assailed by doubt,
but awaiting assurance;
abounding in sin,
yet longing for righteousness;
now and forever. Amen.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

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.ThisIsChurch.com

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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators
Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@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 Mon-Thur 9-5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Geoff Gypps 365630
Leadership Team Mr Barry Southam 219714
barrysoutham@aol.com
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
Charity No 1160981.
Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Margaret Appleton 354708
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
8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
(See website for more details)
9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955
10.00am-12 U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's Liz Mason 07816522200
12.00 noon Storybox 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
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 Restarts On April 20
2.00pm 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 Zoe Wilcox 07767311424
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 07928483418 email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk
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-8pm Cubs at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
6.30pm Fit For All Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Mary Daly 217127
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– 15 June 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

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. 9.30, 11.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30. Lorrie Pearson 340473

11-12.15am 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
2.00pm 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. Mrs Jean Bank 355698
3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393
7.15-8.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571
7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390
7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 7 July Bring and Share with raffle Details Diane Bayliss 268101
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.
10.00-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.
10.00am 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
11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 17 June Contact Putnoe Office 365630
1.15pm Social Bridge Club St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.Contact 1st week of the month. Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966
3.30-4.30pm Vita Fit St Mark's starting 29 April for 6 weeks Liz Roe 07901684538
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 June 2015 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698
4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
5.00–6.00pm Rainbows at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091
6.00pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

6.00-7.00pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel.01234 353865

7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts at Putnoe ages 10.5-14; Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

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

7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 3446008.**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 17 June 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) Jill Cooper 357960

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.

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

1.00-2.30pm Wiggles & Jiggles Putnoe Heights. Drop in.

1.00 - 2.30pm 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 07768481499

6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284

7.00pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Rosemary McNeilage 405594

7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Linda Stephen 409493

8.00pm 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

Friday

9.30am -3.30pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, 2nd week per month.. 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-7.00pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email: phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

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 at St. Mark's. 1st Sunday Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's . A crèche is also available.

2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th Sunday. Closed for summer break. Re opens 13 September. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – TBA
St Mark's Leadership Team -
Annual Congregational Meetings -
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting –
Putnoe Church Council -
Pastoral Group Meeting– 15 September 2015 4.00pm
Churchyard Committee - TBA
Circuit meeting – 16 June at Putnoe Heights
Deanery meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 28 September 2015 2.00pm
St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015, 31 August.
Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 27 September.

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

Ordinary 11

Sentence of Scripture

Mark 4

What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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.



First Bible Reading Ezekiel 17: 22-24

'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. All the trees of the field will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. " I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it. (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - 2 Corinthians 5: 6-17

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

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

Gospel Reading - Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces corn – first the stalk, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to

describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.”

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Hymns for Sunday *Please distribute Morning Worship booklet*

1. Christ triumphant ever reigning 77
2. As the deer pants for the water 37
3. The King of love my shepherd is 649
4. The Church's one foundation 640
5. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, 201

Commentary

The Kingdom of God is like a seed which grows all by itself once it is planted. The Kingdom, like a small seed, might appear tiny and insignificant, but the kingdom of God should not be judged by earthly standards. This teaching is encouraging for us. It reminds us that God is at work in this world. We should not be disappointed by the lack of spectacular growth, because Jesus tells us that Kingdom growth is slow, like that of a plant. If we watch it we will not see it grow, indeed it is only if we go back after a time that we will notice that there has been change. There is most wonderful change and growth going on, but the growth of the kingdom is imperceptible. You have to look for it very carefully and to those who lack the eyes of faith, it will be impossible to see.

This might seem rather lacking in excitement, we live in a consumer culture and we expect immediate results. However we should not be too disappointed. Growth might be imperceptible, but yet it is also unstoppable. Just as growth is a fact of nature, so the growth of the kingdom is unavoidable.

For this reason God's Kingdom should never be despised, simply because it lacks human appearance of greatness. So Jesus uses the illustration of the mustard seed. It would be easy to despise such a small seed, it is insignificant. yet it has within it the potential for great growth, many, many times its apparent size. We should never judge God's work by its appearance, there is hidden energy at work which transcends the small appearance on the surface.

Jesus contrasts the smallness of the seed with the outcome of the growth which takes place from the potential stored inside that seed. There is an important message here, the Gospel has enormous power and potential, even if like a planted seed, the growth goes on without even the possibility of being seen!

So we should be aware of the importance of the small beginnings and the small changes that we see.

We all have the potential for change and growth, allowing our lives to become fit places for God to grow his kingdom. This growth can be painfully slow. We determine that we will be nicer to our husbands and wives and families, we promise ourselves that we will practice patience and be more joyful in daily living, then we let ourselves down. Yet the kingdom still grows, even if growth, like that of a plant is so slow that stare as we might we cannot see it. Only as we look back do we see how we have changed and recognise the potential for what we might become.

There is also an important message here about our efforts. If we just sow the seed it grows by a power greater than our own. We do our own seemingly insignificant part, and great significance can result. Our part may appear insignificant it is not, it is of enormous importance. Our efforts are not the whole story, it does not all depend upon us - BUT if we fail to sow how can the seed grow?

Each one of us can sow, play our seemingly small part, we can all plant and allow the process of growth to take place. Jesus is making the point that it is not just the spiritual giants, the Billy Grahams of this world who make a difference. It is each one of us playing our part. It involves the mother with three kids who makes the effort to get to church in the morning, just as much as it involves the minister or the Leadership Team. All are equally important, both plant their seeds.

The sowing of the tiniest seeds starts a process over which we have no control. God will take care of the process. The growth will happen at the right pace, first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear.

Charles Royden

Meditation

The Bishop of St Albans, The Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, led a debate in the House of Lords this week 11 June 2015. The motion debated was: "That this House takes note of the role played by civil society, in the light of the pastoral letter from the Church of England's House of Bishops, 'Who is my neighbour?' 'Who is my Neighbour?' was published earlier this year, before the General Election.

In his opening remarks, Bishop Alan called for: "urgent work to be done to establish a new politics that seeks the common good." He continued: "Indeed I am keen that we will be able to explore the forms that such an approach to politics might take, and the role that churches, charities and voluntary organizations – and indeed all "intermediate institutions" – can play in moving us in that direction. "

The full text can be read on the Diocesan website, the following closing text mentions the credit union at St Mark's !

In contrast, bridging social capital is demonstrated where a club or a group of people is so confident in itself that it can reach out to people who do not belong to it. This form of social capital is inclusive, giving people the confidence to meet strangers and encountering those who are different. Bridging social capital is evident in the existence of many of the institutions that comprise our national lives, such as our schools, hospitals, hospices and so on.

The church continues to be the locus for myriad contributions to civic society. In my diocese, we run centres for the homeless in Bedford, Luton, Watford and St Albans. We are involved with key partners in a homelessness project in Stevenage. We have four debt advice centres. We are involved in a number of credit unions; indeed, just a few weeks ago a leading credit union opened a new branch in one of our churches in Bedford. Noble Lords will also be aware of the large number of food banks that have been set up all over the country.

I mention those not to blow our own trumpets, because I am profoundly aware of how little we are able to scratch the surface. Nor do I want to get into a discussion in this debate about why, for example, we have food banks. That is not what I think this debate is primarily about. The question I am asking today is: what can we do to encourage the development of more intermediate institutions, which are the places where we are most likely to build bridging social capital? The acceptance of the imperative to devolve power leaves us with questions of how we ensure the presence of strong communities that can accept this power and use it for the common good. Thus, intermediate institutions play a foundational role, as neighbourhoods are built on institutions that are strong enough to enable people to move away from the language of "I" and "me" to the language of "us" and "we".

I very much hope that this debate will be a constructive forum in which we can explore how to go forward in facilitating the mutual flourishing of communities and how we might strengthen our political life as a nation. I beg to move.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week ahead

For the increase of the Kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Fill your church we pray with confidence in Christ as her Lord, that your people might make him known by teaching and daily living. Nourish the good seed of your word in us, that it may be fruitful and grow.

As Christ died for all, may his love renew us all as his new creation.

Open eyes that are closed to your glory and the ears that will not hear the good news.

May self-interest be changed to a true desire for the common good.

Guide us to discern the signs of your presence among us, in family life, in work, in all our dealings.

Trusting in your strength, may we bring to fruition all that is your will for us.

Bless and comfort those whose work is hard and who see no results for what they do.

Give them strength to persevere, in the knowledge that you are working in all things.

We pray for those who have left their earthly bodies and come home to you.

Judge them with mercy, through the sacrifice of Christ.

That we may grow in the service of Christ, we pray in his name. Amen.

Proposed Changes to the North Bedford Methodist Circuit

Putnoe Heights Church Council last week discussed proposals from the Methodist Circuit for a reorganization of ministry across the circuit from 2016 as follows. A Methodist Minister living at the Coles Close Manse (Rev. Glayne Worgan is currently invited to 2016) would be responsible for Priory Methodist Church, Howard Memorial Church, Cardington, Putnoe Heights (LEP) Church and St. Mark's (LEP) Church. Deacon Jane Mills, invited to 2017 would do a missional role across the circuit 2016/17, then part time lay Mission/Evangelism Enabler. Following a meeting of the Partnership Council and a request from them Sam and Charlie have made an alternative proposal to the circuit for the Partnership. The proposed circuit changes for the Partnership are only a small part of a much wider deployment of staff across the circuit which tackles the wider issue of serving 28 Methodist Churches with a decreasing number of Methodist Ministers whilst at the same time as maintaining the current circuit focus on youth. The circuit proposals have been confidential and the circuit meeting at Putnoe Heights on 22 will receive the final decisions. In the meantime if you have any questions the please feel free to speak with any member of the Church Leadership Teams who have been discussing this in some detail.

Mother Teresa Support Group meet at St Mark's every other Tuesday at 2.30pm to knit and natter. (Wool and needles provided.) Donations of wool are always very welcome. Please call Maureen Watling Tel.262225. New people always welcome. Next meeting Tuesday 23 June.

Pilgrims on a Journey the Prayer Handbook of the Methodist Church will be available in August. Please let me know by end of June if you would like a copy for personal or community use, including public worship. Vera Pearson 270737 (St. Mark's).

St Mark's Clothes collections Thank you to everybody who is using the clothes collection bank at St Mark's. We have now raised over £300 from two collections which is an enormous amount for such a short time. We really want to keep this going so please do drop of clothes, curtains and any other unwanted textiles shoes or handbags. Wherever possible they are reused and so this is a great way to help others and the environment whilst raising money for church funds.

Help with Fire Thank you for the kind gifts which have been received at St Marks for the local pre-school family who lost all their possessions in a house fire in Mersey Way.

Partnership Mission

Bishop Richard is joining us in the Partnership on the week commencing 13 July and he will be preaching at both services on Sunday 19 July During the week he will be visiting schools, lunch Club, Anjulita Court, and as many church activities as possible. Please put these dates in your diary

Brass Band and the Bishop

Tuesday 14 July at St Mark's Church
An evening exploring the Christian faith with Bishop Richard addressing questions. There will be a brass band, refreshments on arrival and an opportunity to ask Bishop Richard questions about faith, life and the universe. Please do give us questions now so that we can plan the event. This is a free event and we want you to invite along people who do not usually come to church - Who can you bring ?

Saturday 18 July

- During the day we will be providing a Church marquee for the Brickhill on the Green Fete.
- In the evening we are having a Caribbean Evening at Putnoe Heights with food and entertainment.

Caribbean Evening

On Saturday 18 July we will be having a Caribbean evening at Putnoe Heights Church, beautiful Caribbean cuisine, entertainment etc. Tickets are £10 from Putnoe Heights Church Office.

Ways you can help

- Make sure that you invite the Bishop to any activities which you have going on - speak with one of the ministers

- Please remember the Bishop and the Partnership Mission in your prayers and use these great opportunities to invite friends,
- Invite them along to the Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday services.

Relaunching in September Daytime Discussion

Group Tuesdays at St Mark's Church. If you are interested please talk to Jean Bank or Martin or Sue Fannon.

Wi fi Wifi is now freely available throughout St Mark's Church Community Centre. The password is `jesuslovesme`

If previous users experience difficulties, then please delete your old connection and start a new one with the new password

Open House St Mark's Wednesday's - Could you come and do something with the friends from Open House. Perhaps show them some holiday slides, do some crafts, anything different ! Please contact Charlie - we are hoping to widen our activities

The Pilgrims' Friend Society is holding their Annual Prayer Day on 23 June 2015 10am -4.30pm we at Dorothea Court in Bedford invite our friends and supporters to meet in our lounge to have fellowship in prayer. There will be four sessions of prayer with refreshment breaks in between. See notice board at St. Mark's for more information

A Service for Mid-summer will be held at Highfield Residential Care Home on Sunday 28 June at 2.30pm. All welcome. Vera Pearson

The Great Gappo At Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 20 July 2015 12 noon to 2.00p.m. including sandwich lunch. Tickets £2.00 or £3.00 on the door Free to children under 1 yrs old. Raffle in aid of Church funds. For further details contact: Carolyn Morris Youth team leader Tel: 07751348925 email: youth@thisischurch.com Putnoe Heights Church office on Tel: 01234 365630

Help Wanted. On Friday 17 July we will be erecting the church marquee on the green in Brickhill. If you can lend a helping hand then please join us any time after 10.00am. There will be jobs for people of all physical abilities from putting up poles to making tea.

Archbishop Justin at St Albans Cathedral Thursday 18 June

Will anybody going to this event please speak with Charlie to arrange transport.

St Albans Pilgrimage

This magnificent event takes place in St Albans this coming Saturday 20 June from 10.30am, concluding with festal evensong and procession to the shrine at 4.00pm. If you would like to take part then please speak with Charlie.

Bishop Richard's Partnership Mission

Please see below our provisional calendar of events for the Bishops Mission. This is very much a work in progress but we would like comments, requests etc so that we can finalise the events. Please put the Tuesday and Saturday in your diary and think who you can bring along. **We want to invite people to our church !**

	Tuesday 14 July	Wednesday 15 July	Thursday 16 July	Friday 17 July	Saturday 18 July	Sunday 19 July
Morning	School Visit Preschool visit to Putnoe 10.30am	School visit Holy Communion Open House	No activities			8.30am Service 9.30am St Mark's 11.00am Putnoe
Afternoon	St Mark's Preschool Anjulita Court	Putnoe Lunch Club Messy Mission			Brickhill on the Green event. Partnership Church Marquee	
Evening	'Brass Band and the Bishop' Question time, entertainment at St Mark's <i>(Free event)</i>				Caribbean Evening at Putnoe Heights Church	



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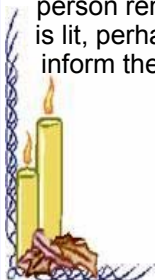
www.easyfundraising.com. This works exactly the same when you shop with John Lewis, M&S and a whole host of other shops. This has an added benefit that you will also get some special offers - you can't lose ! Please click the link on the church website go online and sign up now

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

Barbara Joy
Ruth Lillian Rands

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



Forthcoming Funerals

Members of our churches will be saddened to hear news this week of the deaths of two members of Putnoe Heights Church, Reg Frank and Gwyn Morgan. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

The Memorial service for Gwyn Morgan will take place at 2.30pm on Thursday 18 June at Putnoe Heights Church

The funeral of Reg Frank will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 3.30pm on Friday 19 June, followed by woodland burial at Keysoe