



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

16 January 2011

Epiphany 2



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

16 January - Holy Communion/Covenant

Preacher - Bishop Alan (By DVD)
Leadership – Mrs. Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Mrs. Wendy Waters

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion/Covenant

Preacher - Preacher - Bishop Alan (by DVD)
Leadership - Mrs. Linda Hoare
Intercessions - Mr. Alan Bayliss

23 January

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs. Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mrs. Mary Stubbs

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mr. Gordon Evans
Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen

Readings 1. Isaiah 9:1-4, 2.1 Corinthians 1:10-18 ,
3. Matthew 4:12-23

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 Linda and Des Hoar in loving
memory of each of their parents.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have
been given by June Churm in loving memory of her
husband Cecil Derek Churm near his birthday and
in the Chapel by Barbara Joy and Family in loving
memory of Alan.

Prayer for This Week

Give thanks
for the joy of human love
and friendship
Take from me, O Lord,
all desire for worldly praise
and all uncontrolled anger and remorse.
Give to me a humble and lowly heart,
and a mind tender
with kindness and compassion.
Grant to me also, good Lord, fullness of faith,
firmness of hope and fervency of love,
that my one desire may be conformity to your
gracious will; through Christ our Lord. Amen
Thomas More, 1478-1535

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
309175 Mobile 07973 113861
vicar@thisischurch.com

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

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 Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 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 - Avril Williams 360605
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**
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
- 12.00pm 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.
- 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 ☎07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 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
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—17 January St. Mark's Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8.00pm '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. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 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** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.15pm Sing and Stomp.** For toddlers & their carers. Run by the Putnoe Children's Centre. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
- 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
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week.

Contact John Farish ☎ 824984

- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 18 January. Members afternoon. 'Old Photographs' 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
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting January 25 'Memories' 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 - 19 January 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
- 6.15pm 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 January 19 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 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 in the quiet room. 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 40007112354rrrr7651

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.

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. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

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

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice 07964 356355☎

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

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun.

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice 07964 356355☎



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council –

Annual General Meeting 10 April 2011

St Mark's Leadership Team 31 January

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 7 February

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .

St Mark's Forum Meeting -

Putnoe Church Council - 14 February

Pastoral Group Meeting - 8 February 4.15pm

Churchyard Committee - 26 January at 11.00am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings

Deanery Meeting - .

Woodland Burial Trustees – 13 February 2011

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 10th January 2010 1.30pm

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

Epiphany 2 Covenant Service

Opening Sentence from Scripture - Isaiah 49.16

Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands'

Collect Prayer (*Before we read we pray*)

God of grace, through the mediation of your Son, you call us into a new covenant. Help us therefore to draw near with faith and join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Exodus 24:3-11

When Moses went and told the people all the Lord's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.
(This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Readings Jeremiah 31: 31-34

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, " declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Romans 12: 1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

(This is the word of the Lord — **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – Mark 14: 22-25 Please stand

(After the Gospel is announced **All: 'Glory to Christ our Saviour'**)

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."

(Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ - **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)



You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy Chapter 29 verse 12

Post Communion Prayer Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Hymns (*Please distribute* Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows and Hymns and Psalms)

1. Deep in the shadows of the past 447 *Tune Ellacombe*
2. Colours of day
3. O Jesus I have promised 704 (*Modern Tune*)
4. Come sinners to the gospel feast (*Tune Fulda*)
5. Hail thou source of every blessing (*Tune Lux Eoi*)

Address by Bishop Alan

One of the loveliest verses in the Old Testament is found in the Prophet Isaiah where God says to his people 'Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands' (Isaiah 49.16).

Many people think that God is remote, living far away from us in the heavens removed from our daily lives. But this verse speaks of a God who knows us and who loves us, just as a mother loves her little baby – and there's no stronger love than that. This is the God who binds himself to us in a covenant - a sure and enduring commitment - of love and fidelity. He holds out his hands to welcome us into his loving embrace.

Yesterday hundreds of Christians gathered in the Cathedral to launch Living God's Love - our new vision for the Diocese of St Albans, which builds on the success of Vision for Action.

1. Going Deeper into God But what does it mean for us to 'live God's love' today? It begins when we respond to his open hands which are beckoning to us to go deeper into God – to discover more of the beauty, the holiness, the grace and the truth of the God who has made us and who wants to draw us to himself.

When you meet someone whose life is deeply rooted in God there is something both immensely attractive about them but also something that makes you stop and pause. Attractive because the grace of God has so worked in and through them that they are no longer driven by their personal ambitions.

They don't have to impose on others or to justify themselves. They have an inner freedom and contentment that is almost tangible. They have an openness to others and a transparency of goodness which draws us in.

But such people can also be daunting because when we meet them we come face to face with an example of what God can do in you and me if we dare to open ourselves up to his grace. But that might involve change and that can be threatening.

We are told that Jesus had that same combination. He was both attractive yet there was also something daunting about him. Crowds flocked to him because they recognised something in him that spoke of the presence of God. John the Baptist instinctively knew that this was someone very special. He points to Jesus and said, 'Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!'

It's a strange thing to say – to call Jesus 'the Lamb of God' but it looks forward to his crucifixion, to the time when those young carpenter's hands will be nailed to the cross, his palms scarred by rough nails.

For Jesus, going deeper into God's love was costly, it involved a real dying to his own ambitions and allowing God to raise him to new life. It is this same dying to self which leads us deeper into God. We will never even begin to understand the love of God except through the cross.

The cross reminds us that we are imperfect human beings. However hard we try we can never become holy enough in our own strength to enter into the presence of God. There is no ladder of good works which reaches up high enough to get us into heaven. But the wonderful thing about the cross is that we don't have to embark on a process of self improvement. We don't have to pretend to ourselves or to others that we are especially good or holy or pious. We don't have to climb up to God, because he has already clambered down to us.

When we know – deep in our guts - that God reaches out to us, that we are his beloved children, then we can joyfully abandon ourselves into his love. As the old hymn puts it

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!

Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!

Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love

Leading onward, leading homeward to Thy glorious rest above!

2. Transforming communities – if we are going to Live God's Love then we cannot hold on to it for ourselves. The love of God has to flow out, touching the lives of those around us. Jesus did just this as he reached out his hands to those around. We are told

'Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them' (Matthew 19.13) and

'At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them' (Luke 4.40).

As I have been travelling around the diocese I have witnessed many places where Christians are lending a hand and making a real and tangible difference.

This has always been the defining feature of the Christian faith. There has been some fascinating research undertaken by an American academic, Rodney Stark, into the way that Christianity took the ancient world by storm in the first three centuries. Very often historians say that the reason that Christianity grew was because of the promise of a better life after death. Having reviewed all the ancient sources Rodney Stark concluded:

The power of Christianity lay not in its promise of other-worldly compensations for suffering in this life, as has so often been proposed. No, the crucial change that took place in the third century was the rapidly spreading awareness of a faith that delivered potent antidotes to life's miseries here and now! The truly revolutionary aspect of Christianity lay in moral imperatives such as 'Love one's neighbour as oneself'... These were not just slogans. Members did nurse the sick, even during epidemics; they did support orphans, widows, the elderly, and the poor; they did concern themselves with the lot of slave. In short, Christians created, "a miniature welfare state in an empire which for the most part lacked social services". Of course, we cannot do this alone. There are so many challenges and opportunities that we could easily be overwhelmed. But by joining hand with Christians of other denominations – and indeed with anyone of goodwill – we can make a real difference

3. Making new disciples.

When John the Baptist pointed Andrew and his companion away from himself and directing them towards Jesus, they found him with hands outstretched, inviting them 'Come'.

We do not make new disciples by asking people to join a religious club. Instead we have to point people away from ourselves: 'See, the lamb of God' and we direct them to Jesus Christ, who stands with open hands ready to welcome them.

Making new disciples is not simply a recruitment drive because we want a bigger church. It is handing on the baton of the faith to the next generation. Henri Nouwen said that when we share our faith we need to

*Remain convinced without being rigid
Willing to confront without being officious
Gentle and forgiving without being soft
A true witness without being manipulative
Conveying above all else in our very presence
the love that is Christ*

We are to so witness and pray that others will catch the vision of what it is to Live God's Love with open hands. As we launch Living God's Love will you respond to the welcoming hands of God to go deeper into his love. Will you go out in his name with open hands? And will you work with me in making new disciples, pointing others to Jesus Christ, the One who alone can quell our fears and fulfil our deepest hopes? Before you leave this service today you will be given a prayer card. Please keep it somewhere safe and use it regularly as we pray

The Living God's Love Prayer

Living God, draw us deeper into your love; Jesus our Lord, send us to care and serve; Holy Spirit, make us heralds of good news. Stir us, strengthen us, teach and inspire us to live your love with generosity and joy, imagination and courage; for the sake of your world and in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Increase your grace in us, O Lord, that we may fear your Name beyond which nothing is more holy; that we may love you, beyond whom nothing is more loveable; that we may glorify you beyond whom nothing is more worthy of praise, and that we may long for you beyond whom nothing is more desirable; and grant that thus fearing, loving, glorifying and longing we may see you, face to face; through Christ our Lord. Amen Desiderius Erasmus, 1466-1536



Messy Church Next meeting on 19 January

from 3.45 to 5.30pm
If you are interested in helping please speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters

Footprints The next walk will be on Sunday 16 January. Meet at 2pm in Sandy Town Centre (Budgens) for circular walk following the Greensand Ridge path along the River Ivel and through the Roman Fort. Details from Sue Allen.

A Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration will take place at Biddenham International School, at 6pm, on 27 January 2011. This year's moving event will carry the theme of 'Untold Stories' from this period. The date, 27 January, was chosen for the Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) as it was on this date in 1945 that the largest Nazi killing camp Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated.

Flower Donors. Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of flowers at Putnoe for any Sunday in the first six months of 2011, is invited to enter their name on the rota on the board in the welcome area. Anyone wishing to contribute towards flowers at St Mark's should please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254.

Secondhand Book Sale at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday March 12th, 10am to 2pm. Please look out your unwanted books and let us have them on Friday March 11th between 6-7.30pm. Further details from Linda Hoar.

Songs of Praise are recording their programme at St Paul's Bedford on Sunday 30 January. Please collect application forms from the church offices or visit the Songs of Praise website. Tickets are allocated by ballot after the deadline for receipt.

Living God's Love.

Yesterday Bishop Alan Launched Living God's Love in the Diocese at a special service in the Cathedral. It's an invitation to the Diocese of St Albans to discover new things about God, ourselves and the world. It's an invitation to look with fresh eyes and explore new ways. It's an invitation to journey together as God's people. Our sermon today is a DVD of Bishop Alan's sermon

Hymns for Sunday

Colours of day dawn into the mind,

The sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
And let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show*

Go through the park, on into the town;
The sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
The people of darkness are needing a friend.

Open your eyes, look into the sky,
The darkness has come, the sun came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
But Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.

Hail, Thou Source of every blessing,

Sovereign Father of mankind!
Gentiles now, Thy grace possessing,
In Thy courts admission find.
Grateful now we fall before Thee,
In Thy Church obtain a place,
Now by faith behold Thy glory,
Praise Thy truth, adore Thy grace.

Once far off, but now invited,
We approach Thy sacred throne;
In Thy covenant united,
Reconciled, redeemed, made one.
Now revealed to Eastern sages,
See the Star of Mercy shine;
Mystery hid in former ages,
Mystery great of love divine.

Hail, Thou all-inviting Savior!
Gentiles now their offerings bring;
In Thy temple seek Thy favor,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul, and spirit,
Live devoted to Thy praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,
Grateful anthems ever raise!

The Diocese of St Albans



Living God's Love

Going Deeper into God
Transforming Communities
Making New Disciples

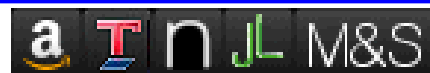
Churches donate over £5,000 to help hospital in Africa. Thank you to everybody at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church who gave so generously of their time, gifts and money for the Autumn Mission project in support of Kisiizi Hospital Uganda. We have raised an amazing total of over £5000 in support of this important medical work in Africa. This is a truly outstanding effort and will make a significant different to the people for whom the hospital in Kisiizi support. This is a practical demonstration of Christ's discipleship and compassion in action and the world wide church working together to show God's love to His people and extend His Kingdom. On behalf of the Ministers and all those involved in the work in Kisiizi, thank you for your wonderful generosity.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity We are very privileged indeed this year in Bedford, for we have managed to get the General Secretary of the Methodist Church, the Rev. Dr Martyn Atkins as our preacher at the Bedford-Wide United Service. It will be held at the Salvation Army Citadel in Commercial Road on Sunday 23 January at 6.30pm. This service provides a wonderful opportunity to meet and worship with Christians from other denominations from all over the town. In addition, short lunchtime services are being held during the week at the following venues;
 18 January - Miracle Church, Conduit Road.
 19 January - St. Andrew's, Kimbolton Road2
 20 January - Friends Meeting Hse, Lansdowne Rd
 21 January - St. Peter's, St. Peter's Street
 24 January - St. John's, St John's Street
 25 January - University of Bedfordshire, Polhill Ave
 All the services start at 12.30pm, and last about 20 minutes. Tea/coffee will be provided after each of the services and you are encouraged to stay, bringing your own sandwiches if you wish. These services, too, provide an excellent opportunity to have a chat with other Bedford Christians.

Putnoe Heights has a new youth group up and running! TNT has been reformed and renamed as Shooting Stars! It runs fortnightly, on Wednesday night from 6-7.30pm, for ages 9-13. The circuit youth worker, Anna Price, is joining the leaders team. We have a full program up till Easter 2011 (which is up on the youth notice board) all nights include games, activities and Christian content connected to the theme. If you know of any young people that would like to come, please contact Emma Gordon (Putnoe Heights children's and youth worker) at youth@thisischurch.com, or call on 07593266091.

Storybox at Putnoe Heights has a few gaps in our catering and tidying teams. If you, or anybody you know, are interested in helping out for no more than 2 hours a week, joining a friendly team in the kitchen or helping with the setting up and tidying contact:- Emma Gordon youth@thisischurch.com or call on 07593266091

Partnership Quiz Night. There will be quiz night at St Mark's Church on Saturday 12 February. Tickets and further details will be available shortly.



You will find the link above on the homepage for www.thisischurch.com. Please click on it to access Amazon.com and just about anything you need for presents this year, with free delivery. You can also sign up to Easyfunding. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online at discount prices! Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thisischurch.com, then we obtain 5%

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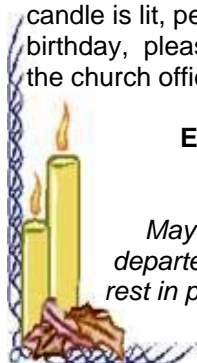
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Rest In Peace

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.

Evan Llewellyn Morgan

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



Cold Weather preventing you from coming to church? Tell St Mark's Church office (Tel: 342613) and we will arrange for a taxi to include you on its route to the 9.30am service.

Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Brian Joseph Perry will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1:45pm on Monday 31 January 2011

