



# Partnership News

## Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church



16 June 2013 - Ordinary 11

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

### Today 16 June — Ordinary 11

**9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion**

Preacher – Revd Matt Fugill  
Leadership – Mrs. Jean Bank  
Intercessions – Mr. Richard Ledger

**11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion**

Preacher – Reverend Matt Fugill  
Leadership – Mrs. Vita Hudson-Rae  
Intercessions – Mrs. Claire Peck

### 23 June — Ordinary 12

**9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship**

Preacher – Reverend Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership – Mrs Wendy Waters  
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

**11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship**

Preacher – Reverend Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership – Mrs Sue Allen  
Intercessions – Mr Alan Bayliss

Next week there will be some special contributions in our service we will be visited by Ian Spillman who will give us an update on Kisizzi and also Marie-Ange Comerford-Raillon from Bedford Council of Faith

**Readings** 1.1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a  
2.Galations 3: 23-29 3. Luke 8: 26-39

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

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given Eddy and Margaret Peck in celebration of their Golden Wedding Anniversary, and by Christine Davies on her birthday.

The flowers at St. Marks are given by Doreen Smart to say thank you for all the kind messages and support given to her following the death of her sister, Elisabeth.

### Prayer for Sunday

Grant us grace, O God, to take your Son for our Redeemer, his life for our example, his word for our rule, his Spirit for our guide, his wounds for our healing and his cross for our salvation, that he may take possession of our hearts, now and for ever.  
Amen. *Jeremy Taylor (1613-1657)*

### Welcome

We welcome to our worship this morning the Reverend Matt Fugill from Kempston East Methodist Church. Today Charlie and Sam are leading worship at other churches in our Circuit and Deanery.

**The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman**

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a Vice President for Hewlett Packard)

**Deacon Jane Mills**

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre  
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

**Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator**

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com  
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

**Churchyards Administrator**

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

**Putnoe Heights Church Centre**

**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846  
**Leadership Team** Mrs 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** - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892  
treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)  
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685  
**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**9.-3.45pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**  
(See website for more details)  
**.9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430  
**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955  
**10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Calligraphy** at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)  
**12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris [youth@thisischurch.com](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com) 365630  
**1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make** For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– [chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk) .  
**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** (see contact details below)  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190  
**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.  
**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859  
**6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**6.30pm Boot Camp** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081  
**7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson 353518  
**7.00pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020  
**7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091  
**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 17 June Judith Stanton. 823313  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567  
**Putnoe Heights Children and Youth meeting - Monday 23rd September**

## Tuesday

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

**1—3pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's (contacts details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895  
**2pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).  
**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225  
**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs 406784.  
**4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights..** Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468  
**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957  
**7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390  
**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648  
**6.30pm MT Karate** (all ages) Karen King 07941264885  
**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455  
**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** (Meets fortnightly). Next meeting June 25 Work on the Mission Field : Sue and Martin Fannon. Details Janet King 313946

## Wednesday

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly Changing to Fridays from 5 April (Same time an place.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647  
**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.  
**9.30am Discover & Do** (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666  
**10am-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.  
**10am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. (contact below)  
**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.  
**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks (see contact details below)  
**10am U3A Diet and Nutrition-** Putnoe (contact below)  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit**  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting June 19 at Putnoe Heights Office 365630  
**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)  
**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811  
**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** St Marks.(see contact details below)  
**2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan** Putnoe Heights  
**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966  
**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 19th June Wendy Waters 401834  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731  
**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall

Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994.

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

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Yvonne Blain 350241 or Brian Sallows 407725

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

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004

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

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

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 19 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 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

### Thursday

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

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

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green 244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07932616468

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

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

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

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

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

**2pm U3A Current Affairs** - Putnoe Heights

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**7.30pm Gentle Birthing** St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231 (as from 4th April)

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

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

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

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

### Friday

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

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

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

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

**2pm U3A Gardening** - Putnoe Heights

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

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

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

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

### Saturday

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

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

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

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

### Sunday

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

**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

Weds 17 April; Weds 17 May; Weds 19 June; Weds 18 Sept; Weds 16 Oct; Weds 20 Nov,

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



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – 8 October

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 21 January

**Annual Congregational Meetings**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 10 October

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting**

**Putnoe Church Council** - 14 Oct

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -

**Commemoration Service** Sunday 3 November 3 pm

**Circuit meeting** -

**Deanery Meeting** - 14 November

**Woodland Burial Trustees**– Open Day 20 July

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** –

**New Year Lunch 19 January at Putnoe**

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

## Ordinary 11

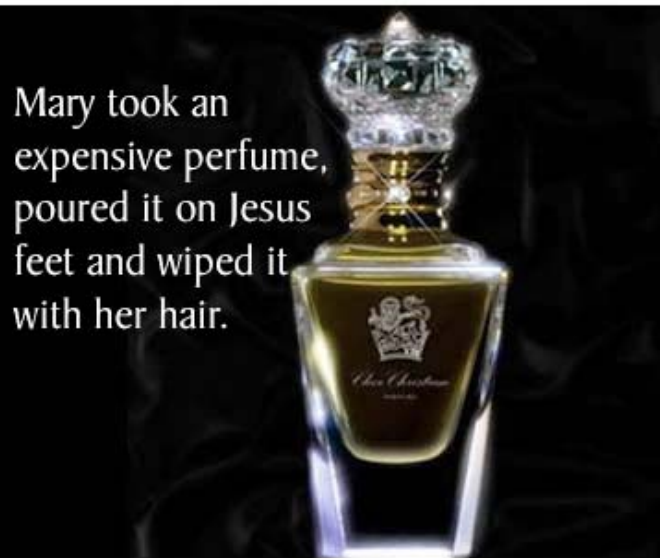
### **Introductory Sentence.** Psalm 8:1

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

### **Collect Prayer for the Day**

*Before we read we pray*

Generous God, you gather your people and lavish your gifts upon us, day by day. Grant that each experience of your pardon may enlarge our own love, until it meets the measure of your extravagant forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Methodist Worship*



### **First Reading — Psalm 24**

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Saviour. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob. Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty — he is the King of glory.

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

### **Second Reading — Romans 5:1-11**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

### **Gospel Reading – John 12 :1-8 (When announced **Glory to Christ our Saviour**)**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

(This is the Gospel of Christ— **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

## Post Communion Prayer

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

## Hymns *(Please distribute Holy Communion and Hymns and Psalms )*

1. Praise to the Lord – H&P 16
2. Jesus, lover of my soul – H&P 528
3. How sweet the name of Jesus Sounds – H&P 257
4. Tell out my Soul – H&P 86

## Commentary

Bethany means 'place of the poor.' In our Bible passage Jesus is anointed with really expensive perfume, an action which might be considered totally unsuitable in a place of poor people!

Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. This house should have been a house filled with mourning and sorrow, instead it is the centre of attention as the dead man and his Saviour gather to eat. The people around would clearly want to see this Lazarus who had been raised after four days. Bethany is a small village only a couple of miles from Jerusalem and it would also have been crowded with pilgrims who had come to observe Passover in Jerusalem at this time. People would also have wanted to come closer to Jesus who had this extraordinary power over death, they would have wondered what he could do for them also.

Jesus is with Mary and Martha and Lazarus, who he raised from the dead. Mary, the same Mary who had sat at the feet of Jesus as her sister Martha and had been 'distracted with much serving, is once again centre stage. Once again Martha is serving, and once again Mary is rapt with love and devotion, sitting at his feet. But now Mary springs into action. In one spontaneous, reckless and, some would say wasteful gesture of extravagance, she anoints the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume and wipes them with her hair! It's a very sensual, a very intimate, and a very shocking scene. For a woman to let her hair down in public in this way and behave towards Jesus with such physical intimacy must have aroused considerable attention and scorn. To let down her hair and massage the feet of Jesus with perfume is quite a highly charged act in any culture, but at the time it was positively outrageous. We can all imagine how the disciples must have wanted to have a go at Mary for being such a tramp and behaving in this shameless fashion.

Remember, this was no ordinary bottle of perfume but rather one costing a years salary. Can you imagine what you would have said had you witnessed this scene of such lavish adoration? Judas beat us all to it when he complained about apparent waste, claiming that the money could instead have been given to the poor. We need to ask ourselves whether the words of Judas are ever found on our own lips?

The biblical account tells us that Judas was not really concerned about the poor, we are told that he was a thief and helped himself to the money that the disciples shared with Jesus. This explanation discredits Judas but perhaps it also serves to demonstrate that the other disciples too, felt that it was a waste of money which would legitimately have helped 'the poor.'

Judas challenged Mary on the grounds of extravagance, but we know from Matthew's Gospel that all of the disciples disliked the waste of perfume being used on Jesus. Matthew in his Gospel says When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. (Matthew 26:8) In Mark's Gospel too he records that it was "some who were there" who protested. (Mark 14:4), not just Judas! Truthfully all of us would be appalled when we heard about this lewd behaviour and flagrant waste. Everybody except Jesus. Jesus defends Mary: "Leave her alone," he says. "She is anointing me, making preparations for my death." Why was Jesus such a sympathetic person, where had he learned this compassion, especially towards women ?

Jesus knows how much Mary loves him, and he recognises the goodness in her devotional act of extravagant love. She loved Jesus, and she poured out her love like priceless perfume, like there was no tomorrow, without ever counting the cost. The perfume Mary poured out was worth a year's wages, would we be prepared to pour out that kind of money on somebody we love? Would we be prepared to pour it out on Jesus?

Mary had much to be thankful to Jesus for, he had raised her dead brother Lazarus from his stinking tomb, how could she deny Jesus her best perfume? What Mary did was highly provocative, but she was highly motivated and her spontaneous act of loving gratitude could not be inhibited by social etiquette.

Mary responds to the love and acceptance she found in Jesus. Her affection for Jesus is an example to us all. It is not the time to talk budgets, but to show love. What Mary did was outstanding. She gave Jesus not just words or promises about her love. She put those words into direct action. She did not consider the cost because her love was greater than financial considerations. We need so very much to learn the lesson which Jesus understood about generosity when he publicly approved of what she did. The woman's response stands in contrast to that of the Chief Priests and Judas who will serve them in their wicked murder of Jesus. It is also a contrast to the behaviour of Peter and the disciples. In the Gospels Jesus is pictured as abandoned by his inner circle of disciples. In the end it will be a few women who are left standing near Golgotha and who will venture to the tomb. The unlikely ones in Mark and John's world, the women, become the models.

This is a deliberately subversive passage, and reflects so much of the experience of Jesus' ministry. Others were so good, so devout, and so busy trying to be holy that they missed the point. This action made by the woman when she breaks the perfume container open and spreads the contents over Jesus' feet, speaks louder than a thousand words. Mark even suggests that Jesus predicted how memorable her act would be.

Jesus was surrounded by many of noble lives, high religious prestige and good moral deeds. It was none of these which attracted him, nor those who like Peter spoke strongly of their unswerving loyalty. Mary had faith in Jesus and she put that faith into an act of extravagant loving devotion. In so washing his feet her actions spoke louder than words, she showed that love which is beyond that which words can express.

All of this provoked the Jewish chief priests and we are given a glimpse of why they want to have Jesus and Lazarus put to death. Simply they are envious and greedy and do not want Jesus to take over their religious authority. Jesus was just too popular and this would have implications for them and their status in the community. There was no answer, Jesus had to go. In a short time this greed will end in the cross for Jesus. *Charles Royden*

### **Meditation**

Where did his sympathy for women, and especially for women who were considered sinners, begin? Perhaps it came from his wisdom that the way we live is not what makes God love us, and that God loves the passionate longing in our nature. And perhaps his love of women who were called sinners grew in him because his mother was called that: she who was pregnant before she was married; she who taught him she had borne him for God, and not for a particular husband. As his mother Mary sang before he was born: he lives to scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts, to tear down the mighty from their thrones; to exalt the lowly; and to fill the hungry with good things.

### **Prayers**

Grant to us O Lord, fullness of faith, firmness of hope and fervency of love. For the sake of the gospel may we sit loosely to our wealth and daily embrace you in the poor of the world. As we rejoice in your generosity so may we give ourselves in the service of others; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God our Father, we come today to worship you and confess that devotion to you is often far from our minds. This morning may we refocus our attention upon our love for you and how we show that love. Help us Lord to be more willing to pour out our lives as fragrant offerings of love. We lay our lives before you and ask that we might know that love which does not count the cost.

Lord God, as we wait upon you now, as we listen for your voice in the silence of hearts and as we offer our prayers to you we think of those people in our lives who have loved us with a generous love we think of those who like Mary have not counted the cost of what they have given us; of those who given all of themselves to us as Christ gave himself for the world; and we thank you for them - and ask you to bless them and for you to make us like them.

As we go into this week, O God, help us to have a focus, a purpose that is beyond that of just getting by; beyond that of just trying to make it through another week; show us we pray what you would have us do; reveal to us our own personal and unique ministry—and help us to do it.

Bless O God those in our midst and those around the world whom we name in our hearts before you at this time; we especially ask for those who are poor in the basic needs of daily living; and for those who are poor in love; hear too the prayers we ask for those who need healing or hope in their lives, those who need justice, and those who require mercy.

### Telecare

We would like to sign up as many people as possible to Telecare, it is one of our ways of keeping in touch with church members. We are especially keen to sign up people who are elderly and who may from time to time be unable to come to church.



Telecare is a non intrusive way of us being able to see if everything is alright or if you would like a visit.

Please sign up by giving your name to one of the ministers, or tell us of anybody that you think might like to be included and we will get in touch.

### St Mark's Garden of Remembrance

A new area for interment of ashes has been created at St Mark's in the original garden. If you would like to have first opportunity to reserve a plot in this location then please speak with Avril Williams who would be pleased to make the arrangements.

**St Mark's Defibrillator Training.** A public access defibrillator will be fitted at St Mark's in the near future and we want to have as many people as possible trained to use it. Please give your name to the church office if you are willing to be trained. You might help save a life

**Circuit service:23 June:** Matt Fugill's testimonial and visit of the president of the Methodist conference at Kempston East at 6.00pm

For this occasion Matt has requested that we have a circuit choir to lead the singing as well as singing an introit and an "anthem". Rehearsals will be at Kempston East on Friday 7 and Friday 21 June at 7.30. All singers are welcome. It would be helpful if we had a rough idea of numbers. Please contact either Barbara Tipping (Kempston East-telephone 01234 852101) or Julie Fisher (Shefford-email [stjfisher@redborne.beds.sch..uk](mailto:stjfisher@redborne.beds.sch..uk))

**Summer Fete** St. Mary's Church, Goldington  
Saturday 29th June 11.30am - 3pm.

**Bedford Show Co Youth Theatre** will be performing Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat at The Place Theatre in Bradgate Road, Bedford between Thursday 27th June and Saturday 29th June. Tickets are available online at [www.theplacebedford.org.uk/tickets](http://www.theplacebedford.org.uk/tickets)

**Kittens for sale**, ready 1 August. 3 Calico and 2 black. £25 each. Adults only to ring Delia 328721

### New Community Agent Service

Agents are now available to help in some areas of Bedford with free advice, regarding benefits & allowances, filling in forms, help and advice regarding general wellbeing, arranging for free home safety checks by Bedford Police Trust or to liaise with agencies such as Social Services or the Benefits

Office. Please ask if you need our help by calling your Community Agent free on 0800 039 1234.

### Methodist Homes for the Aged

During June we shall be holding the annual Envelope donation in aid of MHA; these envelopes will be available for your contribution to this very worthwhile cause and your support will be gratefully accepted. Thank you for your help *Pam Kinselley*

### Putnoe Heights Book Stall

I am setting up a book stall for the loan of books at a charge of 25p. At the moment this is in the Small Hall but it is hoped to have it in a more prominent position before long. If you care to donate any books, these will be welcomed. Any suggestions on the running of this project would be appreciated. Pam Kinselley

**Concert by Shannon Express.** Award winning male close harmony chorus from Potton : Including Newnham Middle School Choir. Saturday 29th June at 7.30pm, Newnham Middle School, Polhill Avenue. Tickets £8.00 (£5.00 16 years and under) Concert in aid of Canine Partners. Contact Jim Devlin 07956 305032 or email: [Jim.devlin2@ntlworld.com](mailto:Jim.devlin2@ntlworld.com)

**The Great Gappo** will be at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 29th July 2013 at 12 noon to 2p.m.

"The Great Gappo" 12 noon to 1pm, Sandwich lunch provided 1pm to 2pm. Raffle. Tickets: £2.00 in advance for children over 1 yrs old, £3.00 on the door, FREE to children under 1 yrs old and £1.00 Adults. Available from the church office. For further details contact: Carolyn Morris Tel: 07751348925 Email: [youth@thischurch.com](mailto:youth@thischurch.com) or Putnoe Heights Church office on Tel: 01234 365630

**Circuit Farewell Service** for Revd. Jacqueline Owen and Revd. Joanne Sherwood. Putnoe Heights Church Sunday 21st July at 6.00pm. Please come to offer a warm Putnoe Heights welcome to visitors from the Circuit as Jacqueline leaves Southend, Clapham, Oakley and Sharnbrook for Leeds and Joanne leaves Clophill, Flitwick, Haynes and Wilstead for Ely. Refreshments will be served after the service - donations of cake, teabread etc. will be very welcome.

**Encircled in Care** A training day for pastoral visitors and all who offer care in the Church and Community. Wootton Methodist Church, Saturday 13 July 10.00am - 1.15pm Contact [glayne.worgan@methodist.org.uk](mailto:glayne.worgan@methodist.org.uk)

**Partnership Harvest Festival** this year will be on 29 September

**St Albans Woodland Burial Trust.** We welcome you to our next Open Day which will take place at the Woodland on Saturday 20 July 2013 from 2.00pm - 5.00pm

**Buddy-Trips** The Circuit has a new programme called Buddy-trips designed to link you with other people who may be interested in going to the same event, play, trip as you. Contact [buddytrips@yahoo.com](mailto:buddytrips@yahoo.com) using the password NewLife.

**Action for Children** Will you join other box holders in the League of Light and shine hope into the lives of vulnerable children? The scheme began in 1932 and this year the lantern shaped home collecting box has been re-launched. We are grateful for all donations, large or small, I can supply you with a box if you add your name to the list in the Church foyer. You can make a difference to the children and young people we support. Nationwide box holders raise £500,000 annually. Thank you. M. Standley

**Methodist Church condemns violence against Muslim Community**

The Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Mr Mike King, has expressed solidarity with the Muslim community in light of reprisal attacks on Islamic buildings following the horrific murder of the British soldier Lee Rigby in Woolwich.

Mike King, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, said: "Methodists that I have met throughout the country in recent days are shocked by what happened in Woolwich to Lee Rigby, but also saddened by apparent reprisal attacks on Islamic buildings, or verbal abuse against individuals. With peace and respect at the very heart of the Christian and Muslim faiths, all such attacks cannot be justified in any circumstances. Prayers in churches that I have attended have reflected this in the last few weeks and it is important for Muslims, both in UK and globally, to know that such prayers are being offered in our Methodist churches."

**Date for the Diary** There will be a celebration event next year on August 25 Bank Holiday Monday, to celebrate 100 years of Bedford being in the St Albans Diocese. The event will be held at the Equestrian Centre in Keysoe and it will be a festival day with lots of activities, concluding with a service of worship. This is one to put in the diary now and make sure you don't book holidays !

**Archbishop addresses IF rally**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken out in support of a campaign encouraging world leaders to tackle hunger, saving the millions of lives it claims each year. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted every year while 13% of the world's population goes to bed hungry every night. Shockingly 20,000 children under the age of five die each day from hunger-related causes. Archbishop Justin spoke via a video link to thousands gathered in Hyde Park attending the IF London campaign event. The IF campaign is made up of more than 200 charities including the Church of England. It is urging G8 leaders to take big steps that will tackle the global injustice of hunger. "We've come to celebrate the opportunity we have to end hunger in our lifetimes. The only way that's going to happen is by mass movements of people, like yourselves, getting together," he said. "We can celebrate the fact that in the UK we commit 0.7% of our national income to foreign aid. (But) I encourage you, keep the pressure on. We can change the world in our own lives."

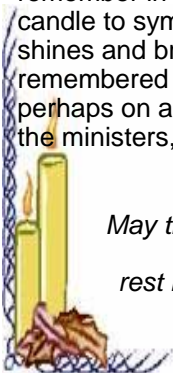


**Our hope for God's creation**

A Cathedral with solar panels, birds of prey in church and a community litter pick all feature in a new film. 'Our Hope for God's Creation' shows how churches are responding to environmental challenges and global warming. See more at: <http://www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/2906/green-carpet-launch-for-eco-film#sthash.WdooKUPM.dpuf> [www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/2906/green-carpet-launch-for-eco-film](http://www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/2906/green-carpet-launch-for-eco-film)

**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.



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

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**Forthcoming Funerals**

*There are no funeral this week*