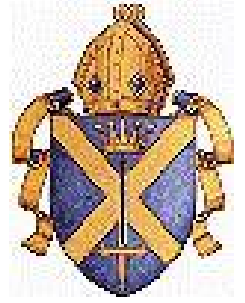


Partnership News

16 May 2010

Seventh Sunday of Easter



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

9.30am St. Mark's – Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr. Michael Carr
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion

Preacher – Mr. Michael Carr
Leadership - Mr. Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions -Mrs Claire Peck

23rd May - Pentecost

9.30am St. Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership – Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions – Mr John Tatman

11.00am –Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Ministers

Readings 1.Acts 16: 16-34 2. Rev 22:12-14, 16-17,
20-end.. 3. John 17 20-end

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 Joan York in loving memory of
her husband Edgar

We are grateful when people make donations towards
flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as
an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please
contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Ann Hitt
404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in
the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

Almighty God,
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
ever lives to make intercession for us;
have pity on our weakness,
and in your mercy give us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask,
except through his merits,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

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 Mobile07807 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 Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@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 12noon and 1pm 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 May 17 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

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. 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. Janet King ☎313946

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting May 18 'Tea & Chat' 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 Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎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. 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 May 18 Quiz .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 Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10am U3A Card Making, St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet King ☎313946

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - May 23 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

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 19 May. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Alan ☎ 345312.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. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424 .

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. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at 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

2.30 - 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 Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Mark's 2nd & 2th 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

8.00pm 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. Julie 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

5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎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

7.45 - 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.

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 22 June, 8 November.

St Mark's Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 7 June at the Manse, 18 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting ; 24 May

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

Putnoe Church Council - 21 June, 25 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee - 26 May at 11am.

Putnoe Heights Mission Group—9th June 7.30 14 Flint Way

Partnership Council—TBA

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings

Deanery Meeting - 17 June.

Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting

Circuit Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees – Sunday 16th May AGM

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. God has ascended amid shouts of joy. God reigns over the nations; he is seated on his holy throne.

Collect Prayer for the Day *Before we read we pray:*

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Common Worship



“Christian unity is not an ideal which we must realize it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

First Reading – Acts 16: 16-34

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned round and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

When the owners of the slave girl realised that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practise.”

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptised. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole family.

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading – Revelation Chapter 22:12 –21

"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the

sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – John 17:20-end

Jesus looked towards heaven and prayed:

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns - (Please distribute Holy Communion and Hymns and Psalms)

1. All hail the power of Jesus name 252 Miles Lane
2. Alleluia sing to Jesus 592 Hyfrydol
3. Jesus is Lord 260
4. Glorious things of thee are spoken 817 Austria

Commentary

Have you ever entered one of those competitions on cereal packets or some other commodity from the supermarket. They ask you simple questions and then conclude with a final challenge to write a slogan. It will say something like ‘now describe in less than 10 words why Shreddies are the best cereal.’ It focuses the mind to try and make a simple and easy to understand slogan which encapsulates the goodness of Shreddies. When we have to boil things down in this way it helps us to get rid of the unimportant stuff and go to the heart of the matter. This is what marketing is all about, getting to the core of the product and then explaining it in a few words so that it captures the imagination and sells!

I suspect that if the church employed marketing consultants, they would pronounce the verdict that we are failing to get our message across. Most people 'in the street' have very little clue what the church is really about. Ask the typical man on the bus what Methodists are about and he is more likely to say something like ‘they don't drink’ than any theological understanding about grace. If he was asked the same question about Anglicans he would probably start thinking about internal divisions over sexuality.

There is an urgent need for Christians to eradicate the negative and accentuate the positive. We have to recognise our shared common goals, the things which really matter, and then find ways of getting our core message across. Too much of our time is wasted on internal struggle and strife, vociferous debates in which we condemning particular things, or people or ideas. The stuff that we hate we make sure everybody knows about!

This is not very profound, but the church has found it very difficult. It is no surprise that because Christian people have failed to put into an understandable way what we are about, others have failed to catch on. This might seem like sound bite religion, and perhaps it is, but we need to recognise that Jesus was excellent at sound bites! Jesus deliberately took very complicated messages and reduced them to a few words, a simple picture or even a short story. People instantly knew the things he was about, love, forgiveness and living a better life, he made them understandable.

In the passage from the Gospel of John today Jesus draws attention to one of these core principles of being a Christian. Jesus gives the same simple treatment to the complicated idea of unity, but like all of his teaching it simple, not simplistic.

Somebody asked me recently 'what does it mean to be a ecumenical.' I suppose I could have gone to great lengths to explain the development of the ecumenical message but I simply drew attention to the words of Jesus from the reading in John's Gospel today. Jesus makes it clear that he expects his followers to be drawn together in unity. He captures this principle with the wonderful catch phrase 'that they may be one as we are one'. If this had been a contest to find a slogan, it would have been a surefire winner. This is what it means to be ecumenical, it is obedience to the deep desire of Jesus that his followers should be united. It is not a suggestion, it is not a complicated theological idea, it is just the straightforward prayer of Christ. When we read these words we might wonder what all the fuss has been about with different denominations and Christian churches. To be faithful to Christ our divisions must fall and we must learn to be as one.

This importance of dependence and sharing with each other is a fundamental part of being, not just as Christian people, but human beings. We know the importance of sharing and intimate and supportive relationship. The concept of a Christian who is isolated from others is fundamentally flawed, we exist only in community - as a part of a body. Feeling lonely is painful, but is it nature's way of telling us that this is not how we should be. So Jesus takes this on in his prayer that we might be one, even as he and the father are one - absolutely. We are made to share the joys and sorrows, the burdens and triumphs together. As individuals we need to recognise the importance of being a part of others and we have to grow into mature adults so that we are able to know ourselves and others well enough to be able to get along without falling out. Immature Christians and churches need to grow up sufficiently that they will be able to get on with other Christians and churches whose only failure may be that they think or act differently. We are living some kind of fiction if we fail to realise that the fracturing of the church of Christ owes more to immaturity, tantrums and a determination by those seeking power to get their own way, than to any pursuit of godly truth. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

While we wait for Jesus' return and for all things to be completed in him, we trust that Jesus' promise has been fulfilled. We are Spirit-powered and so able to put aside grudges and give forgiveness. Because of his Spirit our lives are marked by the same love Jesus had. Through the Spirit we are learning to trust day by day and to surrender our lives more and more into God's hands. We live each day in the present moment as we offer service and love to our neighbours. In all our words, actions, thinking, loving and giving, we pray that Jesus would join us at home, work and in all parts of our lives, to help us do good works in his name. We pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." For we need his Spirit to help us sustain our hope and efforts as his disciples in a frequently-unreceptive and even hostile world.

As we come forward to receive Communion today we will see a reflection of our already-existing unity: we will be receiving the same Body and Blood of the Lord. But we can't close our eyes to our lack of unity. Communion time will offer an opportunity to pray with Jesus today that the unity he has with the Father might be more perfectly reflected in our own church and among all believers.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

O LORD God Almighty, Father of angels and men, We praise and bless your holy name for all your goodness and loving kindness to humanity. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and for your unceasing generosity to us throughout our lives; But above all, we bless you for your great love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ. We bless you for bringing us safe to the beginning of a new day. Grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger. Keep us, we pray, from all things hurtful to body or soul, and grant us your pardon and peace, So that, being cleansed from all our sins, We might serve you with quiet hearts and minds, and continue in the same until our life's end, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

(Adapted from the original by John Wesley)

The Partnership Lunch Club, fortnightly Wednesdays at Putnoe, urgently needs an additional driver to bring less mobile folk to lunch (a previous appeal did yield a reserve driver thank you). If you can help it would greatly ease the load on the team, please contact Peta Pearson 356878.

House Group to meet at 13 Farnham Way Putnoe on Mondays at 7.45pm on 17 May, 14, 21 June and 12 July. We will be using the York Course 'When I survey .. Christ's cross and ours'. For more information contact Wendy Waters 01234 401834.

Sunday morning Taxi Service St Mark's is now providing a taxi service for the 9.30am service. This service is free of charge for those who have difficulty transporting themselves to Church. To book this service all that you have to



do is to telephone St Mark's Church Office during the week before 1.00pm on Friday. We will then arrange to have you collected by our driver, it is as simple as that!

If you require any more information please speak with Avril Williams 360605

CAB run an advice session at the Putnoe Heights Children's Centre. It's from 11-12 on a Thursday morning and is a drop in service.

Holy Communion at Sir William Harpur House. There is a service of Holy Communion on the first Monday of every month at 10.00am at Sir William Harpur House. All are welcome to attend this service

Puttenhoe Residential Home. Would you be interested in joining a group of people to help provide some worship at Puttenhoe? They have asked us to consider how we might be able to support the provision for the residents of a short service including some hymn singing, readings etc. If you are interested please speak with one of the ministers or any member of the Leadership Team

Sunday Afternoon tea and cakes. £2.00 in aid of Action for Children will be held at St. Mark's Church on 23rd May 2-4pm in the Wren Room. All are welcome. If you have a home collecting box, please bring this for opening and counting the money. Thank you. Margaret Standley.

Amphill and District Churches Together Choir present Greater Than Gold (the story of Mary Jones and her Bible) on Sunday 16th May in Amphill Methodist Church at 6.30pm. Also at Bunyan Meeting on Sunday 9th May at 6.30pm. Margaret and Eddy Peck

TNT will not be meeting on Sunday 16th May. We look forward to meeting again on Sunday 20th June for our annual bicycle ride to the Danish Camp. All Welcome. -Carolyn Morris

Anam Cara Journey an evening of music featuring piano and vocal items from Iona led by the Revd. Kay Mutert. Friday 28th May at 6.30pm at St. Mary the Virgin, Church Lane, Goldington. The evening will include a light buffet. Cost £5.00 (accompanied under 18s free). Further details from 262123 or office@stmarygoldington.org.uk.

Carers Week 14-20th June If you look after someone whop has a disability whether they are a relative or a friend and the work you do is unpaid then you are a carer. The Carers Support Bureau is running events on the dates listed giving information and support, BP checks, signposting to other services and free refreshments. Monday 14th June Roxton Garden Centre 1-3pm (on mobile bus), Tuesday 15th June Harrold outside lower school 10-12pm (on mobile bus), Friday 18th June Bedford St. Paul's Square 10-4pm at the Charity Market and Saturday 19th June Kempston Rural 10-12pm All Saints Church Hall, Church End. Carers Support Bureau 0800 039 1234

3- Circuit Walk On Saturday 12th June from Priory to Willington to Sandy. Meet at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue, Bedford at about 10-15 am. For more information contact Geoff Talbot (07850 605719 or geoffal@btinternet.com).

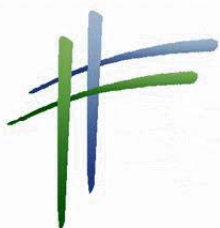
New Prayer Group. We are proposing a new group for quiet/contemplative prayer to take place on Friday afternoons from 2.00pm until 2.45pm in the quiet room (Small Chapel) at Putnoe Heights Church. For more information please contact either Eileen Brown on 267909 or Sam Ware on 304058

"Christian unity is not an ideal which we must realize [actualize]; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Methodist Church in Britain has created a free app for the iPhone - now available from the App Store.

The app offers free daily prayers and Bible studies. The popular Word in Time Bible study features a different author each week, every week of the year, with a short reflection on the day's passage and questions to consider for your own life. It's available to read every day, or you can listen to it as a podcast. And a brief but challenging prayer helps you to focus on God in the middle of your busy day. The app also offers you the latest news, topical podcasts and tweets from the Methodist Church. The Bible readings are based on the Methodist lectionary but Christians from all backgrounds will find this app inspiring, informative and uplifting. We are currently working on making the app available on other smartphones.



Open Day Welcomes visitors to Woodland Burial ground

St Albans Woodland Burial trust welcomed many visitors to the Open day at Keysoe on Saturday. People turned up from as far away as Rickmansworth to see the woodland and meet with Trustees. As well as an opportunity to make reservations and obtain additional information, it was also a lovely day to enjoy refreshments in the sunshine. Thank you to all of those who came along to help and make the day such a success. A meeting of Trustees will take place today at 12.30pm in the Wren Room, St Mark's Church.

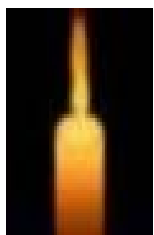


Thank you to everybody who has shared in the collection of funds for Christian Aid.

A message from the Christian Night-life Initiatives

Community Transformation within the Night-Time Economy' Conference - Wednesday 7th July 2010
In January, it was announced that Bedford would be hosting the second National Christian Nightlife Initiatives on Wednesday 7th July from 10.00am - 3.30pm at the Bedford Salvation Army, MK40 1QS. The conference will be exploring how Christian night-life projects can create community transformation. Our morning keynote speaker will be Steve Clifford, General Director of the Evangelical Alliance. Steve Clifford worked as a teacher in the 1980s before taking up full-time church leadership in 1985. He has been long been involved in church planting, running leadership and discipleship teams, and enabling networks. He has served as Chair of many key evangelical initiatives, including Soul Survivor, Hope 08, Soul in the City, London and of March for Jesus International. After lunch, we will be joined by Andy Turner, the Director of XChange from the Church Urban Fund. A full programme for the conference is available for download from the new CNI network - www.cninetwork.org.uk

This promises to an exciting opportunity to hear some excellent speakers, network and creating new friendships. Informal meal together at 7.00pm on Tuesday 6th July 2010 Please email Adam May on adam.may@cninetwork.org.uk to be part of this so we can book a table. You will need to pay for your own meal! The cost of the day conference will be £10.00 payable in advance.



Visit our online chapel, Light a Candle of Remembrance. We have now provided the opportunity to visit our online chapel and light a prayer candle. Please visit www.thischurch.com and click on the candle.



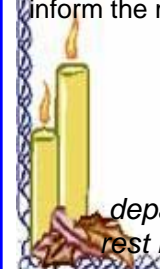
Please don't forget to buy what you need at Amazon. Free delivery . Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thischurch.com, then we obtain 5%

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.

Raymond Bean

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



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Phyllis Naylor Reynolds will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 1.00pm on Tuesday 25 May

The funeral of Pauline Winifred Reissland will take place in the Chapel at St Mark's Church at 3.30pm on Wednesday 19 May