



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

17 June 11th in Ordinary



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

Today Sunday 17 June –11th in Ordinary

9.30m St. Mark's - Holy Communion
Preacher – Rev Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Mr Richard Ledger
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion
Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Mrs Sam Ware

Sunday 24 June

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr Barry Southam
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Bible Readings 1. Job 38:1-11 2.2 Corinthians 6: 1-13
3. Mark 4: 35-41

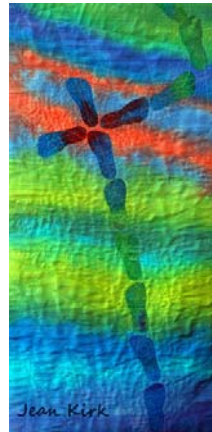
Midweek Holy Communion at St Mark's Chapel every
Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir William Harpur House on
first Monday of every month at 10.00am

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Eddy and Margaret Peck on the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary and Eddy's Birthday.

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 the Week



Thanks be to you
for the gifts you give me:
Each day, each night,
on sea and land,
Each weather, fair, calm or wild,
For your eye watching over me,
For each hour,
its ebb, its flow,
For your arm
comforting around me:
For each gift thanks be to you.
The best gift is yourself to me

From a traditional Celtic prayer

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a Vice
President for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 145135 jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend 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. Jean Kirk 317699
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
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 - Morag Stewart 360103

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

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)

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@thischurch.com 365630

1.30-2.45pm Chat and Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk There will be no meeting on 2.July.

2.00pm U3A History Group St Marks.(see contact details below)

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 Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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– 18 June Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

8pm '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 ☎07790206016

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507

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 (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 Group. St Mark's (see contact 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)

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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (see 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.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

4.30pm—6pm BIGG Writing Putnoe Heights Natalie John

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎0789187957

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting June 26 Jubilee/Olympic Share Meal. 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.

9.30am Discovery & 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.(see contact details 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)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 20 June 2012 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

1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)

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 20 June Wendy Waters401834

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden

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 Mrs O Holt ☎266004

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 20 June Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 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 07719670624

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 (large hall) Children's Chatty Time 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

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.

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

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Mrs. P. Cass ☎294220

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Marks. (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Marks Mary Rich ☎272470

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights 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

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 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 Whist St Marks. Patricia Holland.☎262823

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

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

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

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 Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's (not 25 March) Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

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 – 19 June

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council -

Pastoral Group Meeting - Tuesday 19 June 4.00pm

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm

Harvest Festival 30 September

Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees– 16 September

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -

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

Ordinary 11

Opening Verse of Scripture Verse of Scripture Ps 20 v 8

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

Collect Prayer *Before we read we pray*

Your glory, O God fills heaven and earth and all creation resounds with your praise. As we rejoice in your presence, may we know your power to save and praise you for your faithfulness, now and for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Methodist Worship

First Bible Reading Ezekiel 17: 22-24

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

This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5: 6-17

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight.

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

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

This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading Mark 4:26-34 When the Gospel is announced 'Glory to Christ our Saviour'

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

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."



With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

(This is the Gospel of Christ **All: 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 up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion and Mission Praise*)

All my hope on God is founded, **16**;

O worship the King, **528**;

God is working His purpose out, **189**;

The church's one foundation, **640**

Commentary

To understand the original meaning of the First Reading we need to look at the imagery which is being used and the context in which these verses are written. They come at the end of a poetic allegory which is interrupted by an explanation of the symbols. The king of Babylon took the king of Israel from Jerusalem with all his followers into captivity; the symbol used is one eagle capturing another. There is a familiar theme; Israel is not being faithful to the covenantal practices and customs which have been entrusted to it. The reading from Ezekiel uses the symbol of tree-trimmings and replanting of the highest clippings back in Jerusalem. These words have echoes of the Advent promises where God is going to bring back Israel, making the valleys raised and the mountains made low. The branches of the tree will be the faithful and loyal kings, who will form the new kingdom of Israel and all creation, symbolised by the birds of all kinds, who will return to their original innocence pictured in Genesis after the flood. God is faithful and God's mercy is God's existence. The lowly trees will branch above the lofty who will wither and be brought low. It is the Lord who speaks and does it.

Today's Gospel reading continues the parables in the fourth chapter of Mark. Chapter four opens with the parable of the seed sown in various types of soil, continues with the parable of a lamp's not being hidden under a bushel, as well as a parable about measuring out what has been received. Next we hear two parables about growing things from seeds.

The first parable is about how the Kingdom of God grows within a person precisely because it is of God's goodness, it cannot be attained by merely human intellectual processing or problem solving. It grows even while we are sleeping or distracted. The Kingdom of God parable is about the tiniest of all seeds which grows into the largest shrub and gives shade and rest to the birds of the air.

These pictures of the "Kingdom of God" are spoken and heard within the context and experience of the Roman kingdom which was occupying Israel during the time of Jesus. The Kingdom of God will not be established by any kind of force, nor reinforced or regulated by outside authorities. It is established quietly, in the inside where the heart is attracted to the supreme goodness of God. It grows almost like a weed. But it is identified by the fruits or actions of faith, hope and love. Jesus speaks in these parables for the listening pleasure (or distress) of the crowds. To His disciples He speaks plainly and yet, the story, which ends this chapter, which follows these parables, which we do have in today's readings, is about how fragile is the faith of the disciples. They are with Jesus in a boat and the storm comes up, but Jesus is asleep. The disciples have heard the parables and His teachings, but their faith, once tested, is like a mustard seed, very small and slowly growing very slowly. They panic. Sometimes it seems that Jesus expects faith and trusting should be easy. Jesus asks Peter to leave everything to follow Him and later invites Peter to get out of a boat and walk on water! God asks Mary to believe she is pregnant and she does, but she has some very good questions first. God is always asking that we be not afraid. Perhaps that's because He knows we sometimes can be uncertain, hesitating and afraid to step out with Him. Seeds of the Kingdom grow into fruits of faith very slowly and sometimes in secret. The parable of the seed growing secretly seeks to encourage trust on the part of Jesus' disciples that the kingdom, already hidden but at work in Jesus' ministry, will, in God's good time, become visible and unmistakable. And whilst we are co-workers with God, it is also true that the Kingdom will achieve its full development by virtue of its own intrinsic power. The extension and growth of God's Kingdom is not entirely dependent upon co-operation from the human race. We can help or hinder its growth, but it would appear from scripture that neither we, or indeed anything on earth, can stop it. It will break out where it will, sometimes

without, or even in spite of, our own efforts. We may not always understand where its shoots will break through the hard rock of our world, but we should not deny that they will. We may not always see the small seeds that are planted, but they will surely grow. And as they do, as people come to see Jesus in the light of the Messiah that has come, so their lives and the lives of those around them and society at large are transformed into new creations.

Sam Cappleman.

Meditation

Joyce Ann Zimmerman writes, 'Much of what we do successfully every day depends upon our cooperation with others. Making visible God's kingdom is first of all the work of God, but isn't it wonderful that God chooses to invite us to cooperate in this great work!'

Today's reading demonstrates that as ambiguous as God's Kingdom may seem, we have a responsibility to work alongside God to bring about its coming on earth. Sometimes how we do this may seem insignificant, as small as a mustard seed, but God can take our lowly and seemingly small efforts, a brief word spoken, a small act of kindness, a hand of friendship, and from these, do what on our own would have been unimaginable. With God, all things are possible, even if from miniscule and small beginnings. The Kingdom of God is living and growing, and we are an integral part of its evolution and revelation.

Prayers Sunday and the week ahead



We are creatures of your new creation. We are your new creation. Grant us the grace that we may live, not according to the strictures of the old creation but by the precepts of that new creation, that others too may be drawn to the new creation they can become through your transforming love. **Amen**

Father, help us at all times to put you and your Kingdom first. Help us be courageous in all we do or say so that through us and the small seeds of yours we plant and nurture, your mighty Kingdom might grow. **Amen**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

A prayer for those embarking on journeys - perhaps a holiday. Lord God, you called your servant Abraham from Ur in Chaldea, watching over him in all his wanderings, and guided the Hebrew people as they crossed the desert. Guard your children in all our journeys. Be our companion on the way, our guide at the crossroads, our strength in weariness, our defence in dangers, our shelter on the path, our shade in the heat, our light in the darkness, our comfort in discouragement, and the firmness of our intentions; that through your guidance, we may arrive safely at the end of our travels and, enriched with grace and virtue, may return to our homes filled with salutary and lasting joy.

Mighty God, to you belong the mysteries of the universe. You transform shepherds into kings, the smallest seeds into magnificent trees, and hardened hearts into loving ones. Bless us with your life-giving Spirit, re-create us in your image, and shape us into your purposes, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thank you Lord for my eyes, windows open on the wide world.. May my look never be one of disappointment, disillusionment, despair; but may it know how to admire, contemplate, adore
Michel Quoist (b1921) France

Steer the ship of my life good Lord, to your quiet harbour, where I be safe from the storms of sin and conflict. Show me the course I should take. renew in me the gift of discernment so that I can always see the right direction in which I should go. And give me the strength and the courage to choose the right course, even when the sea is rough and the waves are high, knowing that through enduring hardship and danger in your name I shall find comfort and peace. *St Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea (329-379 Cappadocia*

A Summer thought

"The mind that comes to rest is tended / In ways that it cannot intend."

Poet-farmer Wendell Berry. 'Sabbath'



We want everybody in our church to know that they are cared for. The ministry of pastoral care and visiting is a central part of the life of the church - it is one way we express our love and concern for each other. The ministers will always arrange to make a personal visit when we hear that somebody is ill or in hospital. The Ministers are supported in their work of caring for people by The Partnership Pastoral Support Team, a group of trained volunteers.

Sadly it is all too possible for somebody to be unwell for any reason and for us not to find out. If you are away from church for a few weeks, it may be that we are not aware that there is anything wrong, and we don't find out until it is too late. This can happen very easily, especially if you are elderly or living alone.

That is why 'Telecare' is so important. Anybody can register, of any age, individuals or families. Especially we hope that this will be helpful to the elderly and those who live alone. By completing the form opposite you will be inviting a member of the Partnership Pastoral Support Team to contact you by telephone every couple of weeks, just to check and see that everything is alright. If they speak with you and there is a personal need, then they may ask if you would like a visit from a member of the Team or one of the Ministers.

Nobody will call on you at home, they will just make this brief telephone call to show we care. We will usually call during the day or early evening. Remember you can leave the scheme at any time. Please help us to keep in touch with you by completing a Telecare form this morning and returning it to one of the Ministers or any member of the Partnership Leadership or Pastoral Support Team.

Anjulita Court Summer Fete Saturday 30 June 11am-3pm . Admission 50p, children free. BBQ and refreshments, craft stalls, face painting, fun and games. Urgent need for donations towards raffle, bric a brac stall, book stall, tombola— bottles/chocolate & sweets/toys/gift sets etc., prizes for games. If you feel you can help with donations, however small, they

will be gratefully received. Please pass any donations to a member of the Activities Team.

Festival Weekend at St Mary's Church Saturday 23 June from 11am to 4pm Summer Fete and Sporting Scarecrows. Entrance £1 (includes free raffle ticket) ,accompanied children free.

Circuit Summer Celebration Milton House, Milton Ernest (by arrangement with Mr & Mrs Clifton Ibbett) Saturday 14 July 2012. 3.00 pm games.5.30 pm Open Air Worship 6.30 pm Formal Finish (but people are welcome to stay on if they wish) Milton Ernest is a private house with extensive grounds (gardens, park and lake) in the heart of the North Bedfordshire countryside. We hope this summer event will be informal allowing people to enjoy the venue and one another's company and coming together at the end of the afternoon for worship. Please bring your own picnic chairs or rugs & umbrellas - limited provided seating is available.

Wanted - Photographs! I am planning to put together a 2013 photo calendar to sell at the Christmas Fair in November and would like photographs of St Marks and Bedford. Photos should reflect church life, the key sights of Bedford as well as the different seasons. Photos can be emailed to me (moragstewart2@hotmail.com) or handed in at the office in a sealed envelope with your name and contact details enclosed, any time from now until the end of September. 12 photographs will be selected for the calendar. Get snapping. Morag Stewart

Carers Support. Cheryl Subocz, who manages the Carers Cafes for Carers in Bedfordshire, will come to the next meeting of the Partnership Pastoral Support Team. This will take place at 4pm on 19 June. Cheryl will give us an informal talk about all the support Carers in Bedfordshire can provide unpaid family and friends who care for loved ones. This will include information about the new 'Carers Lounge' at Bedford Hospital. She will talk for about 15 to 20 minutes with opportunity for questions. If you are a member of the Partnership Pastoral Support Team then please do make a note of this in your diary.

Calling all singers, vocalists and any other Circuit Warblers.....

For the Circuit Summer event on July 14 in Milton Ernest, a Circuit Choir is being convened once again. We will have 2 rehearsals for this - 29 June and 13 July - both at 7.30 pm and both at Kempston East Methodist. If you would like to be involved with this please come along to the first rehearsal at East. Please let either Barbara Tipping (01234 852101) or Geoff Talbot (07850 705719) know if you are going to come so we know how much music to get. The more the merrier, so even if you've never done anything like it before - don't delay, join and sing today!

Jean Kirk

Action for Children So far this year St Mark's supporters have raised £162.03 in their lantern boxes. Every penny counts. Arrangements have been made through Mary Stubbs and Janette the manager at Ladyslaude Court to join the residents on Tuesday 26th June between 2 and 4pm for tea and home made cakes. This is an opportunity to be updated on the charity's work and the re-launch of the League of Light boxes which are now available.

St. Mark's Craft Club Appeal - Wanted for projects for the Christmas Fayre - Round soaps and round wreath bases in either cane or polystyrene. Please if you have any hand them in to the Office at St.Mark's. Thank you.

Arthritis Research Annual Appeal. If there was no collection in your road or you were out, you may still contribute. There will be envelopes available in the foyer today and next Sunday and may returned or handed into the office. Thank you Marian Goddard – Bedford Branch.

Great Gappo Show on Monday 23 July at Putnoe Heights from 12 - 2pm. Tickets available from Carolyn Morris. £1 adults, £2 children and £3 on the door.

Christian Aid Quiz. Answers now available from Carolyn Morris. youth@thisischurch.com

Footprints Walking Group Summer Evening Walk. Meet at Stagsden Golf Club at 6.00pm on Wednesday 20 June for an easy 2-3 mile walk followed by supper in the clubhouse bar. Contact Sue if you need instructions to find the venue.

Clean Square Plastic Pots (up to 4") are needed By Marion Prior, for cuttings, to be sold at next year's boot sales. If you have some to offer, please leave them at St Mark's Church Office. Many thanks, Marion

Footprints next walk on Sunday 1 July 2012 starting at 2.30pm is an interesting 3 mile walk centred on the ancient woodland of Marston Thrift.

The route follows both existing Rights of Way and permissive paths within the woodland and across the countryside to the village of Cranfield. Marston Thrift is situated on the clay soil of the ridge and the paths can become very boggy during periods of excessive rain. The Marston Thrift car park is the starting point for this walk and this is situated at Wood End, which is just off the old A421 approximately 4 miles north-east of junction 13 of the M1. From Bedford travel to the Little Chef roundabout on the old A421 where it ceased to be a dual carriageway (and can now be accessed from the new A421 exit to Marston Moretaine), and take the road towards Husborne Crawley and the M1. Take the first turn right, which is signposted to Wood End and follow the winding road for 1.7 miles over the new road to the end where you will see the car park on the right. Should you begin to have doubts, think you are in the middle of nowhere and must have gone wrong, take heart you are on the right road. For further details contact Pam or Ray on 305695.

Church Council St Mark's Church Council Tuesday 19 June 7.30pm refreshments for 7.45pm start.

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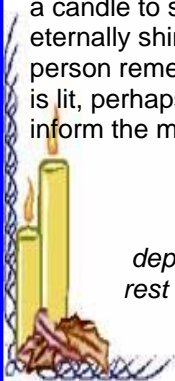
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Rest In Peace

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.

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



Forthcoming Funerals



Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

The funeral of Fred Atkins will take place at 12.15pm on Monday 18 June at the Crematorium

The funeral of Maurice John Vyse will take place at 12.15pm on Friday 22 June at the Crematorium

The funeral of Eileen Mary Woodward will take place at 10-45am on Wednesday 27 June at the Crematorium