



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

18 May 2008

Trinity Sunday



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

9.30am St. Mark's Church - Holy Communion

Preacher - Ali Inwood

Leadership Team - Mrs Morag Stewart

Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - -- Ali Inwood

Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt

Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

25 May - Ordinary 8

9.30am St. Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - The Revd Eric Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams

Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - The Revd Eric Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley

Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Bible Readings 1. 1saiah 49: 8-16a

2. 1 Corinthians 4: 1-5

3. Matthew 6: 24-34

Joan is on holiday this week 25th

Prayer for Sunday

Let us remember God the Father in Creation
O God, the Father, we thank you for your creating power. That you have made all things and made them well; That you have given us all things richly to enjoy; For the beauty and the bounty of this fair earth; And for the creating power which can make all things new: We thank you. O Father.

Let us remember God the Son in Redemption
O Lord Jesus Christ the Son, we thank you for your redeeming power. That you loved us and gave yourself for us; That you gave your life a ransom for many, a ransom for us. That you were obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross: We thank you, O Christ.

Let us remember God the Spirit in Providence
O Holy Spirit of God, we thank you for your keeping power. For the guidance you have given us, For the knowledge you have brought us; For your continual upholding, strengthening, protecting power: We thank you, O Spirit of God.

Prayers by William Barclay

Contact Details

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)

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.

Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

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.

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 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 332613

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper 306751

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school

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.

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

12.00pm Story box 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. ☎Liz 302349

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747

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 ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 19 May 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 Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's.

Helen Folbigg ☎351223

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 20 May Miss Edna Rowley—Salvation Army. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group

St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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

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

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 20 May Fish & Chip Supper. .Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

9.30am Childminding Support Group Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎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

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 21 May 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

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 monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎400584

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

6.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

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

7.00pm Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month. Mr Farish ☎824984

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 21 May 2008 Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016
7.45 for 8pm God talk—women's group monthly meeting 14 May for worship and friendly chat. Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

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.

9.40am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75 for first child. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

12pm Storybox weekly at 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 Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30—3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St. Mark's 267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.45-3.15pm Rosemary Conley St. Mark's. Contact Margot 843747

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr C Hill ☎772922

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights
Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc. at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. marriot 303834

7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club St Mark's Mr P Housden ☎376597

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

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

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm

Improvers St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.

Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

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



Diary Dates

for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Next meeting 10

St Mark's Church Council
– 17th June, 18 November

St Mark's Leadership Team – 23 June
Putnoe Heights

Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings 14th July.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

19 May, 11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at 12 noon

Putnoe Church Council - 16 June, 6 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting - 10 June 4.30pm

Churchyard Committee - 11 June 11.00am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council - May 13th at St Mark's

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting - 12 June, 18 September, 13 November

Circuit/Deanery Meeting 12 June

Woodland Burial Trustees - AGM 31 May at 5pm

Mission Group Meeting –4 June 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way.

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–

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

Trinity Sunday

Opening Verse of Scripture- Isaiah Chapter 40:28

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
(Common Worship)



First Bible Reading - Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day.

And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day.

And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said,

"Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day.
And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.
Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. (This is the word of the Lord - Thanks be to God)

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.
Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints send their greetings.
(This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 28:16-20 - Please Stand 'Glory to Christ our Lord

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (This is the Gospel of Christ—**All:Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Hymns (Please distribute Holy Communion Booklets and Mission Praise)

1. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! 237
2. As the deer pants for the water. 37,
3. Thou whose almighty word. 699
4. Angel voices ever singing 34

Commentary 'His understanding No one can fathom' Isaiah Chapter 40

None of our readings today use the word 'Trinity,' yet God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is central to them. Indeed the word 'Trinity' is not used by Jesus, it is not found in the Bible at all, yet faith in the Holy Trinity is the touchstone of what it means to be a Christian. Those who do not believe in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit cannot use the term Christian to describe themselves - hence Jehovah's Witnesses, Christadelphians etc. Trinity Sunday is a special Sunday because we think about who God is—the Trinity of Father, Son, and Spirit. Even the most committed Christians find this hard because we all know that something cannot be individually three and also completely one. But this Sunday expresses and celebrates the fact that we encounter God in contradictory ways, as a mystery.
In our world there are some certain simple truths, like - 'water is generally wet.' But when we start to speak about things which really matter - like God, then we soon find out that we run out of words. Human language and thoughts simply fail to work. Truth is no more easily reduced to trite slogans than the scientific explanation of the creation of this wonderful world can be reduced to two chapters of Genesis. As Christians we need to be honest about our inability to explain God. It would be wonderful to be able to speak of God in certain and simple truths, but if we are honest, certainty is the property of fools. Those

who are more intellectually secure will usually admit that the more that we find out - the less we seem to know. Issues are only seen in simple terms of black and white by the simplistic and those who seek to lead them. The more we learn the more we realise that the less we know. This is not to say that we should stop the task of learning, but we must be more prepared to recognise that God is too big for us. It is no more possible for us to understand God than to put the ocean into a bucket.

Whilst the word Trinity is not found in the Bible, the belief which it expresses is stated many times. The early Christians soon discovered that they simply could not speak of God without speaking of the three ways in which he had revealed himself to them. This does not mean that there are three Gods. It means that there is one God who has shown himself in three ways: God the Father, God the Son or Jesus, and Holy Spirit of God who came to them and made God alive in them.

Clearly this teaching is absurd from the point of human logic, it makes no human sense! All of the clever illustrations (Clover leaf, the sun as heat, light and energy etc.) which we have heard since Sunday School, they all fall short of explaining how logically God can be totally three and yet totally one. Indeed some of the best illustrations used in sermons serve only to illustrate serious heresies such as modalism! If we are honest it is something which is more clearly explained in terms of that great Christian word, mystery. It is a mystery of our faith. We know why we use the term 'Trinity' because it expresses our experience of a God who can be present in Jesus, whilst at the same time, the voice of God is heard to speak from heaven and the Spirit descend as a dove. But nevertheless it is a mystery. Knowledge will pass away. Human knowledge will be revealed to be a lot less important than some might care to believe. As Christians we need to have the honesty to say that we see but a poor reflection of God as in a mirror, we see through a glass darkly. Our knowledge of God is imperfect, we know in part and the rest is guesswork. Moreover we will never know all the answers until we see God face to face. *Charles Royden*

Meditation The picture today is a very famous icon painted by a Russian monk called Andrew Rublev in the fifteenth century. It is often called Rublev's icon of the Trinity. The figure on the left is the Father, robed in gold and majesty. He gestures with a blessing towards the Son at the top, who is clothed in the red of his passion. By indicating towards the chalice on the table, he makes reference to his role as the sacrificial lamb, whose blood will be shed for the salvation of the world. The Spirit, sits to the right, wearing the green robes that speak of the Spirit's role in giving growth to the people of God. Their oneness or unity is indicated by the way their head incline one to the other, making the outline of circle. This shows how they are bound together into one by the common will and mutual love that unites them. People have said that as they place themselves in front of the icon in prayer, they experience a gentle invitation to participate in the intimate conversation that is taking place among the three divine angels and to join them around the table. We can become a part of that movement from the Father toward the Son and the movement of both Son and Spirit toward the Father. So are we joined and held together in the love of the Triune God.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others, and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,
For the self-righteousness which denies guilt, and the self-interest which strangles compassion,
For those who live their lives in careless unconcern Who cry 'Peace, peace' when there is no peace,
For our failings in community, our lack of understanding,
For our lack of forgiveness, openness, sensitivity,
For the times we were too eager to be better than others,
When we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we don't really listen,
When we are too quick to act from motives other than love,
Holy Spirit of God, light a flame within me, burning for justice, glowing with kindness, shining with hope
for the end of poverty and the peace of all people in this ever-turning world. Amen.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty, who is and who was and who is to come. Let us praise and exalt him above all for ever. Worthy are you, O Lord our God, to receive praise, glory, honour and blessing. Let us praise and exalt him for ever. Worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power and divinity, wisdom and strength, honour, glory and blessing. Let us praise and exalt him for ever. Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Let us praise and exalt him for ever. All the works of the Lord, now bless the Lord, Let us praise and exalt him for ever. Praise God, all of you his servants, and you that fear him, both small and great. Let us praise and exalt him for ever. Let heaven and earth praise his glory, and every creature that is in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth. Let us praise and exalt him for ever. (St Francis)

Table Top Sale on Saturday 28 June in the afternoon in aid of Church Funds. If you could help with organizing and running this event please see Joan or Liz.

1st Putnoe Brownies celebrate their 50th anniversary on 21 June. If you know anyone who has connections with the group please contact Sharon Tanner on 01767699399 or email fristputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk

Future Dates for your diary. 'The partnership Summer Musical Workshops !!! Tuesday 19 August 2– 4 pm 'Its Raining Cats and Dogs' aimed at the under 5's with carers. Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 August 10am—3pm 'The 7 Days of Creation' 5 years plus, all abilities . Full details to follow later.

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust The AGM of the Woodland Burial Trust will be held on 31st May at 5pm in St Mark's Church.

Don't forget our Moody and Sankey Evening on 18th May at 6.30pm when we're hoping to have "Wall to Wall" singing. Get your request in to Maurice Drage on 01234 352909.

"Are you sitting comfortably?" You may notice a couple of rows of chairs (borrowed from the Wren Room) in the Church over the coming weeks. We're "trialing" them, with a view to eventually replacing the rather tired-looking ones we have at the moment.

If you have any views on this, please either write your comments on a form (on the table at the back of the Church), or speak to one of the Leadership Team.

Fundraising In the past few months we have raised over £200 for various charities including Keech Cottage Hospice, St John's Moggerhanger and Cystic Fibrosis. We are now currently supporting McMillan cancer support in Bedfordshire. Thank you for your continued support. Cards can always be made to order. Claire 266408 or Margaret 267567

Car Boot Sale. We would very much like offers of help in the kitchen between 10.00am and 11.30am Please see Avril or phone her on 360605

Ecumenical Forum. Wendy Waters from St Mark's has kindly offered to give a lift to anyone wishing to attend the Ecumenical Forum in Barton on 22nd May. Please give Wendy a call on Bedford 401834.

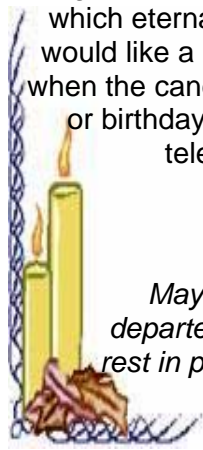
Church Emissions The Church the UK causes as much damage to the planet as one of the big supermarket chains, a coalition of business leaders and climate-change campaigners was told at a meeting in Lambeth Palace on Tuesday. The accusation came from the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres: "We are part of the problem." The meeting was held to mark the first anniversary of the climate-change coalition Together. Places of worship, clergy houses, schools, and halls produced an estimated 1.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, he said. Nor did that figure include travel on church-related work, nor a further three million tonnes of carbon dioxide generated by the homes and activities of regular churchgoers. There was a moral imperative to act to cut these emissions, Bishop Chartres said. "We must do this for our children."

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.

Eileen May Joel

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



Rest in Peace

Thank you to those who offered to visit an elderly gentlemen in hospital in South Wing with a broken leg. Sadly on Friday Peter died. Some members of St Mark's will remember Peter Sachro, friend of Margeret Gwynne.

Rest in Peace



The funeral of Miss Angela Kiff will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 20 May at 11.30am *Royden*

Psalm 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake
in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains
tremble with its tumult.



Burma Crisis From the Bishop of St Albans

"Press reports about Burma are increasingly focussing on stories suggesting that aid is not getting through to the places where it is needed. The story of opposition and obstruction to outside help must be told, but with it comes the risk that public generosity towards aid initiatives already well underway will be stifled, just when these successful initiatives most need funds from the public to come on-stream.

Christian Aid, part of the Disasters Emergency Committee campaign, is already active through partner organisations on the ground in Burma, reaching some of the most affected communities. They are urging people to continue to give and to raise funds for their work through www.christianaid.org and not to allow the suffering of the people of the Irawaddy Delta to be prolonged through lack of funds.

Please also continue to pray for the people of Burma, for those who are bereaved, those who are injured, the homeless, the suffering; for the Christian community of Burma and for the efforts of those relieving suffering."

Christian Aid has provided this report of the work it is already undertaking in the Irawaddy Delta.

We desperately need your help! We have heard some of our supporters saying that they are not sure whether or not to give to Christian Aid's Burma appeal, because they keep hearing on the news that the Burmese government is not allowing in foreign aid. Supporters are worried that the money they give might not be able to be spent. I'm sending you this message to say that's completely not the case – we can certainly spend the money you give and there are hundreds of thousands of people in Burma who are desperate for help today.

How can we be so sure it will be spent? Because we are already there! In Burma, as everywhere else in the world that Christian Aid works, we work through local 'partner' organisations. Christian Aid has already transferred emergency funds to them and they are already buying and distributing supplies, setting up relief camps, moving people to safety and making a huge impact. They are already distributing relief to nearly 200,000 people and say that clean water is one of the most urgent needs at the moment.

Because foreign organisations are having such difficulties getting into the country, these local organisations are vital – theirs is the only help reaching many people. They have told us just today [Thursday] that what they desperately need is funds, and quickly – they are able to buy everything they need from elsewhere in Burma and the region. We cannot name our partner organisations nor the people who work for them, as this would put them in a difficult situation and could hamper their work. We cannot even tell the stories and show the photos of people being helped, as we might normally do, because people are frightened to be identified in this way. Christian Aid will, however, give as much information and photos of their partners' work as they can, at http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/current/burma_cyclone/index.aspx and this will be updated as frequently as possible. For more information and advice www.christianaid.org.uk

Your gifts will make a difference:

- 1 bag of rice - £10 (for one family for 30 days.)
- 1 mosquito net - £2.30
- 1 set torch and batteries – 70 p
- 1 150 litre water container - £9
- 1 motor pump (for water) - £205
- 1 hand pump (for water) - £34
- 1 temporary shelter (with bamboo walls and thatched roof) - £357

In the wake of Cyclone Nargis, Christian Aid is calling on the international community to use all possible diplomatic means to persuade the Burmese regime to open its doors fully to a large-scale international relief.

