



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
18 May 2014
Fifth Sunday of Easter



Sunday Services

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

18 May 2014 –Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mr. Warwick Holden
Organist – Mr Martin Thompson

11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion

Preacher– Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss.
Organist - Mr Martin Thompson

25 May 2014 –Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Peter Fletcher
Leadership – Mrs. Wendy Waters
Intercessions - Mrs. Morag Stewart
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr Peter Fletcher
Leadership Team - Mr. Gordon Evans
Intercessions - Mrs. Claire Peck
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Genesis 8:20-9:17 2. Acts 17:22-31
3. John 14:15-21

Midweek Holy communion at St. Mark's Chapel every
Wednesday at 10am and at Sir William Harpur House on
first Monday of every month at 10.00am.

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been
given by Mike Cooper in memory of his mother Doris.

*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

Let us fear you, O Lord,
beyond whom there is none more holy;
love you beyond whom
there is none more loveable;
glorify you beyond whom
there is none more worthy of praise
and long for you beyond whom
there is none more desirable;
and grant that thus
fearing, loving, glorifying and longing
we may see you, face to face;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday
in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy
please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to
vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items
submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will
automatically be posted on our website and may appear in
other local media sources.

Twitter follow at bedfordchurches

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@Thisischurch.com
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 Friday 9am –12pm,
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Managers Barry & Jenny Snelson 344417
Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Jean Bank 355698
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605



**Partnership News is also archived on
our church
website www.ThisChurch.com**

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm

For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

8.30-12.30pm St Mark's Pre-School Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

9.00-3.45pm 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 M. Berry 211955

10.30am U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email-chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk

2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's (2nd week in the month) Contact Janet King 313946.

12.00 noon 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. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630

2pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights— fortnightly

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

5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Emily Taverner 01234 792013

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571

6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Pat Nicholson 353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.

7.00-8.00pm **Laughter Club** at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting— 19 May Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.

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

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking at Putnoe Heights. For more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

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

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's.

Sally Cripsley 350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

1.3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.

4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.30-8.30pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957

7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.00pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455 (Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in September.

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly) 27 May 'Cup Cakes'Details Janet King 313946

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Janet King 313946

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 21 May Putnoe Heights Office 365630

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 21 May 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall

Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel. 01234 353865

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 21 May. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

Thursday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Pre School Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus at Putnoe Heights
10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

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

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 342613

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's (Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

1pm-2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552. 2pm - Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210

3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Susan Perugi 300219

Friday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

8.30am Diabetic Centre St Mark's (1st week in month) Deborah Hennessey 792013

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

Saturday

9.00am Faith Temple Ministries St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593

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

Sunday

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

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday Feb/Apr/ Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

Messy Church Dates 21st May, 18th June.



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 17 June, 14 October

St Mark's Leadership Team - 20 May, 9 Sept

Annual Congregational Meetings—

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 10 July

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service - 2nd November

Circuit meeting – 19th June

Woodland Burial Trustees— AGM - May 25th

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting – 9 June 1.10pm

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

Fifth Sunday after Easter

Sentence of Scripture 1 Peter Chapter 2

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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 8: 1-19

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible. After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

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

Second Bible Reading -Acts 7: 55-60

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

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

Gospel Reading - John 14:1-14

Please stand when the reading is announced— **Glory to Christ our Saviour**

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Holy Communion Booklets and Hymn Sheets)

1. Lead us Heavenly Father lead us 400 MP
2. When we walk with the Lord (Trust and obey) 760 MP
3. Come, my Way, my Trust, my Life 254 Hymns and Psalms
4. All my hope on God is founded 16 MP

Commentary -

Running through all three of today's readings is the theme of 'Trust'. Human's trusting God; God trusting humans; disciples trusting Jesus; Jesus trusting his disciples and humans trusting each other. In the story of Noah God trusted Noah to be the one person who would save a small remnant of his created beings after God 'saw how great man's wickedness had become' (Gen 6:5a), he was grieved by what he saw so chose to destroy 'men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground and birds of the air' (Gen6: 7). Noah was chosen because he 'was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God' (Gen 6:9). This story, very popular with young children no doubt because of the animals and the rainbow, is in fact a story of the wrath of God, but also of his desire to save his creation at all costs. Whether we regard the story of Noah as fact or fiction, within it are many truths about life, one of which is the need to trust others and God. Throughout the journey of life trust and trusting are with us, they are necessary for our own survival.

The disciple Stephen was also a man of God, he was one of the seven disciples chosen to take care of the widows who were being neglected (Acts 6: 1 – 7). He is described as 'a man full of God's grace and power, who did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people' (Acts 6:8), who clearly put his trust in God, and the words of Jesus, as he spoke of his faith in Jesus and was accused of blasphemy which led to his agonising death by stoning. Sadly in some countries this is still the fate today for those Christian's accused of blasphemy and women accused of adultery. Stephen's strength came from his absolute trust in what Jesus did, said and promised to those who believed in him. Such strength that he was able to echo Jesus' own words of forgiveness for his executors.

Noah trusted, Stephen trusted, in John 14: 1 -13 Jesus calls all his disciples, including us, to trust in God and also in him. Jesus' words in verses 1 to 4 were words of comfort spoken to his disciples as he tried to explain to them his approaching death and resurrection. Trust's greatest test comes perhaps at the end of life; trust that Jesus' promises become reality; trust that he has gone to prepare a place for us; that he will come back and take us to the place he has prepared;

trust that he will be with us always until the end of time. Deep and abiding trust that he told the truth, the truth about God, about himself and their deep and everlasting love for us all. Through the changing scenes of life there are few of us who escape from troubles of one kind or another. Times when we struggle to have the depth of Noah and Stephen's faith and trust. Reading and re reading passages, such as today's from John 14, or many of the Psalms and praying through them is one way of reaching a point of trust such as Noah's, Stephen's and Jesus'. I pray that as we journey through life together through the workings of the Holy Spirit, we may encourage one another to trust one another, Jesus the Son and God the Father. *Wendy Waters*

Meditation

Verses on Trust from the Psalms

35: 3 - 6

Trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
Delight yourself in the Lord
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him and he will do this:
the justice of your cause like the noonday sun

56: 3- 4

When I am afraid, I will trust in you.
In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I will not be afraid.
What can mortal man do to me?

62: 5 - 8

Find rest, O my soul, find rest in God alone;
my hope comes from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I shall not be shaken.
My salvation and my honour depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.
Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge

84: 12

O Lord Almighty,
blessed is the man who trusts in you.

Prayers for week ahead

Trusting God, forgive us when we fail to trust you, when we trust in ourselves as if we were not created by you and for you. Forgive us when we misuse your creation by destroying the fine balance of nature, guide us into ways that will preserve its precious resources for future generations.

Creator God create in us the will to walk with you, to trust in you and your Word. During this election time make us mindful of your ways and will as we choose those who can make a positive, or negative, impact on our communities, country and creation.

Comforting Jesus, comfort, we pray those whose trust in others has been destroyed, those who struggle to trust in you and your words of comfort, encouragement, and hope.

Holy Spirit, through the changing scenes of life may your transforming power help us to encourage one another, to trust one another, and above all to trust in Jesus the Son and God the Father. Amen

Putnoe Heights Ladies. You may be aware that our men folk have recently enjoyed two convivial evenings out together. It's our turn now! I have agreed to arrange a similar evening for the ladies. Please give me your name if you would like to join us on Wednesday May 21 at 7.30 p.m. at the Cappuccino Bar in Newnham Street, Bedford. The cost will be £15, which will cover a starter, main course and a drink. Lifts can be arranged between us, so don't let lack of transport stop you from coming out for an evening of delicious food and cheerful company. Margaret Massey. Tel. 01234 327219 or massey-1@tiscali.co.uk

Open House More volunteers to help the group on a Wednesday would be most welcome.

Putnoe Heights Garden and Plants Stall. Sunday 8 June. Seedlings, Cuttings and rooted plants will be welcome. Please share some of the lovely things in your garden for Church funds.

MWIB Easter Offering The dedication service will be held on Thursday 22 May at 2.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church Biggleswade.

Bowling in Bedford Flat green bowling is a relaxing sport undertaken in beautiful surroundings with convivial company. If you think this is for you try a taster session on our local Council green. Days: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 2 – 4 pm; Tuesday evening 6 pm until dusk. Bedford Park Bowling Club. Contact names: Ray Seymour 01234 305695 and Gareth Davies 01234 347647

Deanery evensong Everybody is invited to St James Biddenham on 18 May at 6.30pm for Deanery Evensong

Elstow Abbey At Elstow on the 12th June we are having a visit from "The Handlebards" - a four strong troupe of cyclists travelling from London to Edinburgh and "doing" Shakespeare on the way. One of the Handlebards works at The Globe in London. - Go to www.peculius.com to see what they were up to on their last tour! They will be performing A Comedy of Errors in the ruins at Elstow on 12th - "Curtain" at 7pm Gates open at 6pm. Cost £10 per head (concessions £8) - a family ticket (2 adults and 3 children under 16) is available for £30. If it is wet we will be in the Church. Refreshments available! Bring your own seat/ rug Also on 9th July Durham University's Castle Theatre Company will be returning for the fifth year - this time performing Twelfth Night. Same arrangements as for the Handlebards

Church Flowers I am sure that most of you are aware that on a Monday morning the church's flower arrangements are dismantled and made into bouquets. These are taken to people who are ill, or have a special birthday or anniversary, or who would benefit from being cheered up. If you know

of anyone who you think would like to receive them please see me after church on Sunday or leave their name and address in the office. The people who receive them are always deeply grateful and it is a privilege to be able to distribute them.
Margaret Appleton

Footprints Walk 1 June Please join me for a pleasant couple of hours walking along our beautiful river. We shall meet at 2.30pm on Prebend Street Bridge to follow the path to Kempston and back along the opposite bank. It is easy walking, mostly on good paths. There is free parking at Melbourne Street car park. For any further details please contact Sue Butler (Priory).

Many Thanks Alan and Diane Bayliss would like to thank everyone for their telephone calls, messages, cards and flowers, following Diane's fall and fractured knee cap. She is making good progress, but will have to wear a leg brace for a further six weeks. Your love and concern is much appreciated. Alan and Diane

Christian have been urged by all denominations to use their vote next week in the European and local elections. Britain goes to the polls on 22 May to elect 73 MEPs and thousands of local councilors, including Putnoe. Church leaders from each major denomination issued statements encouraging church people to vote on 22 May, warning that low turnouts had opened the door to extremist parties. A statement signed by leaders from the Baptists, Methodists, United Reformed Church, Roman Catholic Church, Salvation Army, and the Church of England said "Some media are dismissive about what happens in Europe but it is important in a democratic state that we make the effort to vote. It is ironic to watch people in countries like Afghanistan voting in huge numbers when people here in the United Kingdom cannot be bothered to spare a small amount of time to go to the polling station." They urged Christians to read up on the elections to make an informed choice, as well as encourage friends and family to also vote.



Sign of voter disaffection: a vandalised Elections billboard, in the Hyson Green area of Nottingham

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

When we walk with the Lord

In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey.

But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
for the favour He shows,
And the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go —
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife:
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes a guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part:
such a heart as joys in love.

All my hope on God is founded;

He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown, He alone
Calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
Sword and crown betray his trust;
What with care and toil he buildeth,
Tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
Is my temple and my tower.

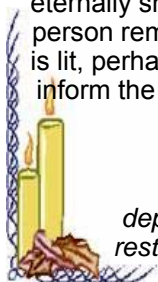
God's great goodness ay endureth,
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light, and life attend him,
Beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore, from his store
New-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth the almighty giver
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
His desire our soul delighteth,
Pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand, at his hand;
Joy doth wait on his command.

Still from man to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call, one and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.

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



Deryck Cutler

*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 Daisy Louisa Bruty will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 20 May at 10.00am

The funeral of Mr Guy Birchall will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 20 May at 1.45pm