



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

19 January 2014

Covenant and Renewal of Vows



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

Today – 19 January 2014

9.30 St Marks - Holy Communion

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership – Mr Edward Parry
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing
Organist - Mr John Mower

11.00 am Putnoe — Holy Communion

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership Team - Mr Barry Southam
Intercessions — Mrs Sam Ware
Organist - Mr John Mower

26 January 2014 -

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mr Warwick Holden
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions — Mr Alan Bayliss
Organist - Mr Alan Bunker

Readings 1. Isaiah 9: 1-4 2. 1 Cor 1: 10-18
3. Matthew 4: 12-23

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 kindly given by Carole Grinter in loving memory of her parents Marjorie and Derrick Stoneham.

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

Grant to me, O Lord,
the penitence of the Publican
who dared not raise his eyes to heaven,
the longing of the Prodigal
who wanted to return home
and the wisdom of the Merchant
who surrendered all
to possess the kingdom. Amen.

Rabbula of Edessa (d.435)

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.

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

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 Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre
Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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 (see contact details below)

1.30pm Chat & Make. 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) Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119.

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(see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights– fortnightly

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner

01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights

Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571

6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor

341152 / 07976259081

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week 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 92nd week each month)

Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (3rd & 5th week in the

month).. Next meeting– 20 January 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

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Charlotte Williams 07968207442

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

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

Helen Skinner 07989080389

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

Sally Cripsley 350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

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) Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

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

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly) 21 January Woodland Burial—Linda Parry.

Details Janet King 313946

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (4th week 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. Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

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

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe (contact below)

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 29 January 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.Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights

Mrs Webster 856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers.

Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next

meeting 15 January 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

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 29 January Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (1st week in the month) 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.

9.30am Spanish for total beginners.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 (1st and 3rd week in 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

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

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 Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

7.30pm Gentle Birthing St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231

8 -10pm 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). Mr Newton 01525 378193

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) Mrs Yvonne Francis

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights

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 Weds 12th Feb., 19th March, 16th April, 21st May, 18th June.

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 25 February
St Mark's Leadership Team - 21 January 2014
Annual Congregational Meetings

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 18 February
Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -
Commemoration Service

Circuit meeting - Deanery Meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees–

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –
10 February 2014 1.30pm

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

Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows

Sentence of Scripture -Isaiah 53:

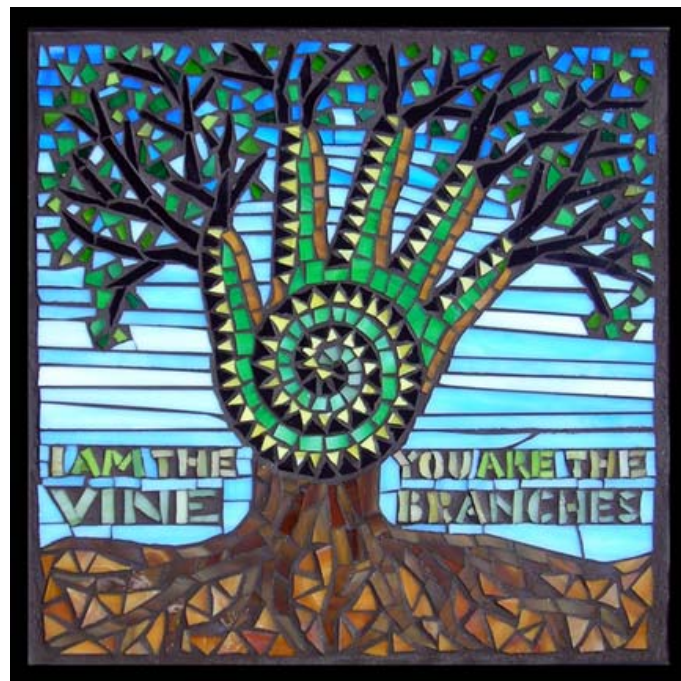
Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:

Collect Prayer for the Day -

Before we read we pray

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence; renew your people with you heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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



A Reading from the Law Exodus 24: 3-11

When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

Reader: For the wisdom that guides us

All: We praise you, O God.

A Reading from the Prophets Jeremiah 31: 31-34

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Reader: For the word that inspires us

All: We praise you, O God.

A Reading from the Epistles Romans 12: 1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Reader: For the truth that enlightens us

All: We praise you, O God.

Gospel Reading John 15: 1-10

Reader: The Gospel is from

All: Glory to Christ our Saviour

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. 'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

Reader: This is the gospel of Christ

All: Praise to Christ our Lord

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Covenant Service)

331: All things Praise Thee, Lord most High

63: All my hope on God is founded

326: There's a Spirit in the air

704: O Jesus I have promised

Commentary

Today we have, once again, that unique opportunity that the bringing together of different traditions has created, that is our annual service of Covenant (from our Methodist heritage) and the renewal of Baptismal vows (from our Anglican heritage).

Last week we remembered the baptism of Christ, which is often seen as signifying the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Although it is marked so close after we celebrate his birth he was actually around 30 at the time. Imagine that the majority of us would have been infants at the time of our own baptism, and promises were made on our behalf, by our parents/carers and godparents.

I myself wanted to be baptised when I made my own commitment to faith, but this was not possible as I had already been baptised as a baby. Although I knew that God does not require such 'ritual' and I understood that God honours promises made on our behalf, however, as a teenager I really wanted that physical act to demonstrate and signify my faith before others.

In the light of this I find it interesting that the Methodist church now has an authorised liturgy 'for the renewal of baptismal faith' available for those who, having grown away from the faith, have a pastoral need to rededicate themselves, in this service blessing themselves with water. The Church of England has also been very publically reviewing their baptismal liturgy, and I personally find it reassuring that the Christian denominations continue to learn from each other, and from experience of what people want and need. It is good to know that we remain open to where the Spirit leads, while respecting the needs of those individuals for whom the familiarity of the words is so important.

Whatever your personal feelings on baptism it is important to remember that everyone present is required to make promises. The service of Baptism is not only a 'sacrament' to those being baptised, or indeed only those making promises on another's behalf in the case of infant baptism, it includes the whole congregation who promise to bring the child up in the light of Christ.

When we make promises to God, often with the best intentions, we almost always fall short of our own expectations. God, on the other hand, makes promises that are eternal, yet he has the grace to accept our limitations and welcome us into his embrace whenever we turn to him.

The service

The promises we make are huge, in addition to the declaration of faith included in the renewal of baptismal vows we also declare the Covenant prayer;

I am no longer my own but yours.

Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me, in all that I do and in all that I may endure; when there is work for me and when there is none; when I am troubled and when I am at peace.

Your will be done when I am valued and when I am disregarded;

when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking; when I have all things, and when I have nothing.

I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.

Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours.

May it be so for ever, Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

The first time I said this and realised that I meant it was terrifying! I believe this service is a beautiful gift, and even though I am a dedicated ecumenist, it is one part of the Methodist tradition I would hate to lose. As we enter the week of prayer for Christian unity, the theme for this year being '*is Christ divided?*', let us continue to draw on the best of Gods' people have to offer, focussing always on what God requires, rather than on what we want or what we are comfortable with. *Jane Mills*

I end with '*Commitment to unity*', a prayer of 'sending out' which is taken from the service for the week of prayer for Christian unity 2014.

We declare our commitment to the unity we long for in Christ.

Together, we proclaim his good news!

We are rich in blessings through our union in Christ.

Together, we proclaim his good news!

We are embraced by Christ.

Together, we proclaim his good news!

We are united in the mind and purpose of Christ.

Together, we proclaim his good news!

We will overcome our quarrels about him who was crucified for us.

Together, we proclaim his good news!

Christ has not been divided.

Together, we proclaim his good news!

May the love of Jesus draw you to himself, may the power of Jesus strengthen you in his service, may the joy of Jesus fill your spirit, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

Go in peace, to love and to be loved, to welcome and to belong to serve and to be nourished.

In the name of Christ, Amen

Meditation

What God offers through the Covenant is a loving relationship. It is not a business contract set up between God and humanity for the provision of certain goods and services. Rather, it is the means of grace by which we accept the relationship God offers and then seek to sustain it: The focal point of the service is the Covenant Prayer.

I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will etc...

It embraces the whole of life, in all its parts. Most people find it quite tough to say this and really mean it. It is uncomfortable and challenging. It asks questions of our faith and demands that we examine our relationship with God. The Covenant Prayer has been compared by some to a set of New Year resolutions, but ones that emphasise the importance of doing and being as much as believing. But more than that, the prayer represents a commitment to being a disciple and putting God first in our lives and in everything about our lives: what we do, what we say and who we are. It is both a surrender to, and a trust in, God. The final few words are a gracious reminder: 'You are mine and I am yours'. We don't pray and live just in our own strength – but in God's. *from www.rootsontheweb.com*

Prayers Sunday and the week ahead

Each morning and each evening let the peace of the Father, be ours. Each day and each night let the peace of the Son be ours. Each dawn and each dusk let the peace of the Spirit be ours. Let the blessing of the three in one be ours; both now and for ever. Amen. *Carmina Gadelica*

The Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John Dean of St Albans Cathedral will be returning to BELIEF to speak on **'Means of Grace'** Saturday, 22 February, 2014 10.00am to 1.00pm St Andrew's Church Centre, Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2PF £10 per person, payable on the day register in the 'Contact' section of www.beliefbeds.org, email belief@standrewsbedford.org or phone 01234 330314

County Ecumenical Development Officer

Are you passionate about working alongside Christians from other traditions? Are you a self starter with organisational skills? Churches Together in Bedfordshire needs a County Ecumenical Development Officer 10 hours a week Starting Salary: £24,564 pro rata Closing date for applications: 31st January 2014 Interviews: Week commencing 17 February 2014 Further details: <http://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/bedfordshire/>

The Pastoral Team had a talk from The Alzheimer's Society . There are leaflets available in connection with this at the back of the Church today. Please see Wendy Waters if you require any further information.

St Thomas More School Tyne Crescent Bedford [email@stm.beds.sch.uk. Telephone 400222] Are hosting an exhibition organised by The Board of Deputies of British Jews. The exhibition will run from Jan 21st till Jan 24th. This will be an insight into The Jewish Way of Life. You are most welcome to attend, please notify the school to book a place

St Albans Diocese are currently advertising for a Synodical & Pastoral Officer at Holywell Lodge. Further details of this full-time post are on <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies/>

Bedford Deanery Synod The next meeting of the Bedford Deanery will be held on Thursday 20 March 2014 at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church Centre, Kimbolton Road.

There will be an introduction by the Bishop of Bedford, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson with Presentations and question time with representatives of Bedford Food Bank, Money Advice at St Andrew's, BeChar, airtrade, and Town Centre Chaplaincy

Footprints walk Sunday 2nd February. Meet at 2.00pm at Marston Country Park Visitor Centre (where there are toilet and refreshment facilities) for circular walk including paths round Stewartby Lake. Distance can be agreed according to the conditions on the day. Sue & Gerry Allen.

Thank You Mick and Wendy Ovenden would like to say a big thank you to everyone who gave their support and prayers when our Grandson Jonathan fractured his skull last year playing football. We are very pleased to say that he is now back at work full time, waiting for the ok to drive again.

Barbara Joy would like to thank everyone for their prayers, kind messages, cards and visits during her recent stay in hospital and the Archer Unit. She returned home on Thursday 16 January 2014.

Brickhill Green Day . Two great events on one great day to be held on Sunday 26 January 2014 from 12noon-4pm.

Big Energy Saving Show at St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise. Help and advice on energy saving, switching suppliers etc. Also face painting, drawing and games for children. Admission free.

Brickhill Green Open Homes A number of residents are showing changes made to make them more energy efficient. Call into St Mark's Church Community Centre on the day to pick up a map and details or see <http://Brickhill.greenopenhomes.net> then visit the homes to meet the residents and get ideas.

Free Prize Draw Visitors to the Brickhill Green Open Homes and Big Energy Saving Show can also take part in the free draw with prizes totalling £100.



Lent 2014

This year we are going to do something very different for Lent and we want as many people as possible to join and hopefully also invite friends to come along. On Wednesday 9 April we will be hosting a performance of the Passion Play *Inheritance* by the Riding Lights Theatre Company. This is a meditative and reflective opportunity to consider the Passion and our response. We will be issuing tickets soon but for now it is important to have the date in your diary

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Is Christ divided?

Is Christian disunity a scandal before God? Or is it something we have grown accustomed to, as though it were a creaky door that we never seem to get around to fixing? St Paul's words challenge us as we reflect upon this question. To suggest that disunity is something acceptable is declaring that Christ himself is divided - and that really is a scandal!

2013 was the year in which churches from all inhabited continents of the world gathered in Korea for the 10th General Assembly of the World Council of Churches. We gathered for no other reason than to declare to the world that our disunity is a scandal and that we will go on praying for and working for that unity which is God's gift to the church and to the world.

The Churches of French Canada have chosen for us a key biblical text of the ecumenical movement and have invited us to think about what our divisions say to the world and to each other about the Christian faith. They have also suggested that we use the Millennium Goals as a focus for our prayers for the world.

Dates

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January - the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul

Gracious God,

you sent your son in the power of the Spirit to redeem your people.
Unite us in our diversity
and heal our broken church
so that the world may be drawn
to the source of all healing in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

If you are elderly or living alone

then it is important for us to be able to keep in contact with you. Please sign up for Telecare and we will give you a telephone call every week or fortnight to check if all is well. This enable us to keep track if somebody is ill and cannot come to church. We would like more people to join so just give St Mark's office a ring and they will put you on the list.

This is a telephone service, nobody will call without your request



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Christmas shopping please
shop at [www.
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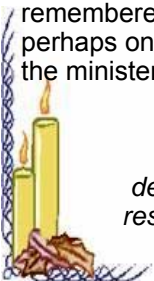
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Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases and we receive a commission.

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

The funeral of Mrs. Kath Hooley
will take place at Bedford
Crematorium at 2.30pm on Monday
20 January.

The funeral of Kenneth Sylvester
will take place at Bedford
Crematorium at 10.00am on Friday 27 January