



Partnership News

Pentecost
Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
19 May 2013



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

Today Pentecost

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion
Preacher – Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mr. Michael Ovenden
Intercessions – Deacon Jane Mills
11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion
Preacher – Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mr. Barry Southam
Intercessions – Mrs. Sue Allen

Trinity Sunday 26th May

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship
Preacher – Revd Canon Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Wendy Waters
Intercessions – Mr Warwick Holden
11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship
Preacher – Revd Canon Charles Royden
Leadership – Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions – Dr Tim Wilkes

Readings 1. Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31 2. Romans 5: 1-5 3. John 16: 12-15

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 both St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Churches this week have been given by Tommy Hulatt who wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and kind thoughts.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have also been given by Liz Hayward in loving memory of her mother, Olive Betts

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 on the foyers

Prayer for Sunday

Help us, O Lord, never to nurse the grievance that separates us from you and from one another. Grant us grace to forgive those who have wronged us. May we know that no sin is so great that it cannot be confessed; no wound so deep it cannot be healed and no sinner so lost that grace cannot bring them home. Amen.

William Booth (1829-1912)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a Vice President for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mills
c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre 365630
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.ThisIsChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator
Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Churchyards Administrator
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs 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

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685
8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**
(See website for more details)
.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955
10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (see contact details below)
12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thischurch.com 365630
1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk .
2pm U3A Music Appreciation (see contact details below)
4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.
6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
6.15pm-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 Pat Nicholson 353518
7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020
7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 20 May Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016
9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen 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)
1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552
1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp. St Mark's (contacts details below)

1—3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's (contacts details below)
2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details)
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895
2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs 406784.
4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights.. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957
7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390
6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648
6.30pm MT Karate (all ages) Karen King 07941264885
7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455
7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club (Meets fortnightly). Next meeting 28 May - Afternoon Tea 2.30pm Eileen Marriott Details Janet King 313946

Wednesday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly Changing to Fridays from 5 April (Same time an place.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647
9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.
9.30am Discover & Do (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666
10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.
10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. (contact below)
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)
10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe (contact below)
11.15am U3A Keep Fit
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 29 May at Putnoe Heights Office 365630
1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)
1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)
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 Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 19th June Wendy Waters 401834
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.

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King 079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Yvonne Blain 350241 or Brian Sallows 407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004
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 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 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green 244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624
11.0-11.30am Gentle Yoga For more details contact Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305
12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 363283
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays St. Mark's 267444
1pm—2.30pm Drop in (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 (contact below)
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Mary Rich 272470
5.00pm 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) (see contact details below)
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094
7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Carol Plant 01832710504
7.30pm Gentle Birthing St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231 (as from 4th April)
8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron 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 Pat Cass 294220
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

Friday

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)
10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks (see contact details below)
2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (contact details below)
2pm U3A Italian-Putnoe Heights (contact details below)
2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights 4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker (07900 232648
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd week) Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard 01234 782414
Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198
2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792
6.45pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger 212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
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 17 April; Weds 17 May; Weds 19 June; Weds 18 Sept; Weds 16 Oct; Weds 20 Nov,

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎ 405119

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council –11 June, 8 October
St Mark's Leadership Team -
Annual Congregational Meetings
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 3 June
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
Putnoe Church Council - 10 June, 24 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 3 pm
Circuit meeting -
Deanery Meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees– AGM –Sunday 9 June
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –
Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Pentecost

Introductory Sentence—Isaiah 11 v1-2

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

Collect Prayer for the Day— Before we read we pray

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite us in your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of your love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

First Reading — Genesis 11: 1-9

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

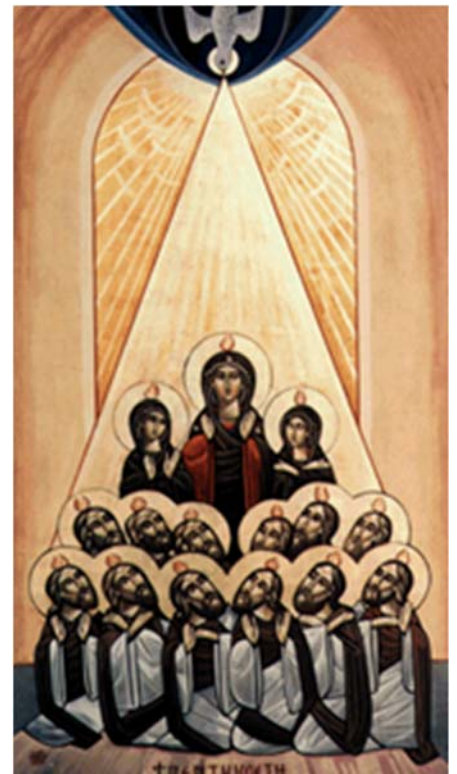
(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading — Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

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



Coptic Pentecost Icon

Gospel Reading – John 14:8-17 (*When announced* **Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

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. I 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. "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (This is the Gospel of Christ – **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

1. Come down O love divine 89
2. Breathe on me breath of God 67
3. He who would valiant be 224
4. O breath of life 488

Commentary Together together

It's now about seven weeks since the crucifixion of Christ and a small group of believers, about 120, are organising themselves for the mission ahead, perhaps without being very clear on what that mission was to be, discussing what should be their next steps. The passage in Acts starts by emphasising the fact that the disciples were all together in one place. They were 'together together'. There was a unity about their lives and their purpose even at that early stage of the embryonic church. Chapter 2 of Acts, from where this reading is taken, closes with a description of how the 'all those who shared the faith' owned everything in common and shared everything they had. They also went to the Temple together regularly and worshipped together, another corporate activity that built their sense of unity and purpose. The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was clearly an event which had a marked effect on the group of all believers and underlined their corporate commitment to each other and to God.

The disciples are all 'together together' in Jerusalem, along with many others, when the place where they all had gathered together was filled with a sound like a gale and an appearance of tongues of fire. And however we try to rationalise what was going on, whatever did happen had a profound effect on the people gathered there both as individuals and as a corporate body of believers. Up until now they had essentially been observers of the faith events unfolding with Jesus, from now on they would be active participants. It would appear that the first Christian Pentecost the Holy Spirit had at least 4 effects.

Firstly we see that the believers have clarity regarding what Jesus meant for them and the world. As the believers gathered in the intervening weeks between the events of Easter and the present time they must have wondered exactly how everything they had heard from Jesus fitted together with their own experiences. There would have been various different views as to the way forward and how they should communicate their message. But it's as if when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost the fog lifted and their mission and purpose became clear. When some of the many others who had gathered in Jerusalem hear the believers speaking in tongues they think they are all drunk. For Peter nothing could be further from the truth. The man who had denied Christ three times, the man who had been asked by Jesus to share in the Good Shepherd's ministry of looking after His sheep assumes the role of leader and spokesman and explains clearly to the Jews gathered there the importance and significance of Jesus' life and ministry and the response that is required from each one of them as individuals, namely repentance and baptism.

Secondly we see that the Holy Spirit seems to empower the disciples for ministry, the believers now had a new confidence about what they were saying and doing and why they were doing it. They had vision and purpose.

The third impact of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was to engender and emphasise the unity of the early church. It is not by coincidence that they were all together in one place when the Spirit came, 'together together'.

And fourthly the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was to demonstrate to the world, and perhaps especially the Jewish world, that we are now living in the beginning of the end times. The prophecies from Joel and Psalms in the Old Testament were being fulfilled in their hearing. There could be no more doubt, the Messiah had come and we were now in the times waiting for His return.

That first Pentecost the believers showed outward signs of an inward presence. We are called to do the same. No one can see the power of the Spirit unless it is at work. And that work is different for each one of us and has been through the ages. The spirit was given to all people. Pentecost ends one 'season' of the year. It ends the 'season' that started six months ago on Advent Sunday. In the six months since then we have been taken on a journey of God's intervention in our world. We've witnessed His incarnation and His manifestation to the world. We've seen the life and ministry of Jesus here on earth. We've been party to His death and resurrection and ascension and today we share in the coming of His Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Our worship now moves on to Ordinary time, where we reflect on Christ teaching and the practices of our Christian and church lives. It's an outworking of Pentecost. In six months' time we will come to Advent again. What will have been our experience of Pentecost until then?

Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Meditation

Pentecost is one of the great feasts of the Christian church, and it's important not just for what it signifies but because it's a feast where our theology meets our spirituality. Our theology, the logos, words about God, describe what we know about God, as individuals, and as churches, describes the truth about God and how He is revealed, through scripture and tradition. Our spirituality is how we live out that truth, how we experience God and His truth in our lives. Both are important, you can't have a true spirituality without theology and you can't have a true theology without spirituality. What we know about God, must, as Christians, impact the way we live; our theology impacts our spirituality. And it is the Spirit that came at Pentecost that gives us the power to live out those beliefs in our everyday lives and to have our own lives touched by God. And through the empowerment of the Spirit, enable God, through us, to touch the lives of those we come into contact with day by day. When the Spirit came at Pentecost the third great facet of the trinity had appeared. God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit. The Father who creates, the Son who redeems, and now, the Spirit who empowers had come.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength, now and always. Amen

O consuming fire, O Spirit of love, descend into the depth of my heart and there transform me until I am fire of your fire, love of your love, and Christ himself is formed in me. Amen *Elizabeth of Schonau, d.1184*

Holy Spirit of God, descend on us with the power of a mighty rushing wind, and overturn our prejudices; descend on us as tongues of fire, and set us ablaze with the desire to speak for you; descend on us as a dove, that our hearts may be filled with the message of peace. For you are alive in the hearts of those who accept you as their guide, and you reign with the Creator and the Eternal Word, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

O God, your eye is over all your people, and you have called them to a kingdom not of this world; send forth your Holy Spirit into all the dark places of life, to still the noise of our strife and the tumult of the people; carry faith to the doubting, hope to the fearful, strength to the weak, light to the mourners, and more and more increase the pure in heart who see their God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of the God; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

St Mark's Preschool are saving Sainsbury tokens. If anyone has unwanted tokens they would be delighted to have them. There is a box out during Pre-school hours or you can give them to Janet Day or hand them in at the office. Thank you very much.

Concert at St Andrew's Church on 1 June 2103 at 8.00pm with Dame Felicity Lott, soprano and Joseph Middleton, piano. Pre concert Summer Supper. Concert and Supper tickets £16, £15 concessions, £11 students (available from Church Centre only). Concert tickets £8, £7 concessions, £3 students 16-21. Children free accompanied by an adult. Tickets available from St Andrew's Church Centre Office tel 01234 216881 or Central Box Office 01234 718112.

Annual Forum and Annual General Meeting of Churches Together in Bedfordshire,

Wednesday 22 May 2013

at Legrave Methodist Church, High Street, Legrave, Luton LU4 9LQ. The programme begins with Worship/music, followed by the AGM and Reports at 7.00pm. We are delighted that David Jonathan of Grassroots, Luton has agreed to be our speaker this year. The evening will conclude with the refreshments at around 8.00pm.

If you would like to go to this event then please speak with Charlie

Telecare

We would like to sign up as many people as possible to Telecare, it is one of our ways of keeping in touch with church members. we are especially keen to sign up people who are elderly and who may from time to time be unable to come to church. Telecare is a non intrusive way of us being able to see if everything is alright or if you would like a visit.

Please sign up by giving your name to one of the ministers, or tell us of anybody that you think might like to be included and we will get in touch.

A Midsummer Night's Dream concert by Manor House String Quartet in the oldest building in Cranfield, St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Court Road, MK43 0DR. Saturday 8th June from 7.30pm. Tickets £10.00 £5.00 students includes a glass of wine or soft drink. For tickets call Andrew 01234 751358, Trevor 01234 751321 or Rev. Hugh 01234 750214.

Pentecost Sunday Joint Church Celebration With Guest Speaker The Bishop of St Albans 19 May By the Cafe in Bedford Park Time: 4pm picnic with open air service beginning at 5pm Please bring your own food and drink for the picnic. The Fountain, a charity coffee shop and community venue based by the bus station, will have a table there and will be selling teas and coffees before the service. There will also be some baguettes and cakes on sale. For further details on this event or to volunteer as one of our stewards, please contact Libby Bailey, Pentecost



Celebration Coordinator on 01234 217519
(libby.bailey@russellpark.org)

Personal Assistant to the Superintendent Minister

The South Bedfordshire Circuit of the Methodist Church is looking to appoint a part-time Personal Assistant to the Superintendent Minister. The Personal Assistant will be responsible for providing secretarial and organisational support to the Superintendent Minister including preparing agendas and minutes for meetings, designing and producing posters and other publicity material, as well as dealing with correspondence and telephone messages. As part of the role the Personal Assistant will be required to attend regular meeting in Luton. The salary will be £8.55 per hour for 10 hours per week. The Methodist Church is an equal opportunities employer. If you would like to be considered for this role please contact the Circuit Bursar Mr David Hallworth on 01525 716116 or at david@hallworth.net for an Application Form. The closing date for applications is 1 July. South Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit - Registered Charity No: 1134222

Faith Woodlands Communities The time has arrived upon us to say Farewell to Faith Woodlands Communities. I am hoping that you can attend our last event at Bedford Priory Country Park on Saturday the 25 of May. The event will take place next to the visitor centre. We will start promptly at 2pm and we would hope to finish around 4pm. Light refreshments will be provided at the end. I am pleased to say that the Mayor, Dave Hodgson and will be present. I want to thank everyone who is taking time to participate and attend the event. I look forward to see you all on the 25 of May. Kind regards Marie-Ange

Flower Festival commemorating 125 years of the Salvation Army in Bedford. Includes displays from local churches and groups. June 7 10am-8pm, June 8 9am-5pm at the Salvation Army, Commercial Road, Bedford. Entrance £1. Refreshments available.

St Mark's Garden of Remembrance

A new area for interment of ashes has been created at St Mark's in the original garden. If you would like to have first opportunity to reserve a plot in this location then please speak with Avril Williams who would be pleased to make the arrangements.

No Verge Parking Calder Rise will have no verge parking signs erected on Friday 24 May. From then on any person parking on the verge for any period of time may be fined £70. The restriction can be enforced by camera vehicle. Please do not park in this manner!

St Mark's Defibrillator Training. A public access defibrillator will be fitted at St Mark's in the near future and we want to have as many people as possible trained to use it. Please give your name to the church office if you are willing to be trained. You might help save a life

A museum telling the story of Methodism's immense influence on Britain and the world is opening in central London on Saturday 25 May. Situated in the crypt of the "Cathedral of Methodism", Wesley's Chapel, the Museum of Methodism promises to take visitors on a journey of spiritual discovery.

It is a project that has brought together some of the UK's finest craftsmen and storytellers.

The architects, John McAslan & Partners, and the designers, Barker Langham, came straight from transforming King's Cross station and the Royal Opera House. BBC presenter, Huw Edwards, narrates the museum's seven-minute audio-visual presentation, and the latest technology, including tablet computers, provides interactive access to major archival documents, such as John Wesley's sermons and Charles Wesley's hymns.

The museum is pioneering the use of heritage to further the Church's mission. In the telling of Methodism's dynamic responses to poverty and social ills, it hopes to fire faith in our time.

Three permanent exhibitions will be ready for the official opening.

"The Warmed Heart" tells the story of John Wesley's conversion. His Field Bible is one of the objects on display in a contemplative space.

"Mr Wesley's New Chapel" traces the history of Wesley's Chapel using a series of maps of Finsbury and Islington, the earliest of which dates to 1746.

"Connecting the Connexion" illustrates John's Wesley's visionary organisational system of societies, classes and bands. Exhibits include a range of membership tickets and a print of Francis Asbury whose enthronement as a bishop in the United States sealed Methodism's separation from the Church of England.

Three more exhibitions will open in the autumn at the end of the second and final phase of the museum's development.

In addition to the exhibitions, there is an examination of the hagiography that grew up around John Wesley and a kitsch Ceramics Collection made up of hundreds of mugs, plates and John Wesley figurines. The minister in charge of Wesley's Chapel and the Museum of Methodism is the Revd Leslie Griffiths, a

Labour peer and broadcaster. Lord Griffiths said the museum had been completely renewed: "Wesley's Chapel is to the 70 million Methodists spread around the world what Canterbury Cathedral is to Anglicans and the Vatican to Roman Catholics," he said. "Our new museum will release a compelling story from its chronological and denominational wraps and allow something of the genius and power which brought it to birth to touch and inspire our contemporary world. And that's why we've turned to world-renowned experts to advise, co-ordinate, design and build this amazingly beautiful facility."

The BBC's Huw Edwards said: "This is a great project and I'm delighted to be associated with it." For more information contact Tracey Smith or the Rev Potter administration@wesleyschapel.org.uk or phone 020 7253 2262.

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Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

The funeral of Ralph Maurice Little will take place at the Crematorium on Tuesday 21 May at 1.45pm

The funeral of Betty Muriel Hutchings will take place at St Mark's Church at 10.30am on Friday 24 May

The funeral of Lily McKay will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Thursday 30 May

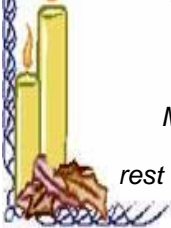
The Funeral of Pamela Ruby Gates will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.00am on Thursday 30 May

The Funeral of Jean Olive Panter will take place at 10.45am on Friday 7 June



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.'*