

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

1 July 13th in Ordinary



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

Today 1 July –13th in Ordinary

9.30m St. Mark's - Family Worship
Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions - Junior Church
11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship
Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - YPF

Sunday 8 July 14th in Ordinary

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship
Preacher -Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Bible Readings 1. Ezekiel 2: 1-5
2.2 Corinthians 12: 2-10 **3. Mark 6: 1-13**

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

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for the Week

In our weakness,
O Lord, be our strength.
In our sinfulness,
be to us pardoning love.
In our need,
be our all sufficient grace.
In our anxiety,
be to us both stillness and rest,
and at all times
be to us the fullness of blessing;
through Christ our Lord. Amen

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mason

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

The Reverend Charles Royden

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

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs. Jean Kirk 317699
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Morag Stewart 360103

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com

Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett ☎326685

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

9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955

10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's (see contact details below)

12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thischurch.com 365630

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

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

2pm U3A Music Appreciation - (see contact details below)

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner

☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 16 July Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790206016

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

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704

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

1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see

contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details)

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

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

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

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

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

4.30pm—6pm BIGG Writing Putnoe Heights Natalie John

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

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

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

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting July 10 Gentle Exercise Sally Banks Details call Janet King 313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

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

9.30am Discovery & Do (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons ☎328380 or 07788824666

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

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks.(see contact details below)

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

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 4 July 2012 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)

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

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

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

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

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 20 June Wendy Waters401834

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

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

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Mrs O Holt ☎266004

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 4 July Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Jean Ross ☎771870

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby ☎363283

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays St. Mark's ☎267444

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (large hall) Children's Chatty Time 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

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

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

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass ☎294220

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

Friday

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks (see contact details below)

2.00-4.00 pm Whist St Marks. Patricia Holland.☎262823

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

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

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton ☎297138 or 07910835994

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry ☎01462 674792

6.45pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

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

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

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

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

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



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 9 October, 11 June

St Mark's Leadership Team - 11 September

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 15 October,

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm

Harvest Festival 30 September

Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - 16 November

Woodland Burial Trustees– 30 September

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -

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

Ordinary 13

Opening Verse of Scripture - 2 Corinthians 8

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Collect Prayer *Before we read we pray*

Lord of heaven and earth, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and power of your Church. Sow in our hearts the seeds of your grace, that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit, in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Bible Reading - Lamentations 3:22-33

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. Let him sit alone in silence, for the LORD has laid it on him. Let him bury his face in the dust-- there may yet be hope. Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him, and let him be filled with disgrace. For men are not cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men.

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

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

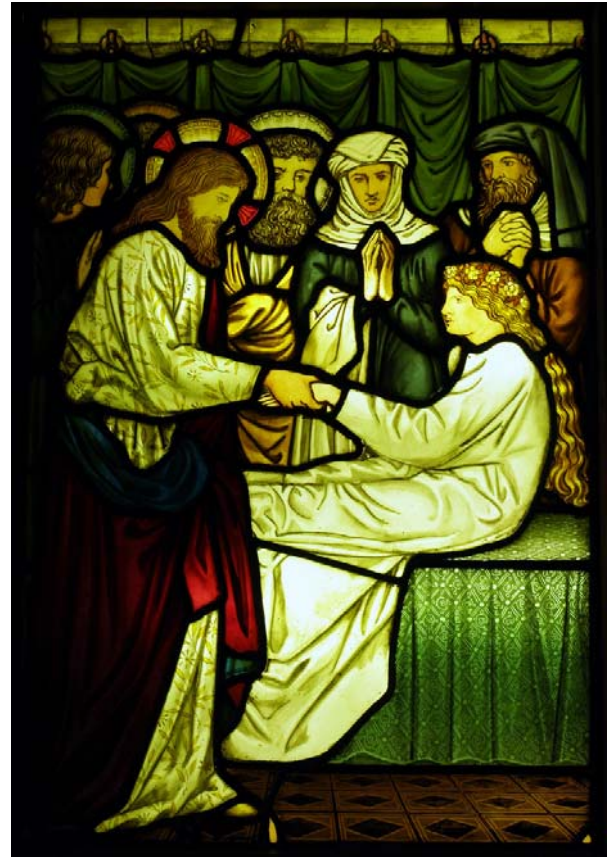
But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little.

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

Gospel Reading - Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been



Little girl I say to you, 'get up!'

Raising Jairus's Daughter,

by William Morris, 1866, St Lawrence Isle of Wight

subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?" Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe." He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James.

When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat. (This is the word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God.**)

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns *(Please distribute Family Worship and Hymns and Psalms)*

1. All People that on earth do dwell 1
2. Amazing grace 215
3. Sing Hosanna 492
4. For the healing of the nations 402
5. Made in God's image (on Partnership News) Tune ; Bunesan

Commentary

This is some of what William Barclay has to say about the gospel reading.

"Beyond a doubt Jairus came to Jesus when everything else had failed. He was a ruler of the synagogue; that is to say, he was a pillar of Jewish orthodoxy. He was one of the men who despised and hated Jesus, and who would have been glad to see Him eliminated. No doubt he tried every kind of doctor, and every kind of cure; and only in sheer desperation, and as a last resort, did he come to Jesus at all. That is to say, *he came to Jesus from a very inadequate motive*. He did not come to Jesus as a result of an outflow of the love of his heart; he came to Jesus because he had tried everything and everyone else, and because there was nowhere else to go.

The woman with the issue of blood crept up behind Jesus in the crowd and touched the hem of His cloak. Suppose we were reading that story with a detached and critical faculty awake, what would we say that the woman showed? We would say that she showed nothing other than superstition. To touch the edge of Jesus' cloak is the same kind of thing as to look for healing power in the relics and the handkerchiefs of saints. *This woman came to Jesus with what we would call a very inadequate faith*. If we regard this with the eye of criticism, we see in it some thing which is much more like superstition than faith. The lovely thing about this story is that from the moment Jesus was face to face with the woman, there seems to be nobody there but He and she. It happened in the middle of the crowd; but the crowd was forgotten and Jesus spoke to the woman and treated her as if she was the only person in the world. She was a poor, unimportant sufferer, with a trouble that made her unclean, and yet to that one unimportant person, Jesus gave all of Himself. Almost everybody would have regarded the woman in the crowd as totally unimportant. For Jesus she was someone in need, and therefore He, as it were, withdrew from the

crowd, and gave Himself to her. "God loved each one of us as if there was only one of us to love." Here is another astonishing thing. Jairus came to Jesus with an *inadequate motive*; the woman came to Jesus with an *inadequate faith*; and yet they found His love and power waiting for their needs. Here we see a tremendous thing. It does not matter how we come to Christ, if we only come. No matter how inadequately and how imperfectly we come, His love and His arms are open to receive us. There is a double lesson here. It means that we do not wait to ask the help of Christ for life until our motives, our faith, our theology is perfect; we can come to him exactly as we are. And it means that we have no right to criticize others whose motives we suspect, whose faith we question, and whose theology we believe to be mistaken. It is not how we come to Christ that matters; it is that we should come at all, for He is willing to accept us as we are, and He is able to make us what we ought to be."

Tom Wright adds a P.S. about these two miracles.

"Jesus wasn't coming to be a one-man emergency medical centre. He was indeed starting a revolution, and he was indeed bringing God's healing power, but his aim went deeper; these things were signs of the real revolution, the real healing, that God was to accomplish through his death and resurrection. Signposts are important but they aren't the destination"

Meditation

"Do not be afraid. The Lord is with you. Nothing is impossible with God" (*Luke 1 vv28,30,37*)

"Fear not for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine" (*Isaiah 43v16*)

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

(*John 14v27*)

If thou meet with the cross on thy journey, in what manner soever it be, be not daunted, and say, Alas, what shall I do now? But rather take courage, knowing that by the cross is the way to the kingdom.

John Bunyan (1628-88)

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

There is no place where God is not,

Wherever I go, there God is.

Now and always he upholds me with his power

And keeps me safe in his love. *Author unknown*

Set free, O Lord. My soul from all restlessness and anxiety; give me that peace and power which flow from you; keep me in all perplexities and distresses, in all fears and faithlessness; that so upheld by your power and stayed on the rock of your faithfulness, I may through storm and stress remain in you, through Christ Jesus our Lord. *From New Every Morning*

O God, almighty Father, King of kings and Lord of lords, grant that the hearts and minds of all who go out as leaders before us, the statesmen, the judges, the men of learning and the men of wealth, may be so filled with 'the love of thy laws' and of that which is righteous and life-giving, that they may be worthy stewards of thy good and perfect gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Prayer of the Knights of the Garter (fourteenth century)*

Look in compassion, O heavenly Father upon this troubled and divided world. Though we cannot trace your footsteps or understand your working, give us grace to trust you with an undoubting faith; and when your own time is come, reveal, O Lord, that the new heaven and new earth wherein dwells righteousness, where the Prince of Peace rules, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Charles Vaughan (1816-1897)*

From Methodist Conference

At the opening of the annual Methodist Conference in Plymouth on Saturday, the Revd Dr Mark Wakelin spoke of a Church that has never given up on him and challenged Methodists to make it a place where people are welcomed as they are. Giving his inaugural address as President of the Methodist Conference, Dr Wakelin said: "We need, all need, the same thing. I recognise the older I get that I am needy and it is the Church that has met that need and for that I am very grateful. Dr Wakelin added: "One of my needs is a profound need to belong; to feel that somebody, somewhere knows who I am and cares. At different times through the Methodist Church I have experienced belonging.

Speaking of the ways in which the Church has always challenged him to better things, he said: "God loves you as you are, but too much to leave you that way. I am grateful to the Church that it has never believed that I have done my best. I have never believed that. Because the Church always has disquiet; a sense that there is more; there is yet more in you; there is more to come.

"I am grateful to this Church that it has never given up. There is a challenge there still to believe in people even though you have been let down." (*You can see the full text on the Methodist Church website*)

Telecare We want everybody in our church to know that they are cared for. 'Telecare' is really important. Anybody can register, of any age, individuals or families. Especially we hope that this will be helpful to the elderly and those who live alone. By completing the Telecare form you will be inviting a member of the Partnership Pastoral Support Team to contact you by telephone every couple of weeks, just to check and see that everything is alright. If they speak with you and there is a personal need, then they may ask if you would like a visit from a member of the Team or one of the Ministers. Nobody will call on you at home, they will just make this brief telephone call to show we care. We will usually call during the day or early evening. Please help us to keep in touch with you by completing a Telecare form this morning and returning it to one of the Ministers or any member of the Leadership or Pastoral Support Team.

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

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

A Celebration of our Communities, with Bedford Council of Faith Wednesday 11 July 6pm –9pm Outside St Mary's Church, Goldington, MK41 0AP. inside St Mary's church if wet. Bring your own picnic, circle dancing, drummers, parachute games, 21st Century Education Trust Choir. For all ages For more information contact: bcof@bcof.org.uk 01234 772385 (ext 3)

Action for Children Thank you to everyone who helped to make the event at Ladyslaude Court a worthwhile occasion. Some long standing lantern box holders met each other again and the residents. If you too would like a lantern box please add your name to the list on either St Mark's or Putnoe Heights notice boards. The total from the boxes from

May 2011—June this year is £250. 33 with a further £25 from the refreshments provided on the 27th. Janette will happily welcome us on another occasion. Thank you to Mary for arranging event.

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

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

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

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

Footprints next walk on Sunday 1 July 2012 starting at 2.30pm is an interesting 3 mile walk centred on the ancient woodland of Marston Thrift. The route follows both existing Rights of Way and permissive paths within the woodland and across the countryside to the village of Cranfield. Marston Thrift is situated on the clay soil of the ridge and the paths can become very boggy during periods of excessive rain. The Marston Thrift car park is the starting point for this walk and this is situated at Wood End, which is just off the old A421 approximately 4 miles north-east of junction 13 of the M1. From Bedford travel to the Little Chef roundabout on the old A421 where it ceased to be a dual carriageway (and can now be accessed from the new A421 exit to Marston Moretaine)., and take the road towards Husborne Crawley and the M1. Take the first turn right, which is signposted to Wood End and follow the winding road for 1.7 miles over the new road to the end where you will see the car park on the right. Should you begin to have doubts, think you are in the middle of nowhere and must have gone wrong, take heart you are on the right road. For further details contact Pam or Ray on 305695.

Open House Every Wednesday at St mark's we welcome the Open House group. We have been fortunate that a committed team of volunteers have continued the work of Club House, the charity helping those with learning disabilities. We are always grateful for new helpers so if you can spare an hour or two please do drop in and introduce yourself to Cheryl and the team.

Hymn for Sunday 1st July

1. Made in God's image:
woman and man;
here is the wholeness:
God's human plan.
Brother and sister,
daughter and son,
here is a family
made to be one.
2. We need each other,
old folk and young,
sharing together
life from the Son.
This is the meaning,
prize to be won,
here is a family
made to be one.
3. Dappled creation,
diverse its ways,
colours and cultures
offer their praise.
Gathered together
under the sun,
here is a family
made to be one.
4. Praise to the Father
and to the Son,
praise to the spirit;
our God is one.
Here is our vision,
new world begun,
here is a family
made to be one.

Christopher Ellis (b. 1949)

Mission Action Plan (MAP) Thank you to all of those who have contributed towards the MAP which has now been agreed by both Church Councils. The MAP is a way of thinking about our mission and setting future goals. It is not a finished document in the sense that we wish to reflect upon it going forward and make any necessary changes in the light of our experience as a church. Please do feel able to continue to discuss in homegroups etc and reflect thought back through the Leadership Teams. Copies of the MAP can be seen on the church website

House of Laity The following people have been elected to the House of Laity of the St Albans Diocesan Synod from the Deanery of Bedford. Ann Mason, Hannah Potter, Robin Davies Stanley Pullinger, Diane Murray, Ian Brown.

Flowers at Putnoe Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of flowers at Putnoe on any Sunday during the next six months, is invited to enter their name on the rota on the notice board in the welcome area.

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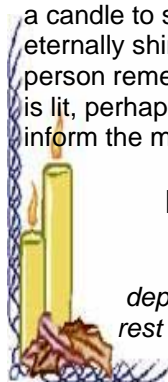
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Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.

Eileen Mary Woodward

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



Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

The funeral of Lawrence Kay will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 16th July at 12.15pm

The funeral of Olive Edna Yearell will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 4th July at 12.15pm

