

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

20 May - Easter 7

Sunday after Ascension



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 Sunday 20 May

9.30am St Mark's -Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd. Peter Littleford
Leadership – Mrs. Jean Bank
Intercessions - Mr. Ian Farthing
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd. Peter Littleford
Leadership – Mr Barry Southam
Intercessions – Mrs. Sylvia Cohen
6.30pm Service of Praise

27 May – Pentecost

9.39am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Bible Readings 1.

1 Acts 2: 1-21 2.Romans 8: 22-27 3 John 15: 26-27,16:4b-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 St. Mark's Church this week have been given by May Dingwall in celebration and thankfulness on reaching her 80th birthday on the 17 May.

Prayer for the Week

God of love and life and peace,
give us a spirit of wisdom and humility.
Open our eyes to see your power
at work among us.
Open our ears that we might hear
your wisdom calling us.
Open our hearts and minds
that we might gain understanding.
As the scripture is read
and your Word proclaimed,
let your love remind us
that it is your power, not ours,
that gives us hope for new life and peace.
In Jesus Christ or Lord we pray. Amen.

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. You will only receive church communications and we will not pass on your details.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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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
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For Data Protection Purposes

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. Linda Hoar 782717
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 - Laura Farthing 210892
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)

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

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– 21 May 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 May 29 Chaplain to the Fire Service Revd. Barbara Johnson 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 23 May 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 16 May 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 30 May 2012. 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 – 19 June
St Mark's Leadership Team -
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 28 May
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
Putnoe Church Council - 11 June
Pastoral Group Meeting - Tuesday 19 June 4.00pm
Churchyard Committee -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm
Harvest Festival 30 September
Circuit meeting - 12 June
Deanery Meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees–
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -Monday 21 May 1.15pm

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

Easter 7

Opening Verse of Scripture .

Psalm 5:11 But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

Collect Prayer

Before we read we pray

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Common Worship Shorter Collect



First Bible Reading Psalm 1

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus— he was one of our number and shared in this ministry." Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

Gospel Reading – John 17:6-19

When the reading is announced All: Glory to Christ our Saviour

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified

(Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ- **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness,

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

1. This is the day 522
2. Christ triumphant 77
3. Hail thou once despised Jesus 203
4. Fight the good fight 143
5. Forth in thy name O Lord I go 381

Commentary

In Psalm 1 we read “Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!”

One of the themes in today’s readings is how we should respond to those people who scoff or mock us about our faith, and hopefully how our response to them will bring about a change in their attitudes towards us and our faith. In these readings we are encouraged to recognise that people who mock us for our faith are really wanting to weaken our faith and then separate us from it. However, our response should not be one of ‘giving as good as we get’, or trying to seek revenge, but moving towards one of forgiveness, no matter how hard that might be.

In our gospel reading, we find that Jesus gives examples of the way his disciples should try to adopt towards those who mock them for their faith, and the examples can also be useful for us today. Jesus advised his followers to resist the temptation of revenge, because it will only lead towards a negative spiral of behaviour. In the passage from John’s gospel, Jesus warned his disciples that because he had set them apart by truth, others would hate them, and that the approach that they should adopt is one of forgiveness, the opposite of scoffing and poking fun at their beliefs.

And the same applies to us: if we can stop trying to get our own back against those who scoff at our faith, then we can start to use Jesus’ healing energies to learn the way of forgiveness.

Jesus also made a reference to Judas when he said, “I guarded them, and not one of them was lost, except the one destined to be lost, so that the scriptures might be fulfilled.” Here, in spite of what Judas did to betray him, Jesus was very gentle with the language he used, and did not take the opportunity to condemn him, pass judgment on him, or ridicule him.

Forgive the betrayer, forgive the murdering soldiers, forgive the corrupt priests! Forgive, forgive and then again forgive, until seventy times seven! That is the way, a real call for love from us. Can we meet this challenge?

Peter Littleford

Meditation



This week the church remembered Jesus leaving his disciples with Ascension Day. The picture above is of a small chapel on top of the Mount of Olives. It marks the place from where Jesus is said to have ascended into heaven. Science and space travel have demonstrated that the world is not flat as once thought, with a place above where God lived. The Ascension of Jesus need not include the notion of Jesus having floated up like Mary Poppins. We do not regard heaven as place beyond the sky, we think of heaven as somewhere where God is, where we will be forever.

Nevertheless Jesus did go away from the disciples even if it was in a different way. Jesus going on up the mountain into the cloud is perhaps the most natural way for him to leave the disciples. yet we need to remember that the risen Jesus was somebody who could pass through closed doors and 'materialise' before their very eyes.

However Christians have not wanted to focus on the leaving place of Jesus because the message is not of his absence but rather of his continued presence. This separation of Christ from his followers was the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to be given to the disciples to enable them to have God's presence with them intimately, wherever they might be. The disciples lost the physical presence of Jesus, but they gained the spiritual presence of Jesus in a very

real way. This we celebrate next week at Pentecost. The truth is that apart from this little chapel, Christians do not have a special place where the ascension of Jesus is specially remembered. The early Christians discovered that whilst Jesus was no longer physically present with them, nevertheless he was very close spiritually. When Jesus ascended to his Father, he was no longer confined to earthly places, wherever the Christian went, Jesus was by their side.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week ahead

On this Sunday after Ascension we remember how frightened the disciples were when they felt that they faced the world alone. We remember them huddled together with the doors locked terrified of the world outside.

Then Lord Jesus you visited them and spent time with them reassuring them of your continued presence. You promised them that you would be with them wherever they went - and that whatever situation they faced, you would stand beside them. So give us they eyes of faith to see you present with your church as we seek to be your body here on earth.

Lord Jesus you prayed to the Father that we would find protection in God's name, so that we might with each other discover that unity which is shared between the Father and Son.

Forgive us when our prayers seek divine intervention for our own desires and not for the unity for which you prayed.

Forgive us when your church is seen to be ill at ease with itself, divided and preoccupied with our own concerns. Work in the hearts of your people that your church would share the love which you have and draw others to know the joy of your risen life.

We pray for our church leaders that they might be granted wisdom and compassion to lead your people. We pray for Alan our Bishop and for Richard the new Bishop of Bedford and his wife Helen as he starts his new ministry here in Bedford.

We pray for Anne our Circuit Chair and for Andrew our Superintendent.

As the Olympic torch is taken through the street of our country we pray for all of those associated with the Olympic games. We pray for safety for all involved, for a games which will help build peace among the nations. We remember the 15 Olympic and Paralympic teams and more than 250 sportspeople from around the world who will be hosted here in Bedford and pray that they will receive hospitality and a warm welcome.

We pray for world leaders as they meet at Camp David for the G8 Summit. We remember the poor and vulnerable in countries like Greece and Spain

St Mark's Chat and Make Mondays 1.30-2.45pm. A baby ,toddler group 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story, refreshments more information - email chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk

Bedford Town Band Diamond Jubilee Celebration concert held at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Ave., on Saturday 2 June at 7.30pm. All are very welcome. Tickets are £7 & £8 and available from John Lingings on 01234 306676, Frescoes Coffee House in Mill Street, The Central Box Office, Bedford 01234 269519 or at the door at Priory on the night. Come and enjoy an emotion stirring evening with a traditional English Brass Band.

Anjulita Court Summer Fete Saturday 30th June 11am-3pm . Admission 50p, children free. BBQ and refreshments, craft stalls, face painting, fun and games. Urgent need for donations towards raffle, bric a brac stall, book stall, tombola– bottles/ chocolate & sweets/toys/gift sets etc., prizes for games. If you feel you can help with donations, however small, they will be gratefully received. Please pass ant donations to a member of the Activities Team.

Thank you very much to all the clergy and congregation at St. Mark's for the lovely gift to me when I left the administration for the Garden of Remembrance. Twenty years is a long time and I shall miss it and the visitors. I was able to get permission to have the shrubs put in the large area of common ground outside my flat, Marion very kindly planted them for me, and I can see them well and flourishing. I am very grateful and thank you again. Mary Stubbs

Circuit Summer Celebration Milton House, Milton Ernest (by arrangement with Mr & Mrs Clifton Ibbett) Saturday 14th 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. More details to follow.

Circuit Walk 2012 Saturday June 23 Approximate timings 10.00 -10.30.Meet at Cranfield Methodist Church.10.30 Leave Cranfield and walk to Lower Shelton 12.30 Lunch at Marston Shelton Methodist Church. (bring your own packed lunch. Drinks will be provided)1.30 Walk from Lower Shelton to Wootton 3.00 Arrive at Wootton Methodist Church for a

welcome drink.. The morning walk is about 4 miles and the afternoon about 3½ miles. With a judicious use of cars you can walk either the whole walk or just the first or second half of it. Please note that the Circuit is not insured for this (though your church may be) so you walk at your own risk!! Further details from Geoff Talbot 07850 605719

Calvary Roadshow A new Christian musical is being performed at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 26 May, starting at 7.30 p.m. Entrance is £5.00 for adults, children, free. Actors and singers from many of the Churches in Bedford are taking part in this production – a truly ecumenical venture! To give a small insight into this musical – Jesus plays a guitar (and very well, too, as you would expect!)

The new Bishop of Bedford Richard Atkinson was welcomed at a service at St Paul's Church on Saturday afternoon. Please remember Bishop Richard and his wife Helen as they settle into life in Bedford and this new ministry.

The Annual Forum for Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee will take place on Wednesday 23 May. The evening starts at 7.00pm with light refreshments, worship will be led by Lidlington Musicians. There will be a focus on Wixams a new village and Tim Jackson has been appointed by BEC to plant a church in it. Come and hear the joys and challenges of his first year at Wilstead Methodist Church, Cotton End Road, Wilstead, MK45 3DB

Calling all walkers : The Second Torch Relay Route prayer walk. Saturday 7 July 2012 (day before Torch Relay) Meet in the car park at Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church, Goldington Road at 10.30am. The walk will finish at approximately 1.00pm in Cotton End, followed by lunch for just £6.00 in the new restaurant in the village. Please contact the Revd Glayne Worgan if you want further information or to express an interest on 01234 340 167 or email: glayne.worgan@methodist.org.uk

New Care Home for Brickhill. This week I spent an interesting morning visiting the new Manton Heights Care Home which has just opened in Brickhill on Manton Heights. I was extremely impressed with the quality of the brand new building which offers 79 rooms,for elderly residents, some of these are double rooms. The Manager Zora Johnson said she would be delighted to welcome anybody interested in seeing the new home. Please contact Zora@ranccare.co.uk 01234 267556

which are now facing high unemployment and failing public services. We pray that our world leaders would work together to meet the challenges posed by failing economies and national debts. We remember those who work in our community to make it a better place to live; for the care workers in our residential homes, for those who empty our dustbins, collect the litter and remove graffiti from the walls, for those who fill holes in our roads to make them safe. May we never take for granted those things which make where we live a better place to be.

We commend to you the volunteers engaged here in our church community centres, those who give of their time to help build a better place to live. We pray for your blessing to be upon the work of those who help children and seek to teach them so that they grow to enjoy living fulfilled lives. We pray for our schools which face increasing challenges as they deal with difficult choices and new situations.

Lord Jesus you showed your compassion towards all of those who were physically unwell. So we bring before you our prayers for those who are suffering. Hear us as we bring their names before you and ask for your presence in whatever situation they find themselves. May they know your peace in their distress and entrust themselves to your tender mercy.

We pray for all of those facing death, that you would comfort them and hold them safe in your loving care. As we walk through the valley of the shadow of death may the light of your presence guide us to the light of God's love. We pray for those who have died and those who mourn their loss, especially today we remember... So may the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

Viva Espana On a recent holiday Ian and Laura Farthing met up with Irene and John Harrison from St Mark's who are now living in Torrevieja. There is a very fetching photo of John in the local Spanish paper where John is dressed in a kilt as he performs in The Rascals Variety Show. They have settled in and enjoy their new life in Spain and have

joined a local church. They send everyone their love and best wishes.

Battery Recycling You can now obtain battery recycling bags from St Mark's Church which can be left on top of your grey bin for collection for recycling by the Borough Council.



Shopping at WWW. ThisChurch.com

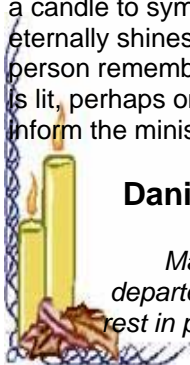
We currently have quite a few people who use the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. They are careful to make sure that they never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune of purchases and help raise money. You can shop at many major stores such as John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, Next etc. Just use the link on the homepage of ThisChurch.com

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.

Daniel Frederick Joseph Barratt

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 Philip Purvis Gilbert will take place at 10.0a.m.on Friday 25 May at the Crematorium

The funeral of Alan Haylock will take place at 2.30p.m.on Friday 25 May at the Crematorium

The funeral of Agnes Kathleen Sheridan will take place at 12.15p.m. on Monday 28 May at the Crematorium