



Partnership News

Easter 4
Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
21 April 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 Easter 4

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion

Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership -Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Sunday 28 April Easter 5

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden
Leadership – Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions – Ms Sam Ware

Annual Congregational Meetings

Next Sunday straight after services

Readings 1. Acts 11: 1-18 2. Revelations 21: 1-6
3. John 13: 31-35

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 in loving memory of Margaret Alice, sister of Myfanwy on her birthday.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Alan & Diane Bayliss in celebration of their wedding anniversary and with loving memories of their parents.

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

Father of all,
to hands and minds
prepared and ready,
send your Holy Spirit,
that by the Scriptures
our faith may be increased
and our hope strengthened;
and this we ask through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Earliest known collect preceding
the reading of the Scriptures (c.340)*

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 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 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 - Morag Stewart 360103
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– 15 April 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 Candleworking (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. 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 '16 April Life as a Nanny in the 1980's Pam Crouch. 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 24 April 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 15th May 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 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 17 April 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

110-11.30am 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

10am—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 – 10 April, 11 June, 8 October

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Annual Congregational Meetings 28 April 2013

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 3 June

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 10 June, 24 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting - 7 May 4.00pm

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 2 May at St Mark's

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.

Easter 4

Introductory Sentence - Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want

Collect Prayer for the Day—Before we read we pray

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. *Common Worship Shorter Collect.*

First Reading —Acts 9: 36-43

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Revelation 7: 9-17

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – John 10: 22-30 (*When announced* **Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one. (This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



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

1. The head that once was crowned with thorns 647
2. Go tell it on the mountain 179
3. Jesus calls us here to meet him (See back page Partnership News)
4. Father, sending Your anointed 136 (verses 1,2,3,5)

Commentary

I'm passionate about Peter, perhaps you are. My passion is because of, not in spite of, his failings. Where Peter is concerned the penny often took time to drop;

- On the mountain Peter wanted to preserve the moment, he wanted to put up shelters for Moses, Elijah and Jesus;
- Peter was impetuous; he jumped out of the boat when he saw Jesus walking on water, took his eyes off Jesus and perhaps could have drowned in the rough sea had Jesus not come to his rescue;
- At the time of Jesus' arrest he acted hastily cutting off an ear of one of the high priest's servant's ears;
- Peter was fearful: he promised Jesus he would follow him anywhere, then hid after Jesus was arrested;
- Peter was fallible; when, a short time later, he was recognised as one of Jesus' followers frailties he lied 3 times saying 'I'm not'.

In Peter I recognise myself with all my failings. My passion comes because of what occurred in last week's Gospel reading when Jesus reinstated Peter. Jesus accepted Peter, accepted him with all his failings and frailties. From the very first moment he met him Jesus recognised in Peter gifts that he could develop and use to further God's kingdom here on earth.

In today's reading from Acts we heard a 'post Pentecost Peter' fulfilling part of that job in the coastal town of Joppa, modern day Jaffa and Tel Aviv. He restores life to a female disciple, Tabitha, which in Greek is 'Dorcas' and means gazelle. A gazelle is a graceful animal so perhaps Tabitha was graceful. What we do know is that she is the only woman in the Bible actually described as a disciple and that she was a dressmaker who 'did good and helped the poor'. Her dressmaking was admired by the widows who knew her, so much so that when Peter had been sent for and arrived from Joppa, before he had chance to pray they showed him all that she had made. Perhaps this was their way of proving to Peter that she was 'worthy' of being restored to life? Although Peter himself was proof that we don't have to be 'worthy' to be accepted by Jesus and God and to receive healing prayer.

Just prior to this account of Peter fulfilling Jesus' command to 'feed my sheep', there is a record of Peter in the town of Lydda, about 10 miles inland from Joppa, healing a man who had been paralysed for 8 years. Following this healing many people in the area 'turned to the Lord'. After Tabitha was restored to life the outcome was the same, 'all over Joppa many people believed'. So is this the purpose of Peter's actions? Is it to bring new life to others for their own sake or is it to bring more people to Christ, or both? The call to heal and bring back to life was first given by Jesus to all the disciples, as recorded in 'Matthew' chapter 10 verse 8: 'Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons'.

The call to Peter and all the first disciples is also a call to us who believe in the risen Christ. So how do we heed this call? The call to heal and bring back to life. For many this is, understandably a difficult area. Recently I witnessed misplaced exercising of the call to heal, misplaced because those exercising it had not been invited, like Peter, to pray with a person in need but had imposed themselves on that person. This could have so easily led to more distress for the prayed for person. On the other hand if we prayerfully discern and have been given affirmation that we are called to pray with those in need then it can bring them great comfort and healing of the spirit. What is required is an invitation by those in need, or those close to them, sensitivity and in some instances privacy. When Peter healed the paralysed man others were watching, when he prayed for the dead Tabitha he did so in private.

We are not all called in the same way, but what this intimate account shows is that God values all who offer acts of service, using our God given skills great or small, such as sewing like Tabitha; or the support of those who have things in common like the widows, not forgetting the messengers who probably walked the 20 mile return trip from Joppa to Lydda to fetch Peter. Within our own church community there are many 'messengers' and 'Tabitha's' who work discreetly and diligently for the benefit of others for which we are truly thankful.

After Peter performed these miraculous healings, resulting in many more believers, he was not put on a pedestal and rewarded with high class accommodation, but stayed 'in Lydda for some time with a tanner named Simon'(v 43). Tanners, rather like the shepherds, were on the margins of society, because they worked with the skins of dead animals they were regarded as ritually unclean for much of the time. Not the obvious choice for a few nights B & B! Yet another way that Peter followed Jesus was by befriending the marginalised. Setting another example to us all as to who we might be called to spend time with. *Wendy Waters*.

Meditation

The everlasting life that Jesus was referring to was not about us living for ever on the earth. However, I don't believe that he was referring entirely to something in the future, another life after death. Everlasting life is new life, now. Jesus wants us to be alive with Him today. His Spirit lives in us and with us. He is able to give us that wonderful gift of total forgiveness and purpose, when we stop putting ourselves first and live for Him and others. This life is the real life and is eternal. Dr Marjorie Cotton 'Reflections – A Spiritual Journey' 2007

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord Jesus we give thanks for Peter thanks that, although like us, he had failings and frailties, you trusted him to fulfil your command to take care of your sheep, your friends, your followers. We thank you for the encouragement that this gives to each of us, praying that, like Peter, we will respond to your call with courage and grace.

Lord Jesus we thank you for inviting us to be your friends, we thank you for the love you give us all and for the love of family and friends. We pray for those, who as yet, do not know of your love; those who feel friendless and those who have been let down by those they love.

Christ the healer, we pray for all who are called to pastoral ministry, particularly for chaplains in hospitals, emergency and armed services, immigration detention centres and prisons. Grant them sensitivity to situations, tenderness of heart, together with a firm faith and trust in you.

Lord of eternity, whose power is infinite, whose days are without number and whose mercy is beyond our fathoming; keep our faces turned towards you, so that each day, we remember that life is your gift, and the hour of death unknown,. And when finally we meet you face to face, transform us in the fire of your love, and receive us into your eternal kingdom. Amen. Angela Ashwin



**Independent Healthcare
Awards 2012 winner**

Methodist Homes for the Aged celebrated its 70th birthday this week, and we are fortunate to have Anjulita Court under the ministry of our deacon Jane. The charity delivers a range of high quality services to 16,000 individuals throughout Britain. The Revd Dr Mark Wakelin, President of the Methodist Conference, said: "For 70 years the Methodist Church has taken a great deal of pride in the work of MHA. We have been proud of the excellent level of care, the distinctive emphasis on the value of each individual, the efficient running of the homes and other forms of care. We have been proud that the values and vision of the Methodist Church have run through an organisation that has held its head up high in the care world and has been looked up to by others. For the staff, supporters and above all the residents of MHA we offer a hearty well done and congratulations on your birthday."

Church Annual Congregational Meeting will take place after church services on Sunday 28 April. 10.30am St Mark's and 12 noon Putnoe. All are invited to attend.

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.

Methodist Women in Britain. District Craft Day on Saturday 18th May at Priory Methodist Church, Bedford from 9.45am to 4.30pm. There are 13 different workshops and everyone is welcome to attend. Hot and cold drinks are provided but please bring your own lunch. The cost is £4 per half day session and please book early as places are limited. Closing date for bookings is 9th May. Booking form and details of workshops are available from Pam Seymour 01234 305695 email-pams@tgis.co.uk or Ruth Watkins 01296 485087

Chat and Make starts again on Monday 22 April

Kempston Musical Society. The music of Karl Jenkins. Choral Suite: The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace and Stabat Mater. At Kempston East Methodist Church on Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm. Admission £7.00. For further details telephone Bedford 781010 or e-mail kempstonmusicalsociety@hotmail.com

Hazeldene Heights Preschool are looking for an Early Years Assistant for the April - July term to work with children with additional needs. Level 2 or 3 in Childcare or equivalent is required. Please contact Mrs Laura Leggett on 01234 326685 for further details.

Community Concert The Eagle Choir at St. Andrew's Church 7.30pm Saturday 11 May to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the coronation. All profits to Swaziland Schools Project. Tickets £8, concessions £7, student 16-21 £3 available from St. Andrew's Church Office 216881 or central box office 718112.

Christian Aid Week 12-18 May "Bite Back at Hunger"
Christian aid is an agency that works to bring an end to poverty around the world and every year, one week is designated to a national House- to-House collection by Christians of different traditions working together for that common aim. Please help with the delivery and collection of gift envelopes, on behalf of St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Churches in the Brickhill and Putnoe areas during the week of 12-18 May. The envelopes and collector's information packs will be ready to collect, in each church, on Sundays May 5th and May 12th. Contacts for more information are: Carolyn Morris, Putnoe Heights and Jean Bank, St Mark's.

St Mark's Preschool are holding an Open Day on Saturday May 11th 2pm -4pm. Do visit with your children. There will be activities and refreshments.

Action for Children Box holders and friends. Please bring your boxes so that we can count the contents while you join us for tea and cakes between 2 and 4pm on Wednesday 1st May at Ladyslaude Court, Bramley Way.

Hayes and Finch the Church Suppliers are currently recruiting an Area Sales Manager in our area. Should you know of anyone that may be interested in the vacancy please let them know. <http://www.hayesfinch.com>

The Churches in Woburn Sands, on the edge of Milton Keynes, are looking to appoint a Community Worker to lead and develop work in and around a new and expanding housing estate on the edge of the village. The Anglican, Methodist and Catholic Churches are working together to make this appointment. For more details and a full job description please contact Rev Chris Beales on 07957 135593 or at vicar@stmichaelsws.org.uk

Easter Offering Service is prepared by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund. Everyone is welcome to attend and this year the local venues are - Ampthill Methodist Church Wednesday 8th May at 2pm and Sandy Methodist Church on Thursday 9th May at 3pm.

Putnoe Art Group are pleased to announce a Spring Exhibition and sale of pictures, to be held at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday, 11th May from 10.30am to 4pm. Free entry to all and a great welcome with tea/coffee and home-made cakes for just £1. We look forward to seeing you.

Footprints The next walk is on 5th May at 2.30pm at Gamlingay and Sugely Wood, an easy 2-2½ miles with no stiles! Take the B1040 from Gamlingay to Waresly, after ½ mile turn right at brown nature reserve sign, drive up track and park on right hand side of track. Walking boots or Wellies advisable as parts of the walk were quite muddy. For more details please contact Alan & Ruth Bunker.

Bedford Town Concert Brass would love to entertain you and invites you to "An Evening of Brass" at St Mark's Church at 7.30pm on Friday 3rd May. Why not start off your Bank Holiday weekend with a traditional British Brass Band Concert. Tickets on the door £8, Concessions £5 and accompanied children under 14 Free of Charge

Church Council nomination forms are available this morning. Please let us know if you would like to stand for Church Council or speak with anybody you would like to nominate. Church Council meetings are always well attended and anybody is welcome to come along and take part. For formal voting we do have to keep a record of elected members. If you wish to email nominations through to church offices that would be fine.

A Hymn for Sunday

Jesus calls us here to meet him
As, through word and song and prayer,
We affirm God's promised presence
Where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
Praise the Son who calls us friends,
Praise the Spirit who, amongst us,
To our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
Sharer of our flesh and frailness
Saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
Tell his tales that all may hear;
Tell the world that Christ in glory
Came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other:
Vastly different though we are;
Race and colour, class and gender
Neither limit nor debar.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
Join the hands of age and youth;
Join the faithful and the doubter
In their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to his table
Rooted firm in time and space,
Where the church in earth and heaven
Finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body;
Share the love of which we sing;
Share the feast for saints and sinners
Hosted by our Lord and King.

(tune: a Lewis Folk Melody)



Installation of Canons.

Thank you to those who have indicated that they will be coming to the installation service at St Albans on Saturday 27 April at 4.00pm. Please advise Charlie if you have not got transport or if you have a spare seat in your car. Parking needs to be considered as there is no parking available at the Cathedral. Details of car parks can be found at <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/parking/Car-parks-in-St-Albans/>

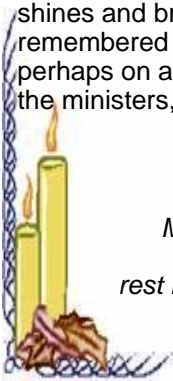
It is worth taking the pressure off and arriving early and visiting the cathedral. This is the oldest site of continuous Christian worship in Britain. It stands over the place where Alban, the first martyr, was buried after giving his life for his faith over 1700 years ago - more than 200 years before St Augustine arrived in Canterbury.

The building's amazing mixture of architectural styles bears witness to the many centuries of its life, first as a monastic Abbey and now as a Cathedral. Down all those centuries countless pilgrims have come to honour the saint's sacrifice and offer their prayers at his shrine - and they still come in their thousands today. The rule of the Benedictine monks who built the Abbey was that each stranger must be treated as Christ himself, and the cathedral tries to keep their tradition of hospitality alive.

The Abbots Kitchen is open from 10.00am serving lunches. For details www.abbotskitchen.org telephone 01727 890214

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.



Jill Kathleen Harbinson

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

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Forthcoming Funerals



Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.
The funeral of Jeanne Ann Setchell will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 25 April at 12.15pm