



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

21 July 2013 - Ordinary 16



8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

Today 21 July — Ordinary 16

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd. Canon Charles Royden

Leadership – Mrs. Margaret Appleton

Intercessions – Deacon Jane Mills

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd. Canon Charles Royden

Leadership – Mrs Jean Kirk

Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

28 July — Ordinary 17

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman

Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank

Intercessions – Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion

Preacher – Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman

Leadership – Mrs. Vita Hudson-Rae

Intercessions— Mrs. Sam Ware

Readings 1. Hosea 1:2-10 2. Colossians 2:6-15
3. Luke 11:1-13

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

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Lawrence and Betty Wyatt to mark the Diamond Anniversary of their wedding on 29th July 1953.

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

Banns

We publish the banns and pray for the marriages of Robert Anthony Folkes and Anita Jane Williams both of this parish to be married at St Mark's Church.
(third time of asking)

Prayer for Sunday

Let us be yours, Lord. Let us not draw back from you, neither from your heaven, nor from your divinity, nor from your cross. Let us be yours to whom we owe our creation and our redemption. Touch our hearts and sanctify them, and consecrate us in your service, for ever. Amen. *Lucy Herbert (1669-1744)*

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

Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535

jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com

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

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846

Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417

Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188

Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685
8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**
(See website for more details)
.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955
10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)
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– 29 July Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567
Putnoe Heights Children and Youth meeting - Monday 23rd September

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016
9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389
10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704
11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)
1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552
1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp. St Mark's (contacts details below)
1–3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's (contacts details below)
2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see

contact details

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895
2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs 406784.
4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights.. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
7.30-8.30pm 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). Tea at Janet's Tuesday 23 July at 3pm Strawberry Tea 20 August at St.Mark's at 2.30pm 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 11 September 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 18 September. Wendy Waters 401834
4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994.
6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King 079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Yvonne Blain 350241 or Brian Sallows 407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe

Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt
266004

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer
348378

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's
1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be
31 July 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 07932616468

10.00-11.30am 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

8—10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn
dancers)

Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest
callers each week. Except August. Next meeting 5
September. All welcome, cost £2 Including
refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley
01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in
month. Mr Newton 01525 378193

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

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

Friday

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

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

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

2pm U3A Italian-Putnoe Heights (contact details
below)

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights

4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther
Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise
Worker (07900 232648

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

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights
Terry Fletcher 357198

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

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

Sunday

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

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday
Feb/Apr/Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623
621143

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

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice
www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

Messy Church Dates

Weds 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 – 8 October

St Mark's Leadership Team - 10 September

Annual Congregational Meetings

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 10 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 14 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 3 pm

Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - 14 November

Woodland Burial Trustees—

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –

New Year Lunch 19 January at Putnoe

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

Ordinary 16

Sentence of Scripture — Psalm 29:

"Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."

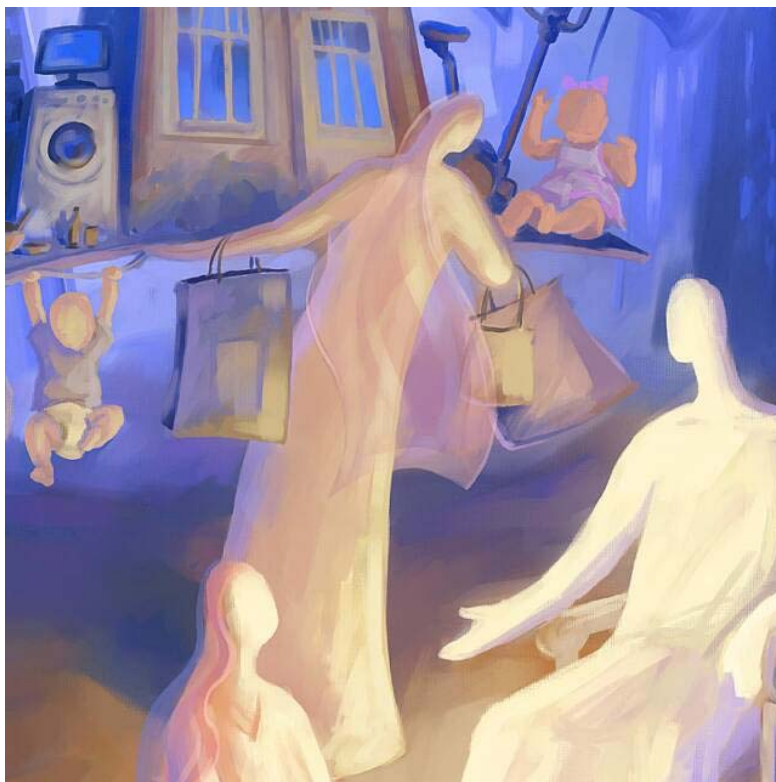
Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

Grant us Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those things which last for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen. Methodist Worship

Collect for Mary Magdalene

Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to his resurrection; forgive our sins and heal us by your grace, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen



Martha and Mary

First Reading— Amos 8: 1-12 A Basket of Ripe Fruit

This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: a basket of ripe fruit. "What do you see, Amos?" he asked. "A basket of ripe fruit," I answered. Then the Lord said to me, "The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. "In that day," declares the Sovereign Lord, "the songs in the temple will turn to wailing. Many, many bodies—flung everywhere! Silence!" Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, saying, "When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?"—skimping on the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat. The Lord has sworn by himself, the Pride of Jacob: "I will never forget anything they have done. "Will not the land tremble for this, and all who live in it mourn? .The whole land will rise like the Nile; it will be stirred up and then sink like the river of Egypt. "In that day," declares the Sovereign Lord, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your religious festivals into mourning and all your singing into weeping. I will make all of you wear sackcloth and shave your heads. I will make that time like mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day. "The days are coming," declares the Sovereign Lord, "when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east searching for the word of the Lord, but they will not find it. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading — Colossians Chapter 1:15-28

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him .He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you

holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness- the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

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

Gospel Reading – Luke 10:38-42 (*When announced* **Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

(This is the gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer For Mary Magdalene

God of life and love, whose risen Son called Mary Magdalene by name and sent her to tell of his resurrection to his apostles: in your mercy, help us, who have been united with him in this eucharist, to proclaim the good news that he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

For Ordinary 16

Lord God whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion booklet and hymn sheets*)

1. Fill thou my life, O Lord my God,
2. Before the throne of God above
3. Just as I am, without one plea
4. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,

Commentary

Until 1879, the University of Oxford was an exclusively male bastion of privilege and opportunity. In that year, 21 pioneering women quietly entered two recently established residential colleges of Lady Margaret Hall and Somerville - in the hope of attending lectures and pursuing a course of study. From the late 1870s, women had attended lectures, taken examinations, and had gained honours in those examinations. They were, however, unable to receive the degree to which their examinations would have entitled them. It was not until after 1920 that women were allowed to matriculate and the University voted in 1927 to impose a quota on the number of women. It was not until 1957 that the University made the decision to abolish by statute the quota. Liberal-minded dons initially had to go outside their colleges to offer lectures to women. Gradually, colleges did open their lecture halls to women students, as long as they were chaperoned. By 1906, all colleges theoretically admitted women to lectures, although individual dons could exclude them if they wished. At first, the University only allowed women to take special women's examinations, despite the argument that, if their higher education was ever to be taken seriously, then women should be judged by the same standards as men. As early as 1884, Oxford acknowledged the merit of the argument and permitted women to take some of the University honours examinations. This action was, however, accompanied by vigorous protest. Some feared that access to ancient literature and modern physiological research would be morally detrimental to young women. Others doubted that women's physical and mental health could endure the strain of taking university examinations. Emily Davies, an early campaigner for a woman's right to higher education and the founder of

Girton College, Cambridge, constantly fought the attitude that women were too delicate for protracted intellectual stimulation. She once exclaimed in exasperation: 'Women are expected to learn something of arithmetical science, and who shall say at what point they are to stop? Why should simple equations brighten their intellects, and quadratic equations drive them into a lunatic asylum?'

I mention this just to try and put in context what was going on in our Gospel story today. There might be several different themes but make no mistake it would be entirely different if we were talking about Mike and Maurice instead of Mary and Martha. The point is that these were two women and the church has never been convinced that women were up to the job of real learning and teaching and we have been more comfortable with them making the tea. The Church is still ill at ease with itself over women, the Church of England regularly makes a spectacle of itself by refusing to have women leaders and many different religions preclude women from the serious stuff which demands more intellectual rigour.

Now as we have read even if you only go back a hundred years, we recognise that it was not always considered appropriate for women to be involved in teaching and learning. So go back two thousand years to the home of Mary and Martha in Bethany and see how radical Jesus was when he took Mary a woman and spent time with her allowing her to 'sit at his feet.' We are told that Martha was listening to his word, she was assuming the role of a disciple and gaining instruction which would allow her to be involved in 'real ministry.' This is not Mary looking longingly into the eyes of Jesus, she wanted to study and learn, just like those early women at Oxford University. When we are told that the Apostle Paul 'sat at the feet of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3) it meant that he was a student of Gamaliel. To put it bluntly when you sat at the feet of a rabbi you were training to be a rabbi ! Now when that penny drops we can see just how ridiculous the arguments against women in ministry have been over the past years. We might quite rightly question how it could be that a movement based upon a teacher from Nazareth who broke all convention to train women in ministry, could end up specifically excluding women on grounds of their gender !

Martha was doing an exceptionally important thing preparing for those who were guests, but Jesus was not prepared to allow her need of help to be used as a justification for putting women into a box. Perhaps more crucially he was not prepared to allow human cultural prejudice to draw lines which excluded people. In one sense we all applaud and rejoice that Jesus breaks down barriers and social injustice and challenges divisions. However we need to ask ourselves how we would have reacted if Jesus systematically took apart social systems and years of cultural norms and expected gender roles?

We could spend much time from the Gospel reading today thinking about the juxtaposition of the contemplative life with the attitude of active service, but that would be a false dichotomy. We must recognise that Jesus is speaking about the importance of ministry and the fact that it was something which he endorsed for women. In the first century, other rabbis did not teach women. Outside of being instructed in their proper gender roles according to custom and law, women received no education. So please recognise that this is a shocking episode, one in which Jesus again shakes the foundations of society.

Charles Royden

Meditation

The longest journey is the journey inward. In our age of information overload it is no small struggle to move from the experience of Martha, distracted, agitated, and anxious, to Mary's quiet, centered interiority. But that's how and where we experience the love of God.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

The Martha and Mary prayer. Lord, there are those who are good leaders, those with gifts to speak and make decisions; those who are good listeners, and those who quietly care; those whose work is little noticed, but without which our church would be the poorer. Take all our gifts, Lord, and use them for your glory. Amen *Adapted from a prayer by Margaret Wilson, MU Anthology of Public Prayers)*

Eternal God, in Christ you make yourself our guest. Amid all our cares and concerns make us attentive to your voice and alert to your presence, that we may prize your word above all else, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

O God our father, who through your servants Mary and Martha taught us to sit at your feet and to serve you; grant us your grace to fulfil the task you have given us and to draw us ever closer to yourself. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

“Foot Prints Walk 11 August 2013. This is a 3¼ mile walk starting at 14.30 hours from Colmworth Village through the new country park with a few surviving elm trees and is mainly on good field edge paths. No stiles and easy walking. Park carefully near St Deny’s Church (OS Map ref. 108586) or alternatively along Honeydon Road where there is a marked path back to the church. Further details contact Pam or Ray 01234 305695.”

The Great Gappo will be at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 29 July 2013 at 12 noon to 2p.m. “The Great Gappo” 12 noon to 1pm, Sandwich lunch provided 1pm to 2pm. Raffle. Tickets: £2.00 in advance for children over 1 yrs old, £3.00 on the door, FREE to children under 1 yrs old and £1.00 Adults. Available from the church office. For further details contact: Carolyn Morris Tel: 07751348925 Email: youth@thisischurch.com or Putnoe Heights Church office on Tel: 01234 365630

Circuit Farewell Service for Revd. Jacqueline Owen and Revd. Joanne Sherwood. Putnoe Heights Church Sunday 21 July at 6.00pm. Please come to offer a warm Putnoe Heights welcome to visitors from the Circuit as Jacqueline leaves Southend, Clapham, Oakley and Sharnbrook for Leeds and Joanne leaves Clophill, Flitwick, Haynes and Wilstead for Ely. Refreshments will be served after the service - donations of cake, teabread etc. very welcome.

Buddy-Trips The Circuit has a new programme called Buddy-trips designed to link you with other people who may be interested in going to the same event, play, trip as you. Contact buddytrips@yahoo.com using the password NewLife

Defibrillator Training to be held on Sunday 21 July 2013 at 2.00pm at St Mark’s. Can you please give your names to Charlie.

Action for Children Will you join other box holders in the League of Light and shine hope into the lives of vulnerable children? The scheme began in 1932 and this year the lantern shaped home collecting box has been re-launched. We are grateful for all donations, large or small, I can supply you with a box if you add your name to the list in the Church foyer. You can make a difference to the children and young people we support. Nationwide box holders raise £500,000 annually. Thank you. M. Standley

Bowlers Beware! The annual cricket match between churches has slipped into history, but there is now an interest in a Bowls afternoon for teams representing local churches. Initial thoughts are for a Sunday afternoon before the end of September with teams from St Peters, Putnoe Heights, St Marks and St Andrews. Priory Bowls Club have offered to make their facilities available. Anyone interested in this suggestion, please contact John Handley on 342127 or Valerie Edwards on 409508.

Methodist Women in Britain Coffee Mornings/ Afternoon Teas and Open Gardens to be held on 3 dates : Wednesday 7 August and Thursday 15 August to help raise funds for the District Presidents Project - TALITHA which helps girls rescued from trafficking. Please see poster in Foyer. Everyone welcome.

Junior Church meets again 8 September.
Story Box starts again on 12 September.
Chat and Make starts again on 16 September.
Chat and Play finishes on 25 July, has a meeting on 22 August and starts again weekly on 12 September.

Thank you.
I would like to express my grateful thanks to the congregation at Putnoe Heights for the absolutely beautiful bunch of flowers which were delivered by John Gunning on Monday. A wonderful gift. Howard Lawrence. Very many thanks.



Highland Fling
On August 14 John and Janet Day are setting off for the Scottish Highlands in their 1929 MG to participate in an MG

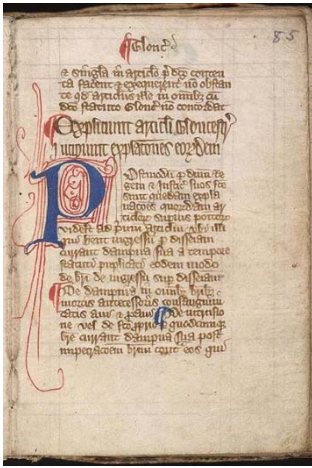
gathering based at Aviemore and will attempt to cover 1400 miles in ten days. It will be a considerable challenge to complete the rally in such an ancient car and they anticipate some adventures along the way! They are seeking sponsorship for this epic journey with all proceeds being donated to St John’s at Moggerhanger. If you would like to sponsor their “Highland Fling” there is an official form in the foyer. Very many thanks.

Action for Children September House to House Collection

Action for Children has a 140 year history of working with children, young people and parents living in tough circumstances. Today it does this through its family centres located throughout the UK including North Bedfordshire. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church where it has its roots.

Our annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark’s Church is responsible for covering the Brickhill area and last year our 13 collectors raised £572 (inc. Gift Aid).

If you could spare a few hours during early September to distribute and then collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)



The Magna Carta in St Albans Cathedral
 Saturday 3 – Thursday 29
 August 2013. A rare opportunity to see the original 1215 Magna Carta, on loan from Lincoln Cathedral, Tickets available from the Alban Arena Box Office 01727 844488 or on line at www.alban-arena.co.uk

God provides. As Pope Francis recalled so memorably, we are to be a poor church for the poor. That means both provision and also prophetic challenge in a country that is still able and has the resources to reduce inequality - especially inequality of opportunity and life expectancy." You can read the full text of the Archbishop's Presidential Address on www.archbishopofcanterbury.org.

General Synod has reaffirmed its commitment to women bishops and called, less than a year after the previous proposals were rejected, for new draft legislation to be introduced. It will be considered by the Synod in November 2013, with the aim of reaching the stage of Final Approval in July or November 2015. This was the first time Synod members had met since November 2012, when the previous draft legislation narrowly failed to secure the requisite majority in the House of Laity, despite enjoying the support of 73% of the Synod's members overall. The Synod reached its decision at the end of a day's debate, after its members had devoted much of an earlier day at Synod to facilitated discussions on the options available. Introducing the debate, the Rt Revd Nigel Stock, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, who chaired the Working Group set up by the House of Bishops to advise on new legislative proposals, said, "I believe that option one, together with a mandatory mediation process and including as it does a declaration or, possibly, Act of Synod deserves to be taken very seriously as a means to provide the basis for securing the necessary majorities in the lifetime of this Synod." The House of Bishops had recommended that draft legislation be prepared on that basis described as 'option one' in the report of the Working Group. That involved:
 - a measure and amending canon that made it lawful for women to become bishops;- the repeal of the statutory rights to pass Resolutions A and B under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993, plus the rescinding of the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod 1993; and - arrangements for those who, as a matter of theological conviction, are unable to receive the ministry of women bishops or priests, set out either in a declaration from the House of Bishops or in a new Act of Synod. Accepting the proposal made by the House, the General Synod passed the motion, by 319 votes to 84.

Oakley Methodist Church Tuesday 23 July
 7 pm AMIGOs tour of the Harrold Odell Country Park, starting from the car park and followed by a 'bring and share' picnic.

Kempston East Methodist Church
Saturday 20 July
 7.30 pm Concert by the Flitwick Singers
 Proceeds for the Primrose Unit

Sunday 22 September
 10.30 am Jazz Praise Service led by Rev Matt Fugill accompanied by Terry Hext and friends

Call for Church Revolution - Archbishop Justin's first presidential address to Synod

We live in a time of revolutions. The trouble with revolutions is once they start no-one knows where they will go. As the Synod meets, we are custodians of the gospel that transforms individuals, nations and societies. We are called by God to respond radically and imaginatively to new contexts - contexts that are set up by revolutions. The revolutions are huge. The economic context and position of our country has changed, dramatically.

With all parties committed to austerity for the foreseeable future, we have to recognise that the profound challenges of social need, food banks, credit injustice, gross differentiation of income - even in many areas of opportunity - pressure on all forms of state provision and spending: these are here to stay. In and through the church we have the call and potentially the means to be the answer that

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.

Dr. Tim Nicol
Mr Howes

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



Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Catherine Law will take place at the Crematorium at 2.30p.m. on Thursday 25 July

The funeral of Frank Roome will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Tuesday 23 July