

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

22 February 2009

Sunday next before Lent



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

9.30am St. Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Barry Owen
Leadership – Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger

11.00am Putnoe Heights

Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr. Barry Owen
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions — Dr Tim Wilkes

Sunday March 1st

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Family Worship

Preacher - Rev Gartside
Leadership – Mrs. Linda Parry
Intercessions – Mrs. Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Family Worship

Preacher - Rev Gartside
Leadership - Mrs. Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mrs. Claire Peck
Readings Gen. 9: 8-17, 1 Peter 3:18-22,
Mark 1: 9-15

Thank You

The flowers in St Mark's Church have been given by Jeff & Margaret Appleton in loving memory of their parents Dick & Millie Meads, and Jim & Mary Appleton

We are always grateful for any donations for 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 Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

A Prayer for Sunday

O God, you are the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you; help us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Augustine of Hippo

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

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

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349
youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper 306751
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)

9.00am Clubhouse at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063

10.30am U3A Playreading St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

11am - 12. The Right Track at St Mark's. 3rd week
Signpost information for people with learning difficulties.
Gina Barton ☎07999859980

12.00pm Story box We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

1.30pm U3A History Group St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474

2pm U3A Drama St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747

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 ☎ 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.30pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

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

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

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790206016

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's Mrs Brown☎771676

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

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella

Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 24 February Fellowship Meal and Flowers. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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 Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

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

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

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 24 February 2009 Talk about the Mayors Parlour. The secretary. Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.30am Childminding Support Group Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949

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

9.00am Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

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

10am Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 4 March 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

1.45 Scots Society Whist monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2pm U3A Craft St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎ 262823

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

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

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

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎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 Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Week. Mr Farish ☎824984

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome.
Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's,
1st ,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting 4 March
Everyone welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.
or Rosemary 405594

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st
week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

7.45 for 8pm God talk -[women's group monthly meeting
for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact
Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the
quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums &
toddlers. r Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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 Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St.Mark's ☎267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson
☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Mary
Rich ☎272470

4 - 7.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph
☎01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden☎
825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th
week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's
3rd week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550

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 Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd
week in month. Pat Foulks ☎346505

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th
week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning
Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

10am - 12 U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields
☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th
week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve
Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎
782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights
from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. Carol Brown
☎01438 233385

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

; Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

7.00pm 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 Revd.
Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

4pm B.A.M.A.A. at St Mark's. Chinese soft martial arts. Mr
Chris Butcher ☎07886894922

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us
for fellowship & fun. Next meeting 22 February at Putnoe
at 6pm for a Quiz evening. Please see Liz ☎302349 .

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 22 June, 9 Nov

St Mark's Leadership Team – 24 Feb

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 20 Apr, 13 Jul

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 18 March

Putnoe Church Council - 15 Jun, 5 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting - May 5th 4.30pm

Annual Congregational Meetings 3 May

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group – Wed. 25th March

7.30pm 14 Flint Way

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 5 March

Deanery Meeting 18 Jun, 17 Sep, 19 Nov,

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees –

Mission Group Meeting - 25 March - 7.30pm at 14
Flint Way.

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

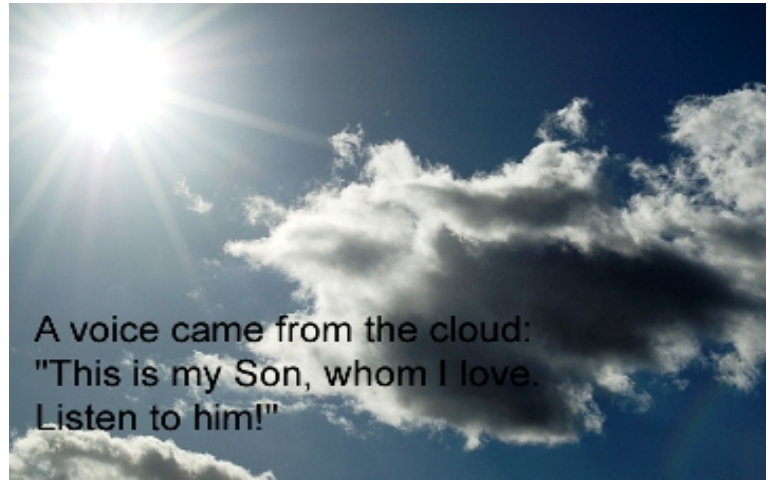
Sunday next before Lent

Opening Verse Mark 9

And a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Collect Prayer -Before we read we pray

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives, set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Common Worship Shorter Form*



First Bible Reading 2 Kings 2:1-12

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "but do not speak of it." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho. The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," he replied, "but do not speak of it." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on. Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours--otherwise not." As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart.. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading 2 Corinthians Chapter 4:3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading Mark 9:2-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, when they looked around, they no

longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Commentary

Christians are often referred to as Pilgrims. That is because the Christian life can be viewed as a journey. Christians believe that when we are done with this world we go to be with God, in a place which is regarded as our spiritual home. Upon that journey we find times when we are full of hope and excitement, and other times when life seems hard and our faith is tested. In the passage from Mark today the disciples are given a glimpse of the majesty of God, it will make them feel great - but it has a much deeper purpose - it will serve to sustain them when times are hard. The Christian is therefore prepared in advance that the road may become rough and steep. It is at such times that we must remain even more firmly fixed on Jesus our Saviour.

The episode today recorded in the Gospel of Mark has been called 'a window into a different world.' The recent film of 'The Lion the witch and the wardrobe.' by C.S. Lewis is a wonderful story of three children and their adventure in the magical land of Narnia. It is a children's book but also very grown up. It causes us to question whether there is another world. Many people are oblivious to a spiritual world, they are mindful of and governed only by the ordinary and the mundane.

This episode reminds us

1. That there is a place beyond our own time
2. That there is a spiritual realm.
3. That when we die we go to meet with God and exist in his presence.

Interestingly of course Moses had not entered the promised land, yet now here he was clearly alive in God's promised land. For those considering what happens when we die this may be an interesting piece of scripture to remember. In this place clearly Moses and Elijah are presented as alive in God.

Christian are called pilgrims for many reasons, one of them is because we believe that we are on our way to another home, a kingdom which is not of this world, whose values are different. Success is to be measured in very different terms. We are to have hope and judge ourselves by the values of that Kingdom

Jesus had spoken to his disciples of death and suffering and they were afraid. Then the disciples saw Moses and Elijah! They must have been terrified. Here were two great pillars of the Jewish faith, men who it was believed had been spared death in the normal way. The disciples feared over so much, they were paralysed with fear, we too can be fearful without need. There is much over which we can be afraid, this episode gave the disciples something which would give them strength in the days ahead. This was an opportunity upon which they could reflect. This moment was something which they could not hold onto in time, but they could hold it in their hearts and draw strength from it. It was a God - given encouragement. So it was to be Peter spoke about it later: we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty [2 Peter 1:16-18]. It empowered them for service

We have all had some experience of the wonder of God. Sometimes it comes to us through the appreciation of nature, sometimes, indeed, on a mountain. But we all have to come back down the mountain and get on with real life, and most of our time is spent at the bottom of the mountain in the valleys of life. The ministry of Jesus could not be conducted from the mountain top, it was instead something carried out on the cross of suffering. But when the disciples were tempted to give up and think that the Christian service to which they were called was a hopeless cause, they were to look back and remember Christ as they knew him in the Transfiguration, clothed in glory.

Some of the details of the story are worth mentioning. Mountains were important places. If we think back in the Bible we will remember Moriah, Horeb, and Sinai. These were important mountains upon which God was made known. Moriah was where Isaac was nearly sacrificed, on Sinai Moses received the law and at Horeb Elijah met God.

We are told by Mark that the clothes of Jesus became 'stilbein.' This is a word which is used for the bright appearance of gold or shining polished steel. We are reminded of the shekinah, the divine presence. In

Jewish thought the presence of God is often associated with the appearance of cloud. Remember this is where Moses met God. When Solomon dedicated the Temple it was filled with cloud. By including the presence of cloud, Mark was saying something important about the presence of God with Jesus. This was important because Jesus had just been to Caesarea Philippi and determined to go to Jerusalem to die. This was a signal that God was with Jesus in this decision, he was following the path of God. This was confirmed by the presence of Moses the law giver and Elijah who represented the prophets. Everything that had gone before was now finding fulfilment in Jesus.

It is important for us to try and understand how significant this would have been for the disciples. They had no doubt been shattered by the decision of Jesus that he would go to die in Jerusalem. Now here was a scene in which they could receive assurance that Jesus had made the right decision. For a moment the cloak which divides our material world from the spiritual realm is drawn back for the disciples and they are able to receive a glimpse of the 'other side.' Many people would want to see the incident as some kind of hallucination, but this is to miss the point. In some ways this story is not unique. Throughout the ages there are times when many Christians have been able to speak of having experienced the reality of God presence in a manner which is extraordinary and convincing. There are occasions when the curtain is pulled back momentarily and that which we hope for, which lies unseen is confirmed in a dramatic way. We should be sceptical of such reports, we should not expect them to come often, nevertheless they are true and we should rejoice that there are those who are able to speak of them and reassure us all in times when the valleys seem so much lower than the mountain tops.

God's grace is shown in such moments. By such tokens we are sustained in times of need or prepared for future service. God's grace is sufficient for us, for our empowerment, not for our enjoyment. God gives to our needs, not our greeds, the spiritual uplifting is to sustain us, not for our indulgence. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

Two thirds of 18-24 year-olds want more hours in the day. Ever feel that there simply aren't enough hours in the day? If you're a member of the younger generation, chances are you'd like more time to squeeze in your to-do list. In a YouGov survey commissioned by the British Methodist Church, participants were asked how much more time they would like in the day in order to get everything done and have a little extra time for themselves. 65% of 18 to 24 year-olds said they would like more time in the day, with 28% wishing for at least a 27-hour day. But the older generation (aged 55+) proved more relaxed, with 69% saying they were happy with the day as it stands.

But the Church is challenging people to spend a small amount of time making a big difference to the way they live their lives with its Still Time Lent campaign. The campaign is supported by a website www.methodist.org.uk/stilltime where people can sign up to receive daily email reflections and challenges from five different contributors. They can also share their experiences and thoughts on a the Still Time Facebook group.

Contributor Revd Dr Mark Wakelin, said; "Some of us would love to have more hours in the day, but it's amazing the difference that we can make in just five minutes. Still Time is about using our time wisely in order to enhance every area of life." Each day of the week will have a different focus, with 'time for you' on Mondays, followed by 'time for others', 'time for God', 'time to share' and finishing the week with 'time to act'. "Still Time is a challenge to all who have given up, feel rushed off their feet, or think it's simply too late to do things differently", continued Mark. "Still Time is about making time that gives us 'eternity in our hearts'. There's still time for others, for ourselves, for God – still time to make a difference in the world and begin to discover the people we were always meant to be.'

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

Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem, 813; Praise him, praise him, 506; My God, accept my heart this day, 701; Lord God, in whom all worlds, 384; Thanks to God whose word has spoken, 483

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

O Lord, we pray, speak in this place, in the calming of our minds and the longing of our hearts, by the words of my lips and in the thoughts we form. Speak, O Lord, for your servants listen. Amen.

Holy and Eternal God, you know our need for you, our need for your love to warm our hearts, for your word to guide us, for your Spirit to sustain us, for your presence to make us whole. Help us to wait upon you now with penitent and believing hearts - help us to hear your word, to see your glory, to feel your touch, and then to follow in the way the Spirit directs us. We ask all these things in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

St Mark's Church Leadership Team, meets next week on Tuesday evening at the home of Ian and Laura Farthing. 7.30pm for 7.45pm start

Saturday 7 March 6.30pm at Putnoe Heights . Tickets for Confessions of a Pantomime Dame are available in the Church Office. Super with a choice of Hot Dogs, Chilli Con Carne or Cottage Pie (meat or vegetarian) will be served from 5pm onwards or after the entertainment. Soft drinks will be supplied or bring your own alcohol. Cost of tickets Adults £7. 50, Children £5. Tickets for the entertainment without food can be bought at Adults £6 Children £3. 50. This is a fundraising event in aid of Putnoe Height Church funds. For more information contact Jenny Emsley 360397

Table Top Sale Saturday 28th February at Putnoe. Prebooked your table £6.00 (£8.00 on the day) and set up from 9.00 am or join us from 11.00 am, 50p entry and enjoy a light warm lunch, cake and coffee. Items for the church table can be left from Sunday 22nd February and donations of cakes from Friday 27th. . All proceeds to Putnoe Heights Church Fund. Thank you, Liz or Linda

BEH District Women's Network are holding a silk painting day at Priory Methodist from 10.30 –4pm. We aim to make 100 scarves for the European Conference in Glasgow in May. Participants may purchase one themselves. More details –Eileen Davis 01234 215057.

St Marks and Putnoe Heights Lent Course 2009
The Life, Meaning and Teachings of Jesus
Tuesday 10 March 2009 at Putnoe Heights .
Sessions 7.30pm refreshments, 8.00pm start,
9.00pm finish. First session : The Teaching of Jesus, What did Jesus really teach? - How did He teach? - What did He mean? Leader: Paul Fricker

Hymns and Tunes If you have any comments on the hymns and/or tunes used in this service or if you would like to chose a hymn for a future service, contact one of the Ministers or Organists.

Putnoe Heights Mission Group recently sent £250 to Faith in Action for the support of current church projects in Malawi. Please take time to read the acknowledgement letter on display in the welcome area, and pick up a copy of the latest FIA news sheet. There will be a raffle table in aid of mission projects at the Tabletop Sale on Saturday 28th February.

Footprints Walk next Sunday 1st March in Milton Keynes countryside. Details [to follow] from Jenny and Barry 344417.

A Special Invitation for Ash Wednesday.

The Ash Wednesday service will take place at St Mark's Church on Wednesday 25 February at 7.30pm. We look forward to welcoming friends from the Methodist Circuit, the preacher is The Reverend Eric Royden.

Every year, 46 days before Easter, we have an Ash Wednesday Service at St Mark's. This marks the beginning of Lent. In these days of rushing about taking care of the business of life, Lent is a time when Christians try to make space for reflection and consideration of the important spiritual realities of life. This year we hope that you will be able to join us as we pause to consider how we may each prepare for Easter over the coming weeks.

The Ash Wednesday Service

The service draws on the ancient Biblical traditions of covering one's head with ashes, wearing sackcloth, and fasting. We don't usually wear sackcloth but we do recognise the solemnity of the occasion by making a small symbolic mark in ash on our foreheads. The ash is formed by burning palm crosses from the previous year. Palm Sunday celebrates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. When we convert the palm crosses to ashes, we are reminded that the crowd which cheered Jesus, soon let him down. We seek to be faithful to Jesus in a troubled world.

When the minister marks each worshipper on the forehead, words are spoken based on Genesis 3:19. *'Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return'*,

At baptism the Christian is marked on the forehead with the sign of the cross. The marking of the forehead with a cross made of ashes reminds us of our baptism and at least three other things:

1. Death comes to everyone
2. We should be sorry and sad for our sins
3. We must change for the better

God made the first human being by breathing life into dust, and without God, human beings are nothing more than dust and ashes. The ash cross reminds us of our mortality and encourages repentance. *'God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence, and a symbol of our mortality.'*

The good news The service is quiet and reflective but it is also good news and not an occasion to be sad. Christians believe that the death of Christ on the cross brings forgiveness of sins. The cross of ashes shows our trust in that promise. We are sorry for past failure but we are determined that trusting in God we will seek to live each day by the teachings of Jesus.

A sad loss. Members of both churches will be disappointed to hear of the death of Ada Hill a long standing member at St Mark's Church. Ada died peacefully in her sleep whilst staying at Moggerhanger. Until very recently she was living at home and was grateful for the kind support of all her friends at church. her funeral will be held on 2 March

Sir William Harpur House A service of Holy Communion takes place on the first Monday of each month at 10.00am. All welcome.

Wanted occasional newsletter distributors. We will pay £6 per 100 & tell you where to distribute. For more details please ring the Parish Council Bedford 271708 or email with your details to :clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Lent Book Reviews

The Things He Carried: Stephen Cottrell £6.99
 Stephen Cottrell is Bishop of Reading and before ordination worked in the film industry. This brief book explores the narrative of Holy Week and vividly brings home the reality of the Passion story by considering the things that Jesus carried on His journey to the cross including not only physical items such as the crown of thorns and the seamless robe but also more eternal issues such as the hopes of God and the sins of the world. This is not a book of daily readings for each day in Lent but its strength lies in the suggestions for reflection after each short section. These can be done either as a group or by individuals themselves in a time of quiet and contemplation. The introduction states that 'In order to understand the cross you need to stand under it... with the imagination as well as the mind' This book can certainly help in this process, especially if time is taken to reflect and pray using the helpful outlines provided.

Why go to Church: Timothy Radcliffe £9.99
 Why Go to Church is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2009. As a result of this I'm sure it will sell well. However, I found this book very disappointing. Timothy Radcliffe, who until recently was Master of the Dominican Order and won accolades and awards for his previous book 'What is the Point of Being a Christian', has followed and build on that publication with this book for Lent. Building on the (true and real) premise that the Eucharist works at a deep level to transform our humanity so that we share more of God's life within us, this book makes extensive use of personal experience and literary and theological quotes to develop this theme, expanding the shape and drama that is the Eucharist. There are some profound insights in this book such as 'The Eucharist is a mystery not because it is mysterious, but because it is a sign of God's secret purpose, which is to unite all things in Christ', but they do seem to take some digging out. It's perhaps a book to take a few pages at a time each day in Lent and one which will be enjoyed by those who are stimulated by literature and a more challenging read.

As an alternative to reading a specific lent book why not try reading the same book of the bible each day through Lent. Some of Paul's shorter letters such as Philippians or Colossians are ideal for this, or even the letters of John which are even shorter. For the more ambitious there is always Hebrews or even Mark, the shortest gospel and the gospel of the current church year. *Sam*



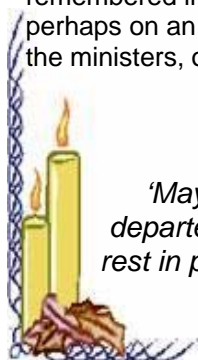
Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one getting burned. - *Buddha*

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.

Robert Watkins

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



Cut Your Carbon Competition

We have managed to enrol 75 supporters, however we do need many more if we are to win £37,000 in this competition. Please register and help us win funding for solar technology
<http://www.cutyourcarbon.org/group/stmarks>

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Mrs Ada Hill will take place at St Mark's Church on Monday 2 March at 3.30pm