

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

22 January 2012

Third Sunday after Epiphany



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

Today

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Ministers

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Veta Hudson Rae
Intercessions -Mrs Sylvia Cohen

29 January –4th Sunday after Epiphany

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership –Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions - Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00 am Putnoe –Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions –Dr Tim Wilkes

Bible Readings

1 Deuteronomy 18:15-20 .2. 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13
3. Mark 1: 21-28

Midweek Worship 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 Pam Crouch in loving memory of her husband Jack and brother Tom.

The flowers in St Mark's Church this week are given by Rosemary and Colin McNeillage in celebration of their Golden Wedding.

Prayer for the Week

Judge eternal, bringer of justice,
hear the cry of those who suffer under the
lash of heartless political oppression;
those who languish in prisons and labour
camps, untried or falsely condemned;
those whose bodies are shattered,
or whose minds are unhinged by torture or
deprivation.

Meet them in their anguish and despair,
and kindle in them the light of hope,
that they may find rest in your love,
healing I your compassion
and faith in your mercy.

In the name of him who suffered, Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

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
and may appear in other local media sources.

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 Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs. Linda Hoare 782717
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 21428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091
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 - Laura Farthing 210892
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

Head teacher 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)

.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

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

12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Emma Gordon ☎07593266091

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

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

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747

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

6.15 - 8.15pm

6.30pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's Sam Thompson

☎07766421000

7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

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

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 30 January Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting January 24 Quiz and Chat Eileen Mariott. Details call Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 15 February 2012 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

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

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

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

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

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

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 18th January Wendy Waters401834

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

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

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

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

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

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

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073

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

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 1 February 2012. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

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

Thursday

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

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

8.00am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624 Restarts on 12 January 2012

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

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

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

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

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

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

6.30-7.30pm Bootcamp/Circuits. (Fitness) St Marks. Laura Amor.341152. 07976259081.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

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

Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

8.00pm 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. Ann Pallister ☎272906

Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

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

Sunday

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

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

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

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's (not 25th March) Contact Adrian Felice

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 – 21 February 2012

St Mark's Leadership Team - 16 February 2012

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 25th Jan 2012 7.30pm at 24 Loring Rd. Sharnbrook.

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - Mon. 23rd Jan 2012 7.30 Putnoe Meeting Room

St Mark's Forum Meeting - NA

Putnoe Church Council - 13 February 2012

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting - 8 February 2012 @ Kempston East Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees – 5th February 12.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children &

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

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Opening Verse of Scripture - Ps 128 v 1

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,
who walk in His ways.

Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Reading—Genesis 14 v 17 - 20

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything (This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

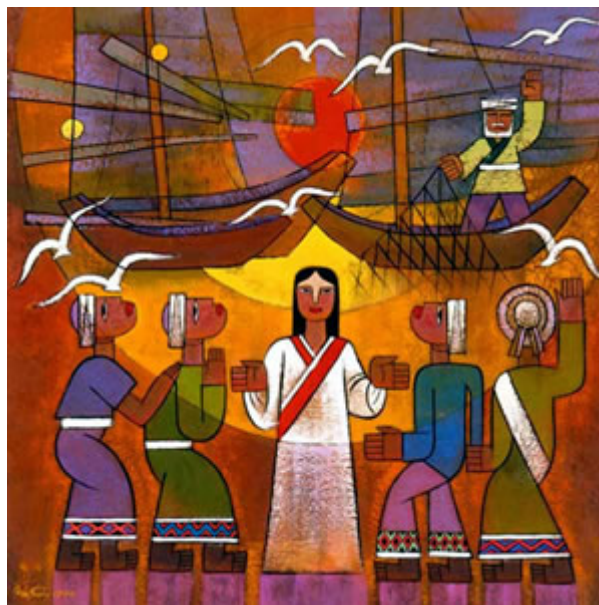
Second Reading – Revelation 19 v 6 – 10

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, "These are the true words of God." At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me. "Do not do it! I am a fellow-servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading –John 2 v 1 - 11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him (This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen



Hymns *(Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise)*

1. Fill thou my life 146
2. I am a new creation 254
3. Christ, whose glory fills the skies 79
4. Take my life 624
5. O for a heart to praise my God 495

Commentary **A New Beginning**

The miracle of turning the water into wine at Cana is only reported in John's gospel where he places it at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. He says that it was the first of the seven signs performed by Jesus and through it He 'revealed His glory and His disciples put their faith in Him'. It's because of this revelation of His glory that the episode at Cana, together with the visit of the Magi and Christ's baptism, came to be associated with Epiphany. In the Middle Ages, the miracle at Cana and the revelation of Christ's glory there came to be celebrated by itself on the second Sunday after Epiphany. Water and wine are familiar elements to us today in our worship and resonate with the meaning of this story. Indeed in the service of Holy Communion many churches mix water and wine together in the chalice. This practice is not to dilute the wine, but is a symbol of the unity of the human and divine natures in the person of Christ. The miracle takes place on the third day. A relatively short time later there would be another third day. That day would see the ultimate power of God breaking through when heaven and earth intersected in a way that would change the history of the world for eternity. In the same way the transformation of the water into wine at the wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the transformation which is continually taking place in our own lives, are only a faint foretaste of the ultimate transformation which is still to come.

All of today's readings speak of a life changing transformational encounter with God. Abraham recognises Melchizedek as a 'priest of God most high' and immediately gives him a tenth of everything he owned (including all the possessions he had just reclaimed after defeating Kedorlaomer, the king who had carried off Lot and his family and goods, the action which had precipitated the battle). Melchizedek, in Hebrew malki-sedeq, which can be translated as 'Sedeq is my king', or '(The God) Melek is righteousness' is the King of Salem (or Jerusalem as it became known) is a mysterious and enigmatic figure. In Ps 110 v 4 a Davidic king is proclaimed by the Lord as a 'priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek'. As Jesus is from the house of David, the Davidic Messiah, it follows that He qualifies to be the priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. The priesthood of Melchizedek is different and distinct from the Aaronic priesthood of the Old Testament; it is continuous and eternal, it does not need a line of succession in the earthly manner in which the Aaronic priesthood does, it's not based on tribal alignment from the tribe of Judah, not Levi; Jesus would not have qualified as an Aaronic priest, and it is a royal priesthood. As Christians, a priesthood of all believers it is Christ Himself who is our great High Priest and it is Christ Himself who transforms our own lives as we encounter Him day by day. In the reading from John, the disciples witness the changing of water into wine and put their faith in Him. Jesus had revealed His glory and the disciples view of Jesus was changed forever. They would never be the same again. Their lives too had been transformed, just as much as the water when it was transformed into wine. In the reading from Revelation the believers had encountered God in a life changing way, despite persecution, social isolation and hardship.

What is sometimes overlooked in all of these encounters to the revelation of God's glory and transformation that God brings is the spontaneous response of worship and an expression of faith in the God who is revealed. Indeed, in the Psalms we read that we are created to praise and worship God. The purpose of turning water into wine is not so that any social embarrassment may be averted, but so that God's glory may be revealed. God did not send His Son Jesus so that He could be at our beck and call to make our lives easier or to do the things we want or expect Him to do, He is here for a much bigger task, to transform and redeem creation itself through the life changing revelation of His Father's glory to all creation. Perhaps we get an insight into Jesus' mother's understanding of this at the wedding in Cana. She reports to her Son that the wine has run out. She does not ask for Jesus to intervene with a specific solution but merely lays the situation before Him and then instructs the servants to, 'Do whatever He tells you'. We may never understand the full why, when and how the revelation of God's glory will take place. Perhaps it sometimes happens and we don't even recognise it for what it is. How often too are we all too willing to drink the fine wine that God through His grace has provided for us in our lives but fail to make the link to our response of thanks, praise and worship. In a world in which many must feel like the puzzled guests at the wedding at Cana in Galilee where the wine had run out and wonder what is happening our role is to help all people make sense of their lives and the world. Part of this is by laying our own situations and concerns before God in prayer and in so doing expose our world to the glory of God, revealed through the transforming presence and love of His Son, so that it can be transformed into His Kingdom on earth. Part too is to understanding our own role in doing whatever He tells us.

Sam Cappleman.

Meditation

Every year on 27 January, the world marks Holocaust Memorial Day. On Holocaust Memorial Day we share the memory of the millions who have been murdered in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur in order to challenge hatred and bigotry in our own society. As the Holocaust Memorial Day web site states, it's impossible for anyone who was not there to fully imagine what took place during the Holocaust or in subsequent genocides. But Holocaust Memorial Day is not simply about remembering. It is a time when we seek to learn the lessons of the past and to recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own, it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. In the UK we are not at risk of genocide. However, in communities and neighbourhoods hatred exists. Discrimination has not ended, nor has the use of the language of hatred or exclusion. All are equal in the sight of God, and as Christians we need to reflect and celebrate the equality of all people in God's creation and be prepared to speak out and take action when we see society fall away from God's standards and Christ's transforming power.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

As the beautiful, dew covered rose rises from amongst its thorns, so may my heart be so full of love for you my God, that I may rise above the storms and evils that assail me, and stand fast in trust and freedom of spirit. Amen. *Hadewijch of Brabant - 13th Century*

Almighty God, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world. May your people shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit, that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the broken hearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God of dawning light, hear our prayers today and give us the strength to put aside all cares and follow you in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Prayers for Remembering the Holocaust

Lord, remember not only the men and women of goodwill, but also those of ill will. Do not remember all the sufferings they have inflicted upon us; remember the fruits we bear, thanks to this suffering – our comradeship, our loyalty, our humanity, courage, generosity, the greatness of heart which has grown out of all this. And when they come to judgement, let all the fruits that we have borne be their forgiveness.

A prayer found on a scrap of paper beside the body of a girl who died at Ravensbruck

Prayers said on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the death of Anne Frank: Reproduced with kind permission of the Anne Frank Educational Trust and the Council of Christians and Jews

Judge eternal, bringer of justice, hear the cry of those who suffer under the lash of heartless political oppression; those who languish in prisons and labour camps, untried or falsely condemned; those whose bodies are shattered, or whose minds are unhinged by torture or deprivation. Meet them in their anguish and despair, and kindle in them the light of hope, that they may find rest in your love, healing in your compassion and faith in your mercy. In the name of him who suffered, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

'Nothing that I can do will change the structure of the universe. But maybe, by raising my voice I can help the greatest of all causes - goodwill among men and peace on earth.' *Albert Einstein, Scientist*

'We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.' *Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor*



Taylor Wilson



Stewart Kempster

A Celebration Organ Concert

A Free Concert to Celebrate
the Installation of a New Organ
at St Mark's Church, Calder Rise, Bedford

Sunday 12 February 2012 at 6.30pm

Taylor Wilson (mezzo soprano), Stewart Kempster (bass),
Clive Simmonds (organ)



We are delighted that the new Allen organ at St Mark's will be played by Clive Simmonds our resident organist. We are also extremely fortunate to welcome two professional singers Taylor Wilson and Stewart Kempster, who have international reputations for their performances and recordings. The programme is a delightful mix of musical styles which we are confident will be enjoyed by all.

Come and join us for an amazing musical evening
which promises to be a night to remember.

Entrance to this concert is free there will be a retiring offering. For more details call St Mark's 01234 342613 email office@thisischurch.com

Our "Annual Unwanted Gift Stall" will take place at Putnoe following Worship on 5 February. Please bring in your items for us to sell in aid of Church funds. Always a bargain to be had!! Thank you for your support. Liz and Carolyn.

Training opportunity focused upon dementia

St. Nicholas' Church Hall, Church Road, Barton-le-Cley, Beds MK45 4LA Saturday 18 February 2012 09.45a.m. – 4.30 p.m. The cost of the day is £10. The Secretary, Diocesan Community Care Group, 'Elmwood', 452, New Bedford Road, Luton, Beds. LU3 2BA. Email: lynda.logan@btinternet.com Tel. No. 01582 585400

Lunch Club - Please note that Lunch Club will be cancelled at Putnoe on Wednesday 1 February
Footprints Walking Group Sunday 5 February 2pm. Meet at St Mary's Church, Stevington (parking on verge on Church Road) 3½ mile circular walk including Stevington Trail and Ouse Valley Way and a glimpse of snowdrops. Details Sylvia 343424



Thank you to all who helped with Messy Church at St Mark's last week. Please make a note of future dates and come along and help if you are able.

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me

Pastor Miemoller

Holocaust Memorial Day Commemorations Friday 27 January.

The first part of the commemoration event this year takes place around the Anne Frank Tree in Russell Park, between Pembroke and Bower Street at 12.30pm. After a short walk back to Borough Hall a second commemoration will commence at 1.30pm in the Council Chamber. Afterwards light refreshments will be served.

The theme for HMD 2012 (27 January) asks us all to Speak Up, Speak Out to create a safer, better future. To think about the rights, responsibility and duty we all have to speak up when we see or hear something which we believe to be wrong. It challenges us to learn about what happens when we don't speak out and what can happen when we do use our voice. HMD 2012 looks at how we make a choice when to speak up and considers the dangers in both choosing to speak out and not speaking up and asks us all to speak up against injustice and hatred today. Using the famous Niemoller poem as an inspiration, the theme asks us to speak up today.



This year for Lent we are looking at doing our Mission Plan. The Diocese has asked us to produce one and we will be using the opportunity of Lent. Sam is kindly heading this strategic piece of work and we will be using materials based on the diocesan website. It would be helpful for you to take a look at <http://www.livinggodslove.org/resources/resource/mission-action-planning>

We will be using three evenings during Lent to go through the stages Look, Listen, Plan, after Lent we will be looking at implementation ie Act

Look or Review - a time to Look and Listen, often called an audit. Getting into the community and looking beyond the local area to consider needs of the wider world, and as well considering the life and values of the church community.

Discern or Choose - out of the looking, a time to develop and articulate a vision, which will energise and unite the church. When the vision is owned, the priorities and goals flow naturally.

Plan - taking each of the goals and asking 'How?' Again a very prayerful approach is vital as people take on responsibility for specific actions, working to agreed dates.

Act - getting started. Keep praying and communicating together - recognise where modification may be necessary in the light of real experience. Celebrate achieved goals together!

There are also materials for homegroups to use during Lent and for personal prayer and Bible study.

<http://www.livinggodslove.org/resources/resource/lent-course-2012>

We would like to stress that Mission Action Planning is not about looking for more things to do. It is about recognising who we are, what we do and where we see ourselves in the future. This might mean that we do some new things, however there is no expectation that we will do more. So if we decide to do something new, then we will be giving something else up! We cannot do everything and we already do so much. However it will be good to take some stock of where we are, a kind of audit and ask prayerfully what our strengths and weaknesses are. It should be something which we gain some satisfaction from as we reflect together on the life of our churches. Please speak to Sam if you have any questions !



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Rest in Peace

On Saturday morning we heard the sad news of the death of Pat Gregory. Pat was an extraordinary lady who lived a remarkable life, most recently she has shown great courage in facing her battle with cancer. Pat has been a long standing member of St Mark's Church where for many years she was a pastoral visitor. Details of her funeral will be published next week.

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.

Joan Lawrence
Jim Rowles
Shirley Ashby

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 Gladys Mary Judd will take place at 12.15p.m. on Monday 23 January at Bedford Crematorium

The funeral of Terence Makinson will take place at 10.0a.m on Wednesday 25 January at the Crematorium

The funeral of Christine Victoria Fox will take place at St Mark's Church at 3.15p.m. on Monday 30 January followed by Cremation

The funeral of Christine Saunders will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 27 January at 1.45pm

The funeral of The Reverend Trevor Noble will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on February 1 at 1.00pm