



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

22 July 16th in Ordinary



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 22 July –16th in Ordinary

9.30m St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mr. Chris Izzard
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen

Sunday 29 July 17th in Ordinary

9.30am St Mark's – Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions– Mrs Morag Stewart
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Bible Readings 1. 2 Kings 4: 42-44 2.Ephesians 3: 14-21 3. John 6 : 1-21

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 Barry and Sue Southam in memory of Sue's mother.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Jean and Roger Bank to celebrate and to give thanks for several special family events taking place this month.

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 in the foyers.

A Prayer for Sunday

Praise to you, our Lord and our God, for the jewel of our sight, the treasure of our hearing and the glory of our speech. Pardon our ingratitude and teach us to render you a thankful heart. Open our eyes to your glory, our ears to your word and our mouths to proclaim your goodness; both now and forever. Amen.

Thomas Traherne (c.1636-1674)

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 145135 jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

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

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs. Jean Kirk 317699
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Morag Stewart 360103

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett ☎326685

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

9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

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

12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thischurch.com 365630

1.30-2.45pm Chat and Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk . Restarts on 10 September

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

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

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

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

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

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 20 August 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 Wriggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.30pm—6pm BIGG Writing Putnoe Heights Natalie John

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎0789187957

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

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

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting August 21 Strawberry tea at St. Mark's at 2.30pm Details call Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly. Contact Marion Sutton ☎217647

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

9.30am Discovery & Do (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons ☎328380 or 07788824666

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

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

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

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

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 12 September 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 19 September. Wendy Waters401834

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

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

☎219731

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

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

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

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Mrs O Holt ☎266004

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

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

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

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

Thursday

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

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624 Restarts 13 September.

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 Restarts 6 September.

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

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

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

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

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Mrs. P. Cass ☎294220

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments.

More details Ron Law 825574.

8.00pm 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 Whist St Marks. (see contact details below)

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

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact 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

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

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

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's (not 25 March) Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 9 October, 19 Feb, 11 June

St Mark's Leadership Team - 11 September
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
Putnoe Church Council - 15 October,

Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm

Harvest Festival 30 September
Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - 16 November

Woodland Burial Trustees– 30 September
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -

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

Ordinary 16

Opening Verse of Scripture - Ephesians 3, 18-19

May you, in company with all God's people, be strong to grasp what is the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love.

Collect Prayer

Before we read we pray

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into

our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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. Common Worship



First Bible Reading - Jeremiah Chapter 23:1-6

"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the LORD. "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD. "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. (This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Ephesians 2:11 - 22

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)--remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Mark 6:30-34,53-56

The apostles gathered round Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he

said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognised them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Later, when Jesus and his disciples had crossed over the lake again, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognised Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went - into villages, towns or countryside - they placed the sick in the market-places. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed (This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

1. I rejoiced to hear them say (*Tune St Georges Windsor*)
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say 136 (*Tune Kingsfold*)
3. The Lord's my Shepherd (*Townend 1008 MP, on Partnership News*)
4. Jesus heard with deep compassion (*Tune Abbots Leigh, On Partnership News*)
5. *Glorious things of thee are spoken 817 (Tune Austria)*

Commentary

I would like us think about the passage from Mark today when we read that Jesus sees the crowd and regards them as 'sheep without a shepherd'. We are told that Jesus has compassion on the crowds. Sheep without a shepherd are obviously in danger, they can be attacked and they can get lost, they are vulnerable to predators and confused in the face of danger.

If we think about the opening chapters of the Gospel we can get an idea of why Jesus felt such a burden of responsibility towards the ordinary men and women who came to him. We have been told about what was going on in the palace of the King Herod. He was having parties, entertaining rich guests and you will remember that after watching a young girl dance he is willing to do anything including murder, killing the cousin of Jesus a good prophet called John the Baptist. The religious leaders were no better, they pretended to be holy people but all they were concerned about was their own power and positions in society. They took every opportunity to remind Jesus of God's laws and criticised him when he stepped out of line. When Jesus entered the synagogue he saw a man with a withered hand and the Pharisees watched him closely to see if Jesus would break the law and heal the man on the Sabbath. We are told that Jesus was angry at their hard hearts and he healed the man. Mark tells us that Herod and the religious leaders joined together and decided early on that they must destroy Jesus.

So here the battle lines are drawn, the great and good and the religious ones, against the carpenter Jesus who was on the side of the poor, the powerless and those who had been led to believe that they were of no consequence to God.

Mark contrast the religious leaders who really couldn't care for people, because they had these hard hearts, and Jesus who we are told today looked at the ordinary people and had compassion. Jesus has compassion on the crowd, because he said that they were "like sheep without a shepherd" (v. 34). Jesus was not a soft touch for everyone, but for people in need he always had time and compassion.

When Jesus says that the people are "sheep without a shepherd" this is clearly a rebuke on the religious leaders of Jesus' day, who have failed in their shepherd role. It was because of their failure that Jesus knew a special shepherd was needed, one who cared for the sheep more than simply thinking of his own needs, that shepherd was Jesus. These words "sheep without a shepherd" as they are written in Mark's Gospel would have reminded the people at the time of when Moses asked God to appoint someone to succeed him as leader of the people. (*Numbers 27*) God chose Joshua, the name means 'YHWH (God) is Salvation.' The Greek form of that name, 'Iesous', is known to us as Jesus.

Our reading from Jeremiah sees God's promise "...I will raise up a righteous shoot to David." God promises not to abandon his people and those promises are fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus is the fulfilment of all the expectations of the people and all the promises of God, for a shepherd who was worthy of the name. Indeed, in Jesus, God provided the ultimate in the caring shepherd, one who would be willing to lay down his life for the sheep.

Like the Pharisees we too can be resentful that Jesus goes to the lost, not to shout at them and tell them to repent but to show them compassion. When we get alongside the lost of society we want to put them on programmes, courses and rehabilitation to make them like us. Jesus doesn't do that, Jesus went and sought the company of sinners, bad people, and when he found them he didn't shout at them he ate with them and made them know that they were loved by God.

That is a profound mystery to the self-righteous but it does teach us something about grace and forgiveness. It is not ours to be earned even through faith. We are sought out and saved by God. We often hear about the lostness of the human soul and the need to be sorry and God welcoming us back when we do, but this rather misses the point. The whole point about a good shepherd is that they will become exhausted and go to any lengths to find what is his and has been lost. That is what God is like God is not going to give up, God is relentless and will leave no stone unturned looking for that which has gone astray.

This compassionate nature of God is what causes to sing about 'a love that wilt not let me go.' This is why the illustration of a shepherd is such a good one, looking for errant sheep is what shepherds do, they go and put themselves in danger looking for stupid sheep who don't even know they have gone astray. Jesus said "The Son of Man came to seek out and save the lost." The Shepherd searches because the sheep is lost! It is the nature of God to seek out the lost, because they are valuable to him. We need to hear this and remind ourselves that we have value, importance to God. There are occasions when people use the expression, 'I found Jesus.' This is really not true is it? We should say 'Jesus found me'. If we say, 'I found Jesus' then that is ridiculous. The sheep doesn't go looking for the shepherd, the sheep doesn't even know it is lost. *Charles Royden*

Meditation Christ Has No Body Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.



St. Theresa of Avila lived in Spain in the days of Martin Luther (1515-1582). She entered a Carmelite convent in 1535 and was beset by illness and poor health most of her life there. She began to receive mystical visions, many of which were disturbing, but was helped to discern God's voice in them

Prayers Lord, we gather here this morning with lives that are filled with activity and movement. We rush from one thing to another as though we are going to run out of time to accomplish everything. Help us to let go of the hectic times and the stresses and find our rest in you. Relax our spirits and refresh our souls. Remind us that there will always be things to do and places to go, but that we need the rest of spirit that you provide. AMEN.

Lord, be merciful to your people. Fill us with your gifts and make us always eager to serve you in faith, hope, and love. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

Flowers at Putnoe Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of flowers at Putnoe on any Sunday during the next six months, is invited to enter their name on the rota on the notice board in the welcome area.

Chat and Make at St Mark's starts again on Monday 10 September at 1.30pm.

Chat and Play at St Mark's starts again on Thursday 13 September at 9.30 am.

Story Box at St Mark's starts again on Thursday 6 September at 12 noon.

Junior Church at St Mark's will resume on 9 September. Jaana

St. Mark's Craft Club Appeal - Wanted for projects for the Christmas Fayre - Round wreath bases in either cane, willow or polystyrene. Please if you have any hand them in to the Office. Thank you..

Great Gappo Show on Monday 23 July at Putnoe Heights from 12 - 2pm. Tickets available from Carolyn Morris. £1 adults, £2 children and £3 on the door.

Thursday Prayer Group Putnoe Heights will not meet on July 26.

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2012/2013 "Crossing the Chasm" is now due for publication. The cost, which is the same as last year, will be £3. 50 each. If you wish to purchase a copy, please contact Vera Pearson on 270737 who will be ordering these very soon.

Footprints walk. Sunday 5 August. Woburn village. Meet at 2.30pm at the entrance to the large free car park in Park St (opposite the church). 3.5 mile walk through farmland and woodland. Details from Sue Allen.

Square Pots. Many thanks to all those who have sent square pots to St Mark's for me. I think I now have enough, so hold on to any you still have. Thanks again—Marion

Deborah Wallace would like to thank Putnoe congregation and Sam Ware for the beautiful bouquet. They made her feel much better. God bless you all.

Something to think about

Radical change is required, the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, said on Friday, after the publication of a wide-ranging review of the Church in Wales. The review, commissioned a year ago, was chaired by the former Bishop of Oxford, Lord Harries. The review team consulted widely: it held meetings in all six Welsh dioceses, which, together, were attended by more than 1000 people. It received written submissions; and it held meetings with senior clergy,

bishops' advisers, ordinands, and staff from St Michael's College, Cardiff. It also met a delegation of young people.

The report's recommendations include: replacing parishes with much larger "ministry areas" served by a team of clergy and laypeople; using church buildings for multiple purposes; training laypeople to take more leadership roles; and increasing the range of worship, in order to "resonate with those unfamiliar with church culture".

Dr Morgan said that many "internal reports" had already been conducted about the state of the Church in Wales, but, "because they come from inside, the Church has taken them seriously but refused to act on them". Dr Morgan said: "I sense our Governing Body has reached a point where it knows that things can't stay as they are."

The reasons for a review, listed in the report, include "the expected retirement of large numbers of clergy in the next few years, the shortage of ordinands, the joining of more parishes than can be adequately ministered to by a single priest, declining church membership, and the almost total distance of young people in Wales from the Church".

The report continues: "One overwhelming impression we have received is that the Church in Wales continues to have the structure and organisation appropriate to an established Church 100 years or so ago, but which is now stretched beyond what it can or should properly bear now."

The review team argues that the parish system, "with a single priest serving a small community is no longer sustainable. . . A change of perspective is needed: from parish to a much larger area, and from a single priest, to a team with different gifts."

The report proposes replacing parishes with larger "Ministry Areas", led by a "leadership team containing laypeople as well as clergy". Each Ministry Area might contain "25 congregations or churches", each of which should have "a designated leader and ministry team". To address the serious shortage of young people in the Church - in 2010, just 5067 people under the age of 18 attended services on a Sunday - "there should be one trained worker appointed in each leadership team with a particular ministry to reach out to young people."

Also, in each Ministry Area there should be at least one service a week "in which the form and style of worship is such as will resonate with those unfamiliar with Church culture".

The congregations in each Ministry Area, should be self-sustaining, "responsible for raising enough money at least to cover the full costs of its own ministry team, and an appropriate proportion of diocesan costs". Dr Morgan said: "We need to give the laity more confidence that this is their Church. They are the majority. Let's think a bit bigger; let's not be so parochially minded."

These challenges are not limited to the Church in Wales and we all need to share in thinking about how we can best be the church in a changing society

Hymns for Sunday

- 1 **I rejoiced to hear them say,**
'Come and worship God today!
Come, with heart and mind and soul,
seek the peace that makes us whole;
see disordered lives restored
in the presence of the Lord:
from your burdens find release;
in his presence there is peace.'
- 2 Here in gratitude we bring
all we are to serve our King;
his forgiveness we entreat
in whom love and justice meet
bring our needs to him in prayer,
ask his help, and trust his care;
join with all, in every place,
who have sought and known his grace.
- 3 God, the Lord of peace, is near -
come in faith, and meet him here;
let each restless soul be still,
glad to know and do his will:
as a city's walls and towers
offered safety - God is ours!
Therefore we rejoice, and say,
'Come and worship God today!'
- 1 **The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.**
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.
And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.
- 2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights. *Refrain*

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.

Laurie Kay
Frederick Charles Wilbraham

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

- 3 And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know. *Refrain*
- 1 **Jesus heard with deep compassion**
pleas for healing, cries of pain,
cured the lame and cleansed the leper,
gave the blind their sight again.
At his voice tormenting spirits
fled a madman's tortured mind;
clothed and sane, he went rejoicing
home and family to find.
- 2 Jesus touched the lives of outcasts,
weak or sinful, scorned or poor,
gave them self-respect and courage,
trust and faith and hope secure.
Truly hearing, truly seeing
deep within each troubled soul,
Jesus healed their wounded spirits,
sent them forth with lives made whole.
- 3 Jesus, Lord, our true example,
you have shown how we must live.
Teach us how to share with others
everything we have to give.
Let our days be spent in service;
bring us by your grace to know
healing is the church's calling
and the path that we must go.

Tune Abbotts Leigh

Tough Talking

God's reign is already present on our earth in mystery. When the Lord comes, it will be brought to perfection. That is the hope that inspires Christians. We know that every effort to better society, especially when injustice and sin are so ingrained, is an effort that God blesses,
that God wants,
that God demands of us.

Archbishop Oscar Romero, March 24 1980

These were the last words of Oscar Romero, said at a hospital Mass shortly before an assassin entered via a back door and shot him.

Forthcoming Funerals



Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.