



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

22 June 2008

Ordinary 12



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 - Mrs Sue Plant

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions - Ministers

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs Sue Plant

Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash

Intercessions - Mr Edward Peck

29 June - Ordinary 13

9.30am St. Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions - Mr Richard Ledger

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Hoar

Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Bible Readings

1. Genesis 22: 1-14

2. Romans 6: 12-23

3. Matthew 10: 40-42

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Doreen Denny in loving memory of her husband on his birthday.

Putnoe Table Top Sale

Next Saturday 1.30pm (See Page 7 for details).
We would be grateful for any offers of cakes for the table top sale. Thank you. Liz

Prayer for Sunday

Let our trust be in you, O God, that nothing may disturb us or frighten us. Teach us that all things are passing and that you are changeless. In patience let us strive and quietly achieve. You alone meet every need and in you we can lack nothing. Amen.

Teresa of Avila, 1515-82

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 Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.

Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

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 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

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 332613

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper 306751

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr 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 Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school

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.

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

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

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

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 ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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 each month. Next meeting 30 June 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

9.30am 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 on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 24 June Mrs Kate Martinow-Family Centre Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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 of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting July 1st -Outing Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

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 18 June 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

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

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎400584

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

6.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

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 Wednesday of the month. 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. Next meeting 2 July 2008 Graham ☎406359 or Alan ☎345312.

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
11 June 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. 26 June will be at 14 Flint Way. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

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

9.40am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

12pm Storybox weekly at 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

5.30pm 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

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr C Hill ☎772922

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights
Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc. at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. Marriot ☎303834

7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club St Mark's Mr P Housden ☎376597

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

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

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

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 –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm Improvers St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights

from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.

Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

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

1.30pm 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

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Next meeting 13 July at 6pm. A trip to Wild Britain at Wilden. Adults £5.50, under 16's £4. Please see Liz ☎302349 if you can come ASAP.

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –, 18 November

St Mark's Leadership Team – 23 June

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings 14th July.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

, 11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at 12 noon

Putnoe Church Council - 6 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee - November 12th 2008 at 11am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council - May 13th at St Mark's

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting - 18 September, 13 November

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees -

Mission Group Meeting

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth– Monday 30th June at 1.10

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

Ordinary 12

Opening Verse of Scripture- Matthew 10

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Creator God, in the beginning your word subdued the chaos and in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, your Son, to rebuke the forces of evil and to make all things

new. By that same power transform our fear into faith that we may have courage to follow in the way of your kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen Methodist Worship



'Not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father..'

First Bible Reading - Genesis 21: 8-21

The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring." Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there nearby, she began to sob. God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

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

Second Reading - Romans 6: 1b-11

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 10: 24-39

Matthew "A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household! "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law-- a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can know it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

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

1. All Things Bright & Beautiful 330,
2. Lord of the Dance (on Partnership News),
3. I'm not ashamed to own my Lord 677 (Tune Kilmarnock),
4. Who would true Valour 688,
5. Glorious things 817 (Tune Austria)

Commentary

It was Pastor Martin Niemoeller, imprisoned at Dachau for seven years, who wrote: "In Germany, the Nazis first came for the communists. I didn't speak up because I wasn't a communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, but I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. They came for the Catholics; I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time, there was no one left to speak for me."

Christians above all people have to be prepared to speak out for the rights of the minorities who are persecuted, for we have known what it is to die for our faith.

The passage from Matthew today begins with a warning about persecution which Christians will suffer. As surely as night follows day, commitment to Jesus will lead to persecution. There are some distortions of Christianity which proclaim material blessing will follow those who have faith. Some other faiths teach that as spiritual faith grows so physical and material blessings will follow as a reward. Jesus has no part with this at all. Followers must recognise that committed disciples walk into the fire of persecution. The phrase 'the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church' was coined to express how those early Christians spilled their blood for faith in Jesus. For us these words may sound ridiculous, we do not have to suffer for our faith, indeed Christianity for some means a good social life and new friends. But, this is not the case everywhere. There are Christians today who are persecuted and killed for their faith. The words of Jesus from today's reading 'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul' might ring a little hollow for us, but we should be aware of the fact that many Christians are today killed for nothing more than faith in Christ.

We should work even harder for understanding and tolerance between different faiths when we realise that for Christians around the world persecution is a daily reality as they are regularly persecuted for their faith by fundamentalists of other faiths. However we will most likely face persecution when we expose evil, challenge power, demand change or undermine the status quo. Christians should be those who are unafraid to rock the boat, and if we are faithful, there is a good chance that we too will at times will face opposition. When that happens, we share Christ's cross, and we are like our Master.

Jesus also speak words of reassurance. Fear in the face of persecution is natural, but Jesus tells us not to be afraid even in frightening circumstances. One reason why they should not fear is that, "nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered." I am often comforted by the fact that even when our motives and actions are deliberately twisted by others, history will one day vindicate the righteous deeds of us all. Perhaps it is only looking back that we realise where truth lay and who our true friends have been. As Christians we should never fear the limited power of our opponents. They can kill the body, which dies all too soon anyway, but have no power over the soul. Only God has power over eternity. The scriptures never suggest that we should fear Satan. Evil has no power over the Christian, which is a truth which makes such a mockery of those false Christian teachers who claim to cast out demons weekly in their churches. We should not fear evil, God is in ultimate control.

Neither should we fear when we remember God's compassionate love. In Luke 12:6, Jesus speaks of five sparrows sold for two pennies. Matthew speaks of two sparrows sold for one penny. This is like Tesco, 'buy four get one free' The person who spends two pennies receives an extra sparrow thrown in, as if it had no value at all. God cares even for that apparently worthless sparrow. The God who cares for a trivial bird also cares about our trivia -- even the number of hairs on our head, surely a helpful thought for those with receding hairlines!

Next in our passage, we are asked to imagine a courtroom setting. If we acknowledge Jesus before other people, Jesus will acknowledge us before the Father in heaven—he is our advocate, surely there could be no better representation. If Jesus is our advocate, we cannot lose, without him we cannot win. Of course we acknowledge Jesus by deeds as well as by words. As Christians we have to seek to make what we sing about on Sundays, what we live out for the rest of the week. The words of our mouths and the works of our hands need to be consistent if our witness is to be effective. Faith in Christ impacts every aspect of life. The First Commandment (Exod 20:3) calls us to serve God to the exclusion of all other gods. Jesus tells the disciples that he requires loyalty to himself even above loyalty to family. Jesus' point is not disloyalty to family but even greater loyalty to God.

Jesus calls his disciples to "take up the cross and follow me." For us this is a remote metaphor, but Jesus' hearers had seen men take up their cross. They knew that when this happened and the man went off with a group of Roman soldiers, he was on a one-way journey. He would not be back. Thus, for them, taking up the cross stood for the utmost in renunciation of the claims of self.' By the time that this Gospel was written, Christians were familiar not only with the cross of Jesus but also with crosses borne by Christians on their way to martyrdom. Jesus' promise is that "those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

We live in a "What's in it for me!" kind of world where the focus is on what we can get rather than what we can give. Truly happy people are those who are who live for something larger than themselves. The endless pursuit of happiness achieves only broken relationships and unfulfilled dreams. Jesus promises that it will be quite different for those who "lose their life for my sake." *Charles Royden*

Meditation

An abbey, formerly known for its vitality and spirituality, had fallen on hard times. Where once there had been many visitors and joyful singing, there was now empty places in worship and lifeless singing. The abbot went to visit a holy man who lived on a nearby mountain. Upon arrival, the abbot poured out his heart and told the holy man everything he thought he should know about the abbey. Finally, the abbot asked, "Are we guilty of some sin?" "Yes," replied the holy man. "Christ is living in your community, and you have failed to recognize him because he has come in disguise." All the way back to the abbey, the abbot wondered which member of the community could be Christ. Each person he considered had faults, but then perhaps that was part of the disguise. Back at the abbey, the abbot shared what he had learned, and the community decided that the only thing to do was to treat each person as if they were Christ. Soon, the community came alive again, they did indeed recognize that Christ dwelt among them.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

As you first found us, help us to find others. As you first welcomed us, help us to welcome other and so find our salvation, in community, by your grace.

Gracious God, it's not easy doing what you've asked us to do, but because you go with us, we dare to submit ourselves to your work in our lives. We thank you for your Holy Spirit which allows us to have courage to stand firm, to die to ourselves, to rise to you, and to do the work you have called us to. In the name of Jesus, the living and resurrected Lord, we pray. Amen. *Rev. Robina Marie Winbush*

Table Top Sale on Saturday 28 June at 1.30 for buyers, 50p adults, accompanied children free. Tables can be booked in advance for £6 from Liz. If you could help or have any thing to donate please see Joan or Liz.

Living Life to the Full - an evening for women. Sat 5th July. 7pm -10pm. Woodside Church, Dover Crescent. Speaker Bev Murrill. £5 per person. For more information and to book visit www.kingsarms.org/girlsnight or call 07935 326130 (book by 3rd July)

Cleaning Help Wanted We are always receiving calls from people who need help cleaning. If you know a suitable person, please tell Charlie and he can match cleaners up with grateful employers.

Red Cross Open Gardens – Sunday 22 June 2008 Time: 1.30-5pm Howbury Hall, MK41 0JB Directions: East of Bedford off the A428, approx 500 metres from the Elms Estate / MFI roundabout.

Future Dates for your diary. 'The partnership Summer Musical Workshops !!! - a mixture of story, music, dance, drama, crafts & fun. Tuesday 19 August 2– 4 pm 'Its Raining Cats and Dogs' aimed at the under 5's with carers. Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 August 10am—3pm 'The 7 Days of Creation' 5 years plus, all abilities . Full details to from Liz.

Church Lunch Club (alternate Wednesdays) Would any members of St.Mark's or Putnoe Heights like to come. If you are interested, please give your name to - Margaret Standley, Jenny Emsley or Pam Kinsella. We would also welcome additional helpers, either on a regular or irregular basis. We also need drivers. With the building work in progress at Putnoe, our Autumn Session will not start until 1 October but don't leave it until then to let us know.

Many thanks to Judith Stanton whose whist drive members have once again held an event for St. Mark's church and raised £140.

Footprints walk on Sunday 6th July. Meet at the Crown Inn, Little Staughton at 2.30pm for a 4 mile, fairly level walk. For further details please contact Alan and Jean Kirk 317699.

Thursday Prayer Group will meet at 14 Flint Way on Thursday 26 June owing to the building work at Putnoe. Sylvia 343424.[.ttp://](http://)

New Bishop of St Albans. Last week I travelled to Radlett. It was a Friday afternoon and so took a considerable time there and back with congested roads. I was however pleased to do so to take part in the consultation process for the appointment of our new Bishop of St Albans. This is an intriguing appointment and it will be interesting to see who is appointed. In the meantime the Diocesan website has a profile of the Diocese as a part of this process. The profile has a great deal of information which is extremely interesting to read. You can find it on the St Albans website or download it from www.stalbans.anglican.org/downloads/CNCStatement.pdf

Whilst on the website you can also download a copy of the talk given by Bishop Christopher entitled 'The Resurrection Narratives as Works of Art.' This talk was given to all the clergy of the Diocese this week as we attended a day conference in the University of Hertfordshire. *Charlie*

'Behind Closed Doors' a play about the issue of trafficking. In place of evening service at Priory Methodist Church 13th July 6.30pm

Methodist Homes for the Aged. Thank you to everybody who gave to this worthwhile charity.

'The Great Gappo' (children's entertainer) joins Storybox and Storybox Plus on Monday 28 July at Putnoe Heights. Meet at 12 for a sandwich lunch. Tickets £2 in advance from Liz. All welcome.

Polycarp - Martyr

In the early church many people denied Christ because they were afraid of the Romans. But there were some who did not fear those who could burn the body but who could not touch the soul. One of these was Polycarp, an elderly bishop who lived in the 2nd century A.D. During one of the persecutions he was arrested and they threatened him with death unless he cursed Christ. Polycarp replied,

"86 years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me."

A Hymn for Sunday

- 1 I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem
I had my birth.
*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*
- 2 I danced for the scribe
And the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John -
They came with me
And the Dance went on.
- 3 I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there
On a Cross to die.
- 4 I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black -
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on.
- 5 They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
If you'll live in me -
I am the Lord
Of the Dance, said he.



St Mark's Coffee Shop 2.30pm—5.00pm

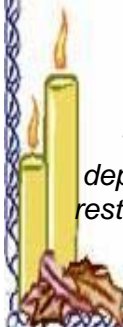
The coffee shop will be open this week and next week but will then be closed until further notice. The Church Council has agreed that the coffee shop may open in the future for special occasions

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.

Over 100 British soldiers killed in Afghanistan.

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



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Rest in Peace

The funeral of Mr Peter Sachro will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 25 June at 9.15am