



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

22 September 2013 - Ordinary 25



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 September — Ordinary 25

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Ministers
Organist -Mr. Martin Thompson
11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship
Preacher – The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Veta Hudson –Rae
Intercessions — Ministers
Organist - Mr. Martin Thompson

29 September — Harvest Festival

9.30 St Marks – Harvest Family Worship

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership – Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing
Organist - Mr. Martin Thompson
11.00 am Putnoe – Harvest Family Worship
Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions — Dr Tim Wilkes
Organist - Mr. Martin Thompson

Readings 1.Deuteronomy 26:1-11 2.Phiippians 4:4-9
3.John 6: 25-35

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

Mission Project 2013 'A Sweeter Deal'

Every year we have an appeal where we raise money to help people in our own community or across the world who are in need. This year we are joining with the St Albans Diocese and Christian Aid to help 'A Sweeter Deal.'

If we help provide farmers in Ethiopia with the equipment they need to keep bees, then they will be able to make honey and enough money to be able to provide for their families and develop a sustainable community. There is a letter inside Partnership News this week showing how you can help, the appeal will end on December 1 - *Thank you for helping*

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Veta Hudson-Rae to celebrate her birthday and that of her grandson Samuel.

Harvest Appeal Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the wonder and beauty of your creation; its abundance feeds our bodies and nourishes our hearts. Thank you for your extraordinary love; its generosity reaches out to all people. Please bless the honey project in Ethiopia: that, through our gifts and prayers, lives will be enriched, communities transformed and many people experience the sweetness of your goodness and justice. Amen

The Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal 2013
A Sweeter Deal

Our appeal is supporting people in Ethiopia like Geji Tie, whose new beehives and beekeeping skills are making a world of difference to him and his family.

Help us sweeten the lives of many more families to see communities in Ethiopia transformed this Harvest. Thank you.

www.harvestappeal.org

christian aid

Living God's Love
The Diocese of St Albans

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685
8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**
(See website for more details)
.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955
10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)
12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris
youth@thisischurch.com 365630
1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk .
2pm U3A Music Appreciation (see contact details below)
4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.
6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571
6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081
7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson 353518
7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020
7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 30 September Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218. First session starts 23 September.
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567
Putnoe Heights Children and Youth meeting - Monday 23rd September

Tuesday

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

1.3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's (contacts details below)
2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details)
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895
2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs 406784.
4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights.. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
7.30-8.30pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957
7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390
6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648
6.30pm MT Karate (all ages) Karen King 07941264885
7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455
7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club (Meets fortnightly). 1 October 'Harvest ' Details Janet King 313946

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.
9.30am Discover & Do (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666
10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.
10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. (contact below)
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)
10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe (contact below)
11.15am U3A Keep Fit
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 25 September Putnoe Heights Office 365630
1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)
1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)
2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights
2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966
3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 16 October Wendy Waters 401834
4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994.
6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King 079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Yvonne Blain 350241 or Brian Sallows 407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe

Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004
7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378
8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 2 October Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306
 Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green 244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07932616468
10.00-11.30am Gentle Yoga For more details contact Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305
12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 363283
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays St. Mark's 267444
1pm-2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552.
 2pm -Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.
2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights
2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's (contact below)
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Mary Rich 272470
5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094
7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Carol Plant 01832710504
7.30pm Gentle Birthing St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231
8 -10pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers)
 Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. Next meeting 5 September. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton 01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass 294220
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

Friday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647
10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)
10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St.

Marks (see contact details below)
2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (contact details below)
2pm U3A Italian-Putnoe Heights (contact details below)
2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights
4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker (07900 232648
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd week) Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard 01234 782414
Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198
2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792
6.45pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger 212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday Feb/ Apr/Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143
11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.
7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355
Messy Church Dates
 Weds 16 Oct; Weds 20 Nov,



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



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 8 October
St Mark's Leadership Team - 21 January 2014
Annual Congregational Meetings
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 10 October
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 1st October
Putnoe Church Council - 14 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting - 10 January at 10.00am
Churchyard Committee -
Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 3pm
Circuit meeting - Deanery Meeting - 14 November
Woodland Burial Trustees–
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –1.30pm
23rd September
New Year Lunch 19 January at Putnoe
Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Ordinary 25

Sentence of Scripture -

From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised. **Ps 113 v 3**

Collect Prayer for the Day

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Common Worship Shorter Collect.

First Reading Jeremiah 8:18 –9: 1

You who are my Comforter in sorrow, my heart is faint within me. Listen to the cry of my people from a land far away: "Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King no longer there?" "Why have they aroused my anger with their images, with their worthless foreign idols?" "The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved." Since my people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people? Oh, that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the slain of my people. :(This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 Timothy 2: 1-7

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle--I am telling the truth, I am not lying-- and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles

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

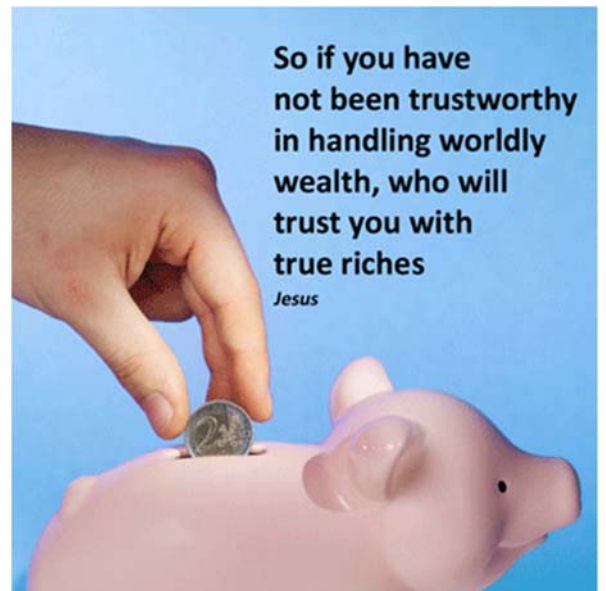
Gospel Reading – Luke 16: 1-13

Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.' "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg-- know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.' "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' " 'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.' "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' " 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.' "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

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

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



So if you have
not been trustworthy
in handling worldly
wealth, who will
trust you with
true riches

Jesus

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

1. Thou art the way, 695 2. All people that on earth do dwell, 20 3. Teach me my God and King, *Partnership News* 4. Abide with me, 5. Restore O Lord, 579

Meditation

A while back a TV programme was on that was discussing honesty and trustworthiness. One of the key points the presenter made was that dishonesty doesn't pay. But the reason it doesn't pay is that so many people are doing it (being dishonest) that unless you're really good at it (and the majority of us aren't) we don't gain any advantage. Perhaps more seriously, the major effect of dishonesty and untrustworthiness is that they destroy relationships. Think of how you've felt when someone has lied or been underhand with you, how long did it take to get over it and trust the person again – if we ever feel we can? Given that our faith, and our witness to the community around us is based on relationships its clear why Jesus encourages us to be honest and trustworthy, encourages us to ensure our actions match our words. Because without that inner honesty and trustworthiness our relationships suffer, first with God and then with each other and then with those we seek to serve. And often our attitude to money is a good benchmark to use. We need to relate to the world but not conform to it.

Go and do likewise?

Our gospel reading is taken from Luke, the only gospel writer who was not a Jew and as such was able to stand on the outside and observe what was going on, particularly in Jewish and Roman society. In today's reading, Luke relays the parable of the shrewd manager who sets up a cosy future for himself by currying favour with those people who own his master money. Is this a parable where Jesus says 'Now go and do likewise?' Well curiously I think it is – but only if we interpret it the way Luke did. In this story Jesus Himself observes and comments on what is apparently some sharp business practice, but in so doing He invites us to step back for a moment and look at how people behave in making some apparently easy money.

According to Jewish law, Jews could not make interest from fellow Jews when they lent them money. Wheat and oil were taken as symbols of someone not being destitute. For example, in the story of Elijah the widow of Zarepeth (1 Ki 17). It therefore followed that if you had wheat and oil you could be lent to and interest could also be extracted from you, but only if the deal was transacted in the right way. Typically the transaction would be in the form of a bond. You would lend say 4 jugs of olive oil but on the written bond it would be indicated that you owed 8 (4, plus 2 for the lender and 2 for his manager/steward). Or you would lend 8 bushels of wheat but the written bond would indicate 10 were owed. You can't be accused of usury as the bond only indicates what is owed back, not what was originally lent. The master commends the steward because he has no option – the steward has used the system to his advantage. The master can't say the he was owed more because truly he knows he was not, and even if he says he is he'll be accused of exacting usury.

Seen in this context Jesus is saying many different things. First - He's saying to those who have resources – don't play with the things that make people destitute, and certainly don't make them pay over the odds for precious resources and then appease your conscience by playing with words (How often do we see governments do that – how often do we do it ourselves). It's also a comment about the steward giving away His wealth (margin or profit) to be aligned to God's teaching and will. But perhaps most importantly He's saying to the Pharisees, teachers and followers of the law 'Your action needs to match your words' They say one thing about interest and then set about getting round the system with little thought or respect for those who are less fortunate than themselves. That's why Jesus closes this parable by talking about money – and attitude to wealth. The whole parable is about the abuse of wealth and the wealth creating system, about exploitation, and it's pointed directly at the Jews – and to you and me. It's about putting the importance of people and friendships in front of the importance of money – get your act together!

So perhaps Jesus would say 'Now go and do likewise'. Perhaps He'd say 'Ensure your actions match your words, don't play with destiny, that's my job, keep money and possessions in perspective and use the things of this world, the things that God has given us, to form bridges with those currently outside of the kingdom'. Sometimes it can seem tempting to compromise our faith in order to fit in better with others, to appear one of the in crowd. Yet it is often the honesty and integrity of the people of the Christian faith that draws others to it and our honesty and integrity, rather than being a barrier to dialogue is a facilitator and enabler for it. And it's that dialogue with the world that Jesus encourages us to have as we serve Him.

As we watch some of the events that are taking place around the world we see the tragic consequences of what happens when dialogue breaks down. Perhaps now, more than ever, we need to be relating to a broken world in the same way as Christ came to relate our broken world. Using the material things which God has given us with integrity to communicate God's restoring and redeeming love, matching our actions to our words.

These two parables remind us that Luke's key focus is on how wealth is distributed rather than how it is accumulated. It is the distribution of wealth that concerns Luke here, not the fact that the rich master seems to have accumulated a vast amount of it.

We need to understand too that the apparent reduction in what is owed to the master probably comes from the servant's own split of the deal, rather than the master's. The servant is not necessarily taking anything from the master in reducing the bill, merely writing off his own cut. Indeed the phrase 'dishonest manager' can be taken as a rather loose translation for the words the master uses of him. Deceitful, unjust, crafty, scheming are words that could also be used.

It seems that Luke is saying that the servant is trying to put right previous injustices as far as he is able from his own income on the deal. It could be that Luke is implying that the rich master should take the same course of action but we see no evidence that he did! Indeed, the whole situation seems to have arisen because the master questions if the steward is getting the right returns for him on his property – is he making enough money. Perhaps the master was concerned that the servant was making more than his fair share and not enough for the master himself. It would not be the first time that someone was more interested in what was happening to someone else's apparent wealth and what they thought they should or should not be doing with it, rather than focusing on their own relative wealth and the responsibilities that brought to make sure it is stewarded according to God's economics. *Sam Cappleman*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Creator God, your world longs to live in peace. We pray for your healing peace; for countries at war with one another, for communities where there is conflict, for victims of past and present wars, for communities where there is no trust or integrity. Your world longs to live in justice and peace, but not justice peace at any price. We pray for those who stir up dissension, inequality and break down trust and we lift to you those who campaign for justice, champion the poor and oppressed, and challenge dishonesty and lack of integrity wherever they appear in our world. **Amen**

Grant to me, O Lord, a humble, lowly and quiet heart. Give to my waking hours patience, kindness and tenderness of soul. Let all my words, my works and my thoughts be overshadowed by the gift of your most Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.** *Thomas More, 1478-1535*

Holy and loving God, in Jesus you walked the hills of Galilee and the busy streets of Capernaum; you addressed multitudes and had time for individuals. Renew in us each morning the light of your presence, that whatever the day brings we may be channels of your renewing Spirit, and share in your good purposes for the world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

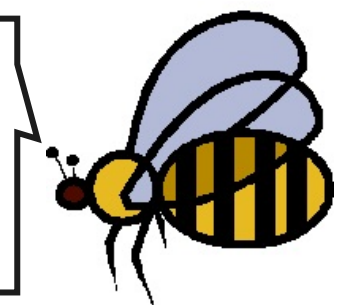
A Hymn for Sunday

- 1 Teach me, my God and King,
In all things thee to see,
And what I do in anything,
To do it as for thee.
- 2 A man that looks on glass
On it may stay his eye;
Or if he pleaseth, through it pass,
And then the heaven espy.
- 3 All may of thee partake:
Nothing can be so mean,
Which with this tincture, 'For thy sake'
Will not grow bright and clean.

- 4 A servant with this clause
Makes drudgery divine;
Who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
Makes that and the action fine.
- 5 This is the famous stone
That turneth all to gold;
For that which God doth touch and own
Cannot for less be told.

George Herbert (1593-1633 NS)

I'm saving my pennies for the Ethiopian Honey Appeal. £3.50 can buy a honey knife and and £18 buys a net and gloves !



Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2013

Following the success of last year's donation of 38 boxes by Messy Church and the wider congregation, we will be packing boxes at our Messy Church session on 16 October. We will be happy to accept donated items from now on. There is a box at the back of the church where you will see details of what can and cannot be put in the boxes. If you require further information please speak or phone Wendy Waters 401834 or Margaret Appleton 354708.

What to give: All gifts should be new Toys: Soft (but not hand knitted stuffed), finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instruments, cars, trucks, dolls, tennis ball etc. Educational supplies: Pens, pencils, felt pens, eraser, colouring book, notepad, puzzle book etc Hygiene items: Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar soap, flannel etc Other items: Gloves, hat, scarf, bangles, necklaces, sweets sell by date at least March 2014 Please do not give: Food especially chocolate, medicine, no war related items e.g. toy guns, no clothing other than hats, gloves or scarves, no fragile items, no liquids, no sharp items, no novels, nothing of a political nature, no hand knitted stuffed toys. If you do not wish to give items as above, financial contributions towards the £3 per shoe box 'shipping' cost would be appreciated.

Harvest Festival Please take Harvest Cards to invite your friends and neighbours to our harvest service next Sunday 29 September.

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch Sunday 29 September 2013 1.00pm Tickets are now available from the Putnoe Office on weekdays or after Sunday Services. Two courses, soft drink and coffee. £6.00 or £3.00 for children. Please bring your own wine. .

Book Stall at Putnoe : Thank you to everyone who has donated books; we are still waiting for a permanent site for this Book Stall but please continue to borrow—most books are in the Small Hall bookshelves. Borrowing charge 25p. Until we have a permanent home, we cannot take any more books but please keep books you intend to donate until we are up and running. *Pam Kinselley*

Our Mission Appeal 2013. This year will be launched at harvest on 29 September. We will be joining the St Albans Diocese in funding a project in Ethiopia that is teaching farmers about better beekeeping methods. Our gifts will make a real difference. New beehives and improved beekeeping skills are having a life-changing impact on people and communities in Ethiopia. Bees are vital pollinators; flying from flower to flower, they make connections that are fundamental to the life of our planet. The Bishop's Harvest Appeal is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our connected world and to make life changing, loving and lasting connections with people in Ethiopia.

A draft rota is now available for St Mark's until April 2014. Please make changes now !

Beds, Essex, Herts, District Methodist Women in Britain (Network).

There will be an Autumn Craft Day on Saturday 19 October from 9.45am to 4.30pm at Priory Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to come and learn a new skill. There will be 16 workshops available at £4 per half day session. Closing date for bookings is 11th October. Details of the workshops and booking forms are available from Pam Seymour. Tel. 305695, email –pams@tgis.co.uk

'Christmas Craft Fayre – Saturday 23 November . It is that time of year. Cannot believe how quickly this year has gone. As usual our Craft Fayre is coming upon us. We are having the usual cake stall, plants, craft, tombola and book stalls. Donations to any of these would be most welcome nearer the time. At the moment we are in need of the hyacinth bulb vases. If you have any that you would be prepared to donate please would you bring them up to the office this week. Your support of the Craft Fayre which is our biggest fund raiser of the year is very much appreciated. Many thanks. Avril'

The Contemplative Prayer Group meets in the Quiet Room at Putnoe Heights on the 2 and 4 Fridays of each month. at 1.45pm/ The September meetings will be 13.09.2013 and 27.09.2013. Eileen Brown 267909.

Peter and Valerie Littleford invite friends old and new to their Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 27 September between 10am and 12 noon. The address is 1, Bindon Abbey (Riverfield Drive) and we will have a raffle and Bring and Buy table as well as refreshments. All the money raised will go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Methodist Church has welcomed the Church in Wales' decision to admit women into the episcopate. The Revd Ruth Gee, President of the Methodist Conference, and Dr Daleep Mukarji, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, made the following statement:

"We were delighted to hear that the Governing Body of the Church in Wales has decided to admit women to the episcopate. We affirm that 'all are one in Christ Jesus' and rejoice in the ministry of women and men in all areas of the life and mission of the Methodist Church in Britain.

"Along with other churches we are in a covenant relationship with the Church in Wales. We will continue to work with all our ecumenical partners to affirm, celebrate and enable the discipleship of all God's wonderfully diverse people.

"We will pray for those who are now working to implement the decision of the Church in Wales and for those for whom the decision is difficult."

Christmas Party The Partnership Council are invited to the Vicarage for the Christmas Party at 1.00pm on Sunday 22 December. Please RSVP to corinneroyden@gmail.com

Why Church

The voices of those who criticise the church speak loudly, sometimes we need to remind ourselves of how important church really is, and encourage one another to recognise how vital it is that we keep the faith. The following is from the blog of Nick Baines Bishop of Bradford.

The Diocese of Bradford is currently hosting the Bishop of Khartoum, Sudan, as we celebrate 30 years of a diocesan link. Talking with the bishop over the last few days about the situation facing Christians in Sudan, I keep asking myself the question why a red line has been drawn in Syria, but not in Darfur? President Bashir has been indicted by the International Criminal Court in The Hague, yet the West has not threatened to carry out surgical strikes against those Sudanese military installations that continue to commit murder on a massive scale. Why not? What is the moral difference between Syria and Darfur/Sudan?

These questions arose not just from conversations with the Bishop of Khartoum, but also from a service in a Bradford parish church this morning. Church – particularly the Church of England – frequently gets a bad press, yet where else can you find a community of people who consciously belong together, deliberately question their own way of life, dig deep into the stuff of their souls, wrestle with how personal commitment (discipleship of Jesus) connects with (or leads to or derives from) stuff like Syria, Darfur, and so on? Where else do you get this corporate soul-searching in a context of music, silence and attentive listening? What other group brings together (by choice) people of different social strata in one place where attention is paid to looking at the self and beyond the self, encouraging commitment and perseverance, challenging complacency and hypocrisy?

I think we easily overlook just how remarkable this phenomenon is. A congregation thinks of today's routines in the light of the eternal and the global. It hangs on and lives with uncertainty and unresolved questions. Yet, it does so with hope – not wishful thinking, but the hope that derives from “hearing amid the cacophonies of the present the music of the future”.

Anyway, the point I was musing on with the congregation this morning was that when Jesus

invited people to follow him, he insisted that they did so with their eyes open. This journey would be no walk in the park, but would throw them together with people they wouldn't choose and might not like – but by following him they would deny themselves the option of choosing company that was convenient to them. Pulling together a passage from Jeremiah (18:1-11) and Luke (14:25-33), we noted that Christians are to be people who, having received the generosity of God, are bound to live generously. However, they must also live out the habit of recognising failure and choosing to change – personally and by feeding the hungry, caring for the destitute, and so on.

And when it seems that, in Jeremiah's language, the potter's clay gets messed up and has to be broken and re-thrown, this is not the end of the story. According to the biblical narrative, (and in the words of American Franciscan, Richard Rohr) “everything belongs”. Nothing of our life is wasted. The broken bits get collected up and re-worked into something both beautiful and useful. Yet, this should not be easily romanticised: it is painful and hard, and impacts on the emotions, the psyche, lifestyle and self-esteem.

This is what church does. It creates a space in which deep examination and questioning can go on – both of the self and of the world we live in. And it opens up the possibility of motivating a community of people who seek to see the world changed, but starting with themselves. This is the humility of repentance. And it compels us not to lose hold on the hard questions about self and Syria, the local and the global, the temporal and the eternal.

It is also hugely enjoyable.

Full blog here

<http://nickbaines.wordpress.com/2013/09/08/questions-church-and-other-stuff/>

Stationing for Deacon Jane Mills. Jane will have been a deacon at Putnoe Heights & St Marks for 5 years by August 2014. Her time is divided equally between a) the two Churches. B)Chaplain at Anjulita Court and c) work for the Circuit.

During the past few weeks the Circuit Stationing Committee has met to decide about the extension of Jane's service with us and has consulted with people in all three areas of Jane's Service. At last weeks Circuit meeting a decision was made to invite Jane to continue working with us for a further three years. So thank you Jane and we will look forward to your continuing ministry at Putnoe Heights and St Marks Churches.

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.

Enid Kathleen Wait

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



Forthcoming Funerals

Members of our churches will be saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Florence 'Tommy' Hulatt who died in Airedale on Friday. Her funeral will take place at St Mark's Church and we will publish details in due course.