



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

24 February 2008

Third Sunday of Lent



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

9.30am St Mark's –Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions– Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley
Intercessions -Mrs Claire Peck

4th Sunday of Lent—Mothering Sunday

9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions –Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Family Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team –Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Ministers

Bible Readings.

1.Exodus 2: 1-1-10 2. 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

3.Luke 2: 33-35

Thank You

The flowers in the church at St Mark's this week
have been given by the Appleton Family to
celebrate the 93rd birthday of Millie Meads

The flowers at Putnoe have been given by The
flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have
been given by Mrs Madge Walsh in memory of her
husband, and by Mrs Sam Ware in memory of
Doris McGrellis.

Prayer for Sunday

Lord God, in whom we live and move
and have our being,
open our eyes to your Fatherly presence
forever around us.

Draw our hearts with the power of your love
and teach us to be anxious for nothing.

Take from us all doubt and mistrust
and lift our thoughts heavenwards

into the light of your glory;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Brooke Foss Westcott, 1825-1901

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 Mr Alan Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs L Parry 216724 Mob 07922053740

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 17 March Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm Housegroup 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 26 February Meal and Flowers. Mr Bob Burn 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 26 February Talk By Val Scriivenor 'Fair Trade—Bangladesh'. 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 20 February 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 Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

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 5 March 2008
Graham ☎406359 or Danny ☎401668.

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

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the
quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424
*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the
information table.*

9.40am 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 for first child. More details from St.
Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

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

1.30pm 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 Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

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 10
February Liz ☎302349

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 17th June ,
18 November

St Mark's Leadership Team – 13 May

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – May 12th

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee –
21st April

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings ., 14th
April and 14th July.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 11th March .
5 May, 11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at 12
noon

Putnoe Church Council -

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee - 11 June

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –Weds 26th
March, 7.30 at 14 Flint Way

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting - 12 June, 18 September, 13
November

Circuit Meeting - 10 March , 12 June

Woodland Burial Trustees - Sunday 6th April 2008
in the Wren Room at 3.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–

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

Third Sunday in Lent

Opening Verse Psalm 95:6

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before He was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen *Common Worship*



First Bible Reading -Exodus 17: 1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarrelled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

(This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - Romans 5: 1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

(This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading - John 4: 5-42

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'" Sir," the

woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him. Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour." Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world." (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord— **All: Thanks be to God**)

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

Lord of Creation 440 (Tune Slane), Father I place into your hands, Born by the Holy Spirit's Breath 61 (Tune Fulda), Restore O Lord 579, Lord of the Church 442

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Commentary

We know that the Jews from Jerusalem despised the Jews from Samaria. They told stories about how the Samaritan Jews were racially impure, that they came from inter marriage with foreigners. That some Jews did not get on well with other Jews should not surprise us, the history of the tribes of Judaism, the Northern and Southern Kingdom of Judaism, is all one of conflict and falling out. At the time of Jesus there was a continuing hatred between these two distinctly Jewish groups. The Samaritan people still survive to this day, preserving their ancient religious rites near the ancient site of Shechem, and the modern city of Nablus.

The Samaritans are Jews, who regard the Pentateuch and observe the Sabbath strictly. They

claim Mount Gerazim as their holy mountain because it is mentioned in the Pentateuch. (Deut 11:29, 27:12). They regard Jerusalem as less significant because it was a later development from the time of King David who wanted to establish his kingdom there. Much of what we know about the Samaritans comes from later Jewish writings which tell us that the Samaritans were descended from interracial relations with foreigners who repopulated this part of the Northern Kingdom after the Assyrian invasion. This is probably not a fair representation, but it gives us an idea of the bitterness which characterised their relations. Other Jews held them in contempt, clearly considering themselves to be better.

It is against this background of conflict that we have the longest discourse in the whole of the Book of John, between Jesus, a Jewish Rabbi, and somebody from another Jewish group that he was supposed to despise. The writer of the Gospel must clearly attach some importance to this episode and he wants us to know that it is important, it has a fundamental role in helping us to understand Jesus and his ministry.

We know that the woman was Samaritan and the history of these two groups was such that it was unlikely that Jesus would have anything to do with her. The fact that the Samaritan was a woman didn't help either, this is why the woman asks, "how can you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For a man to speak with a woman in this way was extraordinary, men just didn't speak with women in this way. But there is more, not only was this a Samaritan, and a woman, this woman had another distinguishing feature which made her an unlikely subject for Jesus to have a meeting. We are also told that she had five husbands!

It is helpful for us to remember some of the other details of this story. We are told that the time of the day was noon. It was in the heat of the day, and the last time that most women would have wanted to do the heavy lifting and hard walk back to the village involved in getting water from the well. The other women went early in the morning or in the cool of the evening, when the work wouldn't be quite as hard, and the drudgery of hauling water would be broken by the fellowship shared by the women around the well. A woman who chose instead to go to the well at noon must have been seeking specifically to avoid that company. It is apparent that this woman was an outcast - even among Samaritans.

I would guess that she was used to whispering in the village wherever she went, having been used and discarded by so many men of the village, and in a culture in which there was little if any privacy, and gossip spread news quickly. As oppressive as the noonday sun is, it doesn't burn like the stares of the others in the village. So she goes to the well at noon, when she can be sure to be alone.

So we see Jesus meeting a woman who simply could not have been much more of an outsider. She belonged to a group which was despised and she was despised by that group!

It is interesting that we do not know the name of the woman. We have a huge discourse but no name. Perhaps that is helpful, for in so many ways the exchange of words is not just a personal encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan, the words which Jesus speaks are for all people. The woman is in a solitary place, she has little to make herself feel proud, little to help her see herself of value. Yet in her meeting with Jesus, She comes as a person outside society, and Jesus shows her that she is inside God's love.

Jesus knows what this woman is like, there are no secrets, Jesus is able to look deep inside her heart, as he looks inside the hearts of all of us. Jesus looks and is able to see the things which everybody in the village has gossiped about. Jesus does not criticise or condemn. Where others look with the eyes of condemnation and see sin, Jesus looks with the eyes of compassion and recognises the value of this woman as a child of God. Jesus is not put off by her sin because he knows that there is more grace in God than there is sin in us.

Charles Royden

Prayers for Sunday and week ahead

Gracious God, let the light of your face shine upon us. Let your peace rule in our hearts, your strength be our song and your grace be sufficient for our need. Prepare us for the events of each day that we may take up our cross and follow in the steps of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. *Matthew Henry, 1662-1714*

Lord, open our eyes, that we may see you in our brothers and sisters.

Lord, open our ears that we may hear the cries of the hungry,
the cold, the frightened and the oppressed.

Lord, open our hearts, that we may love each other as you have loved us.

Renew in us your spirit, Lord, free us and make us one. Mother Teresa

O God our Father, we give you thanks

that today you have called us to worship you - and to learn of you.

You know the needs with which we have come to your house.

Grant that in it we may find comfort for sorrow, and soothing for soreness of heart.

Grant that in it we may find guidance for problems and light for perplexity of mind.

Grant that in it we may find strength against our temptations and grace to overcome the fascination of the wrong things.

Grant that in it we may meet Jesus, and go out not to forget him any more.

Remember those who cannot go to church today: those who are ill;

those who are aged; those who are too sad to come; those who have the care of children and of family concerns; those who are nursing invalids; those who must work today.

And grant that in their own home, in the hospitals, the infirmaries, the nursing homes, they may know the unseen fellowship of the worshipping company of those who love you.

William Barclay

Lent 2008

Our Lent Course started last week with an introduction to the history of Israel, prophecy and a look at Amos. Some of the notes for this first session can now be found on our website.

The next session, led by the Reverend Dr Joan Crossley will take place at Putnoe Heights Church this Wednesday at 7.30 (refreshments) and 8.00pm start.

Wednesday 27 February -

Joan Crossley-Isaiah, Jeremiah & the minor prophets of the Southern Kingdom of Judah

Wednesday 5 March

Sam Cappleman

Daniel, Zechariah, Haggai & Malachi, A view from exile and the end of the beginning

Wednesday 12 March

Bishop Christopher-Prophecy today

St Mark's Coffee Shop

Sunday 1.30pm - 4pm

Don't forget to come along and enjoy great teas, where else can you get great teas and coffee with a piece of homemade cake, all for £1 ! Thank You!

Telecare



Telecare volunteers serve the church in helping us care for each other. They telephone church folks on a regular basis just to check up how things are going and share a friendly message.

Occasionally they are able to alert the ministers to somebody who is poorly or who is going to hospital. The Ministers are very grateful for this support which helps them to know that there is a pastoral safety net. Those who register for Telecare are encouraged to know that the ministry of caring for one another is considered to be at the heart of what it means to be a church. If you have not already done so please register by telling one of the ministers - *Thank you*

Service of Holy Communion at Sir William Harpur House on the first Monday of every month at 10.00am, led by Charles Royden. Everybody is invited to attend, not just residents. Next Service March 3rd.

Storybox at St. Mark's really need volunteers to help with catering and assistance with setting up and clearing away. If we can get enough people it would only mean once every 4-6 weeks on a Thursday from 11-1.15pm. Emma would also like a few more storytellers. If you can help please contact Emma Strangwick (211070) or talk to Linda Parry or Janet Day

Can you face paint ? We are looking for help at the Partnership Children's Good Friday event. Please see or ring Liz. 302349

Partnership Children's Good Friday Special. This fantastic Easter event usually welcomes between 80 and 100 children with their carers between 12.15 and 1.30 at Putnoe. If you think you can help out with welcoming, craft activities, refreshments or furniture moving, please contact Liz or Joan. We are also having an Easter colouring competition with judging at the Good Friday special, 4 classes, under 5's, 6-10yrs, 11-18yrs and adults! Amazing prizes !! please see Liz for entry sheet

Hazeldene Heights Preschool. Come & share in the activities with the children in our Preschool at Putnoe Heights. Please talk to Linda Hoar if you can spare a few hours each month or would like to know more about the group. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Linda Hoar 782717

Overnight stay in Theatreland? Small studio flat available for overnight stays close to Covent Garden. Sleeps two. £80 per night. Phone Bedford 346820

Bark It is that time of year again when it is great to start sorting out the garden. So we have ensured a ready supply of bark to furnish your borders. Available from St Mark's, we appreciate a donation of about 31 a bag.

District Network Day - Tuesday 26th February at Central Methodist Church, Letchworth from 10.45am to 3.30pm. Please see notice in foyer for more details.

Daffodil Day Monday 3rd March at Central Hall Westminster. 1.40pm for a 2pm start. There will be a coach leaving from Kempston or Ampthill, cost £10. To book please contact Corinne Thomas on 1525 403936.

Footprints Sunday 9th March
"Peter's Walk" Meet for a light lunch at Putnoe Heights after morning service (bring walking gear to church). Drive to Flitwick for 3 mile walk starting at 2.15, exploring Flitwick Moor. Parking at Folly Farm off Maulden Road. Donations invited from walkers and well-wishers for St John's Moggerhanger in memory of Peter Beswick. Further details from Sue Allen or Eddie Peck.

Women's World Day of Prayer - Friday 7th March 2008
2pm in The Miracle Church. Speaker Revd Jacqueline Owens from Oakley Methodist Church.
7.30pm Priory Methodist Church. Speaker: Revd Monica Robinson. Asst Curate. St Andrews Church. All Welcome

St Mark's Preschool has some spare Tickets for Kids World 29th February 6.30pm to 8.15pm. £5 per child, adults free. Interested?

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

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



Rest in Peace

There are no funerals this coming week