

Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

24 May 2009

## 7th Sunday of Easter - Ascension



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 - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank  
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

**11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship**  
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs Wendy Nash  
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

### Sunday 31 May — Pentecost

**9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion with  
Christian Healing**

Preacher— Rev Keith Brown  
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing  
Intercessions – Mrs Delia Shephard

**11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion  
with Christian Healing**

Preacher – Rev Keith Brown  
Leadership – Mrs Sam Ware  
Intercessions - Ministers

**Readings** 1. Acts 2: 1-21 2. Romans 8: 22-27  
3. John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week are given by Jenny and Barry Snelson in celebration of both their mothers reaching their 90th birthday, and the imminent 1st birthday of their grand-daughter Daisy.

*We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.*

### Prayer for Sunday

Gracious God, let us place all things into your hands. Let us lay everything on your altar. Let us take nothing back. Let us yield all things to your glory; now and for ever. Amen.

*Mary Slessor, 1848-1918*

### 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 Charles Royden

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

#### For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website [www.ThisIsChurch.com](http://www.ThisIsChurch.com)

#### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

#### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm  
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417  
Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
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 Delia Shephard 273628  
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com  
Gift Aid Administrator Jim 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 Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634  
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights** 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
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 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 or 07881730747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 15 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

- 9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299
- 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 Mrs Brown☎771676
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in

month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting June 2 Richard Ledger. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton 346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month
- 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. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Meeting 2 June Flying—Sam Cappleman Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 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
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 3 June 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 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** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎ 262823
- 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
- 6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725  
**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987  
**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073  
**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378  
**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867  
**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** St Mark's, 1st ,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting 3 June Everyone welcome. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details  
**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 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. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424  
*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. (No meeting on 9th April)*  
**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970  
**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070  
**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 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  
**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎272470 Next meeting 24 September  
**4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179  
**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.  
**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351  
**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden☎825059  
**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group.** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059  
**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale ☎406094  
**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550  
**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 Jean Birks ☎219607  
**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎346505

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography** (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397  
**9.00am Clubhouse** St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.  
**10am - 12 U3A Beginners French** St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086  
**12.15pm U3A Photography** (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

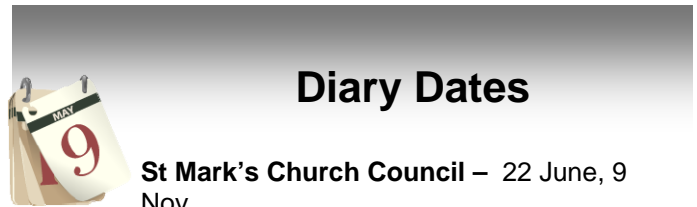
**5pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468  
**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875  
**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994  
**6.30pm Line Dancing.** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360  
**7pm Bedford Art Society** monthly Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 1st May Mary Rich ☎272470  
**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.** St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

### Saturday

**9.45am Bedford Stamp Auction** at Putnoe Heights Next Auction 30th May. Contact Stuart or Anne 01327 876438  
**10.00am Theatretrain** St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414  
**Young Embroiders** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 357198  
**2.15pm Society of Recorder Players** at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792  
**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. Please see Liz ☎302349 .



**St Mark's Church Council – 22 June, 9 Nov**  
**St Mark's Leadership Team – Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 8 June at Linda's, 12 Oct, 8 Feb 2010**  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 20 July**  
**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 15 July, 8 Sept , 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010**  
**Putnoe Church Council - 15 Jun, 5 Oct**  
**Pastoral Group Meeting - Churchyard Committee - Putnoe Heights Mission Group - Wednesday 3 June, 7.30pm 14 Flint Way.**  
**Partnership Council - September 6th**  
**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - Deanery Meeting 18 Jun, 17 Sep, 19 Nov, Circuit/Deanery Meeting Woodland Burial Trustees – Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –**

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

# Easter 7—Ascension

## Opening Verse Eph 1 v 20

He raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

## Collect Prayer for the Day —

*Before we read we pray*

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

*Common Worship Shorter Collect - Seventh Sunday after Easter*



## First Bible Reading -Acts 1:15–17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus— he was one of our number and shared in this ministry.” Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

## Second Reading - 1 John 5:9-13

We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

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

## Gospel Reading - John 17: 6-19

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them,

for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord – **All: Thanks be to God**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Commentary: Christ's Followers or Leaders?**

One of the underlying themes of today's readings is community and some of the elements which are to be present in our broad Christian community. We are called to be an integral part of the world and community in which we live, and, as a body of believers we are to be united and perhaps most importantly we are to be holy and sanctified. All these themes are interlinked. As we love one another so God dwells in us and as He dwells in us so we become holy and sanctified and empowered to go out into the community to show God's love and transforming power. In so doing, we each take on in our individual ways, a mantle of leadership. We are called to be Christ's followers but we are also called to be His leaders, just as Matthias was and the passage from Acts reminds us of the importance of Christian leadership.

In a world which generally lacks leadership and direction Christians need to be seen as credible, engaged and respected community leaders and participants. People who can be change agents, prepared to challenge the status quo, people with passion involved in a wide spectrum of roles working for the benefit of the wider community. Above all, people who focus on people and enabling them achieve their full, God given, potential. In short, the church must demonstrate that it understands the most important challenge facing it in the twenty first century is not the debate around sexuality or any of the other internal or peripheral issues which consume so much of the church's time, but how it can engage in leading and transforming the communities in which it exists through demonstrating a Christ like fervour, humility and compassion for them. Our words and actions must be encountered as a movement impelled by the profound understanding that Christ and His message of hope and salvation are as relevant in today's society as they have ever been. The church is uniquely placed to serve and respond to those who are seeking support and a moral compass in their lives, through the absolute truths of scripture, the holy mystery of faith and worship and the sure and certain hope we have in Christ. It can only do so effectively if we follow His example of leading, challenging and serving the communities in which we live, like Him prepared to interact with and challenge the political, religious and social leaders of the day, humbly and compassionately engaging with people from all aspects of society. Within the Partnership serving the community is at the heart of much that we do. As churches we have a corporate responsibility to our community which we try to meet through encouraging and facilitating the various activities and groups who make use of our premises. But we also have an individual responsibility to make sure we are playing our own full role in those areas which God calls us to as individuals or smaller groups. This is part of God's calling on our lives.

In the gospel reading several words appear multiple times. 'Glorify', 'word', 'unity' or 'one', and 'world' are some examples. The 'world' is definitely a place to which Christ has been sent and into which the Apostles are to go. But 'world' also defines those people who refuse to accept Jesus as the Messiah and by that definition is moved to hatred of those who seek to make the Messiah and His purpose known. The disciples and believers today no longer belong to this 'world' group but belong in it as a gift from the Father, in the Son, empowered by His Spirit, to bring about the Kingdom of God in the present age. Gerald Darrington suggests that, '...Christians have been sent into the world to work within that world for the unveiling of beauty that is yet to be....' We are called to be Christ's leaders and followers so that God's rule may be known in our world and communities. It not just a job for others, we all have our part to play. Just as the early disciples were to learn, that can sometimes be hard and uncomfortable as we expose ourselves to the 'hatred' and indifference of the world. The disciples found that when they were united, when they were able to encourage each other, when they opened themselves up to the omnipotent power of the Spirit, they were able to stand in that world as a gift from God, and reflect a world transformed and renewed the way God intends His creation to be. *Sam Cappleman – some material taken from Sam's article published in the 'Church Times', September 2008*

### **Hymns** (Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship service sheets )

1. The head that was once crowned with thorns 647, 2. Jesus put this song into my heart 376, 3. Jesus the name high over all 385, 4. Thou art the way 695, 5. Immortal, invisible, God only wise 327

### **Meditation**

Jesus was to stay in the world no longer. He was about to travel through the narrow passageway of death, as we all will do one day, back into His Father's presence. He had given everything that He was and everything that He possessed to the Father. The disciples must have longed for things to stay as they were, with Jesus continuing to be with physically them, giving their lives new direction and meaning and a degree of security. But that was not to be. Life would never be completely the same again. Jesus prays that in this new world order that is about to be inaugurated that the disciples would be protected and secure, united and sanctified (set apart and made holy) for the work to which they would embark. We too are a holy people, protected and sanctified by the love of God for the work to which He has called us. He asks us in return to fully enter into that love and in so doing so we enter into unity with Him and each other.

### **Prayers for Sunday and week ahead**

Saviour Christ, of ourselves we cannot love you, cannot follow you, cannot cleave to you; but you came down that we might love you; ascended that we might follow you, bound us round you as your girdle that we might be held fast to you. You loved us, so make us love you; you sought us, so make us seek you; you found us when we were lost, so be yourself the way, that we may find you and be found in you, our only hope and everlasting joy. **Amen**

Eternal God, the King of Glory, you have exalted your only Son with great triumph to your Kingdom in heaven. Leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where Christ has gone before, and where with you and the Holy Spirit He is worshipped and glorified, now and for ever. **Amen**

We have a great high priest who has passed into the Heavens, Jesus the Son of God. **Amen**

Blessed are you, Lord God almighty, who gave your Son, Jesus Christ, to be our redeemer and the author of everlasting life; and exalted Him above all for ever; that at all times and in all places we might be partakers of His power and His glory. **Amen**

Almighty and ever-living God, give us new strength from the courage of Christ our shepherd, and lead us to join the saints in heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

The God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

### **Beating the Parish Bounds – an Ascension Day Tradition**

The three days immediately before Ascension Day, which was on Thursday this week, are sometimes know as Rogation Days. The word comes from the Latin 'rogare', meaning to ask, and these were the days when God's blessing was asked on the crops, planted a few weeks earlier and hopefully just beginning to show signs of life in the early Spring. The custom came from Europe where it was initiated by the Archbishop of Vienna in the year 470 after terrible plagues and minor earthquakes had devastated the community. He ordered special prayers to be recited as the villagers processed around their fields asking God blessing on their crops. The custom spread rapidly around Western Europe, and by the eighth century was established in Britain. These processions were also useful to show people their parish boundaries, boundaries. The custom of 'Beating the Bounds' grew up to show people, and especially the younger members of the parish, where the parish boundaries lay. At the boundary-marks of the parish such as a pond, a big tree or a rock, the country vicar or parson would stop and read the Gospel, and when this had been done the boys of the parish traditionally was thrown over a hedge, pushed into a stream or beaten with willow wands to imprint the boundary on their minds. These willow wands come from the straight suckers of a pollarded willow. Stripping the soft bark from the outside revealed the beautifully smooth white wood of new willow and it is from this action of removing the bark that we get the title of the country dance 'Strip the Willow'.

**Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meet at St.Mark's on 1st/3rd & 5th Wednesdays are holding a Ceilidh at Roxton Village Hall on Saturday 13 June at 7.30pm. Dancing to Moondance Accoustics Tickets £6 plus a plate of food available from Rosemary 405594 or Lena 271664

**Shake a Tin for Cancer Research UK** I am looking for people who could spare one hour during the morning of Saturday 20th June to 'shake a tin' in either the town centre or local shopping parade. It is probably true that there is not a family in the country who has not been affected by cancer in some form or other. By giving up one hour you could help fund the research and eradication of this dreadful disease. I have recently taken over the street collection Coordination and the list of collectors I have inherited needs more volunteers to help with this worthy cause. If you are willing to help, please phone John Lingings on 01234 306676 or call at 10 Irthing Close

**Methodist Homes for the Aged** are hosting an event to provide information on the opening of Anjulita Court in Brickhill. This will be held at St Mark's Church on Monday 8 June at 7.00pm. We are particularly pleased to be hosting the event especially as we have now confirmed that the chaplaincy for Anjulita Court will be linked to the Partnership.

**The Abbeyfield Society in Bedford** founded as an initiative for the Mothers' Union of All Saint's

Queens Park. Sheltered accommodation is provided for the elderly in two houses in Bedford. Details from website [www.absl.org.uk](http://www.absl.org.uk) or the Administrator, Abbeyfield Bedford Society, 18 Linden Road, Bedford MK40 2DA or 01234 219500.

**Footprints Weekend 2009** Friday 25 - Sunday 27 September. Booking is now open. Bed, breakfast and dinner at The Four Pillars Hotel, Ducklington Lane, Witney, Oxfordshire is £52 per person sharing a double room. Walks daily or non walking option to visit Blenheim, Burford etc..Please contact Barry Snelson at the Putnoe Church office [Tuesday to Thursday] on 01234 365630 or at home on 01234 344417 as soon as possible to register your interest.

**From Liz Spavins** If anyone has any old jam jars please can you give them to Liz at Putnoe. Thank you.

**Coffee Morning** Saturday 6 June between 10 & 12 noon at 1 Welbeck Gardens, the home of Sam & Andrew Ware. Hosted by the Young Peoples Group. Cakes , Raffle etc. Proceeds to Mission Funds. All welcome. Requests for/offers of transport on the day contact Valerie Capon 356306. Sylvia Cohen 343424

**Old Testament Characters and Christian Mission in Multi-Faith Britain.** Five creative bible studies led by The Rev Jay MacLeod. Tuesday evenings 7.30pm to 9.00pm, 2, 9. 16, 23, 30 June. More information call 290393 or email Jay on jay-

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## Churches see hopeful future for nuclear disarmament

Three British Churches have expressed optimism following the conclusion of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory Committee meeting in New York. Leaders of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church are hopeful that real progress towards global disarmament will be made over the next 12 months in the run-up to the NPT Review Conference in 2010.

However, the Church leaders expressed their disappointment that the UK Government continues to support the replacement of Trident, Britain's nuclear weapons system, while also participating in global disarmament discussions.

"I am alarmed by the Government's inconsistency," said the Revd Jonathan Edwards, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. "How can it promote disarmament on the one hand, but be in favour of retaining British nuclear weapons on the other? We want to see all decisions on the replacement of Trident put on hold until after the 2010 Review Conference."

Revd John Marsh, Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly, said: "New nuclear weapons will cost the British tax-payer billions of pounds. Given that we are already struggling financially, and facing a massive burden of debt, this is particularly obscene. We urge the Government to think again. Parliament must have the opportunity to reconsider major spending in the light of the constraints on the UK economy and the progress on disarmament."

Steve Hucklesby, Policy Adviser for The Methodist Church, added: "World leaders now have the best chance in years to make positive steps towards total nuclear disarmament. We need decisive leadership to make it happen. Nuclear weapons are totally immoral as their possession implies a willingness to commit mass murder."



**Woodland Burial Trust**  
 St Albans Woodland  
 Burial Ground Open Day  
 Come and visit the  
 woodland on  
 Saturday 27 June from  
 2.00pm—5.00pm  
 Refreshments served  
 throughout.

We would welcome offers

of help with providing refreshments throughout the afternoon. If you are able to offer any help then please contact Janet Day 295592

**Footprints Sunday 7 June at 2.30pm.** A pleasant, easy walk of approx. 3.5 miles, with a few stiles. Meet outside Pertenhall Village Hall which is 11 miles from Bedford just off the B660 Kimbolton Road. Further details from Jean and Alan Kirk 317699.

**1st Putnoe Brownies** are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 6 June at 10.00 till 12.00 in the small hall. Raffle and tombola. Please come along and support them. 1st Putnoe Brownies General Knowledge Quiz sheets available from the office. £1.00 entry. £25 1st prize, closing date 13th June.

**St Mark's Church Bank Holiday Monday Car Boot Sale.** We are once again asking for your help on Monday 25 May. All your support is very much appreciated. Bric-a-brac, books etc for the church stall very welcome. Tray bakes welcome. St Marks Church will be open Sunday afternoon, just turn up and leave your unwanted valuables for us to sell.

**Shannon Express Concert** with Great Songs and Great Voices - the award winning Male Close

Harmony Chorus. Saturday 4th July 7.30 pm  
 Tickets £7.50 (concessions £6.50) from Bedford  
 Central Box Office 01234 269519 or from 01234  
 403255 price includes light refreshments  
 St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Goldington

**All 'Open the Book' Storytellers**, past and present, are invited to the 10th Anniversary celebrations on Saturday 13 June from 10am to 4pm. Bob Hartman is the special guest and storytellers from other parts of the country are also coming for the event. We need a reply slip in advance plus £5 (lunch inc.) for catering & seating purposes. Please contact Dave Todd 364679 or Sheila Lawless 01234 359359 if you have not received an invitation.

**Thursford Christmas Spectacular.** Kempston Musical Society have a few seats left on a trip to this fantastic show on Tuesday 24th November. Coffee on the journey by coach, and a meal on the return journey are arranged. Anyone interested to contact Bob Burn in the first instance. 01234 854858

**European Elections – June 2009** A Statement from the Regional Church Leaders: The Bishops of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church The Leaders of the Free Churches  
 On 4th June, the people of the East of England will choose our representatives in the European Parliament. The regional voting system means that every vote counts. As Church Leaders in the region we encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote and to do so with the well-being of all people in our communities in mind.

The East of England has a notable history of welcoming people fleeing persecution elsewhere in Europe, sometimes on religious grounds. As Christian Leaders in this generation, we believe that hospitality and living together with mutual respect remain the foundation of a civilised society. All human beings are created equally in the image of God. That is why racism is a sin. Christ calls us to love our neighbours as ourselves and in this forthcoming election we believe it is right to be vigilant about any party or individual candidate seeking to use people's fears for their own well-being to stir racial or religious hatred. At a time when many people are anxious about their jobs, finances and future, we pray that the best and most generous traditions of our national life will guide all voters on 4 June.

### 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.

**John Allan Ross**

*'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 Partnership will be saddened to hear news of the deaths of Yvonne Holmes and Olive Betts. Both are long standing members of Putnoe Heights Church. Information about the funerals will be published next week.