



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

25 August 2013 - Ordinary 21



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

Today 25 August — Ordinary 21

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship
Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs
Organist Miss Marion Prior
11.00 am Putnoe –Morning
Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership Mr Barry Southam
Intercessions — Dr Tim Wilkes
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

1 September — Ordinary 22

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship
Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership – Mrs Wendy Waters
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing
Organist - Mr John Mower
11.00 am Putnoe –Morning
Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions — YPG
Organist - Mr John Mower

Readings 1. Jeremiah 2: 4-13 2. Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16
3. Luke 14: 1,7-14

Midweek Holy Communion at St Mark's Chapel every
Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir William Harpur House
on first Monday of every month at 10.00am

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week are to celebrate the baptism of Jessica Tilly Holland and have been kindly donated with love from both families.

Welcome

You are all welcome to our service today, we especially welcome the family and friends of Jessica Tilly Holland who has been brought for baptism.

Prayer for Today

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper
save us from pride,
when we are needy
save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Common Worship

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a Vice
President for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mills
c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

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

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

Churchyards Administrator
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

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

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

St. Mark's Church Centre
Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

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– 19 August 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 below)
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). Strawberry Tea 20 August at St.Mark's at 2.30pm 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 11 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 18 September. 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 4 September. 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 9-24 months 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 18 Sept; 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 - 10 September
Annual Congregational Meetings
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 10 October
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 1st October
Putnoe Church Council - 14 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting - 4.15pm 17th September
Churchyard Committee -
Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 3pm
Circuit meeting - 10th September Wilstead Methodist Church
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 21

Sentence of Scripture Psalm 103:1, 8

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Living God, you formed us in the womb and appointed us to be prophets to the nations. Stretch out your hand to cure our infirmity and dispel our fear, that we may know the freedom of serving you in Christ and proclaim the wonders you have done. Amen. *Common Worship Shorter Collect*

First Reading - Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you - you shall go, and whatever I command you - you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.”

Then the Lord put forth his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,

“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

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

Second Reading — Hebrews 12:18-29

You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.” The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens. The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken--that is, created things--so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.”

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



The Prophet Jeremiah. Glass painting from the Choir of the Bebenhausen Monastery, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, ca. 1335.

Note the womb-like shape surrounding the image of the prophet, symbolizing his formation by God for this ministry while in the womb. Image: Public Domain.

Gospel Reading – Luke 13: 10-17

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath." The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?" When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

(This is the Gospel of Christ—**Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Morning Worship, Hymns sheet and Baptism booklets for St Mark's*)

1. Fill your heart with joy and gladness
2. Birth brings promise of new life awakening - tune 'Epiphany hymn'
3. First of the week and finest day tune 'Galilee'
4. Lord and Father of mankind
5. When to our world the Saviour came

Commentary

What do you do on a Sunday, the equivalent of the Jewish Sabbath? The word 'Sabbath' comes from the Hebrew 'Sabbat' meaning to 'cease'. Luke 13 v 10 – 17 is just one account of where Jesus appears to contradict a very long held Jewish tradition of keeping the Sabbath holy, set aside by and for God, a day when no work is done, a day of rest. The tradition has its origins way back to when God created the world as described in Genesis 2 v 2 and 3:

'By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.'

This was reinforced by the fourth commandment in Exodus 20 v 8 -11: 'Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. For 6 days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. You shall do no work ...'

In Exodus 16 v 21 - 30 we read the strict instructions Moses gave to the Israelites, when they were starving in the desert, not to gather or cook 'the manna' on the Sabbath. But adherence to keeping the Sabbath will also lead to many blessings, as written in Isaiah 58 v13 and 14:

"If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

By the time of the NT there was great emphasis on the Jewish Law being studied in the synagogue on the Sabbath, which is where we find Jesus teaching in today's reading from Luke 13. Jesus was observing a traditional Sabbath but was not so rigid in its practise of it, as were the synagogue leaders, that it prevented him from one of his primary callings to heal the sick. In Matthew 12; 1 -14 and Mark 2: 23 - 27 we read of another occasion when Jesus rebuked the religious leaders for their strict interpretation of the Sabbath. This was when the disciples were criticised for picking ears of corn to eat. In the Mark account Jesus ends his rebuke with the often quoted words: "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

So why did the 'Synagogue ruler' or as several translations use, the 'synagogue president', the equivalent perhaps of our Vicar or Minister, object? Was it because he believed in sticking rigidly to the Jewish rules that had been laid down over many centuries? Or was it because Jesus was upstaging him by his acts of healing? Or was it for another much deeper reason?

We might have some sympathy with the 'Synagogue ruler', after all the 4th Commandment states 'you shall do no work'. The synagogue ruler clearly regarded 'healing' as work. Whereas on seeing the woman bent over double Jesus had acted in his typically compassionate way and healed her which he understood as part of his calling. On a number of occasions Jesus challenged the religious leaders about their over emphasis on rules. In response to being challenged about healing the woman, Jesus skilfully uses the analogy of the accepted practise of caring for animals, by giving them a drink of water on the Sabbath, with caring for one of their own people on the Sabbath. An analogy which the people listening understood.

This was not the first time and would not be the last, that Jesus had caused a stir by healing those who had been afflicted by long term, serious conditions of mind or body. Such miracles, understandably, drew attention and admiration to Jesus, who was often described as speaking with 'authority'. It is perhaps not surprising that, those who were used to having religious authority and holding the attention of local people attending the synagogue, felt annoyed by Jesus. Especially when 'the people were delighted by all the wonderful things he was doing'. A modern equivalent in the church might be where a Bishop, or Chair of the District, who had been in post for many years, felt threatened by a much younger dynamic minister full of fresh ideas. Or perhaps in the work place, where a well respected senior manager invites a visitor to address a staff team meeting, only to find that the visitor suggests radically different ways of operating that he would not dream of, but 'delight' his staff, who then hero worship the visitor!

The deeper reason may be the way Jesus' words and actions point to his message for Israel's leaders, which their rigid boundaries were in fact preventing the message of God's Kingdom being heard and adhered to. The woman is described in all the translations I read as being a 'daughter of Abraham'; so for the 'woman' we might understand to be 'Israel'. The woman, who would very likely have been well known in the village, had been 'bound' by her disabling condition for many years; this might equate to Israel being bound by the works of 'Satan' or 'evil' for very many years; the healing of the woman, releasing her from her condition by Jesus could equate with Jesus coming to 'heal' Israel, to release its people from all that was preventing them knowing the true message of God's Kingdom.

After Jesus' death and resurrection on the 'third day' Sunday evolved into the Christian equivalent to the Sabbath. In the 16th and 17th century strict observance of Sunday as a holy day became a strong feature of Puritanism and many forms of Protestantism. The Lord's Day Observance Society was formed in 1831 to enforce the end of secular activities on a Sunday so that the day was set apart for the Lord.

So I wonder what does this reading say to us in the 21stC about our observance of the Christian Sabbath, Sunday? Does Sunday shopping restrict the Kingdom message? In one sense yes, because preoccupation with acquiring goods can prevent time and space to worship in Church, which has been the primary method of conveying the Kingdom message. However today we have 24/7 access to the Christian message- via radio, TV, the internet and mobile phones. The Fresh Expressions movement, of which Messy Church is just one example, attempts to reach people with the Good news of Jesus on days other than Sunday. However, whilst being a supporter of Fresh Expressions, I do believe you can't beat spending time with fellow believers in corporate worship. But does that have to be on a Sunday? I leave you with that question to ponder, to discuss with others, drawing on Scripture and your understanding of 'Sabbath'. *Wendy Waters*

Mediation

She had shuffled into the synagogue, so bent by spondylitis, that she looked as if she carried a heavy burden, or was like a slave under the yoke of oppression. She did not ask for help, nor did she need to; he knows your need before you ask. Jesus mid-sermon, saw her, called to her immediately; stretched out his strong hands, and lifted her burden; and she stood tall and straight, her human dignity restored, and could look him in the eye. He does not remove all burdens; he will always remove the weight of sin and guilt; you may have burdens he will not lift, but he will certainly give you the strength you need to carry them. He calls you to wholeness, to raise your head and stand tall for the Kingdom; and at the last to look him in the eye. *From Sunday by Sunday, Ken Taylor*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

See page 8

St Mark's

Junior Church meets again 8 September.

Story Box starts again on 12 September.

Chat and Make starts again on 16 September.

Chat and Play has a meeting on 22 August and starts again weekly on 12 Sept

St Mark's Leadership Team Meeting for 10 September will need to be moved to allow attendance at the Circuit Meeting. A doodle poll will be initiated to find another suitable date.

Action for Children September House to House Collection Action for Children has a 140 year history of working with children, young people and parents living in tough circumstances. Today it does this through its family centres located throughout the UK including North Bedfordshire. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church where it has its roots. Our annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark's Church is responsible for covering the Brickhill area and last year our 13 collectors raised £572 (inc. Gift Aid). If you could spare a few hours during early September to distribute and then collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)

The Bedford and District Christian Aid

Committee are looking for someone who could act as Secretary for two meetings per year, plus responding to mail coming from Christian Aid Oxford. Computer skills and internet access would be an advantage. Anyone who may be interested please speak to Carolyn Morris.

Summer holidays at Putnoe Heights Church:

Storybox, Storybox plus and Junior church children and their friends aged 0 to 13 years from both churches are invited to meet on Monday 19 August. We will meet together for lunch from 12.00 to 12.30pm; everyone please will you bring a packed lunch as our Storybox teams will be having a break. Drinks will be provided.

Various themed activities and games from 1pm to 2.30pm. All children must be accompanied by an adult. If anyone is available to help with these sessions that would be really helpful. Please can you let me know. Carolyn Morris.

Harvest Festival this year is on Sunday 29 September. This is a great time to invite along friends and we also welcome uniformed organisations and church groups

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. Please see the Messy Church notice board for details of what can and cannot be put in the boxes. If you require further information please speak to Wendy Waters or Jean Bank.

Bedfordshire Essex and Hertfordshire District Methodist Women in Britain Service of induction for Margaret Torkildsen as District MWiB President and Launch of the President's Project "Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund" will be held at St Andrew's Methodist Church, The Stow, Harlow CM20 3AF on Saturday 7 September. Refreshments from 10.am, please bring a packed lunch. See poster in foyer for more details.

Wanted 2 volunteers to join the lawn cutting rota at Putnoe Heights. If you have approx 1¼ hours to spare once a month I would like to hear from you. The rota runs from March to the end of October. If you are able to help please contact Veta Hudson-Rae, Leadership Team on 360507.

Circuit Welcome Service for Rev. Gill Baalham and Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights at 3pm on Saturday 31 August at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue. The Chair of the District, Rev. Anne Browne is preaching.

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.

Footprints Walk Sunday 1 September at 2.30pm. Meet in Biggleswade at the Dan Albone Car Park (turn left at Sainsbury's roundabout on A1, continue to car park by bridge). Circular walk on Biggleswade Common and along River Ivel. Details from Margaret and Eddy.

Barry and Sue Southam would like to thank you for your prayers, love and support over the past few months. The good news is that Matthew is now in remission.

The Magna Carta arrived at St Albans Abbey in time for the exact 800th anniversary, on 4 August, of the first meeting in St Albans of King John and his barons which led to the signing of the Magna Carta two years later. The first draft of that momentous document was drawn up in St Albans, although the final Great Charter has never before been inside the Abbey. Now it can be seen there, in a high-security display cabinet, until the end of this month. It is proving very popular.

The Mayor of St Albans, Cllr Annie Brewster said that she was surprised how small and perfect the script was. She could not see a single spelling mistake or attempt at a cover-up.

Car Boot Sale Monday is our last Car Boot of the Year. If you have any donations of items for the Church Stall would you please bring them up to Church. The doors will be left open after morning service today until this evening. If anyone is able to bake a cake or do some tray bakes they would be most welcome. I would like to thank everyone for their support. Especially the 'Team', who give up their Bank Holidays for 4 hours every Bank Holiday getting up at 7.00 o'clock each time. It has become a very success event over the years. Once again many thanks to everyone. There will be the usual barbeque at the Vicarage for anybody who has helped over the year, please arrive any time after 1.30pm *Avril Williams*

Last meeting for the Summer holidays at Putnoe Heights Church : Storybox, Storybox plus and Junior church children and their friends aged 0 to 13 years from both churches are invited to meet for the last time this summer holidays on:

Monday 2 September

We will meet together for lunch from 12.00 to 12.30pm; everyone please will you bring a packed lunch as our Storybox teams will be having a break. Drinks will be provided.

Various themed activities and games from 1pm to 2.30pm. All children must be accompanied by an adult. If anyone is available to help with these sessions that would be really helpful. Please can you let me know. *Carolyn Morris.*

Prayers for Sunday

Jesus our teacher and guide, teach and guide us into your ways for our world today. Show us when to adhere to traditions and when to reject them for the sake of your Kingdom here on earth.

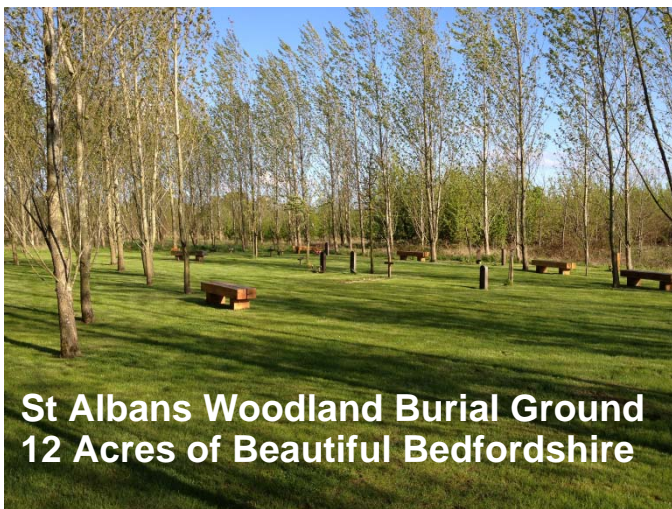
Jesus, you challenged the religious leaders of your time, risking and giving your own life in the process. Give to us the confidence and courage to challenge leaders of our time, to challenge injustice, inequality and irregularity. Jesus, Lord of the Sabbath, come, be Lord of our hearts, minds and wills this day and every day. Amen

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

 and you're done.

Thank you for Shopping at [www. ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)

Thank you for shopping using the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases



**St Albans Woodland Burial Ground
12 Acres of Beautiful Bedfordshire**



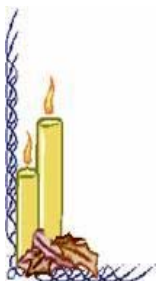
St Albans Woodland Burial

We are delighted to have taken a further 10 acres of woodland to increase substantially the area consecrated for burial at our woodland in Keysoe. We are now assured of providing woodland burial for generations to come. The Trust is a non-profit making charity, established to offer woodland burial an environmentally friendly alternative to commercial cemeteries and crematoria.

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust (Registered Charity No. 1118216)
Mrs Linda Parry, office@woodlandburialtrust.com.
Outside office hours contact 07922 053740 or 07973 113861.
For information visit our website www.woodlandburialtrust.com

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.'

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Herbert John Luscombe will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 27th August at 4.00pm

The funeral of Lee Michael McGonnell will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 4.00pm on Friday 30 August

The funeral of Edith May Willis will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Wednesday 4 September