



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

25 May 2014

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Sunday Services

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

25 May 2014 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Peter Fletcher
Leadership – Mrs. Wendy Waters
Intercessions - Mrs. Morag Stewart
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr Peter Fletcher
Leadership Team - Mr. Gordon Evans
Intercessions - Mrs. Claire Peck
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

1 June 2014 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

9.30 St Marks – Morning Family Worship

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership – Mrs. Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions - Mr. Ian Farthing
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Family Worship

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership Team - Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions - The Young People
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Ezekiel 36:24-39 2. Acts 1:6-16

3. John 17:1-11

Midweek Holy communion at St. Mark's Chapel every Wednesday at 10am and at Sir William Harpur House on first Monday of every month at 10.00am.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Liz Hayward in memory of her mother Olive Betts.

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Geoff and Margaret Appleton to thank everyone for their support, kindness and prayers over the past 4 months. You have made a very difficult time much easier to bear. Thank you all

We are grateful when people make donations towards 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 Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

O God,
who has prepared for those who love you,
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love towards you,
that we, loving you above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer (1662)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

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 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.ThisIsChurch.com

Twitter follow at bedfordchurches

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@ThisIsChurch.com
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 Friday 9am –12pm,
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Managers Barry & Jenny Snelson 344417
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

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 - Mrs Jean Bank 355698
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605



Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm

For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

8.30-12.30pm St Mark's Pre-School Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's

9.00-3.45pm 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 M. Berry 211955

10.30am U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email-chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk.

12.00 noon 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. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630

2pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights— fortnightly

4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Emily Taverner 01234 792013

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 in month) Pat Nicholson 353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.

7.00-8.00pm **Laughter Club** at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting— 16 June Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking at Putnoe Heights. For more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

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 Contact Janet

King 313946

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

1.3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) 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

7.00pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455 (Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in September.

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly) 27 May 'Cup Cakes'Details Janet King 313946

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

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 Janet King 313946

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Janet King 313946

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 4 June Putnoe Heights Office 365630

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 21 May 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel.

01234 353865

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

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 June 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 (Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

Thursday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Pre School Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus at Putnoe Heights

10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613.

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 342613

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's (Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

1pm-2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552. 2pm - Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210

3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's (3rd week in month). Carol Plant 01832710504

Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd

week in month) Susan Perugi 300219

Friday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

8.30am Diabetic Centre St Mark's (1st week in month) Deborah Hennessey 792013

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd week in month)Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

9.00am Faith Temple Ministries St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593

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

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 21st May, 18th June.



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 17 June, 14 October

St Mark's Leadership Team - 9 Sept

Annual Congregational Meetings—

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 10 July

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service - 2nd November

Circuit meeting – 19th June

Woodland Burial Trustees— AGM - May 25th

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting – 9 June 1.10pm

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

Sixth Sunday after Easter

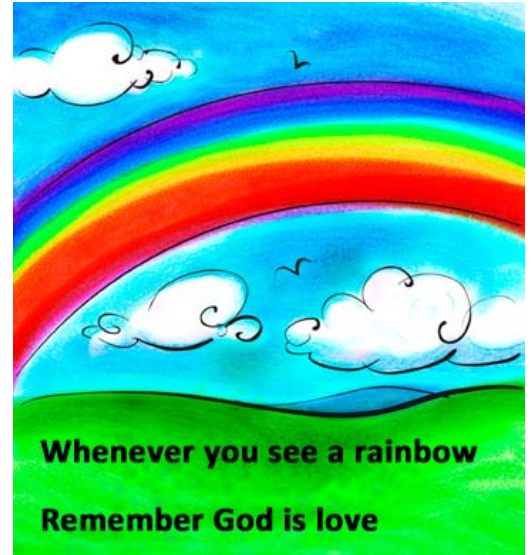
Sentence of Scripture Psalm 66:1

Shout to God with joy, everyone on earth!
Sing about the glory of his name! Give him glorious praise!

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by His death he has recalled us to life, so by His continual presence in us He may raise us to eternal joy; 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 - Genesis 8: 1-19

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."



Noah and the Dove,
Roman Catacomb,
2-4th century.

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

"But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed for in the image of God.

As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

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

Second Bible Reading - Acts 17:22-31

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - John 14:15-21

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." (This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through Him who is alive and reigns, now and forever. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymn Sheet)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. *Tune Truro*, 2. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. 3. Come down, O Love divine, *Tune Down Ampney* 4. As we live and have our being, *Tune Sussex* 5. Love divine, all loves excelling, *Tune Blaenwern*

Commentary -

In order to fully appreciate the gospel passage we must remember that Jesus is dining with His Apostles and knows He is about to face the Cross. He tells the Apostles that He was leaving them and though they would seek Him, they would not be able to find Him or come to Him. This revelation by Christ to His disciples devastated them. But then in this passage Jesus is continuing to speak to His disciples and is now telling them that in His place they will have help in the form of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, 'if we love Him and obey Him, He will ask God to give us a Comforter, in other words help, and that help will be for all time.

Love is a word which can have a shallow meaning. Men and women swear they will love one another, but so often there is unfaithfulness, and in the same way Christians can say they love Jesus, then, by their way of living totally betray Him by their disobedience. Obedience means living our lives according to the teaching by Jesus, which we find in the pages of the New Testament. He makes the point that if we do truly love Him, we will have no difficulty in obeying Him.

Jesus tells His disciples when He leaves them they will not be alone for God will send another who will stay and never leave them. He refers to the Holy Spirit as the 'Comforter', and just as God sent Jesus, He is sending the Holy Spirit who will help them to do their mission in the same way as He did.

Jesus will be in heaven continually making intercession for them, from His seated position at the right hand of the throne of God, but they would also have the Holy Spirit right alongside of them in every situation that they would ever face, whether or not that situation was good or bad. The Spirit will lead us into all truth, and by truth we mean understanding the mind of God.

He indicates that the Holy Spirit is someone other than Himself, and is only given once and it is not a

repeated experience. Some people have believed receiving the Spirit is like going with a car to a filling station and constantly topping up, but Jesus makes it clear this is not so, which Paul and Peter will stress in their Epistles.

Jesus tells His disciples they are to go on doing the things He commanded and the Holy Spirit will help them to do so. He goes on to say the Holy Spirit will live in them and will be in all Jesus' followers for all time. When He returns to heaven to His Father, the Holy Spirit will take His place to create a relationship with God, so uniting Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the Trinity.

There has always been difficulty in people's minds in understanding the person and work of the Holy Spirit. If asked most people would be able to say who God the Father was; who Jesus the Son was; but many would find themselves struggling to answer who God the Holy Spirit was. Often people describe the Holy Spirit as 'it', referring more to a form of power when in fact 'He' is the right word; Jesus clearly refers to Him', in verse 17.

The word helper in the biblical sense literally means, 'called to the side of.' During His time here the Apostles had lived with Jesus and He had always been there to help them in every kind of situation and experience. He had been able to rejoice in the good times and comfort them in the bad.

Jesus is now assuring them that even though He would not be there for them physically in the future as He had been there for them in the past, another helper was going to be supplied for them by His Father. He reassures them that they will continue to see Him by means of the Spirit and even know Him more deeply after the experience of Pentecost. In the lives of many Christians there is a new spiritual experience after they have made a commitment to Christ, which is the gift of the Spirit.

Jesus said the world at large cannot receive the Holy Spirit. In today's society God has little relevance, if any, in many people's lives, and anyone so minded to exclude Him will not have that gift of the Spirit which God is graciously providing; that gift is only for the believers in Christ.

Through the amazing grace of God, the disciples had by faith come to experience the Spirit, but from thereon they would experience this much more because the Spirit would live with them. Jesus said after Pentecost they would know that He was in His Father, and they would be in Him.

Jesus was explaining that when we turn to Him we join a family, we become children of God, and Jesus works through us as try to serve Him.

Jesus said to them, 'I will not abandon or leave you as orphans in a storm; I will come to you. In just a little while I will be gone from the world, but I will still be present with you'. He did not mean His resurrection; He was speaking of coming to them in the person of the Holy Spirit who would indwell them. If we do not through disobedience or sin offend, then we will with the eyes of faith be able to see our resurrected Lord living in us and through us.

One of His disciples asked Him why He was only going to reveal Himself to them and not to the world at large. Jesus replied that He would only reveal Himself to those who loved Him. By that He meant those who would keep His commandments, and pray to Him, something unbelievers will not do. If anyone doesn't obey Him they obviously cannot love Him.

Jesus says the gift cannot be for the world because it will not accept Him or seek to know Him. Once again Jesus is calling for full commitment on behalf of His followers, and by those words we must presume that love comes before obedience. A true Christian is one who has been drawn to Christ through a sincere desire to live as Jesus taught, and because of the sacrifice Jesus made. There are people who claim to be Christians for unworthy reasons; to advance business, to get in with the right set of people. At Pentecost the Church became born, a community of people who believed in Jesus Christ; people who belong to one family of God and to each other as well. *(Eric Royden)*

Meditation

Jesus was speaking directly to us when He said He would not leave us desolate. Judas (not Judas Iscariot) was but one of the many millions of Christ's followers who through the ages had a problem understanding how we can actually be in such a direct, personal relationship with God; asked Jesus how He would manifest Himself to us, and not to the world. Judas wonders how it is that if God spoke in such a clear voice we Christians would hear, but the rest of the world would not? Judas saw God being someone far removed, causing Jesus to explain that anyone who loves Him will keep His word, and God and He will come and make their home in that person's heart. In other words, there would be a personal relationship.

Here Jesus is speaking of the here and now. He is referring to our own hearts, our minds, and our bodies; and it all depends on the simple act of loving the one who first loved us. We have to accept the Word of Jesus. Many people do not have sufficient faith, perhaps even a fear of taking Jesus at his word. But Jesus gives the assurance that He will not abandon us or leave us as orphans. Whatever happens, we shall not be cut off from the love and protecting care of the God who loves us in a very personal way.

There may be some problem in your life which is causing you some anxiety; anxious about health; about work, family problems; sickness, any of which can be very worrying. In the face of all our fears and anxieties, the words of the Lord are meant to ease our worries, 'let not your hearts be troubled. I will not leave you nor forsake you'. *(Eric Royden)*

Putnoe Heights Garden and Plants Stall.

Sunday 8 June. Seedlings, Cuttings and rooted plants will be welcome. Please share some of the lovely things in your garden for Church funds.

Bowling in Bedford Flat green bowling is a relaxing sport undertaken in beautiful surroundings with convivial company. If you think this is for you try a taster session on our local Council green.

Days: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 2 – 4 pm; Tuesday evening 6 pm until dusk. Bedford Park Bowling Club. Contact names: Ray Seymour 01234 305695 and Gareth Davies 01234 347647

Church Flowers Most of you are aware that on a Monday morning the church's flower arrangements are dismantled and made into bouquets. These are taken to people who are ill, or have a special birthday or anniversary, or who would benefit from being cheered up. If you know of anyone who you think would like to receive them please see Sam Ware at Putnoe Heights or Margaret Appleton at St. Mark's after church on Sunday or leave their name and address in the office. The people who receive them are always deeply grateful and it is a privilege to be able to distribute them.

Footprints Walk 1 June Please join me for a pleasant couple of hours walking along our beautiful river. We shall meet at 2.30pm on Prebend Street Bridge to follow the path to Kempston and back along the opposite bank. It is easy walking, mostly on good paths. There is free parking at Melbourne Street car park. For any further details please contact Sue Butler (Priory).

The defibrillator donated by Irene McKenzie to Putnoe Heights Church, in memory of Eddie, has now been installed. Training for anyone who is interested will take place after the service on Sunday 8 June.

Christian Aid. Many thanks to the volunteers at St Marks who collected £391.35 during this year's house to house collection.

Car Boot Sale Bank Holiday Mon 26th

Last chance to clear out your cupboards. Items

can be brought up to the Church which will be left open after Church today. We are always grateful for Tray Bakes or cakes. They can also be brought up Sunday afternoon or early on Monday morning.



Meditation Help Save Meriam's Life

I came across the following appeal by Amnesty International in the Evening Standard 23rd May and would like to bring it to the attention of those who may not already be aware of this tragic story. On 15th May a brave young woman Meriam Yahya Ibrahim was condemned to death by hanging at a Sudanese court after she defiantly refused to recant her Christian faith.

Meriam who is eight months pregnant with her second child was also sentenced to a flogging of 100 lashes for "adultery" for being married to a Christian man.

Meriam Ibrahim with her husband, Daniel Wani

She is now in jail (shackled) with her 20 month son and could receive these cruel and abhorrent punishments after her baby is born.

Amnesty believes Meriam is a prisoner of conscience and are demanding that the Sudanese authorities release her immediately and unconditionally.

Please join the urgent call for justice today and help free Meriam. Text SAVE6 to 70505 with your first and last name to sign the global petition. (Over 14's only please) For more details on this case please visit amnesty.org.uk/meriam

Thank you *Ian Farthing*

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust Consecration of Woodland

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust will consecrate an additional 10 acres of land to extend the woodland burial ground on Saturday 14 June at 3.00pm. You are invited to join us for this ancient ceremony which affords the land the greatest protection in English law, it requires an act of parliament to change !



Traditional church architecture has expressed the story of Noah. The main part of the church where the congregation sits is called the nave. The word "nave" comes from the Latin word "navis," meaning ship (a collection of ships is a "navy"). The church nave symbolizes a ship with its vaulted ceiling looking like an inverted keel. And so the church is a safe place in a storm.

In his book *Whistling in the Dark: A Doubter's Dictionary* (1988), Fredrick Buechner comments on the church as Noah's ark: 'In one as in the other, just about everything imaginable is aboard, the clean and the unclean both. They are all piled in together helter-skelter, the predators and the prey, the wild and the tame, the sleek and beautiful ones and the ones that are ugly as sin. There are sly young foxes and impossible old cows. There are the catty and the piggish and the peacock-proud. There are hawks and there are doves. Some are wise as owls, some silly as geese; some meek as lambs and others fire-breathing dragons. There are times when they all cackle and grunt and roar and sing together, and there are times when you could hear a pin drop. Most of them have no clear idea just where they're supposed to be heading or how they're supposed to get there or what they'll find if and when they finally do, but they figure the people in charge must know and in the meanwhile sit back on their haunches and try to enjoy the ride.

It's not all enjoyable. There's backbiting just like everywhere else. There's a pecking order. There's jostling at the trough. There's growling and grousing, bitching and whining. There are dogs in the manger and old goats and black widows. It's a regular menagerie in there, and sometimes it smells to high Heaven like one.

But even at its worst, there's at least one thing that makes it bearable within, and that is the storm without — the wild winds and terrible waves and in all the watery waste no help in sight.

And at its best there is, if never clear sailing, shelter from the blast, a sense of somehow heading in the right direction in spite of everything, a ship to keep afloat, and, like a beacon in the dark, the hope of finding safe harbour at last.

Thus, Jesus the redeemer effected a great reversal. Whereas the waters of the Flood brought death and destruction, the waters of baptism bring new life, protection from danger, and a shelter in the storm.

THE "logjam" preventing the closer union of the Anglican and Methodist Churches must be broken through "bold initiatives", including the appointment of Methodist presbyters to Church of England posts, and the creation of a Methodist bishop, a new report argues.

The report of the Joint Implementation Commission (JIC), *The Challenge of the Covenant*, is blunt about the current atmosphere surrounding the proposed union. Some people feel "frustration and even boredom" with the Covenant, it warns.

"The question being asked is whether our churches are committed to bring about change. If not, they are not being fair to each other." When the Anglican-Methodist Covenant was signed in 2003, the two Churches pledged "to overcome the remaining obstacles to organic unity", and "bring about closer collaboration" (News, 7 November 2003).

The report, published yesterday, is the final contribution of the JIC, which was set up to implement the commitments of the Covenant. Its authors - the co-chairs of the JIC, the Bishop of Coventry, Dr Christopher Cocksworth, and a former Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Professor Peter Howdle - note that no progress has been made on "removing obstacles to the interchangeability of . . . ministries". This "seriously questions the integrity of the commitments which our churches have made in the Covenant."

If the Church of England were to tackle these obstacles, the Methodist Church might undertake its own "bold initiative", by creating a form of episcopal ministry, such as a "president bishop", the report suggests. "It is as if we face a locked door, which can only be opened with two keys: each of our Churches holds one of the keys which will open the way to a new stage of our Covenant journey."

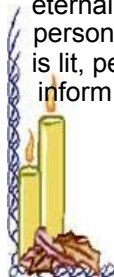
The authors say that "the lack of clarity about what sort of visible unity is envisaged has made the Covenant process susceptible to a lack of direction and intentionality." The report was welcomed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference.

Their statement read: "The time has now come for our Churches to take further, significant steps to achieve that level of reconciliation between us and partnership in the gospel that will enhance our mission together in local communities and our shared witness to the whole of society."

The report will be considered by the Methodist Conference in July. It will not be considered by the General Synod until November, because much of the meeting in July will be devoted to a final consideration of the draft women-bishops Measure.

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



**Daisy Louisa Bruty
Guy Birchall**

*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 Rose Aylott will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.00am on Monday 2 June