



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
26 July 2015
Ordinary 17



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

26 July Ordinary 17

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Intercessions - Deacon Jane Mills
Organist - Mr. Mike Cooper
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions - Dr. Tim Wilkes
Organist - Mr. Alan Bunker

2 August Ordinary 18

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Family Worship
Preacher - Mrs. Jane Mills
Leadership - Mr. Edward Parry
Intercessions - Ministers
Organist - Mr Mike Cooper
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Family Worship
Preacher - Mrs. Jane Mills
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon
Intercessions - Young People
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

Readings 1. Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15
2. Ephesians 4: 2 - 5:2 **3.** John 6: 35, 41-51
Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's
Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur
House on first Monday of every month.

Thank You

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 uncreated one, bless those whom you have made in your image. O untouchable one, draw near to us in the Word made flesh. O ineffable one, disclose yourself to us in the wisdom of the Cross. O immortal one, bring us through death to eternal life; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.
Angela of Foligno (1248-1309)

Banns of Marriage

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Carol Anne Clarke and Alan David Miller to be married at St. Mary's Church, Goldington
(Third time of asking).

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
itsjanemills@gmail.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

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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@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 Mon-Thur 9-5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Geoff Gypps 365630
Leadership Team Mr Barry Southam 219714
barrysoutham@aol.com
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
Charity No 1160981.

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Margaret Appleton 354708
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
8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
(See website for more details)
9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955
10.00am-12 U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's Liz Mason 07816522200
12.00 noon Storybox 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
1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts on 14 September
2.00pm 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 Zoe Wilcox 07767311424
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 07928483418 email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk
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-8pm Cubs at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
6.30pm Fit For All Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Mary Daly 217127
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—17 August 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

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. 9.30, 11.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30. Lorrie Pearson 340473

11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946
1.30pm 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
2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (Alternate Tuesdays) Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Alternate Tuesdays. Mrs Jean Bank 355698
3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393
7.15-8.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571
7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390
7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting September Tea Details Diane Bayliss 268101
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.
10.00-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.
10.00am 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
11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 9 September Contact Putnoe Office 365630
1.15pm Social Bridge Club St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.Contact 1st week of the month. Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966
3.30-4.30pm Vita Fit St Mark's starting 29 April for 6 weeks Liz Roe 07901684538
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 16 September 2015 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698
4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
5.00–6.00pm Rainbows at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091
6.00pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall

Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

6.00-7.00pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark
Tel.01234 353865

7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts at Putnoe ages 10.5-14;
Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

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

7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every
month except August Mrs Jo Street 3446008.

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
29 July 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) Jill Cooper 357960

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.

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 Restarts b17 September Contact St
Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234
297481

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.Restarts 10 September Contact Jaana
Swaby 342613

1.00-2.30pm Wriggles & Jiggles Putnoe Heights. Drop
in.

1.00 - 2.30pm 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
07768481499

6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock
07769747393

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna.
07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284

7.00pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week
in month)Contact Janet King 313946

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th
week in month) Rosemary McNeilage 405594

7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd
week in month) Linda Stephen 409493

8.00pm 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

Friday

9.30am -3.30pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe
Heights, 2nd week per month.. 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-7.00pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe.
Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email:
phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

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 at St. Mark's. 1st
Sunday Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for
the under 9's . A crèche is also available.

2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th
Sunday. Closed for summer break. Re opens 13
September. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council Sunday 26 July 10.30am
St Mark's Leadership Team -
Annual Congregational Meetings -
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 October 2015
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting -
Putnoe Church Council - 15 October 2015
Putnoe Centre Manger Meeting - 29 September
Pastoral Group Meeting- 15 September 2015 4.00pm
Churchyard Committee - TBA
Circuit meeting -
Deanery meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees -
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 28
September 2015 2.00pm
St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015, 31 August.
Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 27
September.
*Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of
your meetings.*

Ordinary 17

Sentence of Scripture Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Collect Prayer for the Day *Before we read we pray*

Gracious God, Your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of life and the word of your Kingdom. Renew Your people with Your heavenly grace and in all our weakness sustain us by Your true and living bread, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen Methodist Worship



First Bible Reading 2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe corn, along with some ears of new corn. “Give it to the people to eat,” Elisha said. “How can I set this before a hundred men?” his servant asked. But Elisha answered, “Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the LORD says: ‘They will eat and have some left over.’ ” Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the Lord. (This is the word of the Lord —**Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

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

Gospel Reading - John 6:1-21

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Feast was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming towards him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they

saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymns for Sunday (*Please distribute Morning Worship booklet and hymn sheet where requested*)

1. Let all the world in every corner sing (Luckington) MP 404/ HP 10
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say (Kingsfold) MP 275 / HP 136
3. Jesus is Lord, creation's voice proclaims it (Jesus is Lord) MP 367 / HP 260
4. When we walk with the Lord (Trust and obey) MP 760 / HP 687
5. Onward Christian soldiers (St Gertrude) MP 543 / HP 718

Commentary Signs

For the past few weeks we have been reading Mark, now the lectionary takes us into John. In his gospel, John narrates seven miraculous acts by Jesus and he names them--"signs." He sees these signs as a special revelation about Jesus and in each, the believer is brought close to the all powerful and resurrected Lord. We not only witness a miraculous deed performed by Jesus, but through the sign we are invited to step closer for a more thorough reflection on what it says about Jesus.

1. The raising of the dead Lazarus therefore was a physical event with a message that Jesus was the way the truth and the life.
2. The healing of the blind man shows Jesus as the light of the World
3. Turning water into wine showed Jesus as the true vine

These signs John narrates help those with eyes of faith to see and to believe in Jesus in the ways each sign reveals him to us. Remember what John said towards the end of his gospel. He states his purpose for writing quite clearly, "Jesus performed many other signs as well, signs not recorded here, in the presence of his disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, so that through this faith, you may have life in his name" (20: 30-31).

We now focus on one of these signs so that in "seeing" it we might grow in faith. Today we have the sign of the multiplication, this is intended to lead us to reflect upon Jesus as the Bread of Life sent down from God.

A large crowd has sought Jesus out. Unlike the Synoptic (Matthew, Mark and Luke) gospels, John doesn't say that Jesus expresses pity for the hungry crowd or that they are 'like lost sheep without a shepherd'. Instead, Jesus opens with a question to Philip about where "we" will get enough food for the approaching crowd. John tells us quite plainly, Jesus is "testing" his disciples. The story has us focus on how the disciples will respond to this test and what Jesus' own response will be.

The disciples evaluate their meagre resources and what will be required of them and then express incredulity, "*how are we going to feed them?*" They are not blind or indifferent to the needs around and they seem to want to address them, but just can't figure out how they will do it. It is just too much for them.

Jesus is also looking at the same hunger and he takes charge. The problem for Jesus was that in his compassion he reached out to help people in their needs: he healed them and gave them food and drink, but he always did these things as a sign of something greater, something higher to which he was calling people. More often than not, people missed the higher message, they just wanted to have their needs satisfied in the easiest possible way. They tended to seek him out as a magical healer and not hear the call to expansion and growth that he was making to them. Making him king would be a shortcut in solving many of their immediate physical problems.

This same tendency exists today in all religious people, and in our practice of prayer. Jesus encourages us to pray for daily bread, but for no more, our requests to God in prayer for physical comforts must be limited to that which is at the most basic. Only when we do this will we ever discover the meaning of real wealth and happiness. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

The letter to the Ephesians has rightly be called the “queen of the epistles” (ST Coleridge) because it is a marvellously concise yet comprehensive guide to Christian faith and practise. Although the letter declares itself to be by the apostle Paul, scholars from the early nineteenth century onwards pointed out that the vocabulary and style of the epistle was not the same as other epistles from Paul. Although the evidence that they produce to support this theory is strong, does it matter? Could it not be that some other brilliant writer took Paul’s words and précised them at a later date, rather than copy down every word from Paul’s letter? The theology of the letter is exactly in line with Paul’s teachings.

Ephesus was a former Greek colony. By Paul’s time it was the capital if the Roman province of Asia. As a port, Ephesus was a meeting place for many cultures and religions. It even contained one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the great temple of Artemis (Diana). Paul had visited there and caused a great upset to the cult of Diana which had a valuable trade in selling little silver models of the temple. Paul was thus addressing a church planted right in the heart of a powerful pagan culture. The excerpt from his letter, which we read this morning, deals with a concept which is powerful and central to the Christian faith. Put simply it is this: God is not in a building, a Temple, whether the Great Temple of Solomon or any other, He is not far away in Heaven, He is close to us, closer than close, in the souls of those who believe in Him. This great promise comes through the love of the Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The reading is in the form of a prayer for the faith of the people of Ephesus to be deepened. The miracle of love has made Christ dwell in their hearts, it is for them to try to understand the implications of this “indwelling”. By accepting Christ into their lives, at their conversion, they had allowed Him to enter into their hearts and minds. But what does that mean? By turning back to the original Greek used by Paul we get a clearer picture of what he was trying to say in this phrase of God dwelling within them. There were two similar Greek verbs paroikeo and katoikeo that he could have chosen to express the concept. The first paroikeo means merely to inhabit a place as a stranger. He chose to use the second word, Katoikeo which means to settle permanently. What Paul was insisting was that God was not a fleeting visitor in the soul of the believer, a presence which would fade away, but a permanent resident, a faithful and abiding presence in the lives of those who had welcomed him. What difference does such an idea make to our idea of God’s relationship with us? If God dwells within us, why sometimes do we feel so far from Him? What can we do to keep that miraculous closeness of God a living reality in our spiritual lives?

Prayers for Sunday

Help us to learn the importance of sharing all that we have with others. Enable us to change our behaviours so that we do not waste the resources which you have given to us. Open our eyes to the needs of others and give us a generosity of Spirit that your people may have their daily bread.

Forgive us when we are ever indifferent to the needs around us, or fearful or lacking in trust.

Forgive us when we speak of forgiveness and condemn others

Forgive us when we speak of trust and live greedy lives

Forgive us when we speak of courage and we have been afraid to live for you.

Help us to make manifest your message of salvation in our lives and in our community and may others discover wholeness and peace through the understanding of your love for them

Lord Jesus we are humbled by the gift of a boy with barley loaves, trusting that his gift would be used by you. So we offer to you what we have, small morsels in comparison to the challenges around us and yet we know that they can be multiplied by your grace and power.

Help us to see that wherever we may go and whatever obstacles we may face, that you are with us as our travelling companion. Take our fears and failings and may our hearts be changed and our lives transformed by the presence of your Holy Spirit within us.

Agape Love

Lord, your love is agapē love. Real, unconditional and full of grace.

Help us to weave this golden thread of love into the tapestry of our lives. That we may truly give to one another, in respect, kindness and gentleness. That we may be quick to forgive, ready to hope, and filled with your joy. May we reflect all these many colours of your kingdom.

Lord, help us to complement each other, to support one another and to bring out the best in each other. Your love is agapē love, come weave this love into our lives. Amen.

News from Methodist Conference

Churches encouraged to offer support to migrants

Following on from a Notice of Motion presented to this year's Methodist Conference, all Methodist churches are being

encouraged to provide support to at least one individual or family crossing Europe from the Mediterranean fleeing from conflict. The Revd Olufemi R W Cole-Njie, who proposed the motion, said "Social action is at the heart of Methodism. When people are in need it is our role as the Church to step-up and help the hungry, the weak, the stranger. Thousands of people are fleeing their homes in fear for their lives. How can we on one hand say that we welcome Jesus into our lives, and yet on the other not welcome those in need?" In addition to encouraging its own churches to do more, the Conference has urged the Government to accept those seeking asylum on a much larger scale, commensurate with Britain's size and resources. Praising the enormous contribution that migrants and refugees make in Britain, the Conference welcomed the recent Statement by the Conference of European Churches that encouraged European Churches and Institutions to support refugees, and applauded the ongoing efforts of the Churches in Greece and Italy, particularly for the 'Mediterranean Hope' project. The Revd Stephen J Burgess, Chair of the York & Hull District, added "What this practically looks like will be different in each community and for each church. But in putting this forward, we are encouraging and reminding our churches to fulfil the words of Wesley: 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all places you can.'"

Statement on the 70th anniversary of the Nagasaki and Hiroshima bombings

The Revd Steve Wild and Dr Jill Barber, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have issued the following statement in advance of the 70th anniversary of the bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima:

"We remember with deep sorrow the hundreds of thousands of people who died in the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on those two fateful days and in the months and years afterwards. Nuclear weapons are by their very nature devastating and indiscriminate. The construction and use of nuclear weapons is a deep shame and a denial of God's love for humanity and for all of creation. It is vital that our technological prowess be accompanied with a greater commitment to the values of love, respect and restraint. True wisdom should lead us to put in place a verifiable elimination of all nuclear weapons."

Where is the Review ? asks Methodist Church

It has been 100 days since the Work and Pensions Select Committee called for a full independent review of the benefit sanctions system, but the Government has not indicated any intention to conduct a review. A group of Churches and charities is calling urgently for the Government to heed the Committee's report and act on its recommendations. In the same 100 day period last year, 346,256 people who were on Jobseeker's Allowance and 35,554 people on Employment Support Allowance were referred for sanctions. 92,558 of those referrals were the result of bureaucratic error. These resulted in 175,177 sanctions for Jobseekers and 11,129 for those out of work due to ill health. The call for a review is supported by the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Church in Wales, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and by charities Church Action on Poverty, Gingerbread and Mind.

"The case has been made," said Paul Morrison, Public Issues Policy Adviser for the Methodist Church. "The sanctions system requires fundamental review and we call upon the new Parliament to respond positively to the recommendations of the Select Committee. Churches and charities are backing this call because we see day by day the harm that benefit sanctions cause in the communities we serve. We recognise the hiatus caused by the General Election, but hope that the new Parliament will recognise the urgency of this matter and announce a full independent inquiry as soon as possible."

Church must celebrate and learn from diversity, says report

The Methodist Fellowship Groups, congregations of Methodists united by a shared ethnicity or language, announced their intention to grow in deeper relationships, mutual partnerships and genuine integration in a report to the Methodist Conference. The report, presented by the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Conference, highlighted the importance of being one family with one mission.

About the report, Martyn said, "We are committed to find continuing and healthy ways to harvest the richness brought into our Church by international communities of Methodists. Indeed, every part of the life of the Church is made better because of our life together, and there is much that we can learn from each other. Following on from the report, the Conference has agreed to set up a connexional advisory and support group to share good practice and encourage integration with local churches.

The Revd Dr Claire Potter, deputy convener of the working group said of the recommendations, "Fellowship groups are a growing area of the Methodist Church in Britain. It is important that we not only understand and welcome the variety and diversity of Fellowship Groups, but that we deepen our current relationships, develop mutual partnerships and genuinely integrate with each other. Let us celebrate diversity by learning, accepting and growing together, without enforcing assimilation."



Strawberry Afternoon Tea

for Putnoe Heights Church Funds.

With consideration of the weather forecast for Sunday, we have taken the decision now to hold the Strawberry Tea in the large hall at Putnoe Heights at 3pm on Sunday 26 July.

Come and join us for full afternoon tea with strawberries and cream. Please indicate on the list in the Putnoe welcome area, or in St Mark's office, if you hope to come. Admission £5.00 on the gate.

St Mark's Church Car Boot Sale

This will take place on Monday 31 August. Please take time over summer to clear out your cupboards so that we can have lots of items to sell on the church stall.

Partnership Prayer Group meets every Thursday from 9.30 - 10am at Putnoe. We are always pleased to welcome new members. Prayer cards are now available at both churches and we include all prayer requests in our meeting.

St Mark's Junior Church will begin again on 13 September when we will look forward to welcoming the children back

Story Box restarts 10 September.

Chat and Make will meet on Mondays 3 and 17 August from 1.30-3pm

Chat and Play will meet on Thursdays 30 July 6, 13 & 20 August from 9.30 - 11.30am during the holidays. Details Janine 297481

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church will start again on Monday 14th September at 12 noon. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help with this children's group without whom it could not take place. We are looking for new volunteers to help with this group in September.

Junior Church at Putnoe Heights Church will take a break from 9th August. We will meet again for our first Sunday service on Sunday 6th September. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help with this children's group without whom it could not take place. We are looking for new volunteers to help with this group in September.

Putnoe Heights Church welcomed 91 visitors to enjoy our annual visit from The Great Gappo last Monday. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who helped with this children's event. We raised £100 for Church funds.

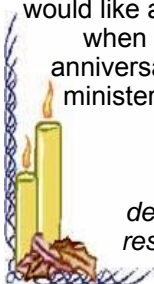
Thank you. Thanks to everyone who supported the Caribbean Evening at Putnoe. Special thanks to all the helpers, entertainers and to Harvey, our chef, for providing gorgeous food. £715 was made for Church funds.

Footprints and others, extra to the annual programme of walks we are trying to organise an all day walk encompassing a ride on the Cambridge guided busway into St Ives for lunch and a visit to Fen Drayton Lakes and RSPB reserve on the way back to our vehicles. The 29 August is the date. The distance walked will be about 3 miles the same as on a normal Sunday walk. Further details nearer the date. Alan and Margaret Tel 327219

Footprints Walk Sunday 2 August The next walk is around 3-4 miles in Kempston Rural starting at 2.30pm. It is mostly on the flat on footpaths, roads and some fields, but sturdy footwear would be best. There is only one stile, and several kissing gates (one of which is rather overgrown). Please park tidily in the Cemetery car park on Green End Road, which is off the A5134 Green End Road opposite the turn for All Saints Church. For further details please contact Sue Butler (Priory) or Sylvia Cohen (Putnoe Heights).

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 Delph Coleman will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 3 August 2015 at 11.30am.

The funeral of Iris Payne will take place at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground on Tuesday 4 August 2015 at 2.30pm.

The funeral of Ann Yvonne O'Dell will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 12.30p.m. on Thursday 30th July.