



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

28 July 2013 - Ordinary 17



8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

Today 28 July — Ordinary 17

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher – Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs. Vita Hudson-Rae
Intercessions – Mrs. Sam Ware

4 August — Ordinary 18

9.30 St Marks – Family Worship

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership – Mr Edward Parry
Intercessions – Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00 am Putnoe – Family Worship

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership – Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions— YPG

Readings 1. Hosea 11: 1-11 **2.** Colossians 3: 1-11
3. Luke 12:13 –21

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 Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mrs Barbara Catchpole on the occasion of the blessing of the marriage of James and Saori Catchpole.

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 on the foyers

Prayer for Sunday

Blessed Lord God, be to us at all times our unending joy, our eternal bliss and our enduring comfort. Be to us light in the darkness, strength in temptation and refreshment in the desert. Grant that being penitent for our sins we may never be separated from you and longing for your face we may behold you in heaven; for your own name's sake. Amen.

Margery Kempe (c.1373-c.1433)

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 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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@ThisChurch.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

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@thischurch.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– 29 July Judith Stanton. 823313
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

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). Tea at Janet's Tuesday 23 July at 3pm Strawberry Tea 20 August at St.Mark's at 2.30pm Details Janet King 313946

Wednesday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly Changing to Fridays from 5 April (Same time an place.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647
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
31 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 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 9-24months
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

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St. Mark's (contact below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Mary
Rich 272470

5.00pm 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

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

Putnoe Church Council - 14 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 3 pm

Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - 14 November

Woodland Burial Trustees—

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –

New Year Lunch 19 January at Putnoe

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



Lord teach us to pray

'Father, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone
who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation.'

Ordinary 17

Sentence of Scripture — Colossians 2:6

Continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness

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 Reading— Hosea 1: 2-10

When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the LORD." So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. Then the LORD said to Hosea, "Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. In that day I will break Israel's bow in the Valley of Jezreel." Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the LORD said to Hosea, "Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means "not loved"), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them. Yet I will show love to Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the LORD their God, will save them." After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. Then the LORD said, "Call him Lo-Ammi (which means "not my people"), for you are not my people, and I am not your God. "Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'children of the living God.'

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

Second Reading — Colossians 2:6-15

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

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

Gospel Reading – Luke 11:1-13

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: " 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.' "Then

he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

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

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymn Sheets)

1. When Morning gilds the sky
2. Seek ye first
3. Heaven shall not wait
4. Christ be our light
5. O thou who camest from above

Commentary

It is an interesting fact that many people, even when they are not particularly religious will request that the Lord's Prayer be said at a funeral. Even when they request that religion be kept to a minimum they will go on and suggest that the Lord's Prayer be included. It has a resonance which somehow touches people, even those who find the whole church experience too much. It is especially interesting that they will specifically request that it is said in the 'traditional version.' It might be that folks mistakenly believe that Jesus actually used the old words in English, but what is beyond doubt is that the familiarity for many people of those traditional words speak more powerfully than the modern versions used to bring them up to date. Given this situation it would seem like an old goal for the church to have attempted take out of common use the one prayer everybody felt comfortable with !

Why is it that this prayer is so good? What makes it appealing to so many people, even those who have a very tenuous grasp on faith? For a start it makes sense of what prayer is. Many people when they pray treat God like Santa Claus, we ask for lots of things and if we are very good we will get some and hopefully most of them. Those things which we don't get are not because prayer hasn't worked, or because we haven't been good enough, but rather that God has considered them and recognised in his greater wisdom that they would not be advantageous for us. This seems to work quite nicely when we are generally getting what we want, but most people will at some time come to recognise that it is hugely simplistic, and like a child growing up the religion of Santa Claus can only last so long. Should the woman or the child who is being abused in spite of their prayers conclude that they are not being answered because they are not saying it properly?

On the other hand the Lord's Prayer does not treat God like Santa at all. We pray for grace that we might live good lives worthy of citizens of the kingdom , we seek forgiveness, we ask for enough bread only to keep body and soul together. The prayer is realistic and if taken to heart, life changing. It flies in the face of greed, it recognises our own desperate need of God, it seeks after God's blessing. This is a very simple prayer which covers the essentials, it is not complex and it is not too long, something which we all appreciate. The words which Jesus uses are ordinary words which can just be said honestly to God, without sounding like Derek Nimmo with a churchy voice. Simplicity and honesty in realistic prayer which expresses trust in God, this is the winning formula which seems to grab our attention and which makes the Lord's Prayer so appealing.

The fact about prayer is that nobody is perfect at praying and we are all learning, but like anything else we only learn by doing. Jesus gives his disciples a prayer that they can pray every day and obviously as diverse individuals they will develop their own ways of praying or talking with God.

Often people will ask 'Why doesn't God answer my prayers.' This again immediately presupposes that prayer is about asking God for things. If we were to listen to the words of some of the passage from Luke this morning, superficially it appears that prayer is about going to God and asking for things. 'Ask and it will be given to you.' But if we look closer at the text it is apparent that Jesus is not saying that at all. Jesus says that when we ask God for good things, he will not give us bad things.

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

So it appears that the importance of prayer is knowing what we should pray for. Listening not asking. Much of what passes for prayer is about wanting what we think we want and need. Because of that it becomes irrational, superstitious, and self-centered, and ultimately unworthy of the pattern of the prayer which Jesus offered to us his disciples. If we are honest we know that prayer can never be a magic way of persuading God to change his mind and grant our wishes.

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, because they recognised in Jesus a spirituality which they envied. They wanted to have a rapport with God, like Jesus had, and clearly Jesus wanted them to have it too.

Let's look at the Lord's Prayer

Jesus began the prayer with a recognition that God is sovereign over all.

'Our Father in heaven hallowed be thy name.'

Father Jesus must have amazed those around by addressing God as "Father". The Pharisees never used such a title to address God. We can be sure that not until Jesus does it become characteristic to speak to God as Father. God was close to Jesus and this is shown clearly by his choice of this word. Moreover Jesus wants this level of intimacy to be shared by us all. A relationship so personal that we can call the Creator of the universe 'Father'. God is somebody we can approach as we go to a human parent and share the good times and the bad, the success as well as the failure, the joys and sorrows. As 'Father', God is concerned for the needs of his children.

Hallowed be your name Hallowed means to treat as holy, to reverence, to be pure, sacred. There is an acknowledgement of the fact that God is 'worthy.' This is about the essential quality of God which is beyond our imagination. In calling God 'Holy' we acknowledge that God is 'other worldly' and that there is much about God which is above and beyond us: We cannot expect to place an infinite God into the container of our human finite minds. This is also a prayer for the mission of the church, we are seeking that all people would reverence God.

Then it goes on to ask for the healing of God's creation to transform our own lives and bring about God's kingdom

'thy kingdom come' Your kingdom come Jesus expresses our longing to have the kingdom fully now, not just a taste of it. Our deepest longing is to see the day when the triumphant, sovereign lordship of our loving God will no longer be a mere hope clung to desperately by faith, but a manifest reality in all human affairs. We all long to see the end of death and pain and suffering, this prayer seeks the time when all these things will come to an end.

So the prayer starts us off thinking about God, not us! Only then do we come to the fulfillment of our needs.

Note the use of the word 'Our.' The word 'Our' is very poignant, it makes the Christian faith a shared experience, not an isolated one. You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and mean it and then be a private Christian. The following is a simple poem but it does have a strong message about the shared nature of Christianity

Give us each day our daily bread. We are half-way through the prayer before Jesus allows us to ask for anything for ourselves! This phrase reminds us of where our priorities must be. It reminds us of our daily dependence upon God and calls us to simplicity of life. As we pray these simple words we pray that we will live just one day at a time and we also acknowledge that all things come from God. (Deut 8:18, 1 Cor 4:7, James 1:17). True prayers are born of present trials and present needs. Bread, for today, is bread enough. As every day demands its bread, so every day demands its prayer. No amount of praying, done today, will suffice for tomorrow's praying. This part of the prayer is also about NEEDS not GREEDS. Jesus acknowledges that our physical needs must be met but it is not a prayer for luxuries.

Forgive us our sins In this prayer we admit that we are sinners! By sinning we have incurred a moral and a spiritual debt to God who has authority over our lives. So we ask for forgiveness as a gift, for we can never earn or merit God's forgiveness. Some would say that we should be praying forgive me 'my' sins. There has been a tendency to become over excited about our individual sins: Of course the ones that we get really excited about are sexual sins and sins of morality. Jesus is not so focused on individual but rather corporate sin. It is actually harder to say forgive us our sins, since when we take shared responsibility for corporate sins it challenges us in a new way.

As we forgive those who sin against us Think about the things God has forgiven you for. Now with all that forgiven how can you not forgive someone who has sinned against you? Jesus does not suppose that God's forgiveness is contingent on our forgiving. Rather, he simply assumes that as we pray we will understand the need to forgive. Once our eyes are opened to the enormity of our offence against God, the injuries done to us appear by comparison to be trifling. If we exaggerate the offences of others then the chances are that we have a minimized our understanding of our own ! Forgiving others shows that we are living out the kingdom standards in our own lives now.

And lead us not into temptation Does God lead us into temptation? We can all be sure from personal experience that he does allow us to be tempted, to go through difficult circumstances. We are told in scripture that God will not allow us to be tested beyond what we can endure and that he will help us through it (1 Cor 10:13). Perhaps we could say that this prayer asks God to help us avoid sin, and that our

Foot Prints Walk 11 August 2013. This is a 3¼ mile walk starting at 14.30 hours from Colmworth Village through the new country park with a few surviving elm trees and is mainly on good field edge paths. No stiles and easy walking. Park carefully near St Deny's Church (OS Map ref. 108586) or alternatively along Honeydon Road where there is a marked path back to the church. Further details contact Pam or Ray 01234 305695."

The Great Gappo will be at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 29 July 2013 at 12 noon to 2p.m. "The Great Gappo" 12 noon to 1pm, Sandwich lunch provided 1pm to 2pm. Raffle. Tickets: £2.00 in advance for children over 1 yrs old, £3.00 on the door, FREE to children under 1 yrs old and £1.00 Adults. Available from the church office. For further details contact: Carolyn Morris Tel: 07751348925 Email: youth@thisischurch.com or Putnoe Heights Church office on Tel: 01234 365630

Bowlers Beware! The annual cricket match between churches has slipped into history, but there is now an interest in a Bowls afternoon for teams representing local churches. Initial thoughts are for a Sunday afternoon before the end of September with teams from St Peters, Putnoe Heights, St Marks and St Andrews. Priory Bowls Club have offered to make their facilities available. Anyone interested in this suggestion, please contact John Handley on 342127 or Valerie Edwards on 409508.

Methodist Women in Britain Coffee Mornings/ Afternoon Teas and Open Gardens to be held on 3 dates : Wednesday 7 August and Thursday 15 August to help raise funds for the District Presidents Project - TALITHA which helps girls rescued from trafficking. Please see poster in Foyer. Everyone welcome.

Junior Church meets again 8 September.
Story Box starts again on 12 September.
Chat and Make starts again on 16 September.
Chat and Play finishes on 25 July, has a meeting on 22 August and starts again weekly on 12 Sept

Highland Fling

On August 14 John and Janet Day are setting off for the Scottish Highlands in their 1929 MG to participate in an MG gathering based at Aviemore and will attempt to cover 1400 miles in ten days. It will be a considerable challenge to complete the rally in such an ancient car and they anticipate some adventures along the way! They are seeking sponsorship for this epic journey with all proceeds being donated to St John's at Moggerhanger. If you would like to sponsor their "Highland Fling" there is an official form in the foyer. Very many thanks.

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 Magna Carta in St Albans Cathedral

Saturday 3 – Thursday 29 August 2013. A rare opportunity to see the original 1215 Magna Carta, on loan from Lincoln Cathedral, Tickets available from the Alban Arena Box Office 01727 844488 or on line at www.alban-arena.co.uk

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 during the summer holidays on:

Monday 5 August, Monday 12 August, 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.

Churches condemn u-turn on alcohol pricing

claiming the Government has broken its pledge to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol. The Church of England, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, the Salvation Army and Quaker Action on Alcohol & Drugs are deeply disappointed James North, Policy Advisor for the Methodist Church, said: "The Government's failure to introduce minimum unit pricing for alcohol will cost lives. As Churches we are deeply concerned at the effect of alcohol misuse on problem drinkers, families and communities. With nearly 9000 deaths directly related to alcohol in 2011, this is no time for inaction. We look forward to the Government rectifying this decision and putting public health back at the top of its agenda."

sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into sin of any kind. If we continue to say this prayer each day, then we will find it hard to live knowingly with sin each day. It is interesting that when people do things which they know to be wrong they frequently find a reason to avoid confronting their sin. They will perhaps leave their church which challenges such behaviour, sometimes finding fault in the church itself as an excuse. Our prayers will challenge us not to live a double life.

Prayer is seeking after the will of God and of being open to the reign of God. Prayer is about helping in the process of God being there, as we live the way God wants us to live, so God is at work in us as he was at work in Christ. Surely lots of things do not happen in this world simply because we Christians are too idle, to selfish.

'conspiring with God toward the healing of creation.'

Such praying will lead to a different perspective on the life of the one for whom prayer is genuinely offered, and on our own priorities, Such praying may lead naturally to changing the way we do things, altering our priorities.

Prayer is not just about saying words but it is about an attitude of life and of the heart. About being prepared to disturb the complacency of our lives and put ourselves at risk. This is real spirituality, real Christianity. By 'prayer' we mean the readiness to rest in the presence of God, trying to look at life through His eyes, bringing our activities under His sovereign will and mediating his love to those who have a claim upon our attention. Prayer is not finding a way of making ourselves bullet proof so that we don't get sick like everyone else.

When we pray we show that we recognise the authority of God. That there is a higher moral authority. That there is one who watches over us as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Prayer recognises that there is one who walks with us and who goes before us, who walks with us so that we might be without fear, and who calls each one of us, to be ever faithful. Prayer recognises that no power which seeks to destroy us will ever have an unbreakable grasp upon us. That there is One who is 'gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Meditation

Pray, and let God worry. *Martin Luther, 16th century*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

God our Father, you made each of us unique and unrepeatable. Inspire me to live in such a way that I respect others and am ready to learn from all who are part of my life this day. Amen.

Lord we remember before you all our brothers and sisters who are weighed down with suffering. Bless and guide us that your love may be reflected in our concern for the hungry, the oppressed and the unloved. Help us to acknowledge and grow in appreciation that all people are made in your image and likeness. Amen.

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our brothers and sisters throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them by our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love give peace and joy Amen.

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.

**Frank Roome
Catherine Law**

*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 Vera Tippett will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 2 August at 12.15pm