

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

29 April - Easter 4



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

Today Sunday April 29

9.30am St Mark's Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher – Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership – Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions – Ministers

6 May –Easter 5

9.30am St Mark's - Family Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions - Mr Warwick Holden
11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership –Mrs Jean Kirk + Another
Intercessions – YPG

Bible Readings 1 Acts 8:26-40 2. 1 John 4: 7-21
3. John 15; 1-8

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 Jennie Cooper, who will
shortly be celebrating a very special birthday.

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have
been given by Joyce Bean in memory of Ray.

*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 the Week

Wonderful God
stretch our understanding of your love
expand the size of our hearts
help us embrace your purpose for us
grant that we may grow beyond ourselves
and enter the fullness of your grace.
We ask it in Jesus' name. - Amen

Tell me, you whom my heart loves,
where you pasture your flock?

Song of Songs 1:7

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a Vice
President for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535 jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

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

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in
Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website
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@Thisischurch.com
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs. Linda Hoar 782717
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
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 - Laura Farthing 210892
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)

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 and Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk

2.00pm U3A History Group St Marks.(see contact details below)

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 Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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– 30 April Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

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 Folbigg ☎351223

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 Group. St Mark's (see contact 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) (see 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.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

4.30pm—6pm BIGG Writing Putnoe Heights Natalie John 07772184721

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎0789187957

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting May 1 'Musical Evening' Details call Janet King 313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

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

9.30am Discovery & 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.(see contact details 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)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 9 May 2012 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

1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)

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 18th April Wendy Waters401834

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha

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 Brian Sallows ☎407725

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Mrs O Holt ☎266004

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 2 May 2012. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring ,Valmai 219555 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 07719670624

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 (large hall) Children's Chatty Time 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

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.

1.45 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Mrs. P. Cass ☎294220

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Marks. (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Marks Mary Rich ☎272470

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights 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

8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

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 Whist St Marks. Patricia Holland.☎262823

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

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

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's (not 25 March) Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

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 – 19 June
St Mark's Leadership Team - Thursday 17 May
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 28 May
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
Putnoe Church Council - 11 June
Pastoral Group Meeting - Tuesday 19 June 4.00pm
Churchyard Committee -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm
Harvest Festival 30 September
Circuit meeting - 12 June
Deanery Meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees– 13 May 12.30pm
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -Monday 21 May 1.15pm

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

Easter 4

Opening Verse of Scripture .Psalm 23 v 1

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing

Collect Prayer (*Before we read we pray*)

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Common Worship Shorter Collect

First Reading - Acts 4: 5 - 12

The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 John 3: 16-24

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

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

Gospel Reading – John 10: 11-18

When the reading is announced **All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father

(Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ - **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)



Post Communion Prayer Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Prayer for Christian Healing*)

1. Hear us O Lord 346 ('The Manx fishermen's Hymn', chosen by Jennie because she was born on Isle of Man. As Bedford is so far from the sea she says that it is good to think of the folk who risk their lives by day and night to bring us fish to enrich our diet. She also recalls that it is/was often sung on the beach before the boats set out for a nights fishing)
2. 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind' 673 (Also chosen by Jennie, she says it is a favourite, and that it speaks for itself!)
3. We cannot measure how you heal' (printed on partnership news)
4. Now let us from this table rise 619

Commentary

Those who are interested in *Desperate Housewives* on television will have seen the episode this week where the businessman Carlos returns to work after a kind of breakdown and starts giving money away to people who he believes have suffered from his previous deals shutting down companies and laying people off. He has looked at his life and sees that his wealth is built on the poverty and exploitation of others and he wants to put it right. His wife Gabby is furious and resentful, she tells him that he must care for his family that she will not be hurt as a result of his desire to be a better person and care for others. The episode ends with them being very angry with each other. In the passage from Chapter 10 of John today, there is a similar sort of thing going on. Jesus has healed a blind man and the Pharisees are incredibly resentful of Jesus. Jesus accuses them of not caring for others and thinking only of themselves and he likens them to thieves and robbers. Jesus tells them that he will give away everything, even his life, in order to care for others. By verse 33 of Chapter 11 we read that these Jewish Leaders had decided that they would kill Jesus because of the threat which he posed to their temple and nation.

Jesus was trying to help people to understand that God cared not just for the Jewish people, but for all people. He spoke of 'other sheep' that God cared about, those who were outside the Jewish nation. The leaders behaved just like Gabby with Carlos, they were concerned only about themselves and their own interests. Jesus knew that taking on vested interests was dangerous and he speaks clearly about the fact that he will end up like a Good Shepherd, laying down his life for the sheep. Jesus

We might be critical of the Jewish leaders and selfish people like Gabby, yet there is always a tendency to be concerned only about the welfare of ourselves and people like us. The Jewish leaders wanted to protect their livelihoods and the Jewish nation, they were unconcerned about the ones Jesus referred to as sheep from another pen.

We can all behave like this when we are suspicious and resentful of others who are in some way different. There is a very human desire to build borders and boundaries, which we then have to define and defend against intruders. God's desire is rather that these human borders and boundaries are broken down. We do well to remember that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who cares for all sheep, not just the ones in our flock. His love and willingness to give extends to the whole world which is his family. *Charles Royden*

Meditation The Town of the Wells

The town in question wasn't inhabited by people, like all the other towns on the planet. This town was inhabited by wells, living wells, but wells all the same. The wells differed from each other, not only because of the various places where they had been excavated, but also because the mouths of the wells connecting them to the outside were all so very different. There were wealthy and ostentatious wells, with elegant round walls of marble and precious metal, there were humble wells whose mouths were surrounded just by brick or wood and some very poor wells, which were simply bare holes cut into the earth.

Whether they were richly decorated or bare and unprotected, communication between the wells of this town was from mouth to mouth, and news always spread quickly.

One day a new "fashion" reached town. It came from a city of humans far away. The new fashionable thinking suggested that every living being with self-esteem should take much more care of inner things than external things. The important thing wasn't what was on the surface but what was inside. So it was that the wells began to fill themselves with things. Some of them filled themselves with jewels, gold coins and precious stones. Other more practical ones filled themselves with electrical domestic appliances and mechanical devices. Others chose art and began to fill themselves with paintings, grand pianos and

sophisticated post-modern sculptures. Finally the intellectuals filled themselves with books, ideological manifestos and esoteric magazines.

Time passed. Most of the wells became so full that they could no longer fit anything else in. The wells were not all alike and so, although some of them resigned themselves to being full, others thought they should do something in order to continue fitting things inside. One of them, instead of squeezing up its contents, had the idea of increasing its capacity by making itself wider. It wasn't long before the idea was imitated, and all the wells were spending a large part of their energy becoming wider in order to make more space inside.

A small well, far away from the centre of the town, watched its friends widening themselves out of all proportion. It thought that if they continued to enlarge themselves in this way, they would bump into each other, boundaries would get confused and the wells would begin to lose their own identity. It began to wonder whether there might be another way of increasing its capacity, not by getting wider but by becoming deeper, but soon realised that the pile of things inside was stopping all hope of going deeper. To be deeper, it had to somehow empty out all its contents. At first the idea of being empty was scary, what on earth would that feel like? But then, it saw there was no other possibility.

Empty of possessions, the well began to become deep. The things removed from inside were soon taken by neighbouring wells. One day, a very surprising and unexpected thing happened. A long way inside and very deep down the well found water! Never before had a well found water. The well overcame its astonishment and began to play with the water in its depths, wetting the walls, splashing the sides and finally throwing water outside. The town had never been watered before, other than by rain, which in fact was pretty infrequent, and so the earth around the well, revitalised by the water, began to wake up. The seeds it contained, blossomed into grass, clover, flowers and frail little shoots, which later became trees.

Life exploded in many colours around the remote well, which people soon began to call 'The Orchard'. Everyone wanted to know how the miracle had happened. "It was no miracle," replied 'The Orchard', "You just have to look inside yourself, into your depths."

Many others wanted to follow the example of 'The Orchard', but when they realised that in order to become deeper they had to become empty, they soon gave up the idea and went back to widening themselves and filling themselves with more and more things.

At the other side of the town, however another well decided to take the risk of emptying itself. And it too began to be deeper. And it also filled with water. And it also spilled water outside itself, creating a second green oasis in the town. "What will you do when the water comes to an end?" some asked it. "I don't know what will happen," it replied. "But, for now, however much water I take out, more water comes."

Several months went by before the greatest discovery of all.

One day, almost by chance, the two wells became aware that the water they had found in their depths was the same water. The same underground river which passed through the first one also touched the depths of the other.

They became aware that a new life was opening for them both. Not only could they communicate mouth to mouth on the surface, like all the others, but their search had given them a new and secret point of contact; the deep communication only experienced by those who have the courage to empty themselves of their contents and discover in the depths of their being what they have to give to others.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Dear Lord God - I thank you for seeking me out as a shepherd seeks for his sheep. I thank you for keeping me safe, for standing with me in adversity and for blessing me with all that I have. Help me to listen more to you than I do right now and give me the faith to follow you more perfectly. I ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Because of sin you would not enter into your glory in the way your truth had intended.

Your garden was locked up, and so we could not receive your fruits. This is why you made the Word, your only-begotten Son, a gatekeeper....

O gentle gatekeeper! O humble Lamb! You are the gardener, And once you have opened the gate of the heavenly garden, paradise, you offer us the flowers and the fruits of the eternal Godhead. *Catherine of Siena 1347-1380*

Lord Jesus we hold before you the special concerns that are upon our hearts this day the seriously ill, those who have no faith to help them in their time of trouble, the couple who have been separated by age and disease. Great shepherd of the sheep, may we all know your presence with us may we listen and follow. Amen

100th Birthday. All friends are invited to a bring-and-share buffet lunch at Putnoe Heights on Sunday 29 April, 12.30 for 1.00 pm, to celebrate the 100th birthday of Miss Jennie Cooper. Please see Sue Allen for a list of suggested contributions to the meal. At Jennie's request, no presents or flowers but donations welcome to be shared by MHA and Church funds.



The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust will be having an open day at Keysoe on May 12 from 12 noon to 3 All are invited to visit the woodland and enjoy refreshments.

St Mark's Prayer Board

The Prayer Board has been refitted to the wall in the foyer at St Mark's. Please do use it to ask for prayer requests for any matter for yourself or another person who has agreed for their name to be used. These requests may be used in intercessions in our services.

A Partnership Service Of Hymn Praise

At 6.30p.m. on Sunday 20 May, there will be a service of praise at Putnoe Heights Church. This form of service has been very well on received on previous occasions, and such further services were suggested during the Lent Course. Prior to our Lord's Ascension He commanded his Apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. At this service on the Sunday between the Ascension of Jesus and the day of Pentecost, the theme of the service will be 'Waiting for the Spirit'. This date is also the anniversary of the spiritual experiences which Charles and John Wesley received in May 1738. I invite all who enjoy singing will join us at this service, and of course any friend you would like to bring would also be welcome. *(Eric Royden)*

The Pilgrim's Progress will be performed at the Bunyan Meeting Church on Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 May at 7.30pm Tickets £12 (concessions £10) available from Central Box Office 01234 269519. or The Word Christian Book Shop, Castle Road. John Bunyan Museum open until 7pm both nights. Free admission to the museum. Refreshments available before the show.

Putnoe Heights Church Council. There will be a meeting after the service on 6 May to consider Heating and other refurbishment work plans.

Footprints Walk:- 2.30pm on Sunday 6 May 2012. A 3 to 4 mile walk round Thurleigh. Suggested parking, at the playing field in Keysoe Road, or if busy on road parking nearby. Keysoe Road is on

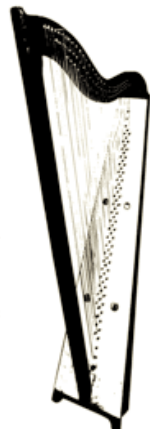
the left of the High St from the direction of Milton Ernest. Meet at the junction of "The Close" and the High Street. Rough under foot in places, a couple of prickly, awkward stiles but a cup of tea at The Farm Centre near the end. Any problems contact Margaret or Alan on 327219

Footprints Walking Group weekend away in Hunstanton 21-23 September. There may be further rooms available. If you have not already registered your interest please contact Barry Snelson 344417.

St Mark's Chat and Make Mondays 1.30-2.45pm. A baby ,toddler group 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story, refreshments more information - email chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk

Harp Concert

International harpist Robin Ward
Friday 11th May at 7.30pm
St. Mark's Church. Tickets Adults £10,
concessions £8 Under 18 donation.



International harpist, Robin Ward, will be performing a programme that is an exploration of music, played on his own handcrafted triple harp. Robin's talent, combined with his engaging and informative performance approach, is a treat not to be missed. His programmes include a wide variety of music from the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods, as well as music from Folk Traditions, with a combination of his own transcriptions and music originally written for the instrument.

Tickets are £10 for adults, £8 concession, and a donation for children under 18. For tickets and enquiries please contact the church office on 01234 342613.

If you would like to read more about Robin you can visit his website; www.robin-ward.com. Videos of Robin's playing can be found on his YouTube profile <http://uk.youtube.com/user/seb25arpa> In February 2009 Robin independently released his first solo CD; *No Pedals Attached*, a preview of which can be listened to at: <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/robinward>

Car Boot Sale The next car boot sale in on the 7 May at St Mark's. As always we depend on your support in so many ways to make this a success. Please do offer your baking, items for sale and of course your generous time in helping on the day

"Spring Clean" morning at Putnoe Heights Church 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 12th May. All helpers welcome.

MWiB/NETWORK Circuit Easter Offering Service will be held at Kempston East Methodist Church on Wednesday 16th May at 2pm. All Welcome.

Christian Aid week 13-19 May Can you give one or two hours of your time to help with the delivery and collection of gift envelopes for Christian Aid in the Putnoe and Brickhill areas? Information leaflets are available today and envelopes, collector's packs and Christian Aid. Quiz sheets will be ready to collect on May 6th and May 13th. Contacts for more information are: Carolyn Morris, Putnoe Heights and Jean Bank, St Marks.

Annual Congregational Meeting. Our annual church meetings were held last Sunday, thank you to all of those who came and supported them. The membership figures are reported at these meetings and are as follows

St Mark's	14 Methodist, 74 Anglican, 6 Joint, 12 Others
Putnoe	59 Methodist, 66 Anglican, 4 Joint, 13 Others

The electoral (Anglican) roll stands at 157 comprised of 74+66+5(half of joints)+12(half of others). The minutes and annual reports will be on the church website.

A Hymn for Sunday

We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help,
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the
world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain
and make your broken people whole.

Church Membership

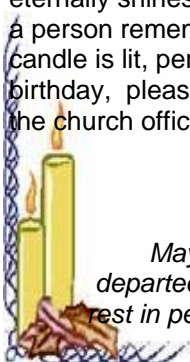
It is important for us to have accurate membership information for our church. It is helpful if we need to make contact with you, perhaps when a pastoral situation arises. If you consider yourself to be a member of this church, please check the church membership list this morning. If your details require amendment then complete the form below and return it to the church office, a minister or a member of the Leadership Team. Alternatively please email one of the Ministers and we will ensure that your name is added. It is now very helpful to have your email address. We would like to be able to use this to communicate with you. Please consider giving us this information if you have not already done so. Please be assured we do not release your details to any other organisations.

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.

Margaret Scorer

*May the souls of all the faithful
departed through the mercy of God,
rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.'*



Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families
and friends in your prayers.

**The funeral of Agnes
Kathleen Sheridan will take
place at Bedford Crematorium
at 12:15pm on Monday
28th May 2012**

