

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

29 January 2012

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



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

9.30am St. Mark's Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank

Intercessions – Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00 am Putnoe -Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden

Leadership - Mrs Jenny Snelson

Intercessions -Dr Tim Wilkes

4 February – Candlemas

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr John Bassill

Leadership –Mrs Elizabeth Bean

Intercessions - Mr Warwick Holden

11.00 am Putnoe –Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr John Bassill

Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar

Intercessions –YPF

Bible Readings

1 . Malachi 3:1- 2. Hebrews 2:14-1 3. Luke 2:22-4

Midweek Worship 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 Norma Taylor and other family members in loving memory of their mother and sisters.

The flowers in St Mark's Church this week are given by Barbara Pinney in memory of her husband Keith.

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

Creator of Life, Creator of our lives,
together, we turn to you.
Hear and heal us, Lord, we pray.
Giver of love, Lover of our lives,
together, we reach out to you.
Hear and heal us, Lord, we pray.
Restore us to wholeness, give us your shalom.
In your salvation is healing
for our souls and bodies.
Together, we rest in you for newness of life.

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.ThisIsChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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.

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 Hoare 782717

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 21428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186

Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091

youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 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. Putnoe Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

9.30-3.15pm 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 Emma Gordon ☎07593266091

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

2pm U3A Music Appreciation - (see contact details below)

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747

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 January 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.

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

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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 February 7 'Wood Carving' Neil Kinselly. 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.

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 15 February 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 15th February. Wendy Waters401834

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

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 Janice Loxley ☎347073

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 1 February 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

8.00am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624 Restarts on 12 January 2012

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. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

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

6.30-7.30pm Bootcamp/Circuits. (Fitness) St Marks. Laura Amor.341152. 07976259081.

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 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. Ann Pallister ☎272906

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 25th 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 – 21 February 2012

St Mark's Leadership Team - 16 February 2012
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

St Mark's Forum Meeting - NA

Putnoe Church Council - 13 February 2012

Pastoral Group Meeting - 7th February 4pm in chapel

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting - 8 February 2012 @ Kempston East Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees – 5th February 12.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children &

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

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Opening Verse of Scripture

"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him" (Acts 10:38).

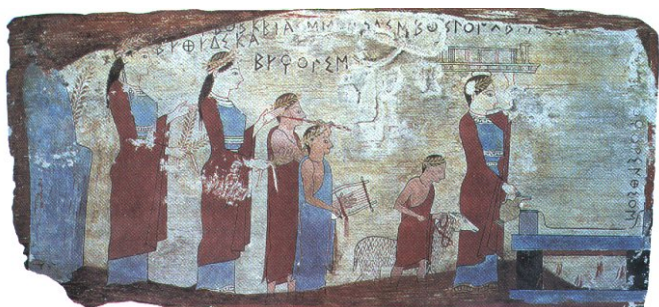
Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Common Worship Shorter Collect*

First Reading—Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die." The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death. "I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name

anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death." (This is the Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God)



Animal sacrifice in Corinth 6BC

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. But whoever loves God is known by God. So then, about eating food sacrificed to

idols: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one." For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall. (This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God)**

Gospel Reading –Mark 1: 21-28 When announced 'Glory to Christ our Saviour'

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was

Jesus commanded
the impure spirits



possessed by an impure spirit cried out, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

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

Post Communion Prayer Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion with PCH and Mission Praise*)

1. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness 529, *Tune Was Lebet*
2. Search me O God 587, *Tune Maori Melody*
3. Jesus heard with deep compassion, *Tune Abbots Leigh*
4. When to our world the Saviour came, *Tune Church Triumphant*

Commentary

We hear lots of competing voices which claim authority. Occasionally we will hear people preface their words of wisdom with phrases such as 'the Lord told me ..' Looking back I have been surprised at the number of times when God has told people certain things only to find that they never come to fruition. Examples might include ministers who have boldly proclaimed to their congregations that God had planned for them to build a new church or acquire a new building. In the epistle reading today, Paul warns believers who were overly confident about their Christian knowledge: "The person who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know" (1 Corinthians 8:2). But it is the words from Deuteronomy this week which really act as a timely reminder that we have to be very careful about how we use such language claiming to be able to read God's mind, *But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.*

How many people would be prepared to stand up and claim to have a 'word from the Lord' if they knew that their life depended upon getting it right? Truthfully when we use God's name to give credibility to our own hunches then it is a form of blasphemy and that is why we have to be very careful about claiming God's authority for ourselves. In Mark's Gospel today we read that people were amazed at Jesus's authority and his "new teaching." In Jesus the people recognised that God was present in a unique and special way. The authority which Jesus had was given validity by the presence of healing and wholeness.

The exorcism of demons was not something unique to Jesus. At the time there was a widespread belief in demonic forces and exorcists chased them out using phrases like 'Come out' with the name of the person being used. These phrases were however only a part of the process which involved other means of expelling the demon. Attempts were made to scare the demon by using revolting practices such as putting a smelly foot up the possessed person's nose with the intention that the demons would be repulsed. Sometimes the name of a higher demon was invoked to drive out the lower one. What is noticeable in this instance is that Jesus simply orders the demon to leave. No evil can challenge his authority and power.

Meditation

The Old Testament has little to say about the devil. The best known passage is the temptation of Job where Satan acts in obedience to God. However in the period before the New Testament was written evil spirits became much more important and this was seen in many religions across the ancient world. It was believed that devils and spirits were everywhere hovering around and torturing human souls. It should not surprise us that during the ministry of Jesus he had to contend with a world view which attributed just about any ailment as evidence of evil spirits, and hence people afflicted with leprosy or some other disease were not only unwell, they were not holy and could not worship. Because Satan and demons were thought to be all over the place and Jesus becomes like a burglar who has entered Satan's house and tied him up. Throughout church history there have been these phases when devils and demons have come in and out of fashion. In his commentary on this passage William Barclay makes note that in many ancient cemeteries skulls were found which had been trepanned, a hole was bored in the skull. This practice was often performed to allow a demon to escape from the body. Evil spirits were malignant beings which existed in the world to do harm to humans. According to Jewish belief they could eat and drink and beget children.

There were according to some seven and half million of them, every man had ten thousand on his right hand and ten thousand on his left. In the 13th century the Inquisition gave no mercy in tracking down those witches who had made pacts with the Devil, in the same way that Satan had entered in Judas Iscariot. (John 13:27) In 1487 two German inquisitors published *Malleus Maleficarum* the text book for witch hunters and for over 150 years the craze spread across Europe. The reforming theologian Martin Luther said a great deal about the Devil and is reported to have chased him away when he threw his ink pot at him. Eventually the irrationality and depravity of the witch trials led to a decline in concern over the Devil and cohorts. The writings of Milton (*Paradise Lost*) and C S Lewis (*Screwtape*) have raised the profile of the devil and Wesley said 'no devil no God.' Today there are those traditions in which exorcisms still persist and whilst we have all read the stories of the exorcisms of children in some African communities, exorcism is also seen routinely in many white evangelical churches. Perhaps what we can all agree upon is the very real existence of evil. How could there be an inquisition or a holocaust without a real presence of evil in the world? Perhaps the greatest challenge for us as Christians is to avoid the temptation to blame demonic forces for that evil which all too often has very obvious human causes which we can all do something about. *Charles Royden*

Our society is possessed, Christians as much as anyone. We are possessed by violence, possessed by sex, possessed by money, possessed by drugs. - Walter Wink

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

O Creator past all telling, you have so beautifully set out all parts of the universe; you are the true fount of wisdom and the noble origin of all things. Be pleased to shed on the darkness of my mind, the beam and warmth of your light to dispel my ignorance and sin. Instruct my speech and touch my lips with graciousness; make me keen to understand, quick to learn and able to remember ; and keep me finely tuned to interpret your word, for you are God for ever and ever. Amen *Thomas Aquinas 1255-74*

Lord, in union with your love, unite my work with your great work, and perfect it. As a drop of water, poured into a river, is taken up into the activity of the river, so may my labour become part of your work. Thus may those among whom I live and work be drawn into your love. *Gertrude the Great 1256 - 1302*

Special hymns for our healing service

1 **Jesus heard with deep compassion**
pleas for healing, cries of pain,
cured the lame and cleansed the leper,
gave the blind their sight again.
At his voice tormenting spirits
fled a madman's tortured mind;
clothed and sane, he went rejoicing
home and family to find.

2 Jesus touched the lives of outcasts,
weak or sinful, scorned or poor,
gave them self-respect and courage,
trust and faith and hope secure.
Truly hearing, truly seeing
deep within each troubled soul,
Jesus healed their wounded spirits,
sent them forth with lives made whole.

3 Jesus, Lord, our true example,
you have shown how we must live.
Teach us how to share with others
everything we have to give.
Let our days be spent in service;
bring us by your grace to know
healing is the church's calling
and the path that we must go.

Tune Abbots Leigh

When to our world the Saviour came
the sick and helpless heard his Name,
and in their weakness longed to see
the healing Christ of Galilee.

That good physician! Night and day
the people thronged about his way;
and wonder ran from soul to soul,
'The touch of Christ has made us whole!'

His praises then were heard and sung
y opened ears and loosened tongue,
while lightened eyes could see and know
the healing Christ of long ago.

Of long ago: yet living still,
who died for us on Calvary's hill;
who triumphed over cross and grave,
his healing hands stretched forth to save.

His sovereign purpose still remains
who rose in power, and lives and reigns;
till every tongue confess his praise,
the healing Christ of all our days.

Tune Church Triumphant



Taylor Wilson



Stewart Kempster

A Celebration Organ Concert

A Free Concert to Celebrate
the Installation of a New Organ
at St Mark's Church, Calder Rise, Bedford

Sunday 12 February 2012 at 6.30pm

Taylor Wilson (mezzo soprano), Stewart Kempster (bass),
Clive Simmonds (organ)



We are delighted that the new Allen organ at St Mark's will be played by Clive Simmonds our resident organist. We are also extremely fortunate to welcome two professional singers Taylor Wilson and Stewart Kempster, who have international reputations for their performances and recordings. The programme is a delightful mix of musical styles which we are confident will be enjoyed by all.

Come and join us for an amazing musical evening
which promises to be a night to remember.

Entrance to this concert is free there will be a retiring offering. For more details
call St Mark's 01234 342613 email office@thisischurch.com

Count Your Blessings. During Lent Christian Aid's 'Count Your Blessings' reminds us how fortunate we are in the freedoms and living standards we enjoy. Each day we are invited to make a small donation eg for Ash Wednesday, realising how few countries have a free press, give 10p for each newspaper read in a week. If you would like to take part in Count Your Blessings, contact Carolyn Morris at Putnoe 350722 after 12 noon, or Jean Bank at St Mark's 342613

Our "Annual Unwanted Gift Stall" will take place at Putnoe following Worship on 5 February. Please bring in your items for us to sell in aid of Church funds. Always a bargain to be had!! Thank you for your support. Liz and Carolyn.

Lunch Club - Please note that Lunch Club will be cancelled at Putnoe on Wednesday 1 February

Footprints Walking Group Sunday 5 February 2pm. Meet at St Mary's Church, Stevington (parking on verge on Church Road) 3½ mile circular walk including Stevington Trail and Ouse Valley Way and a glimpse of snowdrops. Details Sylvia 343424

Many thanks to all who came to the Putnoe New Year Lunch on 15th January and for all the ways in which help was so gladly given. A cheque for £265.00 has been sent to St. John's Hospice, Moggerhanger. Sue Allen

Pastoral Group - the next meeting will be at 4pm on 7 February in the chapel.

Joint Confirmation. We would be interested to know if there is anybody who would like to consider confirmation. Confirmation is an opportunity for anybody usually over the age of 10. Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which you affirm for yourself the faith into which you have been baptized and your intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the confirming bishop. The Church also asks God to give you power through the Holy Spirit to enable you to live in the way of Jesus.

If you were not baptized as a child and want to make a commitment of faith, you might consider adult baptism or you can be baptized and confirmed in the same service or baptized shortly before your confirmation.

Joint Confirmation means the holding of a service of Confirmation of the Methodist Church and Church of England. In a joint Confirmation the confirming minister from the Church of England is always a bishop. In the case of the other churches it is the appropriate minister in terms of their practice. Those who are confirmed in this way are confirmed both in the Methodist Church and Church of England.

Brickhill Parish Council There will be a meeting this Thursday at 7.30pm at St Mark's Church Community Centre



This year for Lent we are looking at doing our Mission Plan. The Diocese has asked us to produce one and we will be using the opportunity of Lent. Sam is kindly heading this strategic piece of work and we will be using materials based on the diocesan website. It would be helpful for you to take a look at <http://www.livinggodslove.org/resources/resource/mission-action-planning>

We will be using three evenings during Lent to go through the stages Look, Listen, Plan, after Lent we will be looking at implementation ie Act

Look or Review - a time to Look and Listen, often called an audit. Getting into the community and looking beyond the local area to consider needs of the wider world, and as well considering the life and values of the church community.

Discern or Choose - out of the looking, a time to develop and articulate a vision, which will energise and unite the church. When the vision is owned, the priorities and goals flow naturally.

Plan - taking each of the goals and asking 'How?' Again a very prayerful approach is vital as people take on responsibility for specific actions, working to agreed dates.

Act - getting started. Keep praying and communicating together - recognise where modification may be necessary in the light of real experience. Celebrate achieved goals together!

There are also materials for homegroups to use during Lent and for personal prayer and Bible study.

<http://www.livinggodslove.org/resources/resource/lent-course-2012>

We would like to stress that Mission Action Planning is not about looking for more things to do. It is about recognising who we are, what we do and where we see ourselves in the future. This might mean that we do some new things, however there is no expectation that we will do more. So if we decide to do something new, then we will be giving something else up! We cannot do everything and we already do so much. However it will be good to take some stock of where we are, a kind of audit and ask prayerfully what our strengths and weaknesses are. It should be something which we gain some satisfaction from as we reflect together on the life of our churches. Please speak to Sam if you have any questions !



A Prayer for a Healing Sunday

You will find the link above on the homepage for www.thischurch.com. Please click on it to access Amazon.com and just about anything you need. You can also sign up to Easyfundraising. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online at discount prices! Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thischurch.com, then we obtain 5%

Lord of the Universe, Master of All,
look in love upon your people
Pour the healing oil of your compassion
on a world that is sounded and dying.
Send us out in search of the lost,
to comfort the afflicted, to bind up the broken,
and to free those trapped
under the rubble of their fallen dreams.

Sheila Cassidy



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.

**Gladys Mary Judd, Terence Makinson
Christine Saunders, Vera Marsh**



*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 Christine Victoria Fox will take place at St Mark's Church at 3.15p.m. on Monday 30 January followed by Cremation

The funeral of The Reverend Trevor Noble will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on February 1 at 1.00pm

The funeral of Thomas James Harvey will take place at 1.45pm on Monday 13 February

The funeral of Pat Gregory will take place at St Mark's Church on Friday 10 February at 10.00am