



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

29 June 2014

Ordinary 13



Sunday Services

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

29 June - Ordinary 13

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership – Mr. Edward Parry
Intercessions - The Ministers
Organist – Mr. Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher – Revd. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs. Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - The Ministers
Organist– Mr. Clive Simmonds

6 July - Ordinary 14

9.30 St Marks - Morning Family Worship

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs. Wendy Waters
Intercessions - Mr. Richard Ledger
Organist – TBA

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Family Worship

Preacher – Revd. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions - Young People
Organist– TBA

Readings 1. Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67.
2. Romans 7:15-25a 3. Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Pam and Bob Burn to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

Lord Jesus we see you in the compassionate ways of those who accept us no matter how inadequate or different we may be.

We see you in the loving ways of those who love us unconditionally, no matter how unlovely we may have been.

We see you in the sacrificing ways, of those who give of themselves and in the forgiving ways, of those who forgive us.

We give thanks that you have revealed yourself to us in Jesus whom we see in these people around us in our daily lives.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

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

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website www.ThisIsChurch.com

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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@ThisIsChurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Friday 9am –12pm,
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Managers Barry & Jenny Snelson 344417
Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Jean Bank 355698
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

9.00-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955

10.30am U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact

Janet King 313946

1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and

toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments

£1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234

342613 or Janine 01234 297481

12.00 noon Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the

under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon

and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based

story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris

youth@thisischurch.com 365630

2pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact

Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights— fortnightly

4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha

Mistry 01908 392698

5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe

Heights. For more details contact Emily Taverner 01234

792013

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner

01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights

Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571

6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor

341152 / 07976259081

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month)

Pat Nicholson 353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in

month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.

7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club at St. Mark's 2nd week each

month) Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the

month).. Next meeting— 21 July Judith Stanton. 823313

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

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of

Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane

Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking at Putnoe Heights. For

more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights.

Pat McCart 365507

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's.

Helen Skinner 07989080389

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's.

Sally Cripsley 350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in

month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in

month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets

monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in

month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (1st &

3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided.

Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's

(2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.

4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe

Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.30-8.30pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher

0789187957

7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie

07980447390

7.00pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455

(Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the

moment, but hopes to re-start in September.

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets

fortnightl 8 July Bring and Share + Raffle (For

Foodbank)

Details Janet King 313946

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in

month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights.

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with

learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and

supporters 342613.

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. Contact Janet

King 313946

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half

hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Janet King

313946

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe Contact Janet

King 313946

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next

meeting 2 July Putnoe Heights Office 365630

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

Mr Barnes 261811

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

313946

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact

Janet King 313946

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights

Mrs Webster 856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in

month). for children of lower school age and their carers.

Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next

meeting 17 Sept 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank

355698

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha

Mistry 01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel. 01234 353865

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

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

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

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 2 July Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

Thursday

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

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

9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus. at Putnoe Heights

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

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 342613

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

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

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

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

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Susan Perugi 300219

Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

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

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

Saturday

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

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard 01234 782414

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday Feb/Apr/ Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

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

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

Messy Church Dates 17 Sept, 15 Oct, 19 Nov, 10 Dec.

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 14 October

St Mark's Leadership Team - 9 September

Annual Congregational Meetings—

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 1 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting -25 September

Putnoe Church Council - 16 October

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service - 2nd November

Circuit meeting – 15 September

Deanery meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees—

Putnoe Heights Children

& Youth Meeting - 29 September at 2.00pm

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

Ordinary 13

Sentence of Scripture Romans 12:11

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

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

Lord of heaven and earth, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and power of your Church. Sow in our hearts the seeds of your grace that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit, in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *Methodist Worship*

First Bible Reading - Genesis 22: 1-14

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

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

Second Bible Reading - Romans 6:12-23

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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



Gospel Reading - Matthew 10:40-42

Please stand and when the reading is announced we say — **Glory to Christ our Saviour**

"He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

(At the end of the reading - This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymns *(Please distribute Holy Communion with PCH and Hymns Sheets)*

1. O Christ, the Healer, we have come To pray for health, to plead for friends. Tune Song 34 mv
2. Lord of all power, I give you my will, Tune Slane
3. Lord, we come to ask your healing, Tune Ar hyd y nos
4. O for a heart to praise my God, Tune Abridge

Commentary

To understand the passage from Matthew today we need to think back to the previous parts of this chapter.

- Jesus has summoned the disciples and given them authority over unclean spirits to cure disease and sickness. (10:1-5)
- He then sends them out on the mission to proclaim good news. They are to travel light, look for supporters and if they are not found move on. (10:5-15)
- Jesus warns them that not everybody will welcome them, they are engaged in a spiritual battle. They are vulnerable because they are surrounded by religious people who will attack them physically even in places of prayer (synagogues). However as they travel they are not alone because the Holy Spirit is with them. (10:16-25)
- Jesus tells them not to be afraid of anybody because they have very limited powers, God is on the side of the disciples and God holds power over life and death. (10:26-28)
- Jesus reassures the disciples that as they speak for him, so he will always speak for them before God (10:32)
- There is a use of language reminiscent of war, the disciples need to know that this is high risk, Jesus isn't bringing peace but a sword. (10:34)
- The message which the disciples have to share isn't great on the face of it. They are calling people to give their lives to follow Jesus, but the reward will be the discovery of a new way of living (10:34-39)

So then we come to these short verses today as the conclusion of this speech by Jesus. The disciples as they go about their mission are representatives of Jesus. However they are more than just messengers, when people welcome them it is as though they are welcoming Jesus himself, and because of who Jesus is, they are welcoming God the Father. Put bluntly when the disciples come to your home to visit, it is as though God was walking through the door. This means that people should be very wary of how they treat the disciples, since dishonour shown to them is dishonour shown to God. Likewise, should the disciples be treated kindly, then there would be reward because this is a sign of respect and an act of love shown to God. This is the principle of *Shaliah*, a Jewish concept which the disciples would understand. In Hebrew a Shaliah is an emissary or legal representative who has powers of attorney, to the extent that the one sent is regarded as the very person themselves.

Nobody could say that Jesus tried to give a rosy picture of discipleship to his followers. He is overt in making the point that the world will be a hostile place. It is better for them to go in pairs rather than alone, they need support wherever they go.

The question which is raised for us is this,

'who do we regard as the agents of God today, who does Jesus send today as his agents?'

The answer must be, those who are willing to speak his words and make his presence known in both friendly and hostile places. Those people will be the ones who have heard his words and have taken up the

cross of discipleship. In short it is all of his followers, there are not supposed to be any secret undercover agents in the service of Jesus. There is no covert surveillance department sent into the war zone by Jesus, he needs nobody to go behind enemy lines and 'blend in.' The followers of Jesus are commissioned to walk straight and bold as brass and declare their mission even in the face of a hostile and unforgiving enemy. For this reason the mission could easily be regarded as a suicide mission. Indeed by using the phrase last week of 'taking up the cross' an instrument of death, that is exactly what Jesus meant ! This mission of Jesus, for those who decided to take it, is dangerous and potentially suicidal, but the success should be judged not in human terms of life and death but the eternal significance of God's kingdom. This was a mission where it never mattered whether or not they made it back alive.

So there we have it, in a nutshell, if you want to be a follower of Jesus, then you are called to active service. You are expected to be a proclaimer in word and deed of the one who sends you, and wherever you go - it is as though God were going. Little wonder then that we must set a good example by our word and deed. *Charles Royden*



Meditation

Last week we mentioned the feast of St Alban, Britain's first Saint and martyr, who died and was buried 1700 years ago at the place where St Albans Cathedral now stands. Alban was converted to Christianity while sheltering Amphibalus, a Christian priest. The Roman Emperor had ordered a period of persecution for Christians and soldiers sought them out. Alban exchanged his clothes with the priest and gave himself up to the Romans for martyrdom in Amphibalus' stead. Standing trial and asked to prove his loyalty by making offerings to the Roman gods, Alban bravely declared his faith in "the true and living God who created all things". This statement condemned Alban to death. He was led out of

the city, across the river and up a hillside where he was beheaded. Sadly Amphibalus was later caught and also martyred. It is a wonderful story to accompany our Gospel reading today which speaks of rewards for those who welcome God's people and care for them. Perhaps Alban is the perfect example.

When we were considering using our churches for community use, some of us travelled to St Albans Cathedral dedicated to the memory of this first Christian witness. We wanted to consider how this sacred space was now being used for fashion shows and events which were supposedly 'secular.' Is there a clash between the sacred and the secular? After our visit we decided that God was not going to be upset if we did things in church which we felt comfortable about doing somewhere else - like bowling ! Writing in the annual review of St Albans Cathedral this year, The Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John writes this. *'Is there a clash here between the sacred secular? No. The Incarnation means that God is involved in absolutely everything, whether we see it or not. Time and again supposedly 'secular' visitors and tourists turn out to be pilgrims too; and that's why the Church, and especially the Cathedral, must be porous - open to serve all who come, for whatever reason.'*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord God you love us with a generous love, you welcome us with open hearts, as a parent would welcome a lost child. Give us such generosity in our love, that we would welcome others and embrace them with arms as wide open as your arms. Give us a love as accepting as the love which welcomed us when we far off and which reassured us of forgiveness and mercy.

Lord Jesus, you healed freely, you fed all who came to you and shared your love and forgiveness even with those who persecuted and killed you. As you have shown us how to live in this extraordinary way, so may we your people live differently and seek to follow your example. May your church be a place of welcome, where your goodness is reflected in all that we speak and do. Help us so to practice our faith that compassion would be shown to all without discretion. Forgive us when we limit your grace and create boundaries around ourselves and others. Through daily acts of simple kindness, help us to be a part of building your kingdom here on earth.

God our heavenly Father you have made people of all nations and hate nothing that you have made. Help us to break down the barriers which divide nations and communities. Give to us a love of friendship and peace, a desire to put aside words of violence and to put down instruments of war. Remove from our minds all that causes hardness of heart towards others and diminishes their worth. We pray for countries where religion politics or nationality have become excuses to hate and kill.

We pray for all of those who carry burdens. Those who are worried about life, those who fear death, and those who are lonely following the loss of somebody they love. May those who lack completeness in their lives find their wholeness the knowledge of your unfathomable love.

Opus 18 Community Choir. Come & join us for "A Summer Celebration" at St. Andrew's Church, Bedford on Saturday 12 July at 7.30. Tickets £6 (children £3) to include refreshments, from St. Andrew's Church Office. Proceeds to St. John's Hospice, Moggerhanger & Swaziland Schools.

Bedford Town Band A little bit of America comes to Putnoe. Bedford Town Band are celebrating American Independence Day with a concert at Putnoe Heights Church. Not on the 4th July but on Saturday 5 July. Come and listen to some familiar tunes and some that may not be so familiar. Tickets at the door £5 & £8 See the website at <http://bedfordtownband.org.uk>

Friends for Life Meeting for Ministers and Pastoral Visitors in the Holt Room at St Andrews at 6.30 on Tuesday July 1. *For more details contact Joanne Barrow 01234 213038*

Cash for Currency - Open House is offering a unique opportunity for people with learning disabilities to access a free service. Cheryl Green is the group organiser and she has seen the group expand dramatically with many more people joining. The group is entirely voluntary organised and receives no funding. In order to raise some funds to help provide this service we are asking you to search out any coins which you may have and give them to us. The coins may be British or foreign coins, we have somebody who will ensure that we receive the best value for them.

It may be old foreign currency left over from that holiday years ago, or a few old British coins lying around. They may be no use to you but they are to us. We can turn every coin and note, no matter how old or how small, into cash to help fund our Openhouse project to help people with learning difficulties. So search out those old pesetas or shillings or whatever and bring them along to the Church Office anytime so we can sort them out and get the best possible value for everything you donate. Remember, everything can be used to generate funds for Openhouse. The last amount raised was £68, thanks to all who contributed.

Diocesan Office is looking to appoint an Estates & Trusts Officer within the Estates Department at Holywell Lodge. Details available from the website at <http://stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies/> with a closing date of Friday 11 July.

Help wanted

Are reasonable confident on the telephone? We are looking for some help for Celebrate 100 and need somebody who can make telephone calls. If you can offer time to ring churches to get information we would be extremely grateful. You will be working with a small team and can work either from home or St Mark's office. If you do have the time to offer then please speak with Charlie.

Meriam Ibrahim safe and well in US Embassy Those of you who supported the call for help for Meriam a Christian a death sentence for apostasy will be pleased to hear that the family has been given refuge at the US embassy in Khartoum. Daniel Wani, the American husband of Meriam Ibrahim, said his wife and two children were doing well. Meriam went to the US embassy on Thursday after being detained at Khartoum airport as she tried to leave Sudan. Her arrest came days after her release from death row. Wani confirmed they had sought the embassy's protection because of death threats against his wife. Meriam, whose father was Muslim but who was raised by her Christian mother, was last month convicted of apostasy and sentenced to hang. She was also sentenced to 100 lashes for adultery after a court ruled her marriage to Wani, a Christian, was invalid. Under Sudan's penal code Muslims are forbidden from changing faith, and Muslim women are not permitted to marry Christian men. Meriam, who insisted she had been brought up as a Christian, gave birth shackled to the floor of her cell whilst in prison.

Congratulations to May and Roy Laird on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. May and Roy would like to convey their thanks for flowers, cards and good wishes sent on the occasion of their Golden Wedding anniversary.

Supporting Putnoe Heights and St Mark's Church

How can you show your support for the work and mission of our churches?

1. Set up a regular donation
2. Make a one-off donation or gift for the work of the church
3. Leave a gift in your will
4. Offer some time as a volunteer

amazon.com
and you're done.



When you do your shopping please shop at www.ThisChurch.com

Thank you for shopping using the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase.

Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases and we receive a commission. You can shop at John Lewis, M&S etc - please always shop through www.thischurch.com



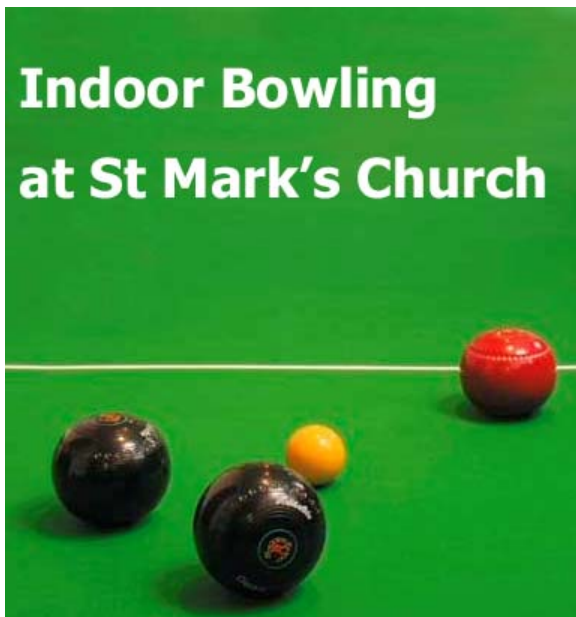
Commemorative Book - A Book has been produced by the Diocese to commemorate 100 years. Copies are available this week for the special price of £4. They will be available after the service and from the church office during the week

Strawberry Afternoon Tea Sunday 20 July
Join us from 3.00 - 5.00pm for an elegant afternoon tea (i.e. china crockery, finger sandwiches, home made cakes and scones) with strawberries and cream in the beautiful garden of Margaret and Eddy Peck, 30 The

Ridgeway or at the Church if bad weather. Admission including afternoon tea £5.00. An estimate of numbers will be useful so please sign the lists at either church..
Thank you to Judith Stanton and her group for a donation of £108 towards the work of the church. Proceeds from their last whist drive.

Shivas Home-Care are recruiting now for West Mid Beds and Chiltern Vale areas.. Would you like to become part of a friendly and caring support team. Shrivas Home-Care provides a range of care related duties within the private homes of elderly and disabled adults. You do require your own transport and training can be given. For more information please contact . Sam or Natasha on 01582 848488 or 01234 802437 or e-mail your details to sam@shivashomecare.com.

Footprints Walk. Sunday 13 July. Meet at Great Barford Village Hall at the edge of the village towards Wilden (Green End Rd, street parking nearby) at 2.30pm. Easy three mile walk led by Eddy Peck and Sue Allen



Indoor Short Mat Bowls

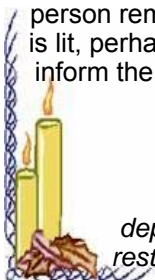
For some time we have been collecting together the resources which we need to start an indoor bowling facility at St Mark's Church. We would like to provide an opportunity on Sunday afternoons for people to enjoy getting together and being able to meet all year round whilst perhaps also enjoying some light physical activity. It is also perfectly acceptable just to watch ! We are grateful to Ray Seymour who has kindly agreed to get things going with a bowls taster session on Sunday 17 August 2 - 4.30pm. Now is a great time to think about a new activity, if you would like to come to watch or play, then please let St Mark's office know so that we can ensure we have enough refreshments and equipment on the day.

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

Lorenzo Troiano

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



Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Rose Gwendoline Ott will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12.15pm on Wednesday 2 July

The funeral of Ronald Harbinson will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 4.00pm on Tuesday 1 July

The funeral of Ken Wigginton will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 1.00pm on Tuesday 8 July