

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

29 May 2011 6th Sunday of Easter



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

9.30 am St Mark's - St Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH and Baptism

Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intersessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership – Mrs Linda Hoar
Intersessions – Mrs Sue Allen

5th June - 7th Sunday of Easter

9.30 am Family Worship

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intersessions – Mrs Alison Holden

11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship

Preacher– Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership – Mrs Sam Ware
Intersessions – YPG

Bible Readings 1. Acts 1: 6-14 2. 1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11 3. John 17: 1-11

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 St Mark's this week have been given by Lynne and Noel Seymour to celebrate their granddaughter Elodie's christening.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Liz Hayward in memory of her mother, Olive Betts.

Welcome

A special welcome to St Mark's this week to Elodie, her family and friends who have come to celebrate her baptism.

Prayer for the Week

Eternal God,
the light of the minds that know you,
the life of the souls that love you,
the strength of the wills that serve you;
help us so to know you
that we may truly love you,
so to love you that we may fully serve you,
whom to serve is perfect freedom.
Pope Gelasius' Prayer Book, Seventh or Eighth Century.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager 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 Hoar 782717
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 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

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon-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)
9.00am Clubhouse at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
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 J Birks ☎219607
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
2pm U3A Music Appreciation - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623
3.30pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.
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
7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
7.30pm 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 May 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 ☎07790296016
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 for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357
1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552
1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation fortnightly. Contact Mrs Reed ☎216623
2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting June 7—Richard Ledger. For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
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
6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885
7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
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 31 - Outside visit to Garden Centre (by car) No evening meeting. " For more 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.
9.00am Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making. St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 25 May Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .
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
2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834

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. Next meeting 26 January.

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 June 1 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 ,Valmai 219555 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

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 group for Mums & toddlers. Meet again on 28 April. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau Putnoe Heights.

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. Meet again on 28 April. Contact Jaana Swaby ☎363283

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St. Mark's ☎267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

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 Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

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 Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pauline Hooper ☎350079

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

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

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. 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

7.00pm 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 Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council –
St Mark's Leadership Team
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 June
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .
St Mark's Forum Meeting - 13 July
Putnoe Church Council - 13 June –7.30pm
Pastoral Group Meeting - 14th June
Churchyard Committee -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Circuit meeting -
Deanery Meeting - .
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 4th July

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

6th Sunday of Easter

Introduction

Jesus made a promise to his disciples, he was going to leave them but he would not leave them alone. After he had gone he would send the Holy Spirit to be present with them and the Holy Spirit would be like Jesus himself living alongside them. This was a bold promise, if the promise failed to come true the disciples would feel isolated and abandoned and be unable to face the challenges which Jesus had entrusted to them. However if Jesus was as good as his word then the disciples would feel able to conquer the world. With Jesus alongside them in their mission there was nothing of which they need be afraid.

Of course we know from the history books that this is exactly what happened. After Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, they became fearless in their proclamation of Jesus and they took the message of Good news right across the world. The same Holy Spirit lives with God's people today, reassuring us of the presence of God with us. Although Jesus is not physically present, he is with us and shares with us in all that we do.



**I will ask the Father,
and he will give you
another Advocate,
to be with you forever.**
John 14.16

Opening Sentence from Scripture – Psalm 66:1

Shout to God with joy, everyone on earth! Sing about the glory of his name! Give him glorious praise

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

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by His death he has recalled us to life, so by His continual presence in us He may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading - Acts 17:22-31

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ “Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 Peter 3: 13-22

"Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened. "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - John 14: 15-21

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." (This is the word of the Lord. - **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymns St Mark's

1. Come, let us praise the Lord (Tune Gopsal) 92
2. Be Bold be strong 49 and Majesty 454
3. Speak, Lord in the stillness (Tune Quietude) 608
4. Healing God, almighty Father (Tune Hyfrydol) 226

Commentary

Commentary 29 May 2011

The book of Acts is one of my favourite books in the Bible, as its title indicates it is full of accounts of the bold actions of those first brave men and women, living in the 1st century, who were prepared to stand up and be counted for their faith in God as revealed to them, in the person of their friend and teacher, Jesus. Living in the 21st century we might do well to reflect on whether we are as brave in standing up for Jesus. I'm not sure I am, or would be if put to tests such as those early disciples were and as faced by many thousands of Christians across the world today.

In Acts 17 verses 22 – 31 we read, what are probably extracts from a much longer speech, Paul made during his missionary journey to Greece, speaking in Athens, to people who liked nothing better than to 'talk and listen to the latest ideas' (17:21). He was taken there by a group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers to the place where a council met, 'Areopagus' (Greek for 'Mars Hill'), in order to explain his new teaching. This would seem to be an ideal location to explain and expand on his 'new' understanding of the nature of God. When reading this passage it is helpful to have some knowledge of those Paul was addressing:

'Epicureans taught that one should pursue fulfilment and actively avoid displeasure and that the role of gods in a person's life was seen as strictly marginal'.

Stoics thought that one attained fulfilment by accepting the course of events, including pain and suffering. These should be endured quietly and almost gratefully, since they are part of nature and

are controlled by an impersonal divine necessity or fate'. (*New Bible Commentary*)
Some have argued that, by referring to the altar 'to an unknown God' (v23) and quoting from a pagan poet 'We are his offspring' (v 28), Paul's teaching in Athens was a failure so he changed his style when he moved on to the next city Corinth. Others consider his speech to have been a 'very strong Jewish attack on the smug complacency of the Athenians'. By drawing on his knowledge of the local culture Paul was able to point out their failings more clearly. The altar 'To an unknown God' resulted from a legend that when there was a terrible plague in Athens, after attempts to appease the gods had failed, a wise man took a flock of sheep to the top of 'Mars Hill' and released them. Wherever these sheep stopped an altar was set up and the animal sacrificed. This action allegedly had the desired affect and the plague ended.
At the beginning of this speech Paul's comments on the Athenians religious practises could be taken as either positive or negative: 'Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious'. He then goes on to point out that the God he proclaims is not bound by man made objects, however He is willing to overlook their ignorance as long as they give up the worship of idols and look to the risen Lord who is the proof they seek.
A relevant message for us today as we try to explain our beliefs in a Living God in our own local context and culture, where many people prefer to put their trust in such things as 'healing stones', the acquisition of objects; or creating a new image of themselves. *Wendy Waters*

Meditation Finding God in all things

One of the hardest battles in the spiritual life, perhaps I should say the hardest, is the struggle to see God in our trivial human happenings. How often we have to renew our act of faith! At first we are tempted to see only ourselves, to believe only in ourselves to value only ourselves. Then gradually we perceive that the thread of life has a rationale, a mysterious unity, and we are led to think that we meet God in its basic stages. Then again, as our religious experience grows, we begin to realize that we meet God not only in the big events of our lives but in all the events, however small and apparently insignificant. God is never absent from our lives. He cannot be, because 'in him we live, and move, and exist' (Acts 17:28). But it requires so much effort to turn this truth into a habit!
We need repeated acts of faith before we learn to sail with confidence on the immense and endless sea' which is God (*St Gregory of Nazienzen*), knowing I that if we founder we do so in him, the divine, eternal, ever-present God. How fortunate we are if we can learn to navigate our frail craft on the sea and remain serene even when the storm is raging! *Carlo Carretto, Love is for Living,*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

I bring to you, Healer of my soul; unvisited places that have no name for love; abandoned places that lie untended; stunted places that long to grow again; resentful places that await forgiving touch; fearful places that need you as a coach; defeated places where fresh belief can come. *Ray Simpson*

Give us faith that heeds your call to heal. Give us eyes to see your healing rays. Give us speech that transmits your healing words. Give us hands that bring your healing touch. Give us grace to give you the glory. *Ray Simpson*

Jesus our Healer, we place in your gentle hands those who are sick. Ease their pain, and heal the damage done to them in body, mind or spirit. Be present to them through the support of friends and family, and in the care of the medical professions and fill them with the warmth of your love now and always. *Angela Ashwin*

Destroy, O Lord, the spirit of self seeking, in us as individuals and in our nations. Give to the peoples and their leaders a vision of peace and reconciliation. For you, O Lord, can find a way where human beings do not know what to do. *Swedish Prayer adapted*

Lord Jesus keep us ever mindful that you are the image of your Father; keep us ever mindful to seek you and worship you and your Father, not the transitory temptations that surround us as we go about our daily lives. Through the gift of your Holy Spirit help us to proclaim you to those we meet who do not yet know you as the God of life and love. Amen

Easter Offering at St. Mark's Church raised £27.00 for the Methodist Church World Mission Fund. Many thanks to all contributors.

Car Boot on Monday 30 May Our third car boot looms tomorrow. Anyone who has any items we would be grateful if you would bring them up this afternoon when the church will be open. We would also be very grateful for cakes etc for refreshments. Your support is really appreciated. Many thanks. Avril Williams.

Visit to Rwanda Our granddaughter, Charlotte is spending 9 days in Rwanda with a group from her school next February. They will be working with children and young people still suffering from the effects of the genocide. We are helping her to raise money and are having a coffee morning/afternoon on Saturday 25th June from 10.12am and 2-4pm. Light refreshments, raffle, bring and buy, plants, books etc. Come and join us at 30 The Ridgeway. Margaret & Eddy Peck

Mike Cooper and family would like to express their deep gratitude for all the kind thoughts and wishes and the prayers of everyone at both Churches following the death of Mike's mum Doris.

The Friends of Bedford Cemetery (Foster Hill Road) are holding a 10th Anniversary Celebration Lecture entitled Victorian Funerals presented by Dr Julian Litten PhD HonDarts FSA at Norse Road Crematorium Chapel on Saturday 11th June at 2.30pm Entry Charge £3.00 per person, no charge to Friends Of Bedford Cemetery. Free refreshments available after the Lecture.

Christian Aid Thank you to everyone who supported Christian Aid week at St Mark's Church. We raised a total of £562. John Harrison

Christian Aid Thank you to everyone who collected at Putnoe Heights. £1200 was collected of which £500 was gift aided. Thank you Carolyn.

Action for Children—Thanks to all who took part in the Home Collectors Box opening event, counting the sum of £162.03. The teas and home-made cakes were enjoyed in the Wren Room with a further £18 donated. Do look out for notices of coming events nationally. Would anyone like to take part in the Big Jump—19 June or the London Walkthrough, the history of Action for Children 2 July. See details on notice boards in Church Foyer. Margaret Standley

Offer for music lovers—2 tickets for Philharmonia Concert, 7.30pm, Saturday 4 June, at Corn Exchange. (Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto etc.)

£15 donation to Christian aid. Contact Betty/Lawrence 350188. Why has nobody taken up this fantastic offer -??

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school at Putnoe Heights is short of teachers and would appreciate hearing from anybody who would be able to offer additional hours when called upon. Please contact Janet Smith if you are interested in learning more about hours, pay etc. Phone 01234 326685

Shannon Express Concert at St Andrews Church, 8pm on 11 June 2011. Pre-concert Summer Supper 6.30pm. Concert and supper tickets £14, £13 concessions, £10 students 16-21yrs. Tickets available from St Andrews church office only Concert tickets £7, £6 concessions. £3 students. Children free accompanied by an adult. Church Centre office Tel:01234 216881

Brickhill Scout Group are holding a Family Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper at St Mark's Church on Friday 17 June, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Teams of up to 6 people. Adults £6 (inc supper). Children £4 (inc supper) Contact Caroline Romans on 07732 467823 or rcromans@btinternet.com

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Parish church Extravaganza in Bedfordshire. Open Sunday will be held on Sunday 26 June 2011 to discover other Bedfordshire Churches. For more information visit www..stalbans.anglican.org

There will be a Putnoe Children and Youth meeting on Monday 4th July

Parish Church Extravaganza Sunday 26 June will be Open Sunday at many parish churches in the archdeaconry of Bedford. The churches will be open all day for people to enjoy, with a special welcome which often includes refreshments, cream teas etc. Discover national and local history, art, architecture, peace and quiet. Relax over a leisurely afternoon tea. Find out more from www.stalbans.anglican.org

From Deacon Jane

Dear All I've been out of town for a while, on Saturday 14th I was leading a workshop at the Diocesan conference on 'spirituality in residential care homes' and last week I was at 'Diaconal Convocation', the annual gathering of the whole of the Methodist Diaconal Order, of which I am an ordained member.

We met over four days at the Hayes conference centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire, so I thought I'd share with you an outline of what we did in that time.

Day one: 'gathering our community'; in which we gathered to worship, welcoming new candidates and remembering those of our number who have died in the past year, discuss the business of our committees and any reports we need to send to Methodist conference or to any of the ecumenical groups to which we belong, and heard from both the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference.

Day two: 'nourishing our community'; in which we engaged with bible studies, discussed issues of 'safeguarding ourselves', had 'team-building' sessions and space to retreat and/or meet with our area groups or year groups.

Day three: 'equipping our community'; in which we had more bible study, speakers on issues affecting the life of our order and the wider church, including Ann Morisy, and a choice of workshops focussing on different 'specialist' areas of our ministry (with certain age groups, in different areas, using music).
Day four: 'Dispersing our community'; in which we had (you guessed it) more bible study and ended with worship which included both the rededication of each of us and our blessing of those due to be 'received into full connexion' and/or ordained at Methodist conference this year.

It was a busy yet fulfilling time, it is always good to meet up with friends and there is something almost comforting about being among people who are in a similar situation to yourself. It is good to be back, I am generally a practical person, happiest when I am doing the work to which I am called, and hopefully I

come back to you refreshed and better equipped to do that work. Yours in faith, Jane
(Deacon Jane Mason, Bedford North Circuit and Chaplain of Anjulita Court/Ladyslaud court MHA)



BELIEF

Belief Course

Being a Christian in . . . ?

We have received details of the latest course being held by 'Belief' at The Holt Room, St Andrews Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2PF, Each evening starts at 7.45 pm and ends at 9.30 pm. This course will be free of charge. Donations welcome towards the costs and refreshments.

Being a Christian in the Police

Steve Lloyd, Chair of the Bedfordshire Branch of the Christian Police Association
Wednesday, 1 June 2011

Being a Christian in Midwifery and Nursing

Sue Armstrong, Registered Nurse and Midwife
Wednesday, 8 June 2011

Being a Christian in the Theatre

Janet Smith, Creative Director of the Trade Secrets Theatre Company, Derby
Wednesday, 15 June 2011

Being a Christian in the Media

Cathy Le Feuvre, former Head of Media for the Salvation Army
Wednesday, 22 June 2011

Being a Christian in Politics

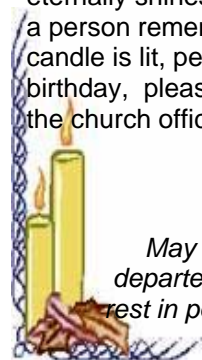
Alistair Burt, MP for North-East Bedfordshire
Wednesday, 21 September 2011

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.

Doris Cooper

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



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Forthcoming Funerals

