



Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
2 August 2015
Ordinary 18**



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

2 August Ordinary 18

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Family Worship
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mr. Edward Parry
Intercessions - Ministers
Organist - Mr Mike Cooper

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Family Worship
Preacher - Mrs. Jane Mills
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon
Intercessions - Young People
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

9 August Ordinary 19

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard
Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions - Ministers
Organist - Mr Martin Thompson

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard
Leadership - Mrs. Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Mrs. Sam Ware
Organist - Mr. Martin Thompson

Readings 1. Kings 19: 4-8 2. Eph 4: 25-5: 2
3. John 6:35, 41-51
Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's
Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur
House on first Monday of every month.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week are given by Lawrence and Betty Wyatt on their wedding anniversary and by Pam Crouch in loving memory of her husband Jack on their wedding anniversary and his birthday.



The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Wendy Rider on the anniversary of the death of her brother Jack.

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

Accept, O Father, the sacrifice of our thanksgiving: of praise, for your great mercies; of prayer, that we may grow in grace; of penitence, that our sins may be forgiven; and of love, that only gift which you seek in us or desire; and this we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
Assistant Rural Dean of Bedford
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
itsjanemills@gmail.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-Ordinator
Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@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 Mon-Thur 9-5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Geoff Gypps 365630
Leadership Team Mr Barry Southam 219714
barrysoutham@aol.com
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 Charity No 1160981.
Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Margaret Appleton 354708
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
8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
(See website for more details)
9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955
10.00am-12 U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's Liz Mason 07816522200
12.00 noon Storybox 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
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 Restarts on 14 September
2.00pm 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 Zoe Wilcox 07767311424
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 07928483418 email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk
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-8pm Cubs at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
6.30pm Fit For All Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Mary Daly 217127
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—17 August 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

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. 9.30, 11.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30. Lorrie Pearson 340473

11-12.15am 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
2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (Alternate Tuesdays) Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Alternate Tuesdays. Mrs Jean Bank 355698
3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393
7.15-8.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571
7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390
7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting September Tea Details Diane Bayliss 268101
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.
10.00-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.
10.00am 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
11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 9 September Contact Putnoe Office 365630
1.15pm Social Bridge Club St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.Contact 1st week of the month. Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966
3.30-4.30pm Vita Fit St Mark's starting 29 April for 6 weeks Liz Roe 07901684538
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 16 September 2015 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698
4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
5.00–6.00pm Rainbows at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091
6.00pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall

Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

6.00-7.00pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark
Tel.01234 353865

7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts at Putnoe ages 10.5-14;
Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

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

7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every
month except August Mrs Jo Street 3446008.

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 September 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) Jill Cooper 357960

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.

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 Restarts b17 September 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.Restarts 10 September Contact Jaana
Swaby 342613

1.00-2.30pm Wriggles & Jiggles Putnoe Heights. Drop
in.

1.00 - 2.30pm 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
07768481499

6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock
07769747393

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna.
07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284

7.00pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week
in month)Contact Janet King 313946

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th
week in month) Rosemary McNeilage 405594

7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd
week in month) Linda Stephen 409493

8.00pm 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

Friday

9.30am -3.30pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe
Heights, 2nd week per month.. 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-7.00pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe.
Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email:
phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

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 at St. Mark's. 1st
Sunday Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for
the under 9's . A crèche is also available.

2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th
Sunday. Closed for summer break. Re opens 13
September. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council -
St Mark's Leadership Team -
Annual Congregational Meetings -
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 October 2015
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting -
Putnoe Church Council - 15 October 2015
Putnoe Centre Manger Meeting - 29 September
Pastoral Group Meeting- 15 September 2015 4.00pm
Churchyard Committee - TBA
Circuit meeting -
Deanery meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees -
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 28
September 2015 2.00pm
St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015, 31 August.
Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 27
September.
*Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of
your meetings.*

Ordinary 18

Sentence of Scripture Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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

Lord and giver of life, you alone nourish and sustain your people, through Christ, the bread of life. Feed our hunger and quench our thirst, that we may no longer work for what fails to satisfy, but do what you require, in obedience and faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen Methodist Worship

First Bible Reading Exodus 16:2- 4, 9-15

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.

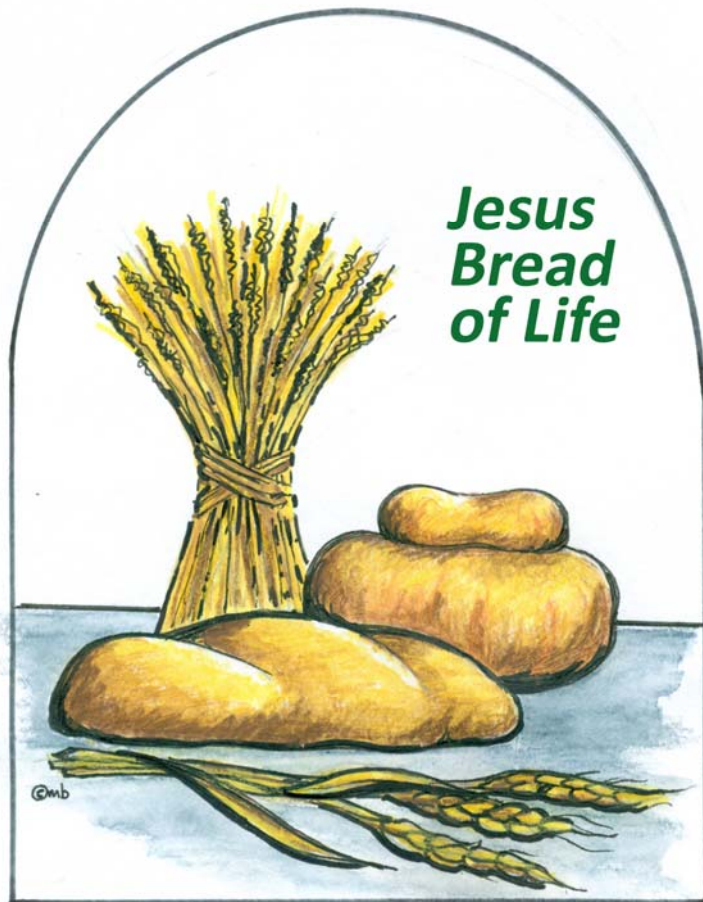
On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'" While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. The LORD said to Moses, 'I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.' That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.'

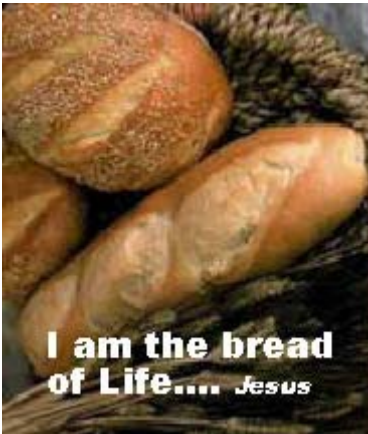
(This is the word of the Lord —**Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading Ephesians 4:1-16

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.. But to each one of us grace has



been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." (What does 'he ascended mean.' except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions ? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)



Gospel Reading - John 6:24-35

Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"

Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymns for Sunday *(Please distribute Morning Family Worship booklet and Hymns and Psalms)*

1. God is here! As we his people H&P 653 (*Blaenwern*)
2. Praise him in the morning H&P 506
3. One more step along the world I go H&P 746 (*Southcote*)
4. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind H&P 673 (*Repton*)
5. God is working his purpose out H&P769 (*Benson*)

Commentary

Methodist Homes Sunday 2015 - "Who is my Older Neighbour?"

Today we are focussing on the work of MHA, the organisation that run Anjulita Court and Ladyslaude Court, that mysterious place on Woodlands Park that I disappear to for 15 hours each week!

Every year the organisation selects a theme for us to look at, and this year picks up on the question Jesus was asked by the lawyer. His answer, in the form of the story of the Good Samaritan, suggests that by even asking that question displays a narrowness of outlook which runs against God's way, in which every person is 'neighbour'.

As it happens I have had many conversations recently about the nature of neighbours, and how that has changed over time. Many of us look back on the happy experiences of childhood and our

own family life and wonder why such openness and sharing does not exist today. Few, it would seem, now experience the kind of neighbourly communities which were commonplace even 30 or 40 years ago, such as the simple community of the road my grandparents lived in in Sheffield. I knew so many people on that road as Aunty..... even though none were related, yet today we find that people do not know even the first name of the people who live in the next flat, house or even those they sit next to at church!



In today's reading from Exodus we meet the community saved from slavery by God now grumbling about their leaders, forgetting past hardship and thinking they have been better off staying in Egypt! We would do well to remember this when we are tempted to look back with 'Rose tinted specs' as, although there is much we can learn from the past we also need to acknowledge that much has improved, such as the increased equality of women and less tolerance of racist views.

In Ephesians we are urged to 'live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace'. This is far from easy at times, when differing views come head to head, but we are reassured that God will give us the strength to do this; 'to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it'.

In the gospel reading Christ asserts that he is the bread of life, but what does he mean when he says; 'he who comes to me shall not hunger and he who believes in me shall not thirst.' What does this say about the 1 in 5 children who live below the poverty line in England or the millions of people who have no access to clean water, or adequate food? In my own experience it is certainly not lack of faith that makes people so desperately needy!

Is Jesus speaking about physical food and water though? Or is he suggesting that there is a spiritual answer to the hunger we all experience for so many different things? It is important to remember that each week, in The Lord's Prayer, we pray for daily bread. That's it, we do not pray for money, status or what we want, we do not ask for our favourite food, just basic staple bread, and what's more it is bread for today, we do not even ask for bread for tomorrow, just enough for today, because when we have that which we need the rest does not seem to matter quite as much.

this honestly requires us to recognise that they might actually be missing.

Deacon Jane Mills

Meditation

So what meanings does the word neighbour carry today?

Addressing the specific issue of supporting our older neighbours is at the heart of MHA's work, particularly within their Live at Home Schemes. In 2014 the charity Friends of the Elderly (www.fote.org.uk) published a research report, The Future of Loneliness, which highlights the isolation experienced by many older people, and emphasising the role that family and intergenerational contact can have in reducing isolation. Among the implications of the delay in placing an upper limit on the amount we are expected to pay for care is the fact that more and more elderly people are likely to be living in their own homes, rather than in communal environments. And, due to changing work patterns, families no longer live close together and a new phenomenon of "the hidden elderly" – those who were known to exist but who lived beyond the radar of both formal and informal support – will only increase.

For our older neighbours, the experience of community can be one which gives a whole new meaning and purpose to their later years, and it is something which MHA look to provide, through residential settings as well through community services. True companionship offers significance and connection, things which can help people maintain a sense of well-being and a sense of personal worth, rather than simply being a receiver of help and support.

We need to revisit how we look at people, we have a tendency to make judgements according to values and prejudices which do not reflect God's way. We are tempted to ask what this person has to offer, rather than recognising that God has a purpose for those whom we often overlook. Indeed many of our pastoral visitors have experienced the generous hospitality of the isolated older people they visit, often finding that they have gained as much, if not more, from the encounter than the person they visited.

To older people MHA is saying, you are of worth and have much to share! To the churches they are challenging us to ask who our older neighbour is, and where they are to be found, and to answer this honestly requires us to recognise that they might actually be missing.

St Mark's Church Car Boot Sale This will take place on Monday 31 August. Please take time over summer to clear out your cupboards so that we can have lots of items to sell on the church stall.

As we finish off another year there is a barbeque in the Vicarage garden in the afternoon to which all of our car boot helpers are invited. Our sincere thanks to all of those who have given up their bank holiday Mondays to help raise money for church funds.

Partnership Prayer Group meets every Thursday from 9.30 - 10am at Putnoe. We are always pleased to welcome new members. Prayer cards are now available at both churches and we include all prayer requests in our meeting.

St Mark's Junior Church will begin again on 13 September when we will look forward to welcoming the children back

Story Box restarts 10 September. A big thank you to all our volunteers.

Chat and Make will meet on Mondays 3 and 17 August from 1.30-3pm

Chat and Play will meet on Thursdays 6, 13 & 20 August from 9.30 - 11.30am during the holidays. Details Janine 297481

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church will start again on Monday 14 September at 12 noon. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help with this children's group without whom it could not take place. We are looking for new volunteers to help with this group in September.

Junior Church at Putnoe Heights Church will take a break from 9 August. We will meet again for our first Sunday service on Sunday 6 September. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help with this children's group without whom it could not take place. We are looking for new volunteers to help with this group in September.

Footprints and others, extra to the annual programme of walks we are trying to organise an all day walk encompassing a ride on the Cambridge guided busway into St Ives for lunch and a visit to Fen Drayton Lakes and RSPB reserve on the way back to our vehicles. The 29 August is the date. The distance walked will be about 3 miles the same as on a normal Sunday walk. Further details nearer the date. Alan and Margaret Tel 327219

Footprints Walk Sunday 2 August The next walk is around 3-4 miles in Kempston Rural starting at 2.30pm. It is mostly on the flat on footpaths, roads and some fields, but sturdy footwear would be best. There is only one stile, and several kissing gates (one of which is rather overgrown). Please park tidily in the Cemetery car

park on Green End Road, which is off the A5134 Green End Road opposite the turn for All Saints Church. For further details please contact Sue Butler (Priory) or Sylvia Cohen (Putnoe Heights).

Thankyou to everyone who supported the Strawberry Tea at Putnoe Heights Church on Sunday. £305 was raised for church funds.

Called to Service I am delighted to report that Bishop Alan has asked our very own Rev Dr Sam Cappleman to become Assistant Rural Dean for Bedford Deanery. Since his retirement from business life, Sam has already taken on a national role as Executive Chair of the Lee Abbey Movement. This new additional responsibility is an acknowledgement of the extraordinary gifts which Sam brings to his ministry. Sam will carry out these new duties alongside his ongoing ministry and commitment to our Partnership Churches at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights. The appointment is with immediate effect and so please continue to support Sam in your prayers. This is the first time that a minister from our churches has been invited to take this responsibility in our Deanery. *Charlie*

The third Annual General Meeting of Friends for Life will take place at Putnoe Heights Church, on Monday 14 September 2015 at 2pm For further information Joanne Barrow, Project Administrator, Friends for Life www.friendsforlifebedford.org.uk



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Telecare

If you are elderly or living alone then it is important for us to be able to keep in contact with you. Please sign up for Telecare and we will give you a telephone call every week or fortnight to check if all is well. This enable us to keep track if somebody is ill and cannot come to church. We would like more people to join so just give St Mark's office a ring and they will put you on the list. This is a telephone service, nobody will call without your request.



Prayers for MHA

God of love and hope, of encouragement and challenge, we thank you for the work of MHA.

We ask you to bless those who live in our Homes, Schemes and Communities, and those who care for them. We thank you for those whose vision and research enable new ways of caring, for those in the organisation who direct and manage and for those who support this work with prayer and by raising funds.

We acknowledge our need of one another and ask for your gifts of wisdom and understanding, that the love of Christ may be shown in all we do. Amen.

Thanksgiving and Intercession

Living God, who calls all things into being, you are the light of the minds that know you, you are the peace of the souls that trust you, the joy of the wills that serve you, we worship and adore you.

Loving God, in Jesus you make all things new, and through your Spirit you wash away our divisions, you call us to follow you, whatever our age, setting before us an example of how we should live, loving and caring for our neighbour as ourselves.

In a world where old age can appear empty of meaning we are called to a vision of humanity restored to fullness, so we ask that you would hear our prayers today for all of those who are elderly and for all of those who care for others.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Ever present God, we thank you for the life of Jesus; a life lived with integrity so that people could trust him. We thank you that he showed by his words and actions how we should love our neighbour as ourselves.

So we pray for our neighbours, those near to us or far away: those who endure hardship and distress... those who feel neglected, overlooked or alone...those who are sick or sad ...

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray also for our wider community and nation. Guide our leaders, forgive their blunders, humble their pride, work with their strengths, divert them from grave errors, and turn even their weaknesses to good use.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for ourselves, where we are weak in body, give us delight in the strengths we do have; where we have abundant energy, let us employ it generously; where we are large in compassion, enable us to use it efficiently; where we are surrounded by many possessions, help us to give more freely;

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We don't know what others will ask of us so we pray for: the Spirit to guide and encourage us when times are difficult... for vision and hope to enable us to take a risk for the sake of the gospel... and courage to remain true to the teaching of Christ...

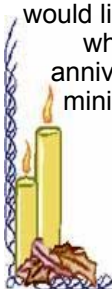
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

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

Ann Yvonne O'Dell

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 Delph Coleman will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 3 August 2015 at 11.30am.

The funeral of Iris Payne will take place at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground on Tuesday 4 August 2015 at 2.30pm.

The funeral of Laura Patricia Heath will take place at Woodland Burial ground at 2.00p.m. on Monday 17 August.