



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
2 June 2013 - Ordinary 9



8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

Today First Sunday after Trinity

9.30 St Marks – Morning Family Worship

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mrs. Wendy Waters

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership – Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions – YPG

9th June Second Sunday after Trinity

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd. Dr. S. Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions – Mrs. Margaret Appleton

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Sue Allen
Intercessions – Mrs. Sam Ware

Readings 1.1 Kings 17:8-16, 2.Galations 1: 11-24
3. Luke 7: 11-17

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

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Fred Laming in loving memory of his dear wife, Barbara.

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Elizabeth Bean and Barbara Joy in loving memory of Phil and Alan on their respective Wedding Anniversaries.

Welcome

We welcome everybody to our service today, especially the families and friends of Amelia Rose Abel, Roshan Hera Pain and Isaac Philip Pain.

Prayer for Sunday

Draw us, O Christ, by grace irresistible, to the centre of all faith and to the heart of all sacrifice; to the deepest of all wells and to a work that is not our own; even your holy Cross, to which we cling and by which we are held; for your own name's sake. Amen.
Dora Greenwell (1821-1882)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs 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 - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685
8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**
(See website for more details)
.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955
10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)
12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630
1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk .
2pm U3A Music Appreciation (see contact details below)
4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.
6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
6.15pm-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 Pat Nicholson 353518
7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020
7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 3 June Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016
9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389
10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704
11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)
1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552
1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp. St Mark's (contacts details below)
1–3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's (contacts details below)
2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see

contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details)
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895
2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs 406784.
4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights.. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957
7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390
6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648
6.30pm MT Karate (all ages) Karen King 07941264885
7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455
7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club (Meets fortnightly). Next meeting June 11 Keech Hospice talk and raffle. Details Janet King 313946

Wednesday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly Changing to Fridays from 5 April (Same time an place.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647
9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.
9.30am Discover & Do (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666
10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.
10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. (contact below)
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)
10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe (contact below)
11.15am U3A Keep Fit
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting June 5th at Putnoe Heights Office 365630
1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)
1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)
2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights
2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966
3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 19th June Wendy Waters 401834
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.
6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King 079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Yvonne Blain 350241

or Brian Sallows 407725

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004

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 5 June 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 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green 244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

110-11.30am Gentle Yoga For more details contact Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305

12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 363283

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays St. Mark's 267444

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (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

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's (contact below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Mary Rich 272470

5.00pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

7.30pm Gentle Birthing St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231 (as from 4th April)

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 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton 01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass 294220

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

Friday

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks (see contact details below)

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

2pm U3A Italian-Putnoe Heights (contact details below)

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights

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

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker (07900 232648

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

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

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

6.45pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger 212066

Sunday

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

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

Weds 17 April; Weds 17 May; Weds 19 June; Weds 18 Sept; Weds 16 Oct; Weds 20 Nov,

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎ 405119

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council –11 June, 8 October

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Annual Congregational Meetings

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 3 June

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 10 June, 24 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 3 pm

Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees– AGM –Sunday 9 June

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –

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

Ordinary 9

Introductory Sentence— Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples.

Collect Prayer for the Day—

Before we read we pray

Almighty God, you have built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Join us together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading — 1 Kings 18:20-21, 30-39

So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

But the people said nothing. Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down. Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel." With the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood." "Do it again," he said, and they did it again. "Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time. The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench. At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!"

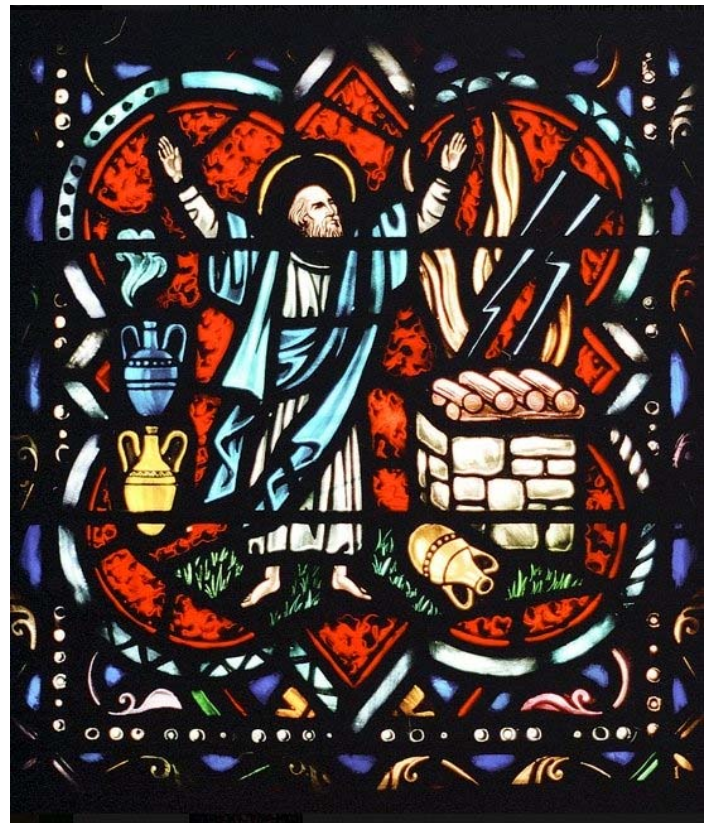
(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading — Galatians 1:1-12

Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead and all the brothers and sisters with me, to the churches in Galatia: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel, which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse! Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ. Paul Called by God I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

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



Gospel Reading – Luke Chapter 7 Verses 1-10

When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (*Please distribute Family Worship, Baptism service sheets, Hymns and Psalms*)

- | | | |
|--|-----|----------------------|
| 1. Let all the world in every corner sing! | 10 | |
| 2. Jesus hands were kind hands | 393 | Or One more step 746 |
| 3. For the healing of the nations | 402 | |
| 4. What shall our greeting be? | 806 | |
| 5. Lord, thy church on earth is seeking | 774 | |

Commentary What is Faith?

In our readings today we get a number of different responses to faith, Paul is writing to a church in confusion, pulled in all directions by people claiming to speak for God. How do we know who speaks the truth?

In the Old Testament reading from 1 Kings we get a story about God's people being divided. On this occasion we get the account of a miracle almost being 'staged', which then reminds the people how powerful God is and inspires them to reunite.

Yet from the gospel of Luke we get the account of a Centurian, the very embodiment of the oppressing/occupying force of Rome, yet he sees Jesus for what he is, and knows that, if he wills it his servant will be healed.

I am reminded of an old favourite book of mine, 'The hitch-hikers guide to the galaxy' by Douglas Adams, and especially to one section where Adams, a devout Atheist, uses a fictional creation to explore the nature of Faith, it goes like this

The Babel fish is small, yellow and leech-like, and probably the oddest thing in the Universe. It feeds on brainwave energy received not from its own carrier but from those around it... The practical upshot of all this is that if you stick a Babel fish in your ear you can instantly understand anything said to you in any form of language...

Now it is such a bizarrely improbable coincidence that anything so mind-bogglingly useful could have evolved purely by chance that some thinkers have chosen it to see it as a final and clinching proof of the non-existence of God.

The argument goes something like this: "I refuse to prove that I exist," says God, "for proof denies faith, and without faith I am nothing."

"But," says Man, "the Babel fish is a dead giveaway isn't it? It could not have evolved by chance. It proves you exist, and therefore, by your own arguments, you don't. QED."

Faith is one of those enigmas, that to have true faith in anything implies a level of uncertainty, for example, a leading scientist has faith that their latest theory is right, and will often go to great lengths to carry out the experiments that will prove it. But once it is proven it becomes knowledge, and there is no longer a need for faith.

Another example is that a parent is often said to have 'faith' in their child, i.e. they believe their child can achieve what they attempt before they have tried it. On this occasion the fact that they

are proved right, or indeed wrong, does not change their faith in the one they love, rather it just increases their faith, or compels them to encourage their child to try again, even in 'failure' their faith is not diminished.

The latter is more like God's faith in us, God knows what we are capable of, yet even our failures do not change God's desire for us to strive to be the people we were created to be. Our faith in God, however, does waver. Times of crisis can often illicit one of two extreme responses, either 'this proves God does not exist – as a good God would not let this happen' or 'God is all I have to cling to, my faith that things will get better will get me through'. Just like our 'faith' in human nature can be challenged when we are victim to crime, yet it can be bolstered by the way people pull together in response to adversity, like those who open their homes to strangers who have been made homeless by conflict or natural disaster.

What does God require of us?

When our faith is at a low ebb, we should not expect (or require) huge miracles, like a fish that will translate languages for us, to prove for us the existence of God. Neither should we lose sight of the small miracles that we see every day, from the beauty of creation or of a smile to the emergence of a life-long friendship or the birth of a child, like those whose Baptism's we share in today.

We should strive to see God in everyone, and encourage those around us to do the same, we should have faith in our friends, our family and in ourselves, to try to be the best we can be at any given time. And when we fail we should remember that God has faith in us and wants us to try again, as often as it takes, because we are loved.

To quote a film that was on TV again recently, Evan Almighty; 'if you really want to change the world all it takes is a random act of kindness' for we never truly know what effect that will have on another person, and what it may lead them to do for another. *Jane Mason*

Meditation

The story of Elijah and the slaughter of 450 prophets of Baal this week is enormously challenging. This is just one of many sacred texts in the Bible where God commands his own people to exterminate their enemies without mercy. In Deuteronomy 7 we read

'Thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them nor shew mercy unto them.'

In 1 Samuel 15 God even killed king Saul because he spared the Amalekite king Agag. Samuel then hewed Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal.

We should be honest, these are war crimes, crimes against humanity and against God, even though those who committed these crimes believed that God was telling them to do it. Such misguided behaviour is not the preserve of Judaism or Christianity, seemingly every religion has past or indeed present behaviour of which it should be ashamed. Some religions have fanatics who behave in atrocious ways, other religions are intrinsically evil in themselves, either in whole or in part. However, sometimes it is easier to recognise the bad in the faith of others than it is to acknowledge it in our own. The good news today comes in the Gospel reading where Jesus shows a different way, with Jesus crossing the boundary of race, culture and religion. There are a multitude of ways in which we can choose to divide and separate ourselves from one another; race and religion, gender, sexuality, economic level, educational level, geographic location, political affiliation, and generation. Any differences can be a source of competition and conflict – and so it has been throughout history. Jesus shows us how to cross boundaries because God is God of all – even a Roman occupying soldier. When we recognise this we understand that all life is sacred and we are all God's children. *Charles Royden*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord Jesus you show us by your example a life of love and acceptance of others, a willingness to embrace those who are different, even reaching out to those who were regarded as enemies. Your life abounded with gentleness and compassion to all. So give us strength to follow your example and to live lives of humility and service to others.

Help us to take our greatest joy and pleasure in doing your work of good to others and give us grace to overcome our selfishness and pride. In the busy world of earthly cares and the trappings of a materialistic society, help us to recognise that real joy is found in following your will. Eternal God you are 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.

Guide us O Lord, in all the changes and uncertainties of the world, that we remain at peace. Let us not complain in trouble, nor grow proud in prosperity, but in calm faith accept your will.

Telecare

We would like to sign up as many people as possible to Telecare, it is one of our ways of keeping in touch with church members. we are especially keen to sign up people who are elderly and who may from time to time be unable to come to church.

Telecare is a non intrusive way of us being able to see if everything is alright or if you would like a visit.

Please sign up by giving your name to one of the ministers, or tell us of anybody that you think might like to be included and we will get in touch.

A Midsummer Night's Dream concert by Manor House String Quartet in the oldest building in Cranfield, St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Court Road, MK43 0DR. Saturday 8th June from 7.30pm. Tickets £10.00 £5.00 students includes a glass of wine or soft drink. For tickets call Andrew 01234 751358, Trevor 01234 751321 or Rev. Hugh 01234 750214.

Personal Assistant to the Superintendent Minister

The South Bedfordshire Circuit of the Methodist Church is looking to appoint a part-time Personal Assistant to the Superintendent Minister. The Personal Assistant will be responsible for providing secretarial and organisational support to the Superintendent Minister including preparing agendas and minutes for meetings, designing and producing posters and other publicity material, as well as dealing with correspondence and telephone messages. As part of the role the Personal Assistant will be required to attend regular meeting in Luton. The salary will be £8.55 per hour for 10 hours per week. The Methodist Church is an equal opportunities employer. If you would like to be considered for this role please contact the Circuit Bursar Mr David Hallworth on 01525 716116 or at david@hallworth.net for an Application Form.

The closing date for applications is 1 July.
South Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit - Registered
Charity No: 1134222

Flower Festival commemorating 125 years of the Salvation Army in Bedford. Includes displays from local churches and groups. June 7 10am-8pm, June 8 9am-5pm at the Salvation Army, Commercial Road, Bedford. Entrance £1. Refreshments available.

St Mark's Garden of Remembrance

A new area for interment of ashes has been created at St Mark's in the original garden. If you would like to have first opportunity to reserve a plot in this location then please speak with Avril Williams who would be pleased to make the arrangements.

St Mark's Defibrillator Training. A public access defibrillator will be fitted at St Mark's in the near future and we want to have as many people as possible trained to use it. Please give your name to the church



office if you are willing to be trained. You might help save a life

Footprints Walking Group.

Walk on Sunday 2nd June at 2.30pm. Meet in Aspley Guise at junction of Woodside and Wood Lane (map available on request). Gentle 2-3 mile walk through woodland and heath. Further details from Margaret and Eddy.

Circuit service:23 June: Matt Fugill's testimonial and visit of the president of the Methodist conference at Kempston East at 6.00pm

For this occasion Matt has requested that we have a circuit choir to lead the singing as well as singing an introit and an "anthem". Rehearsals will be at Kempston East on Friday 7 and Friday 21 June at 7.30. All singers are welcome. It would be helpful if we had a rough idea of numbers. Please contact either Barbara Tipping (Kempston East-telephone 01234 852101) or Julie Fisher (Shefford-email stjfisher@redborne.beds.sch..uk)

Summer Fete St. Mary's Church, Goldington
Saturday 29th June 11.30am - 3pm.

Bedford Show Co Youth Theatre will be performing Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat at The Place Theatre in Bradgate Road, Bedford between Thursday 27th June and Saturday 29th June. Tickets are available online at www.theplacebedford.org.uk/tickets

Car Wanted. Do you know anyone selling a 5 seat, 5 door reliable run around car for a family ? Any reasonable price considered. Please ring Jaana Swaby 363283

Kittens available shortly to good responsible homes. £25 each : 2 rag dolls, 2 black & 1 Russian blue. Adults only to ring Delia 328721.

New Community Agent Service

Agents are now available to help in some areas of Bedford with free advice, regarding benefits & allowances, filling in forms, help and advice regarding general wellbeing, arranging for free home safety checks by Bedford Police Trust or to liaise with agencies such as Social Services or the Benefits Office. Please ask if you need our help by calling your Community Agent free on 0800 039 1234.

The Next Circuit Meeting will take place on Wednesday 12 June at 7.30 pm at Kempston East Methodist Church.

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team will meet Monday 3 June at 7.30pm at the Vicarage

Christian Aid £582.03 was raised by St. Mark's Church. Many thanks to all those who collected. Thank you too to all the collectors at Putnoe Heights.



There will be a church Partnership Quiz at Mark's Church on Saturday 8 June at 7.30pm. Tickets are available this morning from church offices. You can order them by email from office@thisischurch.com or phone 01234 342613

The women of Christ Church Bedford warmly invite women of all ages from your congregation to an afternoon tea on Saturday 15 June at 3pm Christ Church, Bedford. It will be an informal time for fellowship, relaxation and teaching. Speaker Fiona Gibson. Tickets available at £6 from the church office, tel 01234 327150.

Methodist homes for the aged

During June we shall be holding the annual Envelope donation in aid of MHA; these envelopes will be available for your contribution to this very worthwhile cause and your support will be gratefully accepted. Thank you for your help Pam Kinselley

Putnoe Heights Book Stall

I am setting up a book stall for the loan of books at a charge of 25p. At the moment this is in the Small Hall but it is hoped to have it in a more prominent position before long. If you care to donate any books, these will be welcomed. Any suggestions on the running of this project would be appreciated. Pam Kinselley

A Psalm for Sunday 146

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion,
for all generations. Praise the Lord!



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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.

Lily McKay
Pamela Ruby Gates

*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 Jean Olive Panter will take place at 10.45am on Friday 7 June

The funeral of Patricia Roberts will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 3 June at 10am

