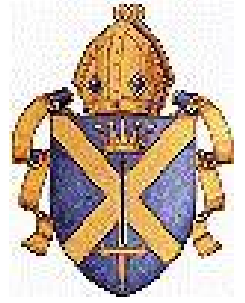


Partnership News

2 May 2010

Fifth Sunday of Easter



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

9.30am St. Mark's – Family Worship

Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership –Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions –Mr Warwick Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights Family Worship with

Baptism Preacher – Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership –Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions – Dr Tim Wilkes

9th May Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am St. Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights– Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Readings 1.Acts 16: 9-15 2. Rev 21:10, 22-22:5.
3. John 14: 23-29

Midweek Worship

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

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week
have been given by Veta Hudson-Rae to celebrate
the birthdays of her brother Alvin, son Christopher,
daughter Johanne and grandson Joshua.

Welcome for baptism

We welcome to Putnoe Heights Church today the
families and friends of Holly Grace Johnston and
Charlie William Davidson who have been brought for
baptism.

Prayer for Sunday

Come, our Light,
and illuminate our darkness.
Come, our Life,
and raise us from death.
Come, our Physician,
and heal our wounds.
Come, flame of Divine Love,
burn up our sins.
Come, our King,
sit upon the throne of our hearts
and reign there.
For you alone are my King and my Lord.
Dimitrii of Rostov

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 Mobile07807 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 Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@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 - Avril Williams 360605
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

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

12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing.

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 ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting May 17 Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

8.00pm '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. Judi Staughton ☎341821

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 Sally Banks ☎ 870357

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

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

2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting May 4 'Tea and Chat'. 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 Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎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. Brian Ibberson ☎403497

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting May 4, Anthea Stark - Work of a Librarian. 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 Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10am U3A Card Making, St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet King ☎313946

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - May 11 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

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol 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 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 5 May. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Alan ☎ 345312. 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 in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424 .

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. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at 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. Contact Jaana Swaby ☎ 363283

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

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 Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Mark's 2nd & 2th 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

8.00pm 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. Julie Nicholson ☎353642

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

5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun.



St Mark's Church Council – 22 June, 8 November.

St Mark's Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 7 June at the Manse, 18 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting ; 24 May

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

Putnoe Church Council - 21 June, 25 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee - 26 May at 11am.

Putnoe Heights Mission Group—9th June 7.30 14 Flint Way

Partnership Council—TBA

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings

Deanery Meeting - 5 May, 17 June.

Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting

Circuit Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees – Sunday 16th May AGM

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Opening Verse of Scripture - Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus

Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read we pray:

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life; give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Common Worship*



First Reading – Acts 11 v 1 – 18

The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticised him and said, 'You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them. Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened: I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.' I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' This happened three times, and then it was pulled up to heaven again. Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God? When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, 'So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life. (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading – Rev 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life."

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

**"I am the
Alpha and the Omega,"
says the Lord God,
who is and who was and
who is to come, the Almighty.
Revelation 1.8**



Gospel Reading – John 13:31-35

When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns - (Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship, also baptism at Putnoe)

1. All hail the power 13
2. A new commandment 1
3. Make me a channel 456
4. Where the love of Christ (On partnership news) Tune Ar Hyd Y Nos
5. God is our strength and refuge 188

Commentary

Reinhold Niebuhr, was asked if he could name the time and place of his salvation, his answer was "2,000 years ago on a dusty hill named Golgotha outside Jerusalem's wall." The point is clear, it was then that Jesus gave to us the most visible demonstration of God's enduring love for humankind. Christians believe that God took human form and died for his creation, bringing forgiveness even to those who drove nails through his flesh and pronouncing 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do'. It was an act of supreme divinity and shows that God's love transcends all barriers and is not restricted even towards those who hate and murder the most beautiful example of human life which has ever been lived. It is for this reason that we can say that love is fashioned in the shape of the cross. It shows to us that the embrace of God stretches to all of humankind.

This lesson was not understood immediately by the first Christians and we see this in our reading from Acts today. At first the community who followed Jesus were conscientious Jews who followed the Bible, our Old Testament. It restricted their membership to those were born and ritually inducted into Judaism. Early believers in Jesus therefore needed to be circumcised, to eat kosher, they needed to be good Jews. Then there was a transformation in which some of these first believers realised that God's embrace extended far wider than they had understood. This Revelation came to Peter after he had a vision of God telling him to eat meat which was specifically forbidden in Leviticus as being unclean. Peter believed that he had learned from God that that nothing he had created was unclean. Immediately following this world changing revelation Peter was invited to Caesarea to the home of the centurion Cornelius, a Roman—not a Jew. It was a truly momentous occasion, Peter tells Cornelius that it was against the Jewish law for him to associate with a gentile like Cornelius. Previously Jews like him believed that God commanded them to keep away from impure or unclean people. However Peter now realised that this was wrong, there was no such thing as unclean people. God did not make impure or unclean. In the words of Peter 'I now realise that God does not show favouritism, but accepts people from every nation who fear him and do what is right.' (Acts 10:34).

Ever since this early revelation the Christian church has been open to gentiles. However progress has not been easy and from the outset there was controversy amongst the apostles themselves over this openness, just as we have often struggled to be as open as Peter. We have at times fallen back and considered that God really did make some people less pure than others, the racial prejudice of the church is a good example. It is a sad fact that Peter himself even after this revelation subsequently lacked courage and when confronted by James and the believers from Jerusalem. We read in Galatians 2:12 that the Apostle Paul publicly rebuked Peter for bowing to pressure to reject the gentile outsiders. Paul was furious that Peter and his friends withdrew from fellowship with the gentile believers and Paul tells us that the reason Peter did so was because he was 'afraid.'

We know that subsequently Peter learned his lesson, but it is a lesson which all of us need to learn again and again. We must all be prepared to risk the criticism of others and stand up for what we know to be right. Peter knew that the scriptures which we now call the Old Testament had to be revised in the light of the new laws which came from the cross of Jesus. If Jesus could forgive those who butchered him, then a new world was a being created in which God welcomes every person from any nation. No longer could people be divided in clean and unclean. Perhaps we should all this week ask ourselves, 'who do I think of as impure or unclean. How have I distorted the all embracing, sacrificial love of God? If we seek to live in the love of God, we are not in a position to impose requirements that keep out those whom God's love includes. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

Mayor of Hiroshima says Now is the Time to end nuclear weapons. Endorsing a campaign by UK Churches, Mayor Tadatashi Akiba of Hiroshima has stressed the crucial role of British citizens in ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

The Mayor's statement came just days before the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, which will take place May 3 to 28 in New York. He said, "There is a danger that we consider nuclear weapons to be

simply an unfortunate fact of life we can do nothing about. This would be a grave mistake. Now is the time to map out the road to global zero. At the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference our governments must clearly demonstrate their stated commitment to the elimination of all nuclear weapons.”

The campaign, entitled Now is the Time, has invited people to sign an online petition (at www.endnuclearweapons.org.uk) calling on all governments to demonstrate their commitment to a nuclear weapons-free world at the forthcoming conference. The Churches are pressing for governments to put all bomb-grade material under international control and commit to making the use and possession of nuclear weapons illegal through a new Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Steve Hucklesby, Policy Adviser for the Methodist Church in Britain said “Presidents Obama and Medvedev have signed an agreement to reduce their stockpiles of nuclear warheads. This reflects a growing public desire to see the brakes come off multilateral disarmament negotiations. We hope that the Review Conference will be an opportunity for our voices to be heard through the many non-governmental organisations that specialise in these matters.”

Mayor Akiba said, “I am delighted that Churches in the UK have contributed to the call for governments to commit to a world free of nuclear weapons. I hope the Churches in the UK will do everything in their power to mobilize their congregations to let the government know that they are ready to live in a world free of nuclear weapons.” In a letter to the British Methodist Church, he added that “Eliminating nuclear weapons from the world will be one of humanity’s greatest achievements”.

The alliance includes the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), the United Reformed Church, the International Affairs Department of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, the Catholic Bishops Conference of Scotland and the Archbishop of the Church in Wales.

Representatives of the World Council of Churches will be attending the NPT Review Conference, and will present the campaign’s petition to the UK delegation to the conference.

In the sixty-five years since Hiroshima experienced the atomic bombing that made it synonymous with the disastrous effects of nuclear weapons, the city has continued to appeal for their abolition. Through Mayors for Peace, Hiroshima is working with 3,680 other cities to promote the 2020 Vision – a campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Keep me safe in your arms, O Lord, for then I have nothing to fear. Let me rely on you in all things and deliver me from all that imperils my salvation. Guard me in the hour of danger and in the hour of success. Grant that I may always believe in you, love you and serve you, and bring me at your bidding into the presence of your glory; through Christ our Lord. Amen
John Henry Newman, 1801-1890

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who brought forth from the root of Jesse a Messiah for all the tribes of the earth; grant us faith and humility so to stand in awe of your purpose, that at the last all the branches of the tree of life may be grafted in, and all those whom you have chosen may rejoice together in your love. Amen

Support us O Lord,
all the day long of this troublous life
until the shadows lengthen
and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over, and our work is done.
Then Lord, in your mercy, grant us safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen

A Hymn for Sunday

- 1 Where the love of Christ unites us,
there God is found.
Where we meet as love invites us,
there God is found.
Let us come with jubilation
to the God of our salvation;
love enlivens all creation:
there God is found.
- 2 Where we meet without division,
there God is found,
free from anger and derision,
there God is found.
Let all bitter feuds be ended,
strife resolved and foes befriended,
pride and fear by love transcended:
there God is found.
- 3 Where the blessed live for ever,
there God is found;
bonds of love no pain can sever,
there God is found.
Christ in glory, we implore you,
let us with the saints adore you,
love resplendent flows before you;
there God is found.

BEH Women's Network Spring Craft Day will be held on Saturday 15 May 9.45am to 4.30pm at Priory Methodist Church. A chance to learn a new skill to discover hidden talents and to share together creatively. For details of workshops and a booking form please contact Pam Seymour (305695) or Ann Hitt (404186). Closing date of booking 8 May 2110

The Partnership Lunch Club, fortnightly Wednesdays at Putnoe, urgently needs an additional regular driver to bring less mobile folk to the lunch (a previous appeal did yield a reserve driver thank you). If you can help it would greatly ease the load on the existing team, please contact Peta Pearson 356878.

House Group to meet at 13 Farnham Way Putnoe on Mondays at 7.45pm on 10 & 17 May, 14, 21 June and 12 July. We will be using the York Course 'When I survey .. Christ's cross and ours'. For more information please contact Wendy Waters 01234 401834.

Footprints Sunday 2 May 2010 2.30pm start. Drive to Clapham and follow signs to Yarlswood Detention Centre. At the far end of Clapham at the roundabout turn right up Twinwoods Road and on the left hand side top of hill (Browns Wood) stop and park on grass verge. There are lovely views of the last vestiges of the Chilterns and the Ouse Valley but this interesting figure-of-eight walk is a little steep in a couple of places and has one stile. Information from Pam and Ray Seymour 305695.

Coffee Morning Saturday 8th May 10-12noon at the home of Gwen Beswick, 6 Repton Close. Raffle. Proceeds to Mission projects. All Welcome.

Car Boot Sale –Monday 3 May. We would be very grateful for bric-a-brac, tools, china, books, CD's, puzzles etc for the church stall. Tray bakes also welcome for the refreshments. Thank you. We would appreciate any additional offers of help from volunteers, there are many jobs to do. Work starts at 7.30am and we usually finish about 12 noon. Please come along and see Avril to offer help, even if it is just for an hour.

Sunday morning Taxi Service St Mark's is now providing a taxi service for the 9.30am service. This service is free of charge for those who have difficulty transporting themselves to Church. To book this service all that you have to do is to telephone St Mark's Church Office during the week before 1.00pm on Friday. We will then arrange to have you collected by our driver, it is as simple as that! If you require any more information please speak with Avril Williams 360605

Many thanks to Judith Stanton and her whist drive supporters for the generous donation of £128 to St. Mark's Church.

For Sale 5' x 3' wooden trailer, complete with cover and spare wheel. Ideal for camping. £200 ono Donation to church funds. More details Laurie Holyoak Bedford 341228.



Christian Aid week 9th-15th May. Collecting packs are available today in the Welcome Area at both

churches. We welcome new collectors. For more information

St Mark's John Harrison

Putnoe Carolyn 350722, storyboxplus@aol.com.

Christian Aid Prayer for 2010

Because we know you love everyone on your earth, we pray to you.

Because we know that all people deserve to live with dignity, we pray to you.

Because we know that the privilege of our birthplace has given us rights and comforts that others are denied, we pray to you.

And our prayer is this:

Move us to action.

Move us to real generosity.

Move us to bring in your Kingdom.



**St Albans Woodland
Burial Ground
Open Day
Saturday 15 May 2010
2.00pm - 5.00pm**

You are invited by the Trustees to a special open day at our woodland, set in 60 acres of beautiful countryside. All the family, including dogs, are welcome to come and refreshments will be provided.

Our third Open Day in June 2009 was an astonishing success attracting visitors from across the region, we hope that you will come along to our next. The woodland is now looking beautiful and you will have the opportunity to ask questions and reserve burial plots. Even those who would prefer cremation have asked for plots for the burial of ashes. Please remember that the woodland is always open to visitors and we welcome people to come and visit.

Can you help? Offers of help with catering beforehand or on the day would be greatly appreciated.

Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Church leaders have united to urge all Christians to vote on 6 May.

The leaders of three Churches have encouraged Christians to read the parties' manifestos, question their local candidates on key policies, and vote on the issues which matter to them.

The Revd Roberta Rominger, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church says: "As Christians we're committed to principles of justice, peace and equality for all, regardless of race, gender or background. The General Election on 6 May gives all who are registered and ready to vote an importance and influence that we only enjoy every four or five years. We urge you to use your vote responsibly. Think mindfully about the issues that are important to you, take time to consider and discover which parties will best provide solutions you're comfortable with, and vote accordingly."

The Revd David Gamble, President of the Methodist Church in Britain, stresses the importance of the vote, saying: "The Churches' agenda is to promote justice, equality and freedom for all. By staying away from the polling booth we let people with an agenda of fear and discrimination elect our representatives. We must never forget it was only a few generations ago that women were not permitted to vote in this country, and many Christians overseas live in countries without regular free and fair elections. We do a disservice to those who fought for the vote if we don't use this opportunity to make our voices heard."

The Revd Jonathan Edwards, General Secretary of the Baptist Union, adds: "The Faith in Politics booklet has enabled people to explore key campaign issues. From support for those seeking sanctuary to creating a more equitable tax system, we have challenged our members to tackle policy not personalities. In the days leading up to polling day I would encourage all Christians to pray and reflect on what we want the next local and national governments to achieve, and to vote to make it happen on 6 May."

Obama bares his Christian soul

President Obama bared his soul before a cross section of Christian leaders at a White House Easter breakfast on April 6. He spoke publicly of his faith in redemption through Jesus in the most personal terms since becoming president.

Addressing his "brothers and sisters in Christ" among the nearly 90 pastors, bishops and community activists in attendance, Obama spoke of "our risen Saviour" and the inspiration he takes from Christ's resurrection.

"We are awed by the grace he showed even to those who would have killed him," Obama said, pausing occasionally to glance at written notes. "We are thankful for the sacrifice he gave for the sins of humanity. And we glory in the promise of redemption in the resurrection."

As Christians, we believe that redemption can be delivered—by faith in Jesus Christ. And the possibility of redemption can make straight the crookedness of a character, make whole the incompleteness of a soul."

The president also said that of all the Gospel stories, Jesus' last words on the cross—"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit"—especially resonate with him during the Easter season. "These words were spoken by our Lord and Saviour, but they can just as truly be spoken by every one of us here today," Obama said.

"a dog is better than I am,
for he has love and does not judge."

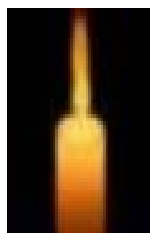
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Rest In Peace

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.

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



Visit our online chapel, Light a Candle of Remembrance. We have now provided the opportunity to visit our online chapel and light a prayer candle. Please visit www.thisischurch.com and click on the



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Mr Raymond Bean will take place at Bedford Crematorium on 13 May at 10.45am