



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

30 January 2011

Epiphany 4



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

St Mark's- Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Mr Michael Carr
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Mr Michael Carr
Leadership - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

6 February - Epiphany 5

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership – Mr Michael Ovenden
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - YPF

Readings 1. Isaiah 58: 1-9a 2.1 Corinthians 2: 1-12
3. Matthew 5:13-20

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 Chris Nixon on the occasion of
her late mother's birthday

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have
been given by Barbara Pinney in memory of her
husband Keith.

Prayer for This Week

Lord Jesus,
I give you my hands to do your work.
I give you my feet to go your way.
I give you my eyes to see as you do.
I give you my tongue to speak your words.
I give you my mind that you may think in me.
I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.
Above all, I give you my heart
that you may love in me
your Father and all mankind.
I give you my whole self
that you may grow in me,
so that it is you, Lord Jesus,
who live and work and pray in me.

The Grail Prayer

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861
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For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in
Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website
and may appear in other local media sources.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091
youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - 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 –3.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)
9.00am Clubhouse at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955
10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Emma Gorden ☎07593266091
2pm U3A Music Appreciation - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623
3.30pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.
4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747
4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.
6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
7.30pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—31 January Judith Stanton. ☎823313
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
9.15pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016
9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507
9.15 –3.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school365507 ☎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 for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357
1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461
2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 1 February Mick Whelan 'A Bible Text'. For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.
6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718
6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885
7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk
7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 8 February ' Bedford 1800-1900 - James Collet-White For more details call Janet King 313946
8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
9.00am Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making. St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 2 February Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .
1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147
2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 26 January.

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

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be February 2 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 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. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 40007112354rrr7651

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau Putnoe Heights.

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

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins **7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

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

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia 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

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎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

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice 07964 356355☎

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

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 16 February
Annual General Meeting 10 April 2011
St Mark's Leadership Team 31 January
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 7 February
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .26 May
St Mark's Forum Meeting - 9 March, 10 May, 13 July
Putnoe Church Council - 14 February
Pastoral Group Meeting - 8 February 4.15pm
Churchyard Committee - 26 January at 11.00am
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 3rd February
Circuit meeting - 15 March at Clapham
Deanery Meeting - .
Woodland Burial Trustees – 13 February 2011
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

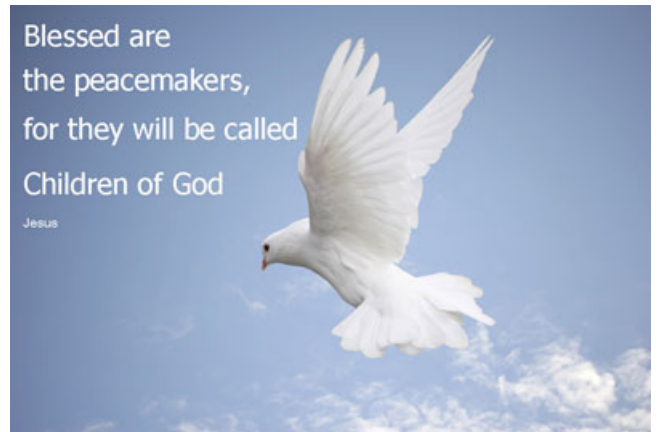
Epiphany 4

Opening Sentence from Scripture – Psalm 118:19

Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD

Collect Prayer (*Before we read we pray*)

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the
Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we
may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is
alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



Old Testament Reading – Micah 6: 1-8

Listen to what the LORD says: “Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. “Hear, you mountains, the LORD’s accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel. “My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me. I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.” With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

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

Second Reading –1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

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

Gospel Reading -Matthew 5: 1-12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are

the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer Almighty Father, whose Son Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of His glory, that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for He is alive and reigns, now and for ever

Hymns (*Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Holy Communion with PHC*)

1. From the eastern mountains (Evelyns) *On Partnership News*
2. Amazing Grace 215
3. Songs of thankfulness and praise (St George's Windsor) *On Partnership News*
4. Beauty for Brokenness *On Partnership News*
5. Bethlehem of noblest cities (Stuttgart) HP 122

Commentary

The word blessed is sometimes translated 'happy.' It means much more than that, it is about God's attitude towards us and our deeper fulfilment because we know he is on our side. It could be translated 'approved by God'. Since this is God's world there can be no higher thing than to be approved by God. Whose blessing do we seek? that of our friends, colleagues.

So who are the blessed ones? Who is it that God favours? And who is that God looks askance at? Who is it that God warns - that God threatens - with troubles and woes? If you listen to the preachers on cable TV the answer seems clear. Those who succeed in life are the ones that God favours: - Those who have money in their pockets, smiles on their faces, well behaved children and who do not get sick without a miraculous healing next week in church. These are the blessed - while those who struggle with depression and despair, - those who live in poverty who perform menial tasks each day - those who serve others rather than living as their equals - and whose children are an embarrassment - these are the cursed and the afflicted. But is it true? Is this what Jesus taught?

God reverses our expectations. God understands our pain, poverty, despair, fear. The promise of Christ in the beatitudes is that there is joy on the other side of grief, laughter on the other side of tears, fulfilment on the other side of hunger, and joyful reward on the other side of the abuse and the ridicule we receive because we cling to him and live in a way that is strange to the world - a way that is opposed to the world's way. In the Beatitudes we have the principles of the Kingdom set out in three parts

- 1 The need for salvation (the poor)
- 2 The fruit of salvation meekness, mercy, peacemaking,
- 3 The results salt, light etc.

1. The need for salvation (the poor)

Blessed are the poor in spirit Luke's Gospel says blessed are the poor, to show that they have a special place. Yet the spiritual poor are more serious for this determines human destiny. Poverty is a confession of our need of God, Jesus came not to call the righteous but sinners. Utter need is the only basis for entering the Kingdom of Heaven. A sense of need is the prerequisite to entering the Kingdom. We do not have any of the resources to carry out the requirements of the Sermon on the Mount. We must come to Him and acknowledge our spiritual bankruptcy. We ask God to help us to realise our own poverty and our own helplessness. We ask God to make us rich in the things which really matter.

2. The fruit of salvation meekness, mercy, peacemaking,

Blessed are those who mourn Perhaps there are spiritual and natural mourning intended. There is comfort for those who lose loved ones and yet sorrow for sin is vital, the prime cause of all human death and suffering. One who recognises the seriousness of their own sin. If we go after purity in our own strength we will not achieve it. It is to be angry with the world, the injustice etc.. We could say blessed are the sorrowful, those not shallow, not those who are having such a splendid time of things now.

Blessed are the meek This is meekness and not weakness. True meekness comes from the end of craving. It seeks nothing for itself because God owns and governs all. Lacking in aggressive self motivation. Those who do not seek for themselves. Those who hunger and thirst and see God as the source of all life and seek diligently after Him. Conformity to God's will desire for God's will and God's standards. We ask God to give to us desire for goodness as much as someone who is starving and longs for food, as much as someone who is thirsty longs for water. Such a state of mind will count nothing as lost which leads us closer to God.

Blessed are the merciful Those who show mercy will know mercy. If we feel we have no need for forgiveness then we will not respond with forgiveness for others. The self righteous are not blessed, they have never been sorry for what they are and found forgiveness. We need to get to the stage where we can say 'I am a sinner' then we can begin the process of healing. God Our Father help us to be kind and never to thoughtlessly or deliberately hurt anybody. Grant that nobody will ever turn to us for help and not receive it.

Blessed are the pure in heart In such a world as this, it is important that we keep our hearts and minds pure, so that even our secret and inner thoughts are fit enough even for God to see.

Blessed are the peacemakers The word used is peacemakers not peaceful. It is those who restore relationships with God and between his children. We need to ask God that we will never be the cause of others turning away from God, and that we would never be the cause of quarrelling and strife.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake. The result of those who seek to restore the broken relationship will always be the persecutions of those who object. There will always be those whose self-interest is threatened. It is good when our Christian faith costs us something. There is a saying that the blood of the Martyrs was the seed of the church. When a church is persecuted it grows and it thrives. It is when the church has it easy that the church fails to take seriously its role to challenge and face up to evil.

Meditation And these words, 'You will not be overcome,' were said very insistently and strongly, for certainty and strength against every tribulation which may come. He did not say, 'You will not be laboured, you will not be disquieted; but he said: 'You will not be overcome'. God wants us to pay attention to these words, and always to be strong in faith and trust, in well-being and in woe, for he loves and delights in us, and so he wishes us to love him and delight in him and trust greatly in him, and all will be well and all manner of things will be well. (*Julian of Norwich*).

Prayers *Dialogued Prayer on the Beatitudes Based on Matthew's version, Mt. 5:1-12*

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
Keep us from being preoccupied with money and worldly goods, and with trying to increase them at the expense of justice.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth." Help us not to be ruthless with one another, and to eliminate the discord and violence that exists in the world around us.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Let us not be impatient under our own burdens and unconcerned about the burdens of others.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be filled."

Make us thirst for you, the fountain of all holiness, and actively spread your influence in our private lives and in society.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

Grant that we may be quick to forgive and slow to condemn.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God."

Free us from our senses and our evil desires, and help us to fix our eyes on you.

Lord Jesus, you said,

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."

Aid us to make peace in our families, in our country, and in the world.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of justice, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs." Make us willing to suffer for the sake of right rather than to practice injustice; and do not let us discriminate against our neighbours and oppress and persecute them. **Amen**

Hymns for Sunday

From the eastern mountains,

pressing on they come,
wise men in their wisdom, to his humble home;
stirred by deep devotion, hasting from afar,
ever journeying onward, guided by a star.

There their Lord and Saviour, as an infant lay,
wondrous light that led them, onward on their way,
ever now to lighten, nations from afar,
as they journey homeward by that guiding star.

Thou who in a manger, once hast lowly lain,
who dost now in glory, o'er all kingdoms reign,
gather in the peoples, who in lands afar
ne'er have seen the brightness, of thy guiding star.

Gather in the outcasts, all who've gone astray;
throw thy radiance o'er them,
guide them on their way:
those who never knew thee,
those who've wandered far,
guide them by the brightness of thy guiding star.

Onward through the darkness, of the lonely night.
shining still before them, with thy kindly light,
guide them, Jew and Gentile, homeward from afar,
young and old together, by thy guiding star.

Until every nation, whether bond or free,
'neath thy star-lit banner, Jesus, follow thee
o'er the distant mountains, to that heavenly home,
where nor sin nor sorrow, evermore shall come.

Songs of thankfulness and praise,

Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star,
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed
God in Man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding-guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine:
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in Man made manifest.

Sun and moon shall darkened be,
stars shall fall, the heavens shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine,
all will see his glorious sign;
all will then the trumpet hear,
all will see the Judge appear:
thou by all wilt be confessed,
God in Man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
mirrored in thy holy word;
may we imitate thee now,
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we like to thee may be
at thy great Epiphany;
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in Man made manifest.

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world, this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause, of those who can't speak:

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray; melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain; come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned - our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need.

Chorus

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
until your justice burns, brightly again;
until the nations, learn of your ways,
seek your salvation, and bring you their praise.

Chorus



Putnoe Heights has a new youth group up and running! TNT has been reformed and renamed as Shooting Stars! It runs fortnightly, on Wednesday night from 6-7.30pm, for ages 9-13. The circuit youth worker, Anna Price, is joining the leaders team. We have a full program up till Easter 2011 (which is up on the youth notice board) all nights include games, activities and Christian content connected to the theme. If you know of any young people that would like to come, please contact Emma Gordon (Putnoe Heights children's and youth worker) at youth@thischurch.com, or call on 07593266091.

Partnership Quiz Night. There will be a quiz night with a Fish and Chip supper at St Mark's Church on Saturday 12 February at 7.30pm. Tickets £6 and £3 for children B.Y.O.drinks. Please could last years winner return the Trophy to St Mark's office as soon as possible. Many thanks Avril Williams

Sustainable City Designs in China

A Public Meeting with Anthony Mackay, Architect, Urban Design Consultant. The speaker will be followed by an opportunity for comments and questions. All welcome. Parking available at rear of buildings. For further information please ring 01234 215445 (Hazel Mitchell) Bedford campus, Polhill Avenue, Room P204, Second floor, P block, University of Bedfordshire. Wednesday 9 February at, 7.30pm

Bedford Borough Council are holding a Green Borough Fair at St Mark's Church Community Centre on Sunday 6 February 12 - 4.00pm. Refreshments, demonstrations, displays and talks Come and find out about creating community gardens, water projects, community environmental projects, funding green projects, grown your own flower meadow, woodland crafts, small scale poultry keeping, recycling in your garden.

Sale of Unwanted Gifts at Putnoe next week (Sunday 6 February) following Morning Service. Proceeds for Church and Mission Funds. Please look out all those items and either leave them in the office this week or bring them on Sunday. Thank you. Liz Spavins and Val Peacock.

Commissioning and Welcome of the Revd. Tim Jackson, (Ecumenical Development Minister for Wixams) Service to be held on Sunday 6 February 2011 at 4.00pm at Lakeview School, School Lane (off Brooklands Avenue), Wixams, Bedford MK42 6BH. Wixams is a new development just south of Bedford and the partnership of the Baptists, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Church of England in association with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton have worked together to make this appointment possible.



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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.

Violet Merryman

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 Brian Joseph Perry will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1:45pm on Monday 31 January 2011

The funeral of Norman Holden will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.00am on Monday 31 January 2011

The funeral of Amelia Winifred Turner will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 11.30am on Thursday 3 February 2011

The Michael Edward Templeton will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 4pm on Monday 7 February 2011

