Methodist Church

Partnership News

10 August 2008
Ordinary 19

Church of England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church
9.30am St. Mark's — Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team -Mrs Linda Parry
Intercessions –Mrs Mary Stubbs
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

17 August- Ordinary 20

9.30am St. Mark's– Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team – Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing
11.00am Putnoe Heights– Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team – Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions – Mrs Sylvia Cohen
Bible Readings
1. Genesis 45: 1-15
2. Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32
3. Matthew 15: 10-28

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by by Christina and Maurice Halsey in loving memory of their granddaughter Davine Stuart; and by Alan and Margaret Massey to celebrate Margaret's 60th birthday, and to celebrate the 10th wedding anniversary of Margaret's daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Ben Mason (married at Putnoe Heights on 8 August 1998).

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Lynn Seymour and family to celebrate Lennon's Christening and the 30th wedding anniversary of Lynne and Noel.

Prayer for Sunday

Every one knows how to be resigned amid the joys and happiness of prosperity, but to be so amid storms and tempests is peculiar to the children of God.
St. Francis of Sales

God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness, increase your grace in us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Shorter Collect

Contact Details

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)

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)
30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)
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.

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 Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349
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 - Mr Mike Cooper 306751
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school 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.
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎721063
10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607
12.00pm Story box 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. ☎Liz 302349
1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474
4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349
4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747
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 every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518
7.30pm Cancer Care Society. Meets monthly at St Mark's. Contact Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970
7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month . Next meeting 18 August 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 Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676
1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184
2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878
2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 2nd September - AGM. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights**.** Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.
7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150
7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
7.30pmChartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374
7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting August 12th,Strawberry Tea at St Mark's at 2.30pm Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475
9.30am Childminding Support Group Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949
9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights**.** Stephanie Smith ☎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
10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.
Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 18 June 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164
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 monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147
2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎400584
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
6.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725
7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073
7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month. Mr Farish ☎824984
7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st ,3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 3 September 2008. All welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016
7.45 for 8pm God talk—women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room.26 June will be at 14 Flint Way. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.
9.40am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970
9.45amChat and Play weekly at St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070
12pm Storybox weekly at 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 Emma Strangwick ☎211070
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St.Mark's 267444
1.30pmToddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson☎ 325293.
2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991
5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.
6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521
6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr C Hill ☎772922
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden☎ 825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059
7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc.at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs.E. Marriot 303834
7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club St Mark's Mr P Housden ☎376597
7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607
8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086
9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468
2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875
6.30pm –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm Improvers St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360
7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741
7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468
10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414
1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198
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.Not in August.
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, games & outings .Next meeting Please see Liz ☎302349 .

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – , 18 November
St Mark's Leadership Team – 8 September, 24 November
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 1 September
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting-29th September at 7.30pm.
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - .9 September, 12 November all at 12 noon
Putnoe Church Council - 6 October.
Pastoral Group Meeting - Monday 30thSeptember at 4.30pm
Churchyard Committee - November 12 at 11am
Putnoe Heights Mission Group – Wednesday 27 August 14 Flint Way 7.30pm
Partnership Council -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 4th September, 2nd October 2008
Deanery Meeting - 18 September,13 November
Circuit/Deanery Meeting
Woodland Burial Trustees -
Mission Group Meeting
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth

Ordinary 19

Opening Verse of Scripture Hebrews 10:23
Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Collect Prayer for the Day
Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Common Worship

First Bible Reading 1 Kings 19:9-18
There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him." (This is the word of the Lord -- Thanks be to God)

Second Reading - Romans 10: 5-15
Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them. "But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'[" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."[How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone

preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"[.
(This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God)**

Third Reading - Matthew 14: 22-33

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns *(Please distribute Family Worship and Mission Praise)*

1. Dear lord and father 111 Mission Praise (Tune Repton)
2. How lovely on the mountains 249 Mission Praise
3. Eternal Father 122 (Tune Melita)
4. O God of truth and justice - Tune Thornbury
5. At the name of Jesus 41 (Tune Camberwell)

Commentary

The story of Jesus walking on the water follows the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. The two episodes make obvious an important lesson for the disciples and for us. When faced with enormous difficulties we are tempted to think that all is lost and we cannot cope. It is exactly at that time that we must realise that we do not have to cope on our own. Jesus is with us and even the most desperate situations are changed when we place our trust in him.

Matthew wrote at a time when Christians were persecuted, the Apostle Peter has most likely been crucified. The episode of the storm addressed issues of danger, fear and faith. The boat seems to represent the church, buffeted by temptations, trials and persecutions. Jesus however is the church's champion, who is strong to save those who call on him in faith. The message must have brought great comfort to the early Christians. While not spared suffering and death, they were confident that Christ would save them even if they were to die.

It is important to remember that the disciples encounter the storm, not because they are rebellious or foolhardy, rather because they are obedient. The difficulties that they experience on the sea are not of their own making, but stem from their compliance with Jesus' command.
The disciples find themselves perhaps three miles out in the small boat, far from shore, in a storm. In Biblical literature, the sea is often represented as the abode of demonic forces hostile to God. In the Apocalypse, the final reign of God will mean that the sea no longer exists (21:1) To have command over the sea shows God’s triumph over evil. Jesus comes walking toward the disciples on the sea. Matthew has identified Jesus as Emmanuel -- God with us (1:23) -- and this story reinforces that role.
Matthew's church is weathering a storm of persecution. These Christians are not in rebellion, but are faithfully serving God. The story of the disciples on the sea, therefore, mirrors exactly the situation of Matthew's church. It holds a promise that Jesus comes to Christians in the midst of the storm -- that the

storm does not hold the upper hand -- that Christ is present with us in the storm and redeems us from the storm.
When the disciples see Jesus, they are afraid. The storm, while dangerous, is familiar. The disciples know what to expect from a storm and what to do to keep the boat afloat. They do not know anything about men walking on water far from land, and fear that they are seeing a ghost. Jesus responds with a threefold statement: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."
Jesus uses the first phrase, "Take heart" (Greek: tharseite -- have courage -- be of good cheer) elsewhere in this Gospel to hearten a paralytic (9:2) and a woman with a hemorrhage (9:22). It is not a rebuke but an encouragement.
The second phrase, "it is I" (Greek: ego eimi -- literally "I am") is God's name (Exod 3:14).
The third phrase, Do not be afraid In this Gospel, an angel uses the third phrase, "do not be afraid" to reassure Joseph (1:20) and the women at the empty tomb (28:5, 10). Jesus uses it to reassure the Twelve as they go on their mission (10:26, 28, 31) and the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration (17:7). Again, it is an encouragement rather than a rebuke.
This story reassures Matthew's church that, even in the midst of persecution, they need not fear -- Jesus is present with them. It offers the same reassurance to us in times of illness, death, persecution, or other troubles. It prepares us for times when things are going badly -- or well. Adversity is not a sign of God's displeasure or prosperity a sign of God's pleasure. Wealth does not equate to God's favour or poverty to lack of favour. Illness is not a sign of inadequate faith or health a sign of great faith. Jesus says that God "makes his sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (5:45). Paradoxically, the storms of life can be a means of blessing. When things are going badly, our hearts are more receptive to Jesus. A broken heart is often a door through which Christ can find entry. He still comes to us in the midst of our troubles, saying, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." *Charles Royden*

Meditation

After just defeating 450 prophets of Baal, it is very embarrassing that God's best prophet Elijah is now hiding in a cave afraid of the murderous enemy King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. . Now an angel has guided Elijah to Sinai (Mt. Horeb), the same mountain where Moses met the Almighty.
At this moment of crisis God comes to Elijah but not with power and a convincing display, rather in a still small voice. Not very exciting. But isn't that what life is like? we too look for God at times of crisis, personal and communal. Where is God amid the chaos of the world? Are we not entitled to hear something of the divine road, rather than a whisper? Yet we who live by faith know that whilst God is imperceptible, yet he is present to us. Elijah will have to call the people back to fidelity to God and the covenant; to a faith not based on spectacles and signs of power, but on a relationship of love and trust in God.
When people demanded signs of power from Christ, like storm, fire, wind and earthquake, he refused to give them. Instead, he invited people to trust in him even without instant relief and spectacle. Elijah got the message, he set out on his difficult journey trusting God would support him and not abandon him in his coming trials. As he went forward he would have to continue to listen to the still voice of God within—just as all faithful people must.
When we find ourselves withdrawing to a cave of fear, defeat, discouragement or despair, we might draw the conclusion that we are all alone in our struggle. Or, we can make the impossible leap of faith that says, "I believe God is with me, even in the sound of silence." It turns out, Elijah's fearful flight away from Ahab and Jezebel has set him back on the path to absolute dependence on God. God has not abandoned him after all. God has not given up on Elijah; so Elijah should not give up on God. *Charles Royden*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Flood our lives with your grace, O Lord. Fill our whole being with your radiance, our innermost souls with your presence, and our very wills with your strength. Let us shine with the light of Christ, let us preach by example and let us carry nothing in our hearts but your love; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
John Henry Newman, 1801-90

O God, whose glory the heavens are telling, the earth your power, the sea your might, and whose greatness all the hosts of heaven proclaim; to you belongs all glory, honour, majesty and praise; both now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen *Liturgy of St James, 5th century*

Junior Church & YPF will not take place during August, but we hope to see you all at our summer workshops. Have a great summer. Liz & Sam.
Has anyone got any old sheets or cotton material, white, coloured or patterned that we can have, for our summer workshop in August, to cut up and use as props ? Thank you Liz.

Future Dates for your diary. 'The partnership Summer Musical Workshops !!! - a mixture of story, music, dance, drama, crafts & fun. Tuesday 19 August 2– 4 pm 'Its Raining Cats and Dogs' aimed at the under 5's with carers. Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 August 10am—3pm 'The 7 Days of Creation' 5 years plus, all abilities . Full details to from Liz.**'**

"Living Fire" the Methodist prayer manual 2008/9 is due for publication. Please contact Vera Pearson Tel 270737 if you wish to order. Price £2. 75

Bobby Van Brickhill Parish Council is looking for 29 homes in Brickhill that could be helped by the Bedfordshire Police 'Bobby Van'. The Bobby Scheme provides a free service to elderly or vulnerable victims of crime on low incomes. No charges are made for the work carries out under the Bobby Scheme. Now, even if you have not been a victim of crime yourself, you case still get their help. The 'Bobby Men' will visit your home and give advice on how to make it more secure. They will provide practical help in improving home security. The service is for owner-occupiers and is mainly for the over 65's but can also be used for other people in the vulnerable category or those who are just not quite 65. If you or someone you know would like the Bobby Van men to help you, please contact the Parish Council office on 271708.

Smokeless fuel 2 bags free if collected from Falcon Avenue. 268571

So what happened at Lambeth ?
The Bishop of Southwark, Dr Tom Butler, in his Thought for the Day on BBC Radio 4 on Wednesday, likened Lambeth Conference's pilgrimage to the chrysalis stage of a butterfly's life-cycle. "At Canterbury, the Anglican Church allowed itself to risk being changed through the liquid of conversation and challenge across cultures and beliefs," he said. "It's not at all certain that minds were altered, but positions might have been softened, and, if so, there's a chance that something beautiful might emerge in the future. . . The Anglican Communion might yet fly anew, better fit for purpose."

Here is an excerpt from the final blog by Bishop Christopher
It would be entirely inaccurate to suggest that everything has been sweetness and light, though the overwhelming feeling has been one of great appreciation for all that has been learnt.It is true that changes of mind have taken place, but some bishops are very clear that where they stand has not been influenced by the Conference at all. And here's the rub. Most are agreed that the Anglican Communion is a precious expression of the Christian faith and that for it to fragment would be a great loss. Most are also agreed that one of the charcteristic features of Anglicanism is the high value we put on the autonomy of each Province in the Communion. Nevertheless, the key question remains : "How do we hold together autonomy and interdependence?". We hope that it can be done through the building of good relationships and through the creation of mutual understanding and sensitivity. But how can we handle disagreements when those pastoral and educational processes break down? There are not many people here, I guess, who want to see some kind of hard and fast Constitution created, to which every Province would have to subscribe and which would have tight legal boundaries. And I also suspect that few want to see the emergence of a loose-knit federation, but we continue to struggle with the problem of how we can put structures in place which will have sufficient power to resolve differences whilst at the same time respecting the autonomy of each Anglican Province.
Of course, this is not a problem that is peculiar to Anglicanism. Diplomats from every country in the world spend their lives trying to hold a delicate balance between autonomy and inter- dependence in the relationships between nation-states. Perhaps it is time to invite a few of them to help us to construct structures which will help us solve our particular problems. I suppose the main achievements have been in the building of deep friendships, in the recognition and appreciation of diversity, especially in the Bible-study and Indaba groups. And perhaps a profound awareness that what binds us together is of far greater importance than what separates.

At breakfast this morning a young African woman said to me, "All families have their differences but they should never separate us. As a family we should look after each other." It's a simple truth but one to which we should commit ourselves in the years that lie ahead with patience, love and perserverance.

Please remember to buy everything you need through amazon at thisischurch.com

Car Boot Sale - Monday 25th August Offers of good quality Bric-a-brac gratefully received at the end the week running up to the Sale and also tray bakes for refreshments. Please see Avril for more details. 360605

The Valedictory Service followed by a buffet supper in the large hall, for Rev. Dr. Joan Crossley will be held at Putnoe Heights Church on 24th August at 6.30pm. Contributions of sandwiches or cakes welcome. All Welcome.

Putnoe Heights will host a Circuit Service on Sunday evening 9 November at 6.30pm, for Claire Peck's Commissioning as a Local Preacher.

NCH House to House Collection. NCH, the children's charity, works with disadvantaged and disabled children, and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including the Methodist Church, Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. The annual house-to-house collection to support the vital work of the NCH will take place as usual in the first two weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £950. If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel 324507)

A Hymn for Sunday

O God of truth and justice
defender of the poor,
we trust your promise faithful,
your mercy ever sure.
Come not in fire or earthquake,
or sign of worldly power,
but let your gentle whisper
announce the hallowed hour!

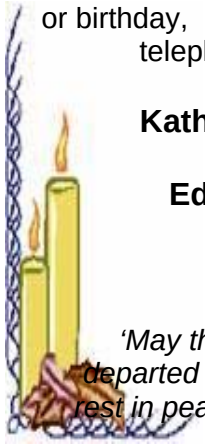
When storms of life around us
condemn our hearts to fear,
then let the voice of stillness
compose the anxious ear,
and from our fears remake us
with faithful hearts and brave,
who, fixing on the Saviour,
may ride the threatening wave.

O give us grace to follow
where Christ himself has trod,
with gentle voice proclaiming
the perfect peace of God:
the promise of redemption
which first the fathers heard,
in Jesus Christ made perfect,
the co-eternal Word.

Tune Thornbury

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.



Kathleen Agnes Pilgrim

Edna Irene Jackson

John Standley

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

Flowers

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) and add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Rest in Peace

The funeral of Mr Charles Douglas Balmforth will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 11 August at 4.00pm *Royden*