



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

3 August 2014

Ordinary 18



Sunday Services

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

3 August - Ordinary 18

St Marks - Morning Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mr. Mick Ovenden
Intercessions - Mrs. Delia Shephard
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Family Worship

Preacher Mrs. Wendy Waters
Leadership Team - Mrs. Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Ministers
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

10 August - Ordinary 19

St Marks - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mr. Mike Elliott
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard
Leadership Team - Mrs. Sue Allen
Intercessions - Mrs. Claire Peck
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28 2. Romans 10: 5-15
3. Matthew 14: 22-33

Midweek Holy communion at St. Mark's Chapel every
Wednesday at 10am and at Sir William Harpur House on
first Monday of every month at 10.00am.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by Irene McKenzie in memory of her beloved husband Eddie on their wedding anniversary

The flowers at St. Mark's this week have been given by Patricia and Chris Izzard to celebrate the marriage of Matthew Izzard and Alicia Rickards Ottevanger.

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Welcome

We welcome you to the service today and especially the family and friends of Phoebe May Adams brought for baptism to St. Mark's Church.

Prayer for Sunday

Grant us, O Lord, the will to accomplish all that pleases you; the strength to do all that you command and the reverence to respect all that you have made; for your own name's sake. Amen.

Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

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

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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Friday 9am -12pm,
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Managers Barry & Jenny Snelson 344417
Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Jean Bank 355698
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm

For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

8.30-12.30pm St Mark's Pre-School Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's

9.00-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955

10.30am U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts 8 September

12.00 noon 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. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630

2pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights— fortnightly

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

5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Emily Taverner 01234 792013

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571

6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Pat Nicholson 353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.

7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting— 18 August Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.

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

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking at Putnoe Heights. For more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895

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

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.

4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.30-8.30pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957

7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.00pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455 (Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in January 2015.

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightl 2 September Afternoon Tea at 2.30pm Details Janet King 313946

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Janet King 313946

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 10 September Putnoe Heights Office 365630

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers.

Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 17 Sept 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731

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

6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel. 01234 353865

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 3 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

Thursday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Pre School Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. Will not meet on July 31 and August 7

9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus at Putnoe Heights

10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

9.45am Chat and Play St. Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts September 11

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 342613 Restarts 4 September

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's (Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

1pm-2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552. 2pm - Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St. Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210

3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week. Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or

Shirley 01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Susan Perugi 300219

Friday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

8.30am Diabetic Centre St Mark's (1st week in month) Deborah Hennessey 792013

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation St Mark's. Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

Saturday

9.00am Faith Temple Ministries St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

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

Sunday

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

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday Feb/Apr/ Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 14 October

St Mark's Leadership Team - 9 September

Annual Congregational Meetings—

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 1 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting -25 September

Putnoe Church Council - 16 October

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service - 2nd November

Circuit meeting – 15 September

Deanery meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees—

Putnoe Heights Children

& Youth Meeting - 29 September at 2.00pm

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

Ordinary 18

Sentence of Scripture Psalm 145:3

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works.



Taking the five
loaves and the
two fish and
looking up to
heaven, he gave
thanks and
broke the loaves

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

Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of life and the word of your Kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

First Bible Reading Genesis 32:22-31

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, 'Let me go, for it is daybreak.' But Jacob replied, 'I will not let you go unless you bless me.' The man asked him, 'What is your name?' 'Jacob,' he answered. Then the man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.' Jacob said, 'Please tell me your name.' But he replied, 'Why do you ask my name?' Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.' The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - Romans Chapter 9:1-5

I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen (This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 14: 13-21

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Morning Family Worship Booklet, Baptism booklet (at St. Mark's) and Mission Praise*)

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 564 *Lobe Den Herren*
2. Come on and Celebrate 99
3. Break thou the bread of life 64 *Lathbury*
4. Heaven shall not wait
5. Fill your hearts with joy and gladness 147 *Regent Square*

Commentary

Over recent weeks we have heard and explored the meaning of several Parables, this week begins a series of three where we hear and explore another key element of the ministry of Jesus, his Miracles. Most of these are miracles of healing, healing of the sick and bringing the dead to life. Many may be sceptical of these pointing out that Jesus rejected the opportunity to enact the miracles suggested to him by Satan in the wilderness. The difference between those, the 'Feeding of the 5000' we heard today and others Jesus performed, was that Satan's were about power but Jesus' were about compassion in the humble service of God and to give glory to God. They were not an end in themselves, but would bring those who experienced or witnessed them to trust in Jesus as the Son of God, have faith in his Father God and point to the Kingdom of Heaven.

'The Feeding of 5,000' is the only miracle of Jesus that is found in all four Gospels, although as is usual there are variations in these accounts. In all but John's Gospel it is the disciples who suggest the crowd are sent away to find their own food. John makes a link to Passover, by writing 'The Jewish Passover Festival was near', then Jesus asks Philip "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?". It is only in John that the 5 loaves and 2 fish are provided by a boy, but interesting that a boy is shown in most visual images of this miracle. In the other three Jesus tells the disciples "You give them something to eat". In John and Mark the disciples express indignation about the cost of providing food for so many by replying "It would take more than half a year's wages!". One aspect of this miracle that is worth considering in our age and culture, where inclusivity of all ages and genders is generally the accepted norm, is whether the 'crowd' consisted of only men, or men, women and children. Interesting that now, when we see crowds in the Middle East on our TV screens, they are predominately male. Matthew v21 states 'The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children'; Mark 6 v 43: 'The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand'; Luke 9 v14: '(About five thousand men were there)' as does John in Chapter 6 v10. It has been suggested that Matthew's 'besides women and children' could be echoing in the OT Exodus 12:37: 'The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children'. Meaning 'plus women and children', in this case Jesus would have fed not 5,000 but perhaps 10,000! Others suggest because, in Mark 6:39- 40 it states: 'Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties', that the crowd were all men who were looking to overthrow the Romans by military means, hence why Jesus instructed them to sit in regimental style.

One significant factor which is common to all four Gospels is that after the crowd, however large, 'twelve basketfuls of bread and fish' were collected up by the disciples. In all but John's Gospel the bread was described as 'broken'. We can't help but recognise the analogy here of the 'Last Supper' and God's overwhelming generosity that he provides not 'just enough' but in excess of all we need. Just as the Parables of Jesus have at least one key truth to tell but contain others, theologian John Drane writes that 'Jesus' Miracles always mean something and associate what God says with what God does. They point to God's Kingdom, the Kingdom of the Individual, as in healing miracles; the Kingdom of the World, as in nature miracles, e.g. calming of storms; Kingdom of the Future, as in Feeding of 5,000 or in the 'banquet parables. The full implication of God's new society is shown in Jesus' Parables and Miracles'. For me, and hopefully you, that's a thought that tells me to read and listen to these accounts with renewed interest and excitement! Wendy Waters

Meditation

Jesus was moved and motivated by his compassion for all people, he showed compassion in situations where any good friend, like the disciples, might want to protect him. At times when they felt the demands of others were ill timed such as when he had gone away 'privately to a solitary place' to grieve for his murdered cousin, John the Baptist, perhaps knowing that a similar fate awaited him. His sense and acts

of compassion stem from being God's Son. God is described as compassionate and his compassion acknowledged throughout the OT such as in Judges 2: 18 'Whenever the Lord raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the Lord had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them', and Psalm 116:5 'The Lord is gracious and righteous, our God is full of compassion'.

So it is out of compassion that Jesus, through a miracle feeds a large crowd, feeds them using the meagre boy's meal of bread and fish, feeds them when he himself was at a low ebb. Sometimes when we are at a low ebb we are called to show compassion for others, at such times, through prayer and by calling on the Holy Spirit, we can be enabled to give of our meagre resources such that a person, or persons, can be emotionally or spiritually uplifted. In the process we may well experience that in giving we also receive. *Wendy Waters*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Compassionate God look with compassion on all peoples who are hungry in our time; those who hunger for food; for freedom; for friendship; hunger for healing; for love; for peace; hunger for you and your son.

Compassionate Lord Jesus may we always look to you to show us the way of compassion, especially at the times when we would rather look to meet our own needs rather than the needs of others.

Loving Lord Jesus be with all those who rarely receive compassion; give to those who feel abandoned hope; to those who feel grief comfort, to those who feel betrayed peace; to those who do not yet know your faith.

Holy Spirit move through all of us, through all our neighbours, through all nations near and far, so that the fruitlessness of anger and aggression can be revealed for the false path to freedom that it is. Show all people that the true path lies in heeding the words and actions of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Amen

Training Opportunities

There are a vast number of excellent training opportunities for anybody who might be interested presented by the Diocese. There are all listed online on the Diocesan website so please do take a look. at <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/find-a-course/>

Future courses include

03/09/14 - - Leading the Intercessions This course is designed to help anyone who is asked to lead the prayers of intercession. Whether you have been doing it for some time, are new to it or are thinking about it, it offers an opportunity for you to consider this key aspect of worship.

St Andrew's, Ampthill, Church Square, Church Street, Ampthill, MK45 2EW.

30/09/14 - - Safeguarding Awareness Training A basic introduction led by Chris Lees (Diocesan Safeguarding Officer). Suitable for any doing pastoral or bereavement visiting or those who should be aware of issues and concerns relating to children or vulnerable adults.

St Mary the Virgin, Goldington, Church Lane, Bedford, MK41 0AP.

04/10/14 - - Working Well Together A Local Ministry Training Day: a workshop giving an introduction to Myers Briggs and a focus on decision-making. St Albans Diocesan Offices, Holywell Hill, St Albans, St Albans, AL1 1HE.

11/10/14 - CORE Skills Course for Children's Work Leaders Designed to equip new children's work leaders, and encourage existing ones. St James the Great, Thorley, St James the Great, Church Lane, Thorley, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 4BE.

Indoor Short Mat Bowls

For some time we have been collecting together the resources which we need to start an indoor bowling facility at St Mark's Church. We would like to provide an opportunity on Sunday afternoons for people to enjoy getting together and being able to meet all year round whilst perhaps also enjoying some light physical activity. It is also perfectly acceptable just to watch ! We are grateful to Ray Seymour who has kindly agreed to get things going with a bowls taster session on Sunday 17 August 2 - 4.30pm. Now is a great time to think about a new activity, if you would like to come to watch or play, then please let St Mark's office know so that we can ensure we have enough refreshments and equipment on the day.

Gaza Statement by the President and Vice-President 26 July 2014

The situation in Gaza continues to capture our attention and prompt our compassion. It is time now to pray. This year's Conference directed the Methodist people to the resolutions of the 2010 Conference. One of those resolutions commended all the peoples of the region to the care of Almighty God and urged the Methodist people to engage in regular, informed prayer for the needs of the Land of the Holy One. As President and Vice-President of the Conference, we call all Methodists to that urgent task.

We are not alone in doing so. Christian Aid have provided a prayer for the region; an appeal for funds to help in the situation; and a call to sign a letter to the Foreign Secretary asking for Britain to take some action. These can be found at Christian Aid's website.

A prayer:

Holy God, holy and strong in love,
holy and immortal.
have mercy on us
and on all in the land called holy.
Where fear brings despair, let there be hope.
Where the urge to defend others brings violence, let there be love.
Where the causes of conflict and the means of reconciliation are beyond our comprehension may the peace of the Lord,
which passes all understanding,
guide everyone's hearts and minds
in Christ Jesus. Amen.

The Revd Kenneth Howcroft, President of the Methodist Conference
Mrs Gill Dascombe, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

St Mark's Chat and Make / Play Holiday meetings will be August 7 and August 21 from 9.30 to 11.30am. Chat and Make/Play start again on Monday 8 September at 1.30pm and Thursday 11 at 9.30am Please contact Janine 01234 297481 for more details. **Storybox** starts again on 4 September at 12 noon.

Partners in Sacrifice The new prayer handbook of the Methodist Church will soon be available. It is regarded as a source of inspiration and support in prayer and a spiritual gem for use throughout the year. If interested please contact Vera Pearson on Bedford 270737 for more information.

Summer Fete at St. John's Hospice on Sunday 10 August, 11am-4.30pm. Held in the grounds of the hospice in Moggerhanger MK44 3RJ, and the field behind. Something for all the family - trade stalls, steam engine rides, birds of prey, paintball,

games, fun dog show - all this and much more. Admission £2.50, children £1, under 5s free. Free parking. Further information 01767 642424 or email fay.boissieux@sueryder.org

Holiday Children's Activities

Storybox (Age 0 to 5 yrs.) and Storybox plus (Age 6 to 13 yrs.) will meet at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 4, 11 and 18 at 12 noon for a story, games and crafts with a Biblical theme. Please bring a picnic lunch with you, drinks provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For further details please contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

Storybox at St Mark's starts again on 4 September.

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church will start again on Monday 8 September 2014 at 12 noon. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help to make this group such a success.

Junior Church at Putnoe Heights Church will have a break during August and meet again on Sunday 7th September for our All Age Family service. Thank you to all our volunteers who help with this group. We are constantly looking for new volunteers for this group. If you would like to be part of our Junior church group to help our children grow in faith please speak to Carolyn Morris or one of the Ministers.

Great Gappo entertained 37 children and 32 adults at Putnoe Heights Church last Monday. We raised £130 for church funds. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event.

Messy Church at Celebrate 100 would appreciate empty cylindrical cardboard boxes and tubes. e.g. boxes from Bisto, Pringles; preferably whit tubes from cling film etc. Please leave at St Mark's office by Sunday 17 August. Wendy Waters

New porch at St. Mark's

When the new foyer was built a few years ago at St Mark's we did not have enough money to complete the project and the porch could not be constructed on the outside of the building. We have managed but there have been problems with rain coming inside the building and the front entrance has looked rather odd! We have now raised sufficient capital to enable us to complete this work and building will start on Monday 4 August and is expected to last about a month. During this time entry via the front door will not be possible and access to the church and the office will be via the chapel. Access to the large hall will be at the rear via a door from the garden. Please contact the office if you have any queries.

A Hymn for Sunday

Heaven shall not wait
for the poor to lose their patience,
the scorned to smile,
the despised to find a friend:
Jesus is Lord;
he has championed the unwanted;
in him injustice confronts its timely end.

Heaven shall not wait
for the rich to share their fortunes,
the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least:
Jesus is Lord;
he has shown the master's privilege -
to kneel and wash servants' feet
before they feast.

Heaven shall not wait
for the dawn of great ideas,
thoughts of compassion
divorced from cries of pain:
Jesus is Lord;
he has married word and action;
his cross and company
make his purpose plain.

Heaven shall not wait
for triumphant hallelujahs,
when earth has passed
and we reach another shore:
Jesus is Lord;
in our present imperfection:
his power and love
are for now and then for evermore.

Footprints Walk on Sunday 3 August. Meet at 2.30pm at St Leonards Church, Old Warden for a pleasant circular walk through fields and woodland.

Action for Children September House to House Collection. Action for Children has a 140 year history of working with children, young people and parents living in tough circumstances in Britain today. It is an

independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church where it has its roots. Our annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in September. St. Mark's Church is allocated the Brickhill collecting area and last year we raised £572 (inc. Gift Aid). If you could spare a few hours during September to distribute 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. 342507)*



On August 25 there will be a fabulous festival of fun, worship and praise at the College Equestrian Centre in Keysoe, to celebrate 100 years of the St Albans Diocese. We hope that you will all join us for this day from 10am onwards. There will be so much to do and it's all free. Expect to see the best international dog display team, flying birds of prey, a fairground, classic car display and a central outdoor stage with music and a special celebration service. (Plus - Lots More !) One of the things which we are hoping to do is organise a team from each church to take part in 'It's a knockout.' If you would like to take part in a team and you are over 16 then please speak to Ian Farthing at St Mark's or Sam Ware at Putnoe.

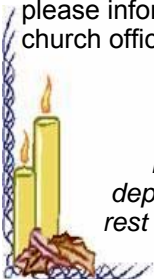
Wi fi Wifi is now freely available throughout St Mark's Church Community Centre. The password is `jesuslovesme`. If previous users experience difficulties, then please delete your old connection and start a new one with the new password

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

John Stubbs

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 Marjorie Cockings, late of Anjulita Court, will be at Norse Road on Friday 8 August at 4pm.