



Partnership News

3 June - Trinity Sunday



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

Today Sunday 3 June –Trinity Sunday

9.30m St. Mark's - Family Worship
Preacher – Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership - Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton
11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship with Baptism
Preacher – Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership - Mrs Veta Hudson Rae
Intercessions - Young People's Fellowship

Sunday 10 June

9.30am St Mark's– Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Ministers
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership – Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions – Mr Alan Bayliss

Bible Readings 1. Genesis 3:8-15 2. Romans 4:13-25
3. Mark 8:31-38

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

Thank You

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

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Veta Hudson-Rae to celebrate the birthdays of her husband and brothers.

St Mark's Prayer for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth

We pray for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.
We give thanks to God for this special Jubilee year when we celebrate 60 years of her role as our Queen.

We give thanks for our nation and the many blessings which surround us day by day.
May we never take for granted the freedom which we enjoy and blessings beyond price which are denied to so many people in other countries.

We are pray especially for all who serve in public office that our country may know justice in the affairs of government and that our nation would be a place characterised by peace and righteousness.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a Vice
President 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 vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs. Jean Kirk 317699
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
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 - Morag Stewart 360103
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com

Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett ☎326685

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

9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's (see contact details below)

12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thischurch.com 365630

1.30-2.45pm Chat and Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk

2.00pm U3A History Group St Marks.(see contact details below)

2pm U3A Music Appreciation - (see contact details below)

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 18 June Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8pm '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 ☎07790206016

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

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 (see contact details below)

1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details)

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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (see contact details below).

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

4.30pm—6pm BIGG Writing Putnoe Heights Natalie John

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎0789187957

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

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 June12 Visit to Garden Centre— Postponed 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.

9.30am Discovery & Do (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons ☎328380 or 07788824666

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

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks.(see contact details below)

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

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 6 June 2012 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)

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

1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

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

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

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 20 June Wendy Waters401834

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Mrs O Holt ☎266004

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 6 June Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Jean Ross ☎771870

Thursday

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

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

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

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

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

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (large hall) Children's Chatty Time 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

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.

1.45 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Mrs. P. Cass ☎294220

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Marks. (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Marks Mary Rich ☎272470

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

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

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

Friday

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

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

2.00-4.00 pm Whist St Marks. Patricia Holland.☎262823

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

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

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

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

Sunday

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

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 Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's (not 25 March) Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

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



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 19 June
St Mark's Leadership Team -
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
Putnoe Church Council - 11 June
Pastoral Group Meeting - Tuesday 19 June 4.00pm
Churchyard Committee -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm
Harvest Festival 30 September
Circuit meeting - 12 June
Deanery Meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees–
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -
Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Trinity Sunday

Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour.

Collect Prayer *Before we read we pray*

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through 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

First Bible Reading - Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.

Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

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

Second Reading - Romans 8:12-17

Brothers and sisters, we have an obligation - but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

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

Gospel Reading – John 3: 1-17

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no-one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear

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its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No-one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven - the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Mission Praise*)

At start of service we sing the National Anthem

1. Now thank we all our God (MP 486)
2. All things bright and beautiful (MP 23)
3. Come let us sing of a wonderful love (MP 94)
4. Just as I am (MP 396)
5. And can it be? (MP 33)

Commentary (Trinity Sunday, Year B)

None of our readings today use the word 'Trinity,' yet God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is central to them. Indeed the word 'Trinity' is not used by Jesus, it is not found in the Bible at all, yet faith in the Holy Trinity is the touchstone of what it means to be a Christian. Trinity Sunday is a special Sunday because we think about who God is—the Trinity of Father, Son, and Spirit. Even the most committed Christians find this hard because we all know that something cannot be individually three and also completely one. But this Sunday expresses and celebrates the fact that we encounter God in contradictory ways.

As Christians we need to be honest about our inability to explain God. It is no more possible for us to understand God than to put the ocean into a bucket. Whilst the word Trinity is not found in the Bible, the belief which it expresses is stated many times. The early Christians soon discovered that they simply could not speak of God without speaking of the three ways in which he had revealed himself to them. This does not mean that there are three Gods. It means that there is one God who has shown himself in three ways: God the Father, God the Son or Jesus, and Holy Spirit of God who came to them and made God alive in them.

It is important to remember that the Trinity does not actually attempt to explain God. It only explains what we know about God, that which he has revealed to us in a very elementary way. So we Christians affirm the Trinity, not as an explanation of God, but simply as a way of describing what we currently know about God. Knowledge will pass away. Human knowledge will be revealed to be a lot less important than some might care to believe. As Christians we need to have the honesty to say that we see but a poor reflection of God as in a mirror, we see through a glass darkly. Our knowledge of God is imperfect, we know in part and the rest is guesswork. Moreover we will never know all the answers until we see God face to face.

Meditation

Today, in the Partnership we celebrate the work of MHA, the group that runs the care home Anjulita Court and the apartments at Ladyslaude Court where I serve as Chaplain. We do this in the context of Family Worship, which is entirely appropriate to this year's selected theme, 'because they are worth it'. We live in a society that increasingly seems to marginalise certain groups, the youngest and the oldest included alongside people from certain ethnic backgrounds and occasionally those who have fallen on hard times. At Putnoe today we also celebrate the Baptisms of Lily, Marcus and Theo, so our worship will encompass all of life, I only wish MHA had chosen to quote the set of adverts more directly, with the more inclusive

phases 'Because we are worth it', as I firmly believe there should not be any 'they' within the Church, which to me hints at an 'us and them' mentality, in my understanding to truly live up to our calling there should only ever be 'we' within our communities. I turn to the words of my good friend Rev Keith Albans to explore the theme a little further;

Because they are worth it

The late Professor Peter Drucker wrote, "There is nothing so useless as doing efficiently that which should not be done at all." In a time of austerity people are understandably encouraged to seek savings, but these words act as a reminder to ask the deeper questions first. This is all very well in commercial activities, but in the realms of love and care, efficiency is a less useful concept. Advertisers appeal to the crazy generosity of lovers if they want to sell products, not to our penny-pinching side. And in the gospels, the image of the woman anointing Jesus' feet is one of un-calculating extravagance. Elsewhere Paul speaks of love 'keeping no score of wrongs' while Jesus speaks of forgiveness in terms of 'seventy times seven' – in other words you lose count long before you reach the limit.

Last year the Dilnot report on the funding of social care was published, highlighting both the size of the task which society faces in making provision for our older age and the urgency of addressing the issue and doing something about it. Inevitably, perhaps, many have suggested that the proposals within the report cannot be afforded, but the issues will not go away. A White Paper on the subject is expected to be published during 2012.

With these things in mind, our Methodist Homes Sunday theme for 2012 is 'Because they are worth it'. It is the motivation which underpins all that MHA does in seeking to meet the needs of older people and their families. Some residents only stay with us for a matter of days, others for several years. Many can feel that they have outlived their usefulness and often ask poignant questions as to the purpose of frail old age. Others come to discover some new sense of meaning and build new friendships and relationships in their later years.

Because they are worth it is also the reason why MHA uses charitable income to offer some of the additional support and alternative therapies which go well beyond the minimum requirements. Chaplaincy in all of our residential services, and music therapy within many of our dementia care homes are widely appreciated. Recently, a relative explained that they had chosen one particular MHA Home because "it has chickens, a children's play area and a chaplain!"

On this Methodist Homes Sunday, we are asking again for your generous support. We invite you to remember the work of MHA, and in your worship to look at ways of enhancing the lives of older people in your community. *Keith R Albans MHA's Director of Chaplaincy & Spirituality*

About MHA.

For those who do not know, MHA is a care provider that grew out of the Methodist church almost 70 years ago, when in 1943 a vision to improve the quality of life for older people, inspired by Christian concern, resulted in the birth of Methodist Homes. The initials once stood for Methodist Homes for the Aged, the decision was made to keep the initials-though it is no longer solely Methodist, runs more than homes and is not just catering for the elderly- due to the high regard the organisation has within the care profession nationally. Across the organisation compassionate care and respect for each individual is given by 7,000 dedicated staff and enhanced by the commitment of around 4,000 volunteers.

Today, MHA offers accommodation, care and support to 15,000 older people through its residential, nursing and dementia care homes and by supporting independent living through its self-contained apartments and community Live at Home Schemes. During the past year the organisation has responded to challenges faced by other care providers, and has welcomed 23 homes to the fold. These are exciting and challenging times!

Many things have changed since MHA began in 1943, but equally there is much that has been consistent throughout. Long standing support from members of the Methodist Church has played an important part in MHA's development, and generous donations, volunteering, and prayers. And more recently friendships with other denominations and faith communities are introducing the values of MHA to a far wider audience.

Prayers for week ahead

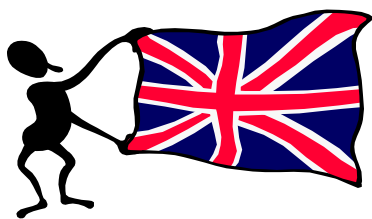


Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love. Hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons in one God, now and forever. Amen. (Church of S. India)

The triquetra uses shapes like one of the oldest Christ symbols, the shape of the fish. It was found in Pompeii which destroyed in AD 79!

Anjulita Court Summer Fete Saturday 30 June 11am-3pm . Admission 50p, children free. BBQ and refreshments, craft stalls, face painting, fun and games. Urgent need for donations towards raffle, bric a brac stall, book stall, tombola– bottles/ chocolate & sweets/toys/gift sets etc., prizes for games. If you feel you can help with donations, however small, they will be gratefully received. Please pass ant donations to a member of the Activities Team.

Circuit Summer Celebration Milton House, Milton Ernest (by arrangement with Mr & Mrs Clifton Ibbett) Saturday 14 July 2012. 3.00 pm games.5.30 pm Open Air Worship 6.30 pm Formal Finish (but people are welcome to stay on if they wish) Milton Ernest is a private house with extensive grounds (gardens, park and lake) in the heart of the North Bedfordshire countryside. We hope this summer event will be informal allowing people to enjoy the venue and one another's company and coming together at the end of the afternoon for worship. Please bring your own picnic chairs or rugs & umbrellas - limited provided seating is available. More details to follow.



**Car Boot Sale
Monday 4 June 2012**

We are hoping for a bumper on the 4 June (Diamond Jubilee Monday) therefore would like you all to look out any unwanted items

that can be donated to our Church stall. They can be brought up to St Mark's anytime after 30 May 2012. We would also appreciate cakes, traybakes etc. for refreshments. If they can be decorated in the Jubilee theme that would be wonderful too. Last request if anyone can offer help on the day it would be gratefully received. Come along and have a bit of fun, it is not all hard work!!!! Many thank for your support. Avril & Car Boot Team

Concert St. Andrew's Church Saturday 9 June at 8pm. Carolyn Sampson (Soprano). 6.30 pm pre concert supper. Tickets Adults £16. concessions £15 students £11. Concert only £8, £7, £3. from St. Andrew's church office 216881.

Church Councils Putnoe Heights Church Monday 11 June 7.30pm St Mark's Church Council Tuesday 19 June 7.30pm refreshments for 7.45pm start

Open Gardens – Sunday 10 June

More than 20 gardens in Pavenham High Street will be open from 2.00pm to 5pm in aid of Cancer Research UK. The gardens are very varied, from the natural country cottage style to more formal

designs. Many have wonderful views across open countryside. Teas will be available at both ends of the village and a courtesy bus will run the length of the High Street for those unable to walk too far. There is also a narrow-gauge steam train giving rides and a display of classic cars. Admission is £5 adults, £4 concessions and £1 for children over 5. This covers entry to all gardens, use of the bus and parking, which is available at both ends of the High Street. Please come and support this event – you will have a very pleasant afternoon (weather permitting!)

MHA: Methodist Homes Sunday – 10 June 2012

Our services today are led by Deacon Jane Mason, Chaplain at Anjulita Court, giving us an insight into the work undertaken by MHA. The annual collection for this work is an opportunity for us to support the work of MHA in the excellent provision it makes in its care for older people. With Anjulita Court in our locality, we can all see the work in practice. Our support is essential and donations are gratefully received. If you would like to contribute, please use one of the specially provided envelopes and return it in the collection plate at any time during June—the envelopes are available in the Welcome Area. Thank you. *Pam Kinselley.*

You'll be bowled over ! Bedford Borough Council is working in partnership with 3 Bowls Clubs in Bedford & Kempston to offer a range of sessions for the community to 'Come and Try' bowling during June and July. The Outdoor Bowls Roadshow gives you the opportunity to try the sport of bowls and to experience the friendly atmosphere in a club setting. You can attend as many of the sessions as you like at any of the three participating clubs across the Borough (Bedford Bowling Club, Kempston East Bowls Club and Mowsbury Park Bowls Club). If you would like to know dates and times then email the church offices and we will send you a leaflet.

Faith Woodland Communities is an initiative of Luton and Bedford Council of faiths. They are holding a 'Dharmic Day' on Saturday 30 June from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. Take a guided nature walk through Maulden Woods with contributions from Hindus, Jains and Sikhs, with music. Meet at A6 layby 1 mile north of Clophill. For more details contact fwc.bedford@gmail.com or call 07787 774167

Trinity Thought

It is plain, then, that there is a God. But what he is in his essence and nature is absolutely incomprehensible and unknowable. God then is infinite and incomprehensible; and all that is comprehensible about him is his incomprehensibility." The Syrian monk, Bishop John of Damascus (676–749)



MHA Sunday 2012

Opening verse of scripture from
Psalm 8

Prayer of Preparation:

Loving Father God, we come as one family to worship you. Young and old, we come as one family to worship you. Some of us have known you for a long time; Some of us are just beginning to learn of your love; But as friends of Jesus together, we come as one family to worship you. O God and Father of us all, we love you, and we come as one family to worship you.

Prayer of Adoration:

Leader: Three in One God, with all that we are, think and do:

All: We offer you our worship.

Leader: God, our loving Father, there at the start of all Creation and with each one of us every moment, Accept our joyful and heartfelt praise; for you have given us this beautiful world, our life-long home and a place of both nurture and challenge.

Three in One God, with all that we are:

All: We offer you our worship.

Leader: God, our living Saviour, you share our human life, and are present in each of our lives today. Accept our joyful and heartfelt praise, for you have given us yourself, revealing your never-ending love which treasures each and every one of us.

Three in One God, with all that we are:

All: We offer you our worship.

Leader: God, the empowering Holy Spirit, you move within and around us, filling our lives with meaning and peace. Accept our joyful and heartfelt praise, for you give us hope, strength, joy and love, with you we find a sense of belonging to one another and the assurance of having worth in your eyes.

Three in One God, with all that we are, think and do:

All: We offer you our worship. AMEN.

1 Hymn: Now thank we all our God" (MP 486)

Prayer of Confession:

Lord, you are so vast and 'Your greatness is seen in all the earth'; We confess to you that all too often we are small people – Small-minded, tight-fisted, hard-hearted, short-sighted, Unable to open our minds to understand others, Unwilling to give with sacrificial generosity, Unable to see beyond the superficial into the eyes of God.

Forgive us our smallness, Lord. Enlarge us by the gift of your Spirit, that we may see the worth of everyone and give generously of ourselves. In the Name of Jesus, who gave everything for us, Amen.

Offering and prayer:

God, who rejoices in your people, Make us cheerful givers of the things that we own and the people we are. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Baptisms (Putnoe)

2. Hymn: All things bright and beautiful (MP 23)

Collect and Readings

3. Hymn: Come let us sing (MP 94)

Address What is truly of great worth?

Prayer of thanksgiving:

Leader: Thank you for your love:

All: For showing us we're worth it.

Leader: Lord, when we think about all that you have done and continue to do for us and in our lives, we are amazed, and our hearts fill with humble gratitude and praise.

Leader: Thank you for your love:

All: For showing us we're worth it.

Leader: We thank you for the gift of life with all its possibilities and challenge, And for the gift of faith that makes our lives complete.

Leader: Thank you for your love:

All: For showing us we're worth it.

Leader: We thank you for the gift of one another, for the love of family, church and friends, for opportunities to give and to receive, for companions on the journey of life.

Leader: Thank you for your love:

All: For showing us we're worth it.

Leader: We thank you for the gift of yourself in Jesus, who turns us around and brings us back to you; for his dying for us on the lonely cross and for giving us a share in his new life.

Leader: Thank you for your love:

All: For showing us we're worth it.

4. Hymn: Just as I am (MP 396)

Prayers of Intercession:

5. Hymn: And can it be?" (MP 33)

Blessing:

Let us go out into the world with confidence, For God has said to each one of us, 'You are worth it'.

Take the love of this place with you to warm the lives of those you meet, in God's name.

Take the friendship of this place with you to reach out to the lonely, in Christ's name.

Take the prayers of this place with you to bless others with the peace of God's Spirit.

Amen.