

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

4 March 2012

Second Sunday in Lent



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

Today – 4 March

9.30am St. Mark's - Family Worship

Preacher - Mr John Ayers

Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank

Intercessions - Mr Richard Ledger

11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship

Preacher - Mr John Ayers

Leadership - Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae

Intercessions — YPF

11 March — 3rd Sunday in Lent

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Reverend Charles Royden

Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean

Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Reverend Charles Royden

Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar

Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

Bible Readings

1 Exodus.20:1-17 2.1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

3.John 2: 13-22

Midweek Worship Holy Communion at St Mark's

Chapel every Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir William

Harpur House on first Monday of every month at 10.00am

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Julia Furnell in loving memory of a dear husband, Hugh, and twin sister Florence, so sadly missed.

The flowers in St Mark's Church this week are given by Geoff & Margaret Appleton & family in loving memory of their parents & grandparents, Richard & Milly Meads & James & Mary Appleton.

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.

Prayer for the Week

Remember those who cannot go to church today: those who are ill; those who are aged; those who are too sad to come; those who have the care of children and of family concerns; those who are nursing the ill; those who must work today. And grant that in their own home, in the hospitals and nursing homes, they may know the unseen fellowship of the worshipping company of those who love you.

William Barclay

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.ThisChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@ThisChurch.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. Linda Hoar 782717

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186

Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091

youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Laura Farthing 210892

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

.9.45am - 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 Emma Gordon ☎07593266091

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– 19 March 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 below)

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 07772184721

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

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 March 6 - Beetle Drive. 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.

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 14 March 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 15th February. Wendy Waters401834

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

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

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

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 7 March 2012. 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 termtime group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

11.30 - 12.30 Baby Yoga/Massage St Mark's starting on the 1st March. ☎Laura Amor.341152. 07976259081.

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

6.30-7.30pm Bootcamp/Circuits. (Fitness) St Marks. ☎Laura Amor.341152. 07976259081.

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

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week 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 - Thursday 17 May

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 28 May

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– 12 May Open Day at wood

Putnoe Heights Children &

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

Second Sunday in Lent

Opening Verse of Scripture – Psalm 104: 31,34

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in His works. May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

Collect Prayer (*Before we read we pray*)

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Common Worship

First Reading— Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah.

I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her

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

Second Reading – Romans 4: 13-25

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

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

Gospel Reading – Mark

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take

up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

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

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Morning Worship*)

1. At the name of Jesus 74
2. One more step along the world I go 746
3. In the cross of Christ I glory 167
4. Will you come and follow me (*On Partnership News*)
5. Lift high the cross 170

Commentary

The Lectionary reading for this Sunday (Gospel) is taken from Mark's gospel, Chapter 8 verses 31-38, but it will help to understand more clearly if we look at the verses before.

Jesus has asked the Apostles who people say He is and they tell Him various answers. Peter then made his famous confession that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. (Matthew describes it a little more fully by telling how Jesus was pleased with this answer and said He would build His Church on that reply) At the start of our passage Jesus tells them that He is going to suffer at the hands of His enemies and then be killed. Peter challenges Him, causing Jesus to tell Peter he doesn't understand the plan of God. Jesus was pointing out that it was necessary for Him to die as a sacrifice on the Cross, which is why He came to earth so that He could pay the penalty for our sins.

We cannot preach the gospel unless we refer to the Cross. The death of Jesus cannot be kept out of any gospel message. Billy Graham, who was more successful than any other preacher in Christian history, made clear every message he preached would contain the message of the Cross.

This passage could be titled 'what it means to be a disciple', for Jesus went on to tell what He expects from those who want to follow Him and be His disciple.

Firstly, to deny oneself. One of the most favourite pieces of music requested at funeral services, as well as being a universal favourite, is Frank Sinatra's record, 'my way'. You cannot be a disciple of Jesus in the Frank Sinatra style. Jesus requires us to live the way He taught, and to put Him first rather than oneself. We are to deny doing the things that contradict a way of living to that laid down in Scripture. This does not mean we have to give up enjoying the luxuries and joys of life, it is our self we are to deny, if it causes us to act against His way.

Jesus wants us to submit ourselves to His leadership and Lordship. There can be no discipleship apart from this, it is an essential part of that discipleship.

Society is generally motivated in trying to acquire wealth and material possessions, sometimes by any means, and a priority in putting oneself first and enjoying oneself with little or no time for God or Christ. Worship is very low on the list of priorities, if at all. People who live only for this life will find that in the end they will lose it without having attained anything lasting. They will have wasted so many years on transient matters.

Secondly, we are to take up the cross. For Jesus the cross represents intense suffering, a rejection of Him by the world, but a sign of His complete obedience to God. To us the Cross is not just a story from the Bible, it is accepting God's will for our life. As Jesus went freely to the Cross on our behalf and gave up His life for us, we must be prepared to put aside all that hinders our following Him, and give our life in service to Him. This will no doubt entail some suffering on our part, and even rejection by people we thought to be friends, but it is not likely to be physical suffering. The cross stands forever as a symbol of those circumstances which humble us, and offends our pride.

Thirdly, our lives can only be truly fulfilled and be worthwhile by following Jesus. He said if we hold on to our lives in this world we will lose the chance of living with Him in eternity. We can attain all this world offers, but if we do so and forsake Him we lose our soul. Jesus is calling for complete obedience, ready to do or say whatever He commands

Finally, Jesus stated if anyone is ashamed of Him now they will pay the price when the day comes when we will all face Him and give an account of our lives here. If we reject Him now, He will reject us on the day when we answer to Him.

Christianity is regularly attacked on radio and television, mostly by rather coarse and vulgar people, who think it a subject for amusing rebuke. Ministers of religion are portrayed as odd characters totally removed from normal people. One advertisement shows a Vicar acting in a befuddled way, to be associated with food which is boring, in contrast to jolly people enjoying the advertiser's food. We can be deemed to be ashamed of Jesus if we allow such attacks to go unchallenged, and we should remember the words of the hymn 'stand up for Jesus' and be prepared to let other know we resent such abuse.

Jesus is calling for commitment, which means picking up the Cross for Him. There are many people who claim to be followers, without having any justification. They have no intention of denying themselves and giving up things for Him. *Eric Royden*

Meditation

Think, if you asked your friends or members of your family what they thought of Jesus, what would they be likely to say? But more importantly, if someone asked you 'who do you say Jesus is', what would be your answer? Let each person ask oneself that question, and let us hope and pray the answer will be, 'He was the Son of God who came to earth to give His life as a ransom for me by dying on a Cross so that the sins of all mankind could be forgiven, and was raised on the third day by God to prove He conquered death, and now reigns in glory where one day all who have denied themselves, taken up the Cross and followed Him will live with Him in heaven.

And which way will you choose, the way of the cross or the way of the world?

Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Tuesday

So why do we have 'Pancake Day'? In the middle ages it was also known as Shrove Tuesday. Church Bells were rung and people went to Church to confess their sins. In England it was a half-holiday. It was almost as good as Christmas for it was a time to eat up all the foods that were restricted in Lent. Sugar, fat, flour, eggs and for some no meat either. So in order to use up all those items 'Pancakes were made'

Anyone tell me why we are supposed to toss the pancake? Well in Olney in 1445 a lady was preparing her pancakes when the bell's rang for worship. She raced to the church still in her apron with the frying pan still in her hands. Since 1950 the people in Liberal, Kansas and Olney have held a race on an agreed measured course. Scores up to 2009 was Liberal 34 wins against Olney's 25. Although we all have had our 'Pancakes' it is good to remember why some of our traditions have evolved. And Pancake day is a good reminder of the beginning of the Lenten season of taking time to reflect on the journey that Jesus was to make to Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Day.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Give us light and strength, O God, to know your will. Guide us by your wisdom and support us by your power. Unite us to yourself in the bond of love and keep us faithful to all that is true; through Christ our Lord. Amen. *Isidore of Seville, c.560-636*

Look upon your servant, O Lord, weak in faith and asking for your strength; cold in heart, but seeking the warmth of your love; assailed by doubt but longing to trust you; abounding in sin, yet begging to be filled with your righteousness; now and for ever. Amen Martin Luther, 1483-1546 Go before us, Lord, in all that we do, with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Guide us O Lord, in all the changes and uncertainties of the world, that we remain at peace. Let us not complain in trouble, nor grow proud in prosperity, but in calm faith accept your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Jeremy Taylor 1613-67*

God of mercy, be swift to help us, as our lips pour forth your praise; and fill our lives with your peace, as we open our hearts to your word and wait for your salvation. Amen

Break into my life afresh O Lord, that I might experience your love, break into my heart afresh O Lord, that others may experience your love through me. Amen

Count Your Blessings. During Lent Christian Aid's 'Count Your Blessings' reminds us how fortunate we are in the freedoms and living standards we enjoy. Each day, there is a different focus of prayer, reflection, thanks or an invitation to donate a small amount of money. 'Count Your Blessings' pamphlets and shortened children's version are now available in the entrance lobby at St Marks and in the Welcome area at Putnoe. Please help yourselves. For further information please contact Carolyn Morris at Putnoe 350722 after 12 noon, or Jean Bank at St Mark's 342613

Ladybird Book Tokens. We would be grateful if any readers of the Daily Mirror could save the children's Ladybird book tokens for Hazeldene Heights Pre School. Many thanks from Laura Leggett

Mother Teresa Group would be very grateful for any knitting wool you have to spare. Any ply, any colour we will knit it! Please leave at St. Mark's Church office. Thank you. Maureen Watling

House Group at the home of Wendy Waters, 13 Farnham Way, 7.45pm on; 5 March; 19 March and 26 March. We will use the St Alban's Diocese Old Testament based Lent Course 'Transforming Life'. New people most welcome. For more details contact Wendy Waters 401834.

Table Top Sale at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 10 March at 10am. Tables cost £6.00 each. Light Lunches, tea, coffee and cakes available. Event in aid of church funds. To reserve a Table please contact Ian Morse on 01234-216428

Quiz Night at St Mark's Church, Saturday 10 March 2012. Cost £6 per head which includes Fish & Chip supper. Tickets available from St Mark's Church

Quiz Trophy Please could last years winners return the trophy to St Mark's Church office before Saturday 1 0th. March. Thank you.

Putnoe Lunch Club. We are looking for new members so if you know anybody who would like to come along fortnightly on Wednesday then please do let us know. We are also looking for drivers who will help transport guests.

Footprints Walk on Sunday March 4.
A two and a half miles walk on Pertenhall Paths, setting off at 2.30pm. Meet at the Village Hall (parking) which is on the road to Swineshead about 200 yards from the B660 (Bedford - Kimbolton).
Led by Jean and Alan Kirk.

Henry Olonga Concert to be held on Sunday 29 April 2012 at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue, Bedford. No admission charge but please be

Dates for your Diary Car Boots for 2012

9th April 7th May 4th June 27th August

willing to give generously to an offering for the Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fundto provide food and care for hundreds who may not otherwise survive the brutality and poverty.

The Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra (BCCO) returns on Saturday, March 24 to perform a series of well known classical pieces. The concert programme will feature Schubert's unfinished Symphony and pieces from Handel's Water Music as well as pieces from Mozart and a 'Salute to the Big Apple'. Starting at 19:30, the event will include free refreshments during the interval and the now familiar raffle which is always a particular favourite. The BCCO has been performing regularly at Putnoe since December 2009 and continues to enjoy a loyal following from the local community. Come and enjoy this, the latest presentation from this popular amateur orchestra.

Craft Stall's Easter Novelties are on sale now £1 each, Chicks, Rabbits and Lambs containing chocolate. Cream eggs or eggs containing chocolate eggs.

"**SPRING CLEAN**" morning at Putnoe Heights Church 10am to 12noon on Saturday 12 May. All helpers welcome. "

Songs of Praise with Pam Rhodes at Elstow Abbey 6pm Sunday 29th April. £8 adults £5 concessions £3 children Tel. 01234 261477

Crispian Steele-Perkins Concert at St. Andrews Church 17 March 7.30pm Tickets £8, Concessions £7 students £3. Also Brass workshop at 2.30pm Tel. 01234 216881.

Citizens Panel Recruitment are currently in the process of recruiting, from now until Friday 29 June. The only two criteria for joining are that applicants must be over 18 and live in the Borough. Want to tell us what you think about local issues? Want to voice your opinions? Then why not join our panel and help make a difference. As a panel member, you will be asked to take part in at least two surveys a year. Your responses will make a big difference to key decisions that are taken by the Council. Don't miss your chance to take part. If you have any questions or would like any further information please contact Pritti Meeda, Consultations Assistant. Tel: 718837 (Ext 47837) or email at www.bedford.gov.uk .



Bedford Ecumenical Lent Services Lent 2012

Theme Less than Gold: Serving God and Mammon Ecumenical Services at 1.10pm on Wednesdays in Lent at Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford. Each service will include a theological reflection on the Lenten theme

7 March Paul Hunt The Chief Executive, YMCA, Beds

14 March A Speaker from the Bedford Foodbank

21 March Michael Campbell Senior Chaplain, Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy

28 March Charles Whitehead Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton Finance Team

Lent Course Dates

The Lent course will begin with refreshments at 7.30pm and the meeting proper will start at 8.0pm This year for Lent we are looking at doing our Mission Plan. It would be helpful for you to take a look at <http://www.livinggodslove.org/resources/resource/mission-action-planning>

Meetings

Thursday 15 March at Putnoe Heights Church

Thursday 22 March at St Mark's - Wren Room

Thursday 29 March at Putnoe Heights Church



You will find the link above on the homepage for www.thischurch.com. Please click on it to access Amazon.com and just about anything you need. You can also sign up to Easyfundraising. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online at discount prices! Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thischurch.com, then we obtain 5%

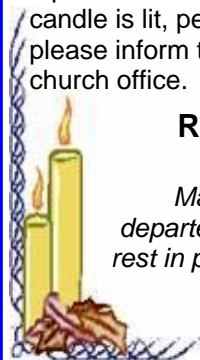


Rest In Peace

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.

Reg Woodford

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



A Hymn for Sunday

- 1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown,
in you and you in me?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?
- 3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?
- 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?
- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Maundy Thursday. By popular request our Maundy Thursday service will be held at Putnoe at 7.30pm and will take the form of a Last Supper, with a meal provided kindly by the catering team.

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Allan Neil Cannon will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 12th March at 12.15p.m.