

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

5 August 18th in Ordinary



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 5 August –18th in Ordinary

9.30m St. Mark's –Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher - Mrs Liz Little
Leadership -Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mrs Alison Holden

11.00 am Putnoe -Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher - Mrs Liz Little
Leadership -Mr Barry Southam
Intercessions - **Ministers**

Sunday 12 August 19th in Ordinary

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - **Mrs Claire Peck**
1 Proverbs 9: 1-6 2 Ephesians 5: 15-20 3 John 6: 51-58

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 Mary Stubbs in memory of her
husband John.

Welcome

We warmly welcome you all to our service today and
especially the family and friends of those who have
been brought for baptism Jaylan Tessmer & Khloe
Mae Louise De Quincey

Prayer for Sunday

Let nothing disturb or dismay us,
O God,
for all things are passing
and you alone are unchanging.
Teach us that all things
are wrought in patience
and that those who possess you
lack nothing and that our sufficiency
is in you alone;
and this for your own name's sake.
Amen.

St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

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

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

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

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 . Restarts on 10 September

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– 20 August 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 Wriggles 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 August 21 Strawberry tea at St. Mark's at 2.30pm Details call Janet King 313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

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

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 12 September 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 19 September. 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 5 September 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 Restarts 13 September.

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 Restarts 6 September.

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 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. (see contact details below)

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 Denise Worker ☎07900 232648

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 – 9 October, 19 Feb, 11 June

St Mark's Leadership Team - 11 September
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
Putnoe Church Council - 15 October,

Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm

Harvest Festival 30 September
Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - 16 November

Woodland Burial Trustees– 30 September
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -

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

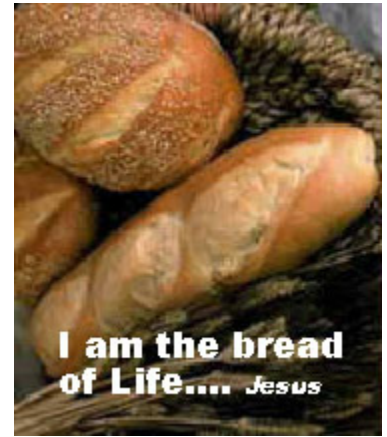
Ordinary 18

Opening Verse of Scripture - John 6

Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

Collect Prayer *Before we read we pray*

Lord and giver of life, you alone nourish and sustain your people, through Christ, the bread of life. Feed our hunger and quench our thirst, that we may no longer work for what fails to satisfy, but do what you require, in obedience and faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *Methodist Worship*



First Bible Reading - Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.

On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'" While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. The LORD said to Moses, 'I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.' That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.'

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

Second Reading - Ephesians 4:1-16

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." (What does 'he ascended mean.' except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions ? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in

their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

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

Gospel Reading - John 6: 24-35

Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. (This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven ; let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms & Baptism Sheets)

1. Yes, God is good 363
2. On this Baptismal Day (On Partnership News)
3. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind 673
4. Jesu, thou joy of loving hearts 258
5. Now thank we all our God 566

Meditation

Jesus seems to be making a very simplistic statement in the reading today, *'he who comes to me shall not hunger and he who believes in me shall not thirst.'*

What about the millions of people who have no water, or adequate food? Clearly Jesus cannot be speaking about physical food and water. The answer appears that Jesus is asserting himself as the spiritual answer to the hunger and thirst of the human spirit. It might seem as if there are just too many problems to deal with all at once, in truth we all live very complex and over indulgent lives. What is really important in our daily living? What are our basic needs when all of the frivolous stuff is removed? The Lord's Prayer is helpful, Jesus encourages his disciples to pray for daily bread, not cars or homes or even the bread for tomorrow, just bread enough for today. If we can reassess our lives and get our priorities right, then we will never hunger or thirst again.

Commentary

The French mathematician Blaise Pascal compared our insatiable desires to an abyss that must be filled: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself" (*Pensees, 148/428*). The message is that our natural longings can only be filled with a supernatural object, by God himself who alone can fulfill them with his indwelling presence. One of the most famous and insightful sentences in Christian history comes from the first page of Saint Augustine's Confessions. As the book unfolds, Augustine describes his extensive experiences with

Welcome and Opening Verse

Please join in the words in bold type

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world and to seek forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Hymn 363 Yes, God is good

Prayers of Thanksgiving

We praise you, eternal God,
for the world which you have created
and for our place in it.

May you be praised for ever and ever.

You have given us life that we may love and serve you and though we have resisted your purpose and misused your gift, you have not left us in our sin, but sent your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.

May you be praised for ever and ever.

We thank you that for us he became human, died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, where he reigns in glory and prays for us.

May you be praised for ever and ever.

We thank you that you have sent your Holy Spirit, to bring us to freedom and to new life in Christ.

May you be praised for ever and ever.

Therefore with all your Church on earth and in heaven, we give you our thanks and praise.

We dedicate ourselves to you; strengthen us by your Spirit to do your will, and bring us with all your saints to the glory of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

The Offering

*The offering is collected and brought forward.
The people stand as it is presented and say:*

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you and of your own do we give you.

Baptism

(Please bring forward baptism services)

Jaylan Tessmer & Khloe Mae Louise De Quincey
Jay Jia Xin Zeng

Hymn - On this Baptismal Day
(words on page 8 of Partnership News)

Collect Prayer

Old Testament Bible Reading
This can be followed on Partnership News

Children's Talk by Mrs Liz Little

Prayer of Confession

Hymn 673 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Gospel Reading
This can be followed on Partnership News

Sermon by Mrs Liz Little

Hymn 258 Jesu, thou joy of loving hearts

Prayers

The following responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

ending with:

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done ; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and
ever. Amen**

Hymn 566 Now thank we all our God

The Blessing

We go into the world, to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen

unfulfilled desire. In the very first paragraph of the book he writes, "Thou has made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee." An insatiable craving, a psychic abyss, unsatisfied desire and desires, and the deep longing for a far away land — all these point to and find fulfillment in God alone, despite our many failed experiments with all sorts of substitutes.

In John's gospel Jesus describes himself with seven "I am" sayings. These are intentional literary allusions to God himself, who identifies himself to Moses as "I am" (Exodus 3:14, John 8:58). Jesus compares himself to light in darkness (8:12), a gate to a safe pasture (10:9), a good shepherd who sacrifices himself for his sheep (10:11), the resurrection and the life who conquers death (11:25), and the true vine who fulfills Israel's destiny (15:1, Isaiah 5). And just as he compared himself to "living water" that quenches our thirst (John 4), Jesus also identifies himself as the one who satisfies our deepest hungers: "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty" (6:35).

The ancient Hebrews ate miraculous manna from heaven in the desert (Exodus 16), says Jesus, but they nevertheless died. Jesus, in contrast, says that "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If a man eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (6:51).

If this sounds scandalous to our modern ears, we can console ourselves that it also did to the original audience two thousand years ago. The Jews grumbled about comparing himself to God; wasn't he the son of Joseph, "whose father and mother we know? How can he say such things?" And his own disciples dismissed Jesus's claim as a hard saying. Who can accept this, they protested? From that time on, says the gospel, "many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him" (6:66).

Look carefully and all around you see misguided attempts to fulfill legitimate human longings. They encourage me to pray with Augustine just a few pages later in his Confessions: "Turn us, O God of Hosts, show us Thy countenance, and we shall be whole. For wherever the soul of man turns itself, unless toward Thee, it is riveted upon sorrows, even though it is riveted upon things beautiful." *Charles Royden*

Prayer for Sunday and the week ahead

While there is breath within me let me give thanks that there is a God to worship. Let me praise the Christ who loves the worst of us. Let me bless the Christ who shares with the least of us. Let me bless the Christ who intercedes for all of us in the presence of the one true, boundless and living God, for ever and ever.

Amen *Ann Griffiths, 1776-1805*



The Olympic Torch Came to Open House last week

Open House Every Wednesday at St Mark's we welcome the Open House group. We have been fortunate that a committed team of volunteers have continued the work of Club House, the charity helping those with learning disabilities. We are always grateful for new helpers so if you can spare an hour or two please do drop in and introduce yourself to Cheryl and the team.

Footprints walk. Sunday 5 August. Woburn village. Meet at 2.30pm at the entrance to the large free car park in Park St (opposite the church). 3.5 mile walk through farmland and woodland.

Details from Sue Allen.

Action for Children September House to House

Collection Action for Children works with disadvantaged and disabled children, and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. The annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark's Church is responsible for covering the Brickhill area and last year our 21 collectors raised £753 (including Gift Aid). If you could spare a few hours during early September to distribute and then 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)

Chat and Make at St Mark's starts again on Monday 10 September at 1.30pm.

Chat and Play at St Mark's starts again on Thursday 13 September at 9.30 am.

Story Box at St Mark's starts again on Thursday 6 September at 12 noon.

Junior Church at St Mark's will resume on 9 September. Jaana

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church will start again on Monday 17th September at 12.15 for details of our summer programme please contact Carolyn at youth@thisischurch.com. *Carolyn*

Car Boot Sale The final car boot sale of the year is on Bank Holiday Monday 27 August. Now would be a great time to sort out things which you don't need and get them ready for the church car boot stall. We also would really appreciate things like cakes and tray bakes for refreshments. As always we could not cope without volunteers so if you have any free time please drop in and help out - see Avril who will welcome you with open arms and give you a job .

St. Mark's Craft Club Appeal - Wanted for projects for the Christmas Fayre - Round wreath bases in either cane, willow or polystyrene. Please if you have any hand them in to the Office. Thank you.

Flowers at Putnoe Anyone interested in joining the flower arranging team at Putnoe Heights is invited to speak to Ann Hitt or Sue Allen.

Flower Arranging Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of flowers at Putnoe on any Sunday during the next six months, is invited to enter their name on the rota on the notice board in the welcome area.



Praise Service

A service of Praise celebrating the Cross will be held at Putnoe Heights Church at 6.30p.m. on Sunday 9th September. This is a service for the Partnership to which all are invited to join together to sing a collection of tuneful hymns relevant to the theme of the Cross. *(Eric Royden)*

Did you know that

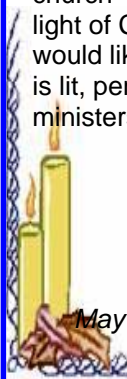
1. In 1952 the Queen sent 273 birthday telegrams to centenarians, whilst today she sends over 3,000 a year.
2. There are more people in our society over 60 than under 16.
3. 1 in 4 people living beyond the age of 65 are expected to develop dementia.

Many churches are recognising that this is an issue of special concern for our ministry.

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.

**Margaret Reid
John Stubbs
Aphrodite Hubbard**



'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

On this Baptismal day, God we thank you
for the water, new life and call.
For this child given life by your Spirit
The potential offered to us all.

*Praise the Father! Praise the Spirit!
Praise the Son on this Baptismal Day!
For the gift of life is precious;
so, we worship God today.*

We baptize in response to our maker,
who has promised to be our guide.
We rejoice for new life God has given
and his pledge to travel by our side.

Lord we praise you for Jesus our Saviour,
for your love that he showed on earth,
how he offers us life by his Spirit
showing us the way to our new birth.

Paul Wood. Tune: Sing Hosanna

amazon.com
and you're done.



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Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

**The funeral of Alexander
Patrick Douglas** will take place at 11.30a.m. on Monday 6th August at the Crematorium.