



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

6 July 2008
Ordinary 14



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's - Family Worship with Baptism of Hattie Alison

Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Linda Parry
Intercessions - Mrs Alison Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship

Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley
Intercessions - TBA
Joan is at General Synod

13 th July - Ordinary 15

9.30am St. Mark's- Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions - Mr Warwick Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Bible Readings

1. Genesis 25: 19-34
2. Romans 8: 1-11
3. Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by Elaine Mulvaney in Memory of Margot Partner.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Edward and Linda Parry to celebrate their grand-daughter Isabelle's first birthday

Anyone who wishes to donate flowers at Putnoe on a particular Sunday in the next few months is invited to enter their name(s) on the rota on the notice board in the welcome area at Putnoe Heights Church. For St Mark's Church flowers please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254

Prayer for Sunday

Holy God, too great to be trifled with and too wise to be deceived by insincerity; compose our thoughts as we enter your presence, order our minds as we bring our petitions, and grant us grace to offer you the loving sacrifice of hearts both steadfast and obedient; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Susanna Wesley, 1669-1742

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

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

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

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

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 332613

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper 306751

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

9.00am Clubhouse at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

12.00pm Story box We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.30pm Cancer Care Society. Meets monthly at St Mark's. Contact Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 21 July Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 8 July - Richard Ledger Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs

Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group

St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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

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

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 15 July 'Bring and Share Meal' Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

9.30am Childminding Support Group Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎07973174430.

9.00am Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

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

10am Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 18 June 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

1.45 Scots Society Whist monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester ☎400584

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

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

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

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

6.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month. Mr Farish ☎824984

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 16 July 2008 Guest caller - Don Flowers. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016
7.45 for 8pm God talk—women's group monthly meeting 11 June for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. 26 June will be at 14 Flint Way. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

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

9.40am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

12pm Storybox weekly at St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30—3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St. Mark's 267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr C Hill ☎772922

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights
Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc. at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. Marriot 303834

7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club St Mark's Mr P Housden ☎376597

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm

Improvers St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

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

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

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Next meeting 13 July at 6pm. A trip to Wild Britain CANCELLED Please see Liz ☎302349.

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – ,
18 November
St Mark's Leadership Team –
8 September, 24 November
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 1 September

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee
Putnoe Heights Management Meetings 14th July.
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -
11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at 12 noon
Putnoe Church Council - 6 October.
Pastoral Group Meeting - Monday September 30th at 4.30pm
Churchyard Committee - November 12 at 11am
Putnoe Heights Mission Group –
Partnership Council - May 13th at St Mark's
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Deanery Meeting - 18 September, 13 November
Circuit/Deanery Meeting
Woodland Burial Trustees -
Mission Group Meeting
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth

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

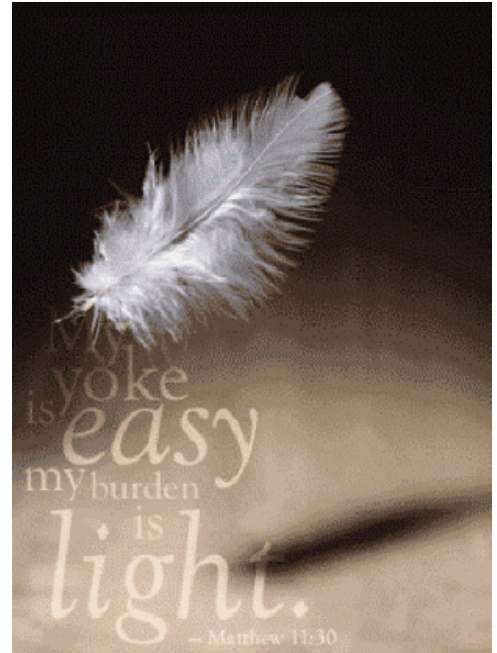
Ordinary 14

Opening Verse of Scripture -

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Collect Prayer for the Day

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 - Genesis 24: 34-38,42-49,58-67

So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, menservants and maidservants, and camels and donkeys. My master's wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns. And my master made me swear an oath, and said, 'You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live, but go to my father's family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.' "When I came to the spring today, I said, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come. See, I am standing beside this spring; if a maiden comes out to draw water and I say to her, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar," and if she says to me, "Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels too," let her be the one the LORD has chosen for my master's son.' "Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.' "She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too.' So I drank, and she watered the camels also. "I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' "She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.' "Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms, and I bowed down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son. Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn. "So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?" "I will go," she said. So they sent their sister Rebekah on her way, along with her nurse and Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "Our sister, may you increase to thousands upon thousands; may your offspring possess the gates of their enemies." Then Rebekah and her maids got ready and mounted their camels and went back with the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left. Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev. He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching. Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?" "He is my master," the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself. Then the servant told Isaac all he had done. Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. (This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans 7:15-26a

Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognised as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful. We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do— this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God— through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the market-places and calling out to others:" 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners".' But wisdom is proved right by her actions." At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No-one knows the Son except the Father, and no-one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

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

Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (*Please distribute Hymns and Psalms*)

Awake my soul and with the sun, 632; Jehovah Jireh, On Partnership News; How sweet the name of Jesus sounds, 257; I heard the voice of Jesus say, 136; Forth in thy name O Lord I go, 381

Commentary

In Jesus' time work animals (usually oxen) worked in pairs, yoked together by a hand-carved wooden frame to share the load. In the Gospel passage Jesus is offering us the opportunity to share our load with Him. He also identifies his mission with John the Baptist's; but explains that they are different. John's mission was to proclaim the imminent arrival of the Kingdom and urge people to be ready for it. In Jesus not only is the kingdom announced; it is coming to reality, both now and in the future. Welcome to the New World Order.

The words from the Gospel reading, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.", were known in the Book of Common Prayer as The Comfortable Words and were said by the Priest right after the Confession and Absolution in the service of Holy Communion. They were introduced with the words, "Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him...". They reminded us of the hope we have in God, of our renewed reconciliation and peace we have with Him through our new life in Christ.

God had given his people basic guidelines for holy life, but the Pharisees had ended up making God's Law

inaccessible and impossible to follow. Jesus assures his disciples that by learning and interpreting God's Law in His way, they will not be intimidated by complexity or burdened, and condemned to failure, by the minutiae of details and esoteric interpretation. Jesus points out the original simplicity of God's Covenant and Law, and demonstrates that all they need to guide and steer them is a simple uncomplicated faith in Him, through which everyone can find true peace, rest, and refreshment. By putting the Comfortable Words back into the context of Matthew's Gospel, they have a depth that sometimes is not immediately obvious from their Eucharistic setting. Absolution and forgiveness is not conditional upon our ability to follow complicated rules, but is a gift from God, given freely out of His incomparable and compassionate riches. And as we find peace, refreshment and rest for ourselves we are called to live the kind of lives through which others, too, can find God's peace, God's refreshing grace, and the joy of placing their lives in God's hands.

The yoke to which Jesus refers is the heaviness of the Jewish law and in particular, the interpretation and the rules and regulations for adherence that the Pharisees placed on it. Jesus offers that this burden can be replaced by the lightness and the gentleness of a personal relationship with Him. Today, far too often, our own culture, beliefs, values, tastes and behaviours can become a set of rules and a heavy yoke in itself. We may not have to follow with strictures of the Jewish law but we can form our own sets of rules, or try to conform to the beliefs and standards of others, all of which can begin to increasingly govern our lives and restrict us from having the freedom which Jesus offers all who turn to Him.

He invites us to be as gentle with our personal struggling selves as He is with us and come into freedom with Him and with each other. To be a community of believers, all sharing the yoke of Christ. And in taking Jesus' yoke upon us, we not only share our burdens with Him, we join Him in His work. Our mission, like John's, is to proclaim the imminent arrival of the Kingdom and urge people to be ready for it. It's also, like Jesus', to demonstrate this kingdom is a reality, both now and in the future. God will not ask too much from us, nor should we offer too little. And we have the assurance that being yoked together, walking in step with God, we are never far from Him. *Sam Cappelman*

Meditation

Rabbis spoke of the yoke of the Law, with its many regulations, as something people took on themselves to steer and guide them down God's paths in life. And it seems to have been a common complaint, addressed above all to the Scribes and Pharisees as interpreters of God's Law, that their teachings had become complicated and difficult to follow, a burden rather than a guide to holy living, a set of rules which were turning people away from God rather than to Him. By contrast, Jesus' way is not a complex set of rules - He merely says love God and love each other. His invitation is beautiful in its simplicity. It is not a summons to idol worship of Jesus, but a call to learn a new way, especially a new way of interpreting and understanding God's will. It is not a call to heaviness, but to lightness of being.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Thank you God for opportunity. Here is a new day, untouched by my hand, but held in yours. I need you and you have chosen to need me. Together we can bring to fruition some of life's endless possibilities. Thank you God. Amen

Lord, quieten us down, as we place into your hands those for whom we want to pray. We know that you love them with a greater love than we could ever imagine. In the stillness we are here, with you, for them. Amen

Lord God, we thank you for calling us into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey His will. May your Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission and service to your world; for we are strangers no longer but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom. Amen
Prayer of the Inter Church Process (The Swanwick Declaration)

Lord God, it is written that on the seventh day of creation you rested from your labours; grant to those on holiday renewal of mind, body and soul, that they may praise you for your goodness and return refreshed for Your service. Amen

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

Church Lunch Club (alternate Wednesdays) Would any members of St.Mark's or Putnoe Heights like to come. If you are interested, please give your name to - Margaret Standley, Jenny Emsley or Pam Kinsella. We would also welcome additional helpers, either on a regular or irregular basis. We also need drivers. With the building work in progress at Putnoe, our Autumn Session will not start until 1 October but don't leave it until then to let us know.

Footprints walk on Sunday 6th July. Meet at the Crown Inn, Little Staughton at 2.30pm for a 4 mile, fairly level walk. For further details please contact Alan and Jean Kirk 317699

'Behind Closed Doors' a play about the issue of trafficking. In place of evening service at Priory Methodist Church 13th July 6.30pm

'The Great Gappo' (children's entertainer) joins Storybox and Storybox Plus on Monday 28 July at Putnoe Heights. Meet at `12 for a sandwich lunch. Tickets £2 in advance from Liz. All welcome.

CRUSE Bedfordshire is running A course to explore Grief, Bereavement and Loss to be held at St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger between 13th September and 18th November. For Further Details contact Petra Waker, The Yews, 25 Bedford Road Northill, Biggleswade Beds SG18 9AL Tel: 01767 627340

Rotas for the next quarter are available at St Mark's this morning. If you need to make any further changes please also change the main rota in the foyer.

Colour Copying. Please note we are now able to carry our colour copying at both churches.

TNT next meeting to Wild Britain has been cancelled.

Junior Church & YPF at Putnoe will not take place during August, but we hope to see you all at our summer workshops. Have a great summer. Liz and Sam.

Shout there are 8 places available for 5 –11 year age group at this all day workshop at St.Mary's Goldington, run by the Diocese on Saturday 13 September. Bible activities, mini sports and crafts. Sounds great, see Liz for more details and to book your place.

Congratulations to Claire Peck on completing her training as an accredited local preacher. A service of recognition will be held later in the year. Margaret Peck

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. The National Director of SPUC John Smeaton a very interesting speaker, will address a meeting at Holy Cross Pastoral Centre on July 9 at 7.30pm. The aim will be to re-form the local branch. All are welcome. Please come along if you are interested.

Partnership Council. There will be a meeting of the Partnership Council on Tuesday 19 August at 6 7.45pm in the chapel at St mark's Church. This meeting will be for the sole purpose of meeting with Circuit representatives to discuss the profile for the new Methodist minister for the Partnership. The appointment is proposed to involve an appointment in the Partnership which is not full time but includes additional circuit wide duties. If you have any thought about the appointment, or the profile for the new minister, please speak with any member of the Leadership Team.



Spare time over Summer ?

If you have not yet taken the opportunity to visit our woodland burial ground, why not take a trip out one nice sunny day. The woodland is signposted through the car park of the College Equestrian Centre Keysoe. It is a beautiful place to visit amongst 60 acres of community woodland.

A Hymn for Sunday

Jehovah, Jireh, my provider
His grace is sufficient for me, for me, for me
Jehovah, Jireh, my provider
His grace is sufficient for me, for me, for me
My God shall supply all my needs,
according to his riches in glory
He will give his angels charge over me
Jehovah Jireh cares for me, for me, for me
Jehovah Jireh cares for me

Thoughts

One of the marks of a mature Christian is the awareness of this struggle with evil in your life. This is not a sign of Christian immaturity, not a sign of Christian weakness, not a sign of Christian double mindedness and doubt. This is a mark of a real Christian who lives in a real world and has real feelings inside and real awareness of himself or herself

The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley will be at General Synod this week. The Revd Dr Margaret Joachim has written a prayer especially for General Synod. She asks, 'Please pray fervently for a Just and Positive outcome so that women bishops can take their place with male bishops without any discrimination.'

* * *

Great God of all, who has created us all alike in your image and called us equally to your service: we ask that all who seek to serve you in the ministry of your church may be free to do so to the fullest extent of their calling.

We pray for those who struggle to bring light and freedom into your church by prising open closed doors and shuttered minds, dismantling barriers and overturning old prejudices. Give them strength to continue their work with courage, tenacity and an

unquenchable sense of purpose and justice. We pray for those who have been wounded on the way, asking you to restore their hope and dignity and continue to lead them in your service.

We pray for the members of Synod and Parliament with the power to make decisions, that they may be open to your will and resolute in carrying it out. Especially we pray for those who restrict the freedom of others through their own ignorance, fear, greed or arrogant certainty. Soften their hearts and widen their understanding, so that they may see that allowing others to play a full part in building your kingdom does not threaten or diminish their own contribution.

Hear our prayers, O God, which we make with all the women who have witnessed and worked for you through the ages, and in whose glorious tradition we stand, through your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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.

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



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



Rest in Peace

The funeral of Mr Bill Fox will take place at St Mark's Church on Friday 11 July at 10.30am *Royden*