

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

6 May- Easter 5



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 Sunday 6 May

9.30am St Mark's - Family Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions - Mr Warwick Holden
11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship
Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Jean Kirk + Another
Intercessions – YPG

13 May –Easter 5

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership – Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership –Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

Bible Readings 1 Acts 10:44-48 2. 1 John 5:1-6
3.John 15:1-8

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 Mike Cooper in memory of his
mother Doris.

*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

Let your peace rule in our hearts,
O Lord, that each day
we may delight in your strength,
rejoice in your grace
and find joy in the doing of your will.
Keep us free from sin
and grant us your blessing
that we may serve you faithfully
all our days;
through Christ our Lord. Amen

Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535 jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

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

For Data Protection Purposes

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 242613

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 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 - 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. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com

Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett ☎326685

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

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

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

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

8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790206016

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

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

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.30pm—6pm BIGG Writing Putnoe Heights Natalie John

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

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

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

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

7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting May 15 'Old Sayings' Ro Haggerwod. Details call Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 9 May 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 16 May 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 16 May 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 term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

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

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

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

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

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

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

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass ☎294220

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

Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

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

Sunday

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

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

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

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

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



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 19 June
St Mark's Leadership Team - 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– 13 May 12.30pm
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -Monday 21 May 1.15pm

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

Easter 5

Opening Verse of Scripture .1 John 4:7

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Methodist Worship

First Reading - Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road--the desert road--that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"

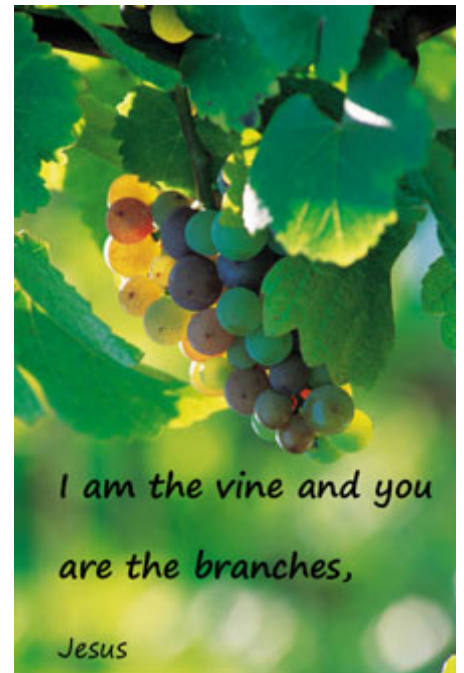
Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

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

Second Reading - 1 John 4: 7-21

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love



God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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

Gospel Reading – John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise*)

1. Ye servants of God, 784
2. You are the vine 792
3. Lift high the cross 417
4. Crown him with many crowns 109
5. And can it be 33

Commentary Water into Wine – Part 2

John starts his gospel with the story of the wedding at Cana in Galilee where water is turned into wine. In today's reading we have the last of the great 'I am' sayings where Jesus says 'I am the true vine and my father is the gardener'. The image has come full circle. The vine takes the water that has fallen and converts it into grapes which the farmer then takes and into his wine press to finish the wine making progress. The rain, the vine and the farmer/gardener are dependent on each other, a great image of the interdependence of the facets of the Trinity (and it's not even Trinity Sunday!). The vine produces grapes which are then made into wine to refresh all who drink it. The purpose of the vine is to turn water into wine. Sound familiar. John then goes on to amplify and extend the image by continuing with the phrase, 'I am the vine, and you are the branches'. We are to play a role in the transforming work of Christ. But firstly, we must dwell (rest) in Him. If we rest in Him as the vine, then the sap of the vine, the lifeblood, the DNA, the very characteristics of the vine itself flow into us. We are the branches and as branches we cannot help but produce bunches of grapes, the fruit of the vine. Similarly, if we are not rooted in Christ it will be impossible for us to produce His fruit, not matter how hard we try because we are just not connected to the source. But if we are connected to the source we will be pruned (literally in Greek, cleansed) and we will bear even more fruit. We are made clean through the work of the gardener as he prunes and works with and through the vine so we can bear fruit. And as we rest in Him, so we can ask for whatever we wish – because being rooted in Him and fed and sustained through His life giving presence, our desires and wishes become the same desires and wishes of the Father Himself. It is God Himself who can put His desires ad wishes into our minds. As one writer has put it, we need to be open and sensitive to the nudges of the Holy Spirit, and ensure we do not succumb merely to the mercy of our own whims. In the reading from Acts we see what happened when Philip got such a nudge. Acts 8 v 26 reads, 'Philip, "Go south to the road--the desert road--that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians.' As a result the Ethiopian church was founded. We never know what the nudges that God gives us through being rooted in Him will lead to. Like Philip we might be surprised where this takes us. Taking a walk down the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza was probably

not on Philip's mind when he woke up in the morning, but as we see it would lead to remarkable things that had long term and lasting implications.

The conversation John relates is taking place as Jesus and the disciples are making their way to Gethsemane. He has already washed their feet on the occasion known as the last supper and the scene is now set for that which is to follow. The vine was often used as a symbol of Israel, a vine that had so often failed to yield fruit. Jesus is the true vine, the fulfilment of God's purpose where Israel had fallen short. So it's no surprise that Jesus uses exactly these words when He declares Himself to be the true vine. In the old world image of the vine, the cleansing and the pruning came through the ritual of the law, and the adherence to its precepts. In the new image of the vine, the cleansing would be much more far reaching and eternally transformational. The journey to Jerusalem and Gethsemane would lead inevitably and inexorably to Jesus' trail and crucifixion. But following those momentous events, the empty cross and empty tomb would be a revelation that sin and death (two of the great pollutants of the Temple as a symbol of the old way of life) had been dealt with permanently.
Sam Cappleman.

Meditation

Sometimes it's easy to make the distinction between 'being' and 'doing'. The reading from John would seem to indicate that this is sometimes a false distinction. We are either resting and being in Him, alive with Him and part of His redeeming work, or we are not. We are part of Him or we are not. There is no distinction between what God is and what God does. As Jane Williams puts it, 'If we pick flowers they die. If you take people away from God, they die. It is not that this is a punishment... ..it is more just a fact of life'. And, whilst it's important we get the balance right between being and doing, we need to see them as elements and components of the same continuum, not unrelated entities and concepts that are mutually exclusive. The image that John uses for being rooted is Christ is one of rest, similar to the image of how a baby rests in its parents' arms. Not an image that speaks of hyperactivity, but one of complete confidence in the parents love, calmness and peace. Our activity with God is important, but so is our rest and quietness. And perhaps by resting more in His love and His arms, by being more and doing less, we find the very nature of our activity becomes more aligned to the will of God.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

We praise you and adore you, Lord God almighty, because by the triumphant resurrection of your dear Son our Lord, you have broken the power of sin and death, and you enable us to walk in grace as children of light. Amen

Sometimes we are like dead branches, unkind or unhelpful; sometimes the things we say are cruel or rude, like sour fruit; sometimes we are selfish, thinking our way is better than yours; sometimes we do wrong and fail to bring you glory; forgive us and help us stay firmly joined to you and rooted in your love and compassion for the world. Amen

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

God of love and grace, you are the way of love and peace. We confess that we have not loved each other as you have commanded. Instead of being your people of peace and spreading joy throughout the world, we have all too often been an anxious people, spreading distrust, worry, and fear. By failing to love each other, we have failed to see you at work in our lives. Forgive us, we pray. Pour out your healing love on us. Let your Spirit burn in our hearts again, that we might shine forth your love, your hope, and your peace. Help us to abide in your love, for your perfect love casts out all fear. You are the vine, and we are the branches; apart from your love flowing through us, we can do nothing. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of love and peace, you are the vine and we are the branches. Apart from you we can do nothing. Let your grace be manifest in us as your Word is proclaimed among us. Open our eyes that we might see the evidence of your love around us. Open our ears that we might hear the song of love you sing to us. Open our hearts that in seeing your love and hearing your song we might be changed into new and loving people. In Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.



The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust will be having an open day at Keysoe on May 12 from 12 noon to 3 All are invited to visit the woodland and enjoy refreshments. For more information ring 01234 295592

A Partnership Service Of Hymn Praise

At 6.30p.m. on Sunday 20 May, there will be a service of praise at Putnoe Heights Church. This form of service has been very well on received on previous occasions, and such further services were suggested during the Lent Course. Prior to our Lord's Ascension He commanded his Apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. At this service on the Sunday between the Ascension of Jesus and the day of Pentecost, the theme of the service will be 'Waiting for the Spirit'. This date is also the anniversary of the spiritual experiences which Charles and John Wesley received in May 1738. I invite all who enjoy singing will join us at this service, and of course any friend you would like to bring would also be welcome. *(Eric Royden)*

The Pilgrim's Progress will be performed at the Bunyan Meeting Church on Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 May at 7.30pm Tickets £12 (concessions £10) available from Central Box Office 01234 269519. or The Word Christian Book Shop, Castle Road. John Bunyan Museum open until 7pm both nights. Free admission to the museum. Refreshments available before the show.

Putnoe Heights Church Council. There will be a meeting after the service on 6 May to consider Heating and other refurbishment work plans.

Footprints Walk:- 2.30pm on Sunday 6 May 2012. A 3 to 4 mile walk round Thurleigh. Suggested parking, at the playing field in Keysoe Road, or if busy on road parking nearby. Keysoe Road is on the left of the High St from the direction of Milton Ernest. Meet at the junction of "The Close" and the High Street. Rough under foot in places, a couple of prickly, awkward stiles but a cup of tea at The Farm Centre near the end. Any problems contact Margaret or Alan on 327219

Footprints Walking Group weekend away in Hunstanton 21-23 September. There may be further rooms available. If you have not already registered your interest please contact Barry Snelson 344417.

St Mark's Chat and Make Mondays 1.30-2.45pm. A baby ,toddler group 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story, refreshments more information - email chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk

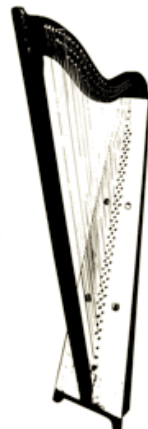
Harp Concert

International harpist Robin Ward
Friday 11 May at 7.30pm
St. Mark's Church. Tickets Adults £10,
concessions £8 Under 18 donation.

International harpist, Robin Ward, will be performing a programme that is an exploration of music, played on his own handcrafted triple harp. Robin's talent, combined with his engaging and informative performance approach, is a treat not to be missed. His programmes include a wide variety of music from the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods, as well as music from Folk Traditions, with a combination of his own transcriptions and music originally written for the instrument.

Tickets are £10 for adults, £8 concession, and a donation for children under 18. For tickets and enquiries please contact the church office on 01234 342613.

If you would like to read more about Robin you can visit his website; www.robin-ward.com. Videos of Robin's playing can be found on his YouTube profile <http://uk.youtube.com/user/seb25arpa> In February 2009 Robin independently released his first solo CD; *No Pedals Attached*, a preview of which can be listened to at: <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/robinward>



Car Boot Sale The next car boot sale in on the 7 May at St Mark's. As always we depend on your support in so many ways to make this a success. Please do offer your baking, items for sale, including old tools, electrical equipment, old coins, bric-a-brac etc and of course your generous time in helping on the day . The Church will be open on Sunday afternoon for any items to be dropped off.

Christian Aid week 13-19 May Can you give one or two hours of your time to help with the delivery and collection of gift envelopes for Christian Aid in the Putnoe and Brickhill areas? , Envelopes, collector's packs and Christian Aid quiz sheets will be ready to collect on May 6th and May 13th. Contacts for more information are: Carolyn Morris, Putnoe Heights and Jean Bank, St Marks.

"Spring Clean" morning at Putnoe Heights Church 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 12 May. All helpers welcome.

MWIB/NETWORK Circuit Easter Offering Service will be held at Kempston East Methodist Church on Wednesday 16th May at 2pm. All Welcome.

From Putnoe ACM Representatives to the Church Council are: Glen Longden, Sue Allen, Lawrence Wyatt, Betty Wyatt, Alan Cooper, Joanne Barrow, Clive Emsley
Representatives to the Circuit Meeting are: Jean Kirk (Leadership Team), Ian Morse (Treasurer) Sue Allen (Rep), Eddy Peck (Reserve)
Representative to Deanery Synod: Tim Wilkes. We welcome Barry Southam as the new member of the Leadership Team.

Congratulations to Jennie Cooper who celebrates her 100th birthday today. Grateful thanks to all who contributed to the birthday party last Sunday and for the donations (so far in excess of £450) to be shared by M.H.A and Putnoe Heights Church.

From Jennie Cooper A very big thank you to everybody who contributed in any way to my hugely enjoyable 100th Birthday Celebration. I've never seen our Church so full of wonderful people enjoying the lovely meal and chatting with present

and past friends and acquaintances. Thanks to the special choir and organist Alan for starting the day with 'Happy Birthday' and the children of all ages adding their specialities. A day I shall remember always. *Jennie Cooper.*



Helen Bambridge with Jenny her Godmother

Intercessions

As branches of Jesus, the living Vine seeking to abide in the Spirit of love, we bring our prayers to God: Accept the wishes of our hearts as we pray faithfully. Gracious God, you have called the church to abide in your life and to bear witness to Christ the lamb: Grant that the Church may reveal your love through Jesus, that we might live in him and so bear much fruit.

Light of the Word, dominion belongs to you, for you rule over the nations: Raise up bold witnesses like Philip who will testify to the rich and powerful about God's good news which is perfected in love, so that peace may abound in our time.

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God: Inspire all in our community to seek to expand the fruits of compassion and care so that the poor shall eat and be satisfied and that all the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.

Attentive Vinegrower, you tend the braches and fruit of your vine extending to the ends of the earth: Let your loving attention reach out to all people who live in suffering and threatening conditions, that they may be restored to life and fruitfulness.

You have first loved us and called us to love our neighbour as ourselves: Hear our prayers for all for whom we intercede remembering those who are fearful and afraid, the lonely and the lost, the sick and discouraged.

Accept our grateful thanks for your abundance in our lives, especially for the many blessings to which we have grown so accustomed that we fail to notice them.

Gather into your banquet all who have died, especially those who memory we treasure in our hearts, may they be kept safe in your love forever. You have planted us in the nurturing ground of your steadfast love, O God, and grafted us into the life of your resurrected Son, Jesus our Saviour: Keep us evermore abiding within your Spirit of love, that we may bear the fruit of your reconciliation for all that is and is to come, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

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.'

Forthcoming Funerals



Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

The funeral of Agnes Kathleen Sheridan will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12:15pm on Monday 28 May

The funeral of Alan Haylock will take place at 2.30pm on Friday 25 May at Bedford Crematorium

The funeral of Mr Quentin John Lewis will take place at 10.45 on Tuesday 8 May at Bedford Crematorium