



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

8 June 2014

Pentecost



Sunday Services

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

8 June 2014 – Pentecost

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs. Jean Bank
Intercessions - Mrs. Delia Shephard
Organist – Miss Marion Prior

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Barry Southam/ Martin Fannon
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes
Organist - Mr Alan Bunker

15 June 2014 - Trinity Sunday

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. David Haseldine
Leadership – Mr. Mick Ovenden
Intercessions - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Organist – Mr. John Mower

11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd. David Haseldine
Leadership Team - Mrs. Sue Allen
Intercessions - Mrs. Sam Ware
Organist - Mr John Mower

Readings 1. Isaiah 40: 12-17, 27-31. 2. 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 3. Matthew 28: 16-21

Midweek Holy communion at St. Mark's Chapel every Wednesday at 10am and at Sir William Harpur House on

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given Dawn Allinson in memory of her husband Maurice and Roy and May Laird to celebrate their Golden Wedding.

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 Sunday

Holy Spirit of God,
descend on us
with the power of a mighty rushing wind,
and overturn our prejudices;
descend on us
as tongues of fire,
and set us ablaze
with the desire to speak for you;
descend on us as a dove,
that our hearts may be filled
with the message of peace.
For you are alive in the hearts
of those who accept you as their guide,
and you reign with the Creator
and the Eternal Word,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Canon 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

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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com
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 Friday 9am –12pm,
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Managers Barry & Jenny Snelson 344417
Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
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 - Mrs Jean Bank 355698
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm

For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

8.30-12.30pm St Mark's Pre-School Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

9.00-3.45pm 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 M. Berry 211955

10.30am U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

12.00 noon Story box Putnoe Heights 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. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630

2pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights— fortnightly

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

5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Emily Taverner 01234 792013

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-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571

6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Pat Nicholson 353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.

7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting— 16 June Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.

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

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking at Putnoe Heights. For more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

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

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.

4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.30-8.30pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957

7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.00pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455 (Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in September.

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly) 24 June 'Jaffa Orchard'. At 3pm. No meeting on 10 June Details Janet King 313946

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

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

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

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

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

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Janet King 313946

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 18 June Putnoe Heights Office 365630

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

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 18 June 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall

Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel. 01234 353865

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 18 June Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

Thursday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Pre School Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus. at Putnoe Heights

10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

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 342613

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's (Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

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

2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210

3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th

week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Susan Perugi 300219

Friday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

8.30am Diabetic Centre St Mark's (1st week in month) Deborah Hennessey 792013

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

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

Saturday

9.00am Faith Temple Ministries St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593

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

Sunday

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

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday Feb/Apr/ Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

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.

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

Messy Church Dates 18th June.

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 17 June, 14 October

St Mark's Leadership Team - 9 Sept

Annual Congregational Meetings—

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 10 July

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service - 2nd November

Circuit meeting – 19th June

Deanery meeting - 12 June

Woodland Burial Trustees—

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting – 9 June 1.10pm

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

Pentecost

Sentence of Scripture Romans Chapter 5:5

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (Alleluia!)

Collect Prayer for the Day *Before we read we pray*

Almighty God who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit on the disciples with the wind from heaven and with tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: send us out in the power of the same Spirit to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Methodist Worship*



First Bible Reading - Acts Chapter 2 v 1 – 21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

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

Second Bible Reading - 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13

Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

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

Third Reading - John 20: 19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."
(This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

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

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and)

1. O breath of life (*Spiritus Vitae*)
2. Spirit of God unseen as the wind (*Tune Skye Boat song*)
3. Spirit of Holiness (*Tune Blow the wind Southerly*)
4. Come down O love divine (*Tune Down Ampney*)
5. Head of thy church (*Tune Fulda*)

Commentary

The events in John's Gospel today happen in a room in Jerusalem on the evening of Easter Day, perhaps in the same Upper Room which was used for the Last Supper. On that previous occasion (John 14:18, 16:20), Jesus spoke with his disciples and he reassured them that he would come to them after the events of his death and turn their sorrow into joy. In the passage that we have from John's Gospel today we read that the disciples were 'overjoyed'! They were in the room together, with the doors locked, because they suspected the Jewish leaders who put Jesus to death would come back and arrest them. Then Jesus mysteriously appeared inside the room, showing his ability to materialize. Without wanting to sound disrespectful, imagine something like Star Trek where Captain Kirk is able to disappear and reappear in different places and the resurrection and ascension stories make much more sense! As Jesus appears he says 'peace be with you,' just as we wish each other peace at the start of our worship today. With the unexplained appearance of Jesus comes the very real demonstration of his wounds to prove that he is the 'real' Jesus and they are not just imagining something. Jesus is not an apparition or a ghost, he shows them his real hand and the place where the nails went through. (*Note: If Romans nailed somebody to a cross they drove the nails through the wrist, it wouldn't work if they nailed the hands as the body was too heavy! The Hebrew word for hand (yad) and the Greek word (cheir) can include not just hands but wrists and forearm -problem solved*). The important message is that this is the real, blood and flesh Jesus who was killed on a cross and is now risen. No wonder that they are full of joy and that joy is God's blessing to us as an Easter people for we live in the presence of a Lord who has passed through death and who reassures us of life in all of its fullness. I have no idea how Jesus can appear and disappear but I am attracted by the fact that the resurrection body of Jesus is not 'healed.' There is a reassuring message to all of us that Jesus is identified by scars.

A new time has now come for the disciples, they are to be sent by Jesus, out of the locked room and into the world. Just as God had entered the world in human form to be alongside humanity, so now the disciples were all to be sent with a mission and ministry by God. The work of Jesus is not complete in his death and resurrection, it must now be continued by the disciples who will be the ongoing heart, hands, feet, voice of Jesus in the world. It is important to appreciate that Jesus is not handing over the baton to the disciples and saying, 'I have done my bit, now it is over to you!' The disciples are to continue with the work of Jesus, not begin a new one. Rather Jesus is saying to them, '*you need to be me in the world, when you are thinking and acting like me, then I will be working through you.*' This is what Jesus says meant when he told the disciples that he would not leave them as orphans. (John 14:18). He would come and be with them again and he would live in them (14:20).

This all sounds very weird, how could Jesus be working inside his disciples? Well, we are then told that Jesus 'breathed' on them and gave them the Holy Spirit. Again in a strange spiritual way Jesus enters them and energizes them giving them strength and abilities which are not of themselves. Think back to when God first did this to humans. In Genesis (2:7) God '*breathed into the nostrils of Adam the breath of life*' and humankind was created. John wants to show us a new creation which is taking place, just as Jesus appearance as the gardener (20:15) reminds us of the original Garden of Eden and the recreation for the world from the death and resurrection of Jesus. Some of you may also be reminded of the dry bones of Ezekiel which were revived by breath, symbolic of resurrection and the giving of life.

You may be wondering now what is going on, because in Luke we read that the Spirit was given at Pentecost but here in John's account it is Jesus who gives the disciples the Spirit directly at Easter. Theologians have struggled with too many different explanations, we do know that John doesn't seem to worry about putting events in chronological order, but many believe that this is an accurate presentation of events, not a making up of history to support a theological truth. It really doesn't matter that Christians disagree over this, because what is important is not the timing of the first event. The giving of the Holy Spirit is not something which happened a long time ago and we remember every year at a certain time. Each one of us is called to know our own willingness to receive God's Spirit day by day. The disciples met behind closed doors, afraid of the Jews, possibly even afraid of Jesus who they had betrayed and who some believed they had seen. In their fear they heard Jesus speak forgiveness to them and an opportunity to let bygones be bygones.

It is really important for us to see that this passage is a 'sending story.' Jesus tells the disciples that just as he was sent by the father, so now he is sending them. The disciples are not given the Spirit so that they can have a special time of worship! The Holy Spirit is there to empower them to be not just workers for Jesus in the world, but more accurately for them to be Jesus in the world. That might sound amazing but it makes sense of the statement at the end of the passage in which Jesus tells his disciples that they too can forgive sins. They can do so because when they are living authentic obedient lives to the teaching of Jesus, Jesus is acting and speaking through them.

Those beautiful words, "Peace be with you" are words from God which we are called to share. We together with the first disciples know that the past, with all its regrets has been forgiven. We are set at peace with God and one another. We are recreated, new creatures, through the Word of God. Where once there was sin, compromise, half-hearted discipleship, cowardice and blindness, now there is forgiveness and a chance to begin again. We are called now to live a new life, strengthened by a transforming Spirit. We need to be recreated. And that is what Jesus does, he breathes his Spirit upon us so that we too can practice forgiveness and reconciliation in our conflicted and divided world. Seeing the risen Christ was a cause for the disciples to know joy. However we are reminded that our work is not easy, Jesus died in the process. As we serve Christ in the world, like those first disciples we concentrate on the wounds of Jesus, his nailed hands and pierced side. Peacemaking and reconciliation is dangerous work, may we find courage like the disciples to come out from behind our locked doors to go out in to God's world with his message of love. *Charles Royden*

Meditation Pentecost

Pentecost is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. The word Pentecost comes from a Jewish harvest festival called Shavuot, celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Passover. Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian church, and the start of the church's mission to the world. The Holy Spirit is the third part of the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that is the way Christians understand God.

Pentecost is a happy festival. Ministers in church often wear robes with red in the design as a symbol of the flames in which the Holy Spirit came to earth. Hymns sung at Pentecost take the Holy Spirit as their theme and the symbols of the Holy Spirit and include: flames, wind, the breath of God and a Dove.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead.

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength, now and always. Amen

Almighty and Everlasting God look with favour upon your people. As on this day you sent upon the first disciples the gift of your Holy Spirit, so pour that Spirit out upon us this day. Open our hearts to your living power. Cleanse us from every impurity and forgive our sin as you have promised. Lead us and teach us and grace us with your presence. Grant us the dreams and visions you have promised and make us messengers of the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord. Indeed, unite us through the power of your Spirit so that all people may be moved by the witness we make and so that songs of praise may rise to you here and everywhere, both now and for ever more.

Lord, lead us to be peace-makers, building connections between individuals, focusing on what unites people rather than on what separates us and highlights our differences. Lord, it's easy to harm relationships; forgive us the divisions and bitterness which we have created in our homes and families with friends and colleagues at work. Enable us to seek for a fresh start and give us the power of your Spirit to use opportunities to build up and make new the bonds between people.

Gracious God, Spirit of Life, surging freely, loving generously, seeking endlessly, move upon the face of our world and embrace all its creatures with grace. Startle the powerful and the humble with your power and tenderness, your purpose and determination, your patience and mercy. Hear our prayers of thankfulness and our requests for your intercession.

Putnoe Heights Garden and Plants Stall.

Sunday 8 June. Seedlings, Cuttings and rooted plants will be welcome. Please share some of the lovely things in your garden for Church funds.

Bowling in Bedford Flat green bowling is a relaxing sport undertaken in beautiful surroundings with convivial company. If you think this is for you try a taster session on our local Council green.

Days: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 2 – 4 pm; Tuesday evening 6 pm until dusk. Bedford Park Bowling Club. Contact names: Ray Seymour 01234 305695 and Gareth Davies 01234 347647

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust Consecration of Woodland

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust will consecrate an additional 10 acres of land to extend the woodland burial ground on Saturday 14 June at 3.00pm. You are invited to join us for this ancient ceremony which affords the land the greatest protection in English law, it requires an act of parliament to change !

John Bell, from the Iona Community.

There is now a CD recording available of the afternoon session John Bell led at Priory last month. They cost £1.50 each, please let me know if you would like a copy and I will arrange the order and collection. Yours in Faith, Deacon Jane Mills.

Opus 18 Community Choir. Come & join us for "A Summer Celebration" at St. Andrew's Church, Bedford on Saturday 12 July at 7.30. Tickets £6 (children £3) to include refreshments, from St. Andrew's Church Office. Proceeds to St. John's Hospice, Moggerhanger & Swaziland Schools.



Church Chairs We are extremely grateful to those kind people who help move chairs each week at the end of our services. More help is always welcome as many hands make light work.

Easyfundraising. A total of £139.50 has been raised with easyfundraising. Nearly half of this has been by myself. For some reason we have very few people registered and this is something of a mystery. This is a very easy way for us to raise money whenever you shop online at places like John Lewis or Mark's and Spencer. When you sign in through easy fundraising the church just gets a small percentage of the cost of what you buy, you pay exactly the same and occasionally benefit from discounts and special offers. Why not go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and register - to support St Marks and Putnoe Heights church you know it makes sense! *Charlie*



A Pilgrimage Walk is planned from St Paul's Church in Bedford to St Albans Cathedral. The main pilgrimage will take place over four consecutive days, from Thursday 17 July to Sunday, 20 July. If there is sufficient demand from those who cannot make the midweek walk, a pilgrimage could be arranged for the weekend of July 12 & 13. For more information please contact Celebrate100festival@gmail.com

Route Day 1 – 14miles

Bedford St Pauls, along River Ouse then to John Bunyan's birthplace near Elstow. On to join John Bunyan Trail (JBT); JBT to Medbury Farm, then cross-country to All Saints Wilstead & All Saints Houghton Conquest; Marston Vale Trail to St Andrews Ampthill, then JBT to Flitwick station;

Day 2 – 11 miles East to Greenfield & rejoin JBT at St John the Apostle Pulloxhill, then South to Sharpenhoe; Continue on eastern JBT to St Margaret's Streatley, Keech House, and Legrave station. St Lukes is nearby

Day 3 – 15 miles Icknield Way Path to St Lukes, Dunstable Priory, Dunstable Downs [Robertson Corner]; Cross-country to St Mary the Virgin Kensworth, St John the Baptist Markyate; Hertfordshire Way to St Leonard Flamstead and St Mary's Redbourn ;

Day 4 – 5 miles

Herts Way / Ver River Walk to Verulamium and the Abbey.

The starting and ending points of the pilgrimage are at railway stations, with the exception of Redbourn which has a bus service.

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Thank you for shopping using the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase.

Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases and we receive a commission. You can shop at John Lewis, M&S etc - please always shop through www.thischurch.com



MHA: Methodist Homes Sunday~ 8 June 2014. We all hope to receive kindness and respect in our later years and we know

that sensitive, attentive caring can make a big difference to the quality of life. Methodist Homes Sunday is an opportunity to remember the value of older people. The annual collection for Methodist Homes for the Aged is an opportunity for us to support the work of MHA in the excellent provision it makes in its care for older people. With Anjulita Court in our locality, we can all see this work in practice. Our support is essential and donations are gratefully received. If you would like to contribute, please use one of the specially provided envelopes and return it in the collection plate at any time during June—the envelopes are available in the Welcome Area. Thank you. Pam Kinselley.

A Great Evening with Bedford Town Brass Band and The Zimbabwe Community Singers at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 28th June at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £5 proceeds to Zimbabwe Victim Support Fund to relieve hunger and poverty, Reserve tickets on 01234 353523 or from Priory Church Office.

Footprints: Ramblers Worldwide Holidays is offering you the chance to sample some Spanish hospitality at a special 'Taste of Spain and her Islands' weekend. The company, which was founded in 1946, is based in Lemsford in Hertfordshire and offers activity vacations to suit all levels of walking experience and fitness. On Saturday and Sunday, June 28 and 29, it will team up with the Spanish Tourist Board for a special WalkFest in the grounds of Lemsford village's stunning watermill. Adult entry is £6.50 (children under 16 and car parking is free) and you can enjoy a tasty Paella meal supplied by the renowned London restaurant chain Iberica – <http://www.ibericalondon.co.uk> – plus a glass of a Spanish wine to wash it down. Also included is an optional four-mile stroll through rolling Hertfordshire

countryside while crossing River Lea and the Brocket Hall estate before returning to Lemsford Mill along the Ayot Greenway. The event is open between 10am and 5pm each day, but for more information call freephone 0808 178 2879 or book your ticket by logging onto www.ramblersworldwideholidays.ticketsource.co.uk

A Nigerian Roman Catholic nun, currently studying an MA in International Education at the Bedford university campus needs to find inexpensive accommodation from September 2014 - February 2015. Preferably near to the campus on Polhill Avenue, ensuite or with access to own bathroom and toilet and with facilities to prepare and cook her own food. She has been living in university accommodation but unfortunately the accommodation services do not offer half year contracts and she will need to move out of university accommodation in September. Please contact Revd. Cass Howes, University Chaplain if you or someone one you know has accommodation available. Contact details: Revd Cass Howes Coordinating Chaplain, Bedford Campus and UCMK, Community and Faith, Bedford Campus, Polhill Avenue, Bedford MK41 9EA 01234 793177 Mobile: 07920849742 Skype: casshowes

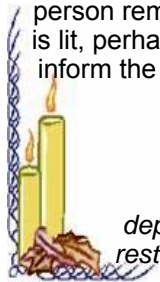
Thank you Val & Gwyn Morgan would like to thank all friends for their very kind messages & offers of help, accepted where needed, during their recent crisis. Val is home & making good progress.

The defibrillator donated by Irene McKenzie to Putnoe Heights Church, in memory of Eddie, has now been installed. Training for anyone who is interested will take place after the service on Sunday 8 June.

MWIB Easter Offering A total of £2016.20 was collected in North Bedfordshire Circuit for the World Mission Fund. St Marks raised £61.00 and Putnoe Heights £119.00. Thank you to all who contributed.

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



Rose Aylott

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

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Heather Ivett will take place at St Mark's Church at 13.45 on Friday 13 June

The funeral of Maureen Fossey will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 10 June at 3.15pm