



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

11 May 2008

Pentecost (Whit Sunday)



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr A Davis

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights

Preacher - Mr A Davis

Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash

Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

18 May - Trinity Sunday

9.30am St. Mark's Church - Holy Communion

Preacher - Ali Inwood

Leadership Team - Mrs Morag Stewart

Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Ali Inwood

Leadership Team - Mrs Lawrence Wyatt

Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Bible Readings 1. Gen 1:1-2, 4a, 2. 2 Cor13: 11-13, 3. Matthew 28: 16-20

Don't Miss - Our special guest preacher next week will be Ali Inwood from the Kings Arm's Church and Project, Bedford.

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Linda and Edward Parry in memory of their parents.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Joan York in loving memory of her husband Edgar.

We are always grateful for any donations for 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 Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) and add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

May we feel your presence this day,
Holy Spirit,
Like the people gathered
on that Day of Pentecost.
May you rush into our hearts
and inebriate our souls.
May we be empowered by your Spirit
to live a life more faithful to God. Amen.

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 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs L Parry 216724 Mob 07922053740

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

7.15pm 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 19 May 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 13 May Social After noon 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 20 May .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 21 May 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 Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

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 21 May 2008 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 14 May for worship and friendly chat. Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. 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 for first child. 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.

1.45-3.15pm Rosemary Conley St. Mark's. Contact Margot 843747

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

7pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church. Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

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 10



Diary Dates

February Liz ☎302349

St Mark's Church Council
– 17th June, 18 November
St Mark's Leadership Team
– 23 June
Putnoe Heights

Leadership Team – May 12th

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings 14th July.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

19 May, 11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at 12 noon

Putnoe Church Council - 16 June, 6 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting - 10 June 4.30pm

Churchyard Committee - 11 June 11.00am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council - May 13th at St Mark's

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting - 12 June, 18 September, 13 November

Circuit/Deanery Meeting 12 June

Woodland Burial Trustees - AGM 31 May at 5pm

Mission Group Meeting –4 June 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way.

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–

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

Pentecost

Opening Verse 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 —

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 2: 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 Reading - 1 Cor12: 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**)

Gospel 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 word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymns and Psalms)

1. O breath of life 777 (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) 281 5. Head of thy church 316 (Tune Fulda)

Commentary

Our Gospel reading reminds us again of the events on the evening of Easter Day. We are told that the disciples had locked themselves away but still Jesus came to them to comfort and challenge them. Comfort by showing that He was truly risen from the dead and that He still cared for them and for their well-being. He came at a time of great fear and confusion. What had really happened and why did it happen? Was He really dead or fully alive?. How should they approach Him? What could they say to Him? And the challenge? "As my Father sent me, so I send you". They are told not to hide away but to get out and face the world, the world that had rejected Him and by connection, they thought them as well. But not only get out and about but continue doing the work that He had been doing for the past three years, forgiving sins. We know that this was the basis of Jesus' healing ministry, not only of the body but of the mind also. Forgive the sinner and the physical problems are cured. And they were not alone in this work for Jesus gave them the Holy Spirit to be their helpmeet.

As they gathered on the day of Pentecost, forty days after the Gospel narrative, so the mighty force of the Holy Spirit swept through the room where they were gathered and they were transformed. Changed from people fearful and timid to ones who could face the world. Changed from tongue-tied individuals to a group of people proclaiming the wonders that Jesus had done and how He was put to death and rose again. And all this by fishermen and public officials who spoke in languages that everyone could understand no matter where they originated from.

Oh they were laughed at and accused of being either drunk, mad or possessed of evil spirits. It wasn't possible for these ignorant Galileans to be able to talk like this unless these accusations were true. But now Peter really shows his colours, the same Peter who six weeks before had denied knowing Jesus now stood up and proclaimed Him Lord. The effect of the gift of the Holy Spirit was plain to see in the lives of the disciples and also the early members of the young church who, Luke tells us, spent their time in learning, praying, caring and sharing the possessions they had between themselves and others so that the church grew and prospered.

When Paul writes his letter of encouragement to the church at Corinth, he reminds them of what the Holy Spirit has done. He tells them that it has given all types of gifts to those that will receive them and he lists them and reminds them to rejoice in the very diversity of those gifts. Not everyone possesses all of the gifts and if we are blessed with a gift we must use it wisely and well and to the glory of Him who gives it. Who are we to try to prioritise or categorise the gifts of the spirit? Who are we to say whether one is more important than another? It is the very diversity of those gifts that make them so wonderful, so powerful and so special. Not only must we learn to make good use of the gift or gifts that we each have but we must learn to work in harmony with each other to ensure that the multiplicity of those gifts when used together are more than the sum of the individual elements. We now call it synergy.

This is when a Christian community finds its strength to evangelise, to reach out to a world in need. This is what the young church found after the coming of the Holy Spirit at that first Pentecost. To do that in our modern world is to offer it a purpose that seems to be sadly lacking in today's society. An article in the Times newspaper on Thursday last showed how the attendance at various denominations of the Christian church had declined over the last few years and how, if the decline continued at the same rate, how attendances would look in the year 2050. It makes for very disturbing reading. When will the wake-up call be sounded? Who has the courage to stand up and make it? If the church doesn't, then no one else will. By coincidence, this year Pentecost is at the same time as the start of Christian Aid week. Unfortunately, the amount collected seems to be reducing year on year and that cannot be solely due to the economic situation. Is it apathy from the public or are we not getting the message across? Is it that as a nation we do

not care about the plight of people less fortunate than ourselves in this and other countries? The current natural disaster in Myanmar, or Burma as we knew it, highlights the problem of getting aid to those in desperate need. Perhaps Christian Aid is not only about money but finding a practical way in which those gifts, so freely given by the Holy Spirit can be utilised for the good of the whole world. Perhaps then the world might see what the people of Jerusalem saw 2000 years ago, a determined group of people, inspired and ready to set the world ablaze. **Alan Davis.**

Meditation

There is a phrase "God has no grandchildren." It means that our faith is about something which happened long ago and which is passed down the generations. It is true that we all pass on to our children our best understanding of what our faith is about, but ultimately it is down to each one of us to know **afresh** what it means to be born of God. Each generation is to come to know the presence of the same Holy Spirit which empowered those first disciples. We are all God's children.

This is important, for as Jesus came to those first disciples and forgave their weaknesses and failures, so we must know afresh that we have a saviour who does not accuse us or remember our betrayals. As we meet with the risen Christ, so we too hear those beautiful words, "Peace be with you." The past, with all its regrets and missteps, 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' rejoicing. 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.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Lord Jesus we remember that in your life, you sided with the poor, the weak, the sick and those who felt unloved and unwanted. You gave hope where there was despair and you restored even those who had given up all hope of healing. You proclaimed forgiveness to those who nailed you to a cross.

This Pentecost we pray that the Holy Spirit which was upon you, would dwell in us also. We long to know that same power of love, which transcends human weakness and which allows us to live in peace and unity, as children of the same heavenly Father.

Lord Jesus, we remember that the first disciples were frightened, yet at Pentecost you changed things dramatically. You gave your Holy Spirit to empower them. A frightened and discouraged community of believers suddenly received the power to live up to your calling for them.

May that same power enliven us today. May the fire of your Spirit warm our hearts and inspire us with fresh vision. This Pentecost, we long for your Holy Spirit to empower us to work for your agenda of liberation. May forgiveness be proclaimed to those who are bound in guilt and fear. We pray that those whose lives are broken and hurting would be restored.

Forgive our inertia to help the poor the poor, the captive, the dispossessed, and the imprisoned. This Pentecost, we pray for your church to be faithful in it's action and witness. Give us the will and supply to us the gifts we need to develop communities of good news in the midst of the despair and inequity, the injustice of global capitalism and military terror.

Lord Jesus, you seek for workers to send out into the harvest, send us. We ask this not because we have any strength or merit of our own, simply because we wish to be used in your service and we trust in your promise that you will supply our weakness with your strength .

Come Holy Spirit. Come as wind, to fan the embers of our faith. Empower us to speak and to act so that we will never be content until those in need have been satisfied.

Lord Jesus we remember that the Apostle Paul was struck blind so that his sight could become clear. We confess that so often we, like Paul, lack clarity of spiritual vision. We see things from our own cultural perspective and imagine that things are from you, simply because we have grown up believing certain things become accustomed to them. We pray for your Holy Spirit to change us and remake us, in the ways that you would have us be.

St Mark's Church Council. There will be a brief meeting of the St Mark's Church Council after the Sunday morning service this week. This is necessary to discuss proposals for the refurbishment of the hall and foyer. Your attendance would be appreciated for just a short period. There are currently proposals to extend the foyer further out into the current porch, and to extend the office out into the foyer. Essentially this means we get more office and more foyer, but less porch. To alleviate this our architect John Creasey is designing a much larger porch, to match the existing porches over the chapel, and extension, harmonising the overall appearance of the church. We do not have the money to do this but we need to plan for it now! The foyer has been marked this morning to show the new office. The foyer will be extended to the existing porch.

Christian Aid Week 11-17th May. If you are willing to help with this door to door collection in Brickhill please sign the form in the foyer at St. Mark's or let the office know. Envelopes etc will be available for collection on Sunday 4th May.

Table Top Sale on Saturday 28 June in the afternoon in aid of Church Funds. If you could help with organizing and running this event please see Joan or Liz.

1st Putnoe Brownies celebrate their 50th anniversary on 21 June. If you know anyone who has connections with the group please contact Sharon Tanner on 01767699399 or email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk

TNT next meet Sunday 11 May at 2.30pm at Priory Country Park for a cycle ride to the Danish Camp at Willington. We welcome anyone to join us for the ride or meet us there for tea.

Future Dates for your diary. 'The partnership Summer Musical Workshops !!! 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 follow later.

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust The AGM of the Woodland Burial Trust will be held on 31st May at 5pm in St Mark's church.

Belief Course Details and application forms for the following courses are available from the Church Office: "**Improving Your Powerpoint**". 28th June 10.00am –1.00 pm, Christ Church, Denmark St £24.00. "**Why there almost certainly is a God**". 3rd Dec. 7.45 - 9.30pm, Priory Methodist Church, £5.00. "A bit of Church History!". 3rd, 10th, 17th,

24th, September. 7.30pm St. Luke's United Church. Free. "**Making Sense of Scripture**" 27th September 10.00—1.00 pm. St Andrew's Church. £15.00.

Park Road Church is having a Zimbabwe Evening in aid of the Wadzanai Methodist Church in Zimbabwe which is the home Church of one of their members. This is on Saturday May 17th May at 7.30. There will be a sample of Zimbabwean food to taste but the main buffet will be English. Tickets are £3 and can be ordered from Jenny Clifford on 404644

Don't forget our Moody and Sankey Evening on 18th May at 6.30pm when we're hoping to have "Wall to Wall" singing. Get your request in to Maurice Drage on 01234 352909.

Thank You. To all of those who helped with the car boot sale last week. It was a great success and raised £1350. Even after deducting expenses this will be a handsome profit.

Doctor Who caught the attention of church leaders, who are encouraging clergy to study the science fiction series to learn about its religious parallels. They have been urged to use examples from the programme in their sermons in an attempt to make Christianity more relevant to teenagers. At a conference last week, vicars watched Doctor Who clips that were said to illustrate themes of resurrection, redemption and evil. It analysed the similarities between the Doctor and Christ, and whether Daleks are capable of change. Although an atheist, Russell T Davies, the chief writer of the current series has previously acknowledged the benefits of religion.

"I think religion is a very primal instinct within humans, a very good one, part of our imagination," he said. Clergy looked at several episodes that could have religious meaning. Examples highlighted for their symbolism included the Doctor ascending with angels, Rose Tyler inspired by a vision and Daleks terrorising mankind. The Tardis was considered to represent a Church by being an ordinary object that points to something higher while the Doctor was likened to Christ in his willingness to sacrifice himself for others. The Rt Rev Tony Porter, Bishop of Sherwood, said it was vital that clergy adapt to the culture around them. The Church of England said: "Drawing spiritual parallels with aspects of contemporary culture is meat and drink to anyone with a vocation to make the good news of the Gospel known afresh in every generation. Doctor Who is a good example. "When you make the right external connections, the internal effect, like the inside of the Tardis, can be much bigger."

St John's Hospice Avril Williams and Trudy Bunday are taking part in a sponsored midnight walk for women, in Bedford over a distance of 10 miles on Saturday 17 May. All monies going to our local adult hospice – St John's, Moggerhanger. Sponsorship of any amount would be greatly appreciated. Prepare to be approached!

Grass Cutting. St Mark's has access to a very good mower, kept in the Vicarage garage. If you would care to help cut the grass please sign up on the rota in the foyer. It takes about one hour.

Ecumenical Forum. Wendy Waters from St Mark's has kindly offered to give a lift to anyone wishing to attend the Ecumenical Forum in Barton on 22nd May. This promises to be a fascinating evening. Please give Wendy a call on Bedford 401834.

I was sick and you visited me... There is an elderly gentleman in hospital in South wing with a broken leg. He has been a long time friend of St Mark's and a Brickhill resident. He has no family in this country and so has few visitors. Would you be prepared to visit him and perhaps help him a little at meal times with his food, this would help in his recovery.

Footprints: There is a walk this afternoon in the Castle Ashby area. Though the full walk is 6.5 miles, it will be split into smaller chunks for those not wishing to complete the full distance. There are varied paths over fields, farm tracks, and a river bank, as well as quiet country roads. Please meet at 2.30pm in the grassed car park in the village for the Castle Ashby gardens and shops. For more information please contact Barry or Jenny Snelson on 344417.

Hymns for Sunday

*Spirit of God, as strong as the wind,
Gentle as is the dove,
Give us your joy, and give us your peace,
Show to us Jesus' love.*

You inspired men, long, long ago,
They then proclaimed your word;
We see their lives, serving mankind:
Through them your voice is heard.

Without your help, we fail our Lord,
We cannot live His way,
We need your power, we need your strength,
Following Christ each day.

*Spirit of holiness, wisdom and faithfulness,
wind of the Lord, blowing strongly and free:
strength of our serving and joy of our
worshipping-
Spirit of God, bring your fullness to me!*

You came to interpret and teach us effectively
all that the Saviour has spoken and done;
to glorify Jesus is all your activity-
promise and gift of the Father and Son:

You came with your gifts
to supply all our poverty,
pouring your love on the church in her need;
you came with your fruit
for our growth to maturity,
richly refreshing the souls that you feed:

You came to the world in its pride and futility,
warning of dangers, directing us home;
now with us and in us,
we welcome your company;
Spirit of Christ, in his name you have come:

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.

Edgar York

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

Rest in Peace

The funeral of Miss Angela Kiff
will take place at Bedford
Crematorium on Tuesday 20 May
at 11.30am *Royden*

**The funeral of Mrs Eileen may
Joel** will take place at Bedford
Crematorium on Friday 16 May at
1.45pm *Royden*

