



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

13 May- Easter 6



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 13 May

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

20 May – Easter 7

9.39am St. Mark's - Holy Communion
Preacher – Revd. Peter Littleford
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Bank
Intercessions - Mr. Ian Farthing
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion
Preacher – Revd. Peter Littleford
Leadership - A.N. Other
Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen

Please note change of readings next week

Bible Readings 1.

1. Psalm 1 2. Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26 3. John 17: 6-19

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 Warwick and Alison Holden to celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

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

Welcome

We welcome this morning the family of Warwick and Alison Holden who will be renewing their wedding vows and celebrating their ruby wedding anniversary.

We also welcome the friends and family of Daisy Mae Lovejoy who has been brought for baptism.

Christian Aid Prayer for the Week

God of love, we praise you
for calling us friends, and giving us all we need to flourish: a world of beauty and diversity, the knowledge to sustain it, and the capacity to love one another. May we learn from all whose friendship helps others to flourish; and may our bonds of friendship reflect the love that you have revealed among us.

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.ThisChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 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 23 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 6

Opening Verse of Scripture .Psalm 51:17
The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart he will not despise.

Collect Prayer for the Day —

Before we read we pray

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

Common Worship Shorter Collect

First Bible Reading Acts 10:44-48

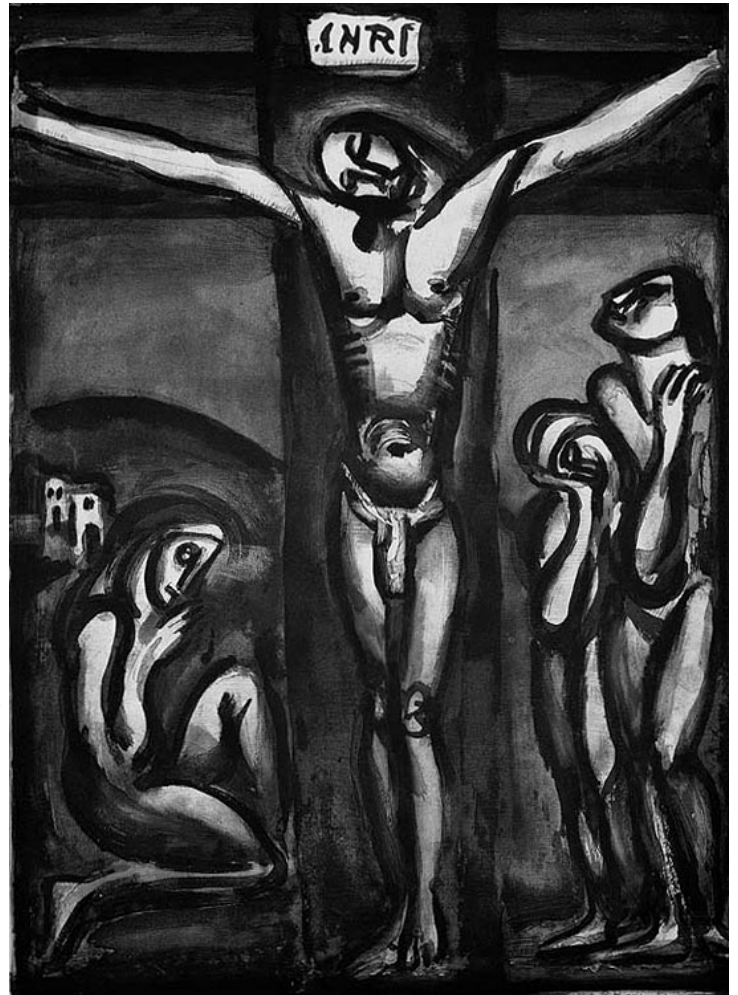
While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days. (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ, is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the one who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord – **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other. (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord- **All: Thanks be to God**)



Georges Rouault, *Crucifixion*, 1937

What more can God do for us to show us his love?
What more must God do to convince us?
We did not love God first, rather, God loved us first
and Jesus is proof of God's love for us – if we have
any doubts. The real issue is: since God already loves
us and has given such powerful evidence of that love,
what should we do to show we got the message?

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness,

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise, baptism at St Mark's)

1. Alleluia, Alleluia 30
2. As the deer pants 37
3. It passeth knowledge 349
4. I want to walk with Jesus Christ 302
5. God is love 187

Commentary

This is some of what William Barclay has to say about the gospel reading - "The central words of this passage are the words in which Jesus says His disciples have not chosen Him, but He has chosen them. It is not we who have chosen God, but God who, in His grace, approached us with a call and an offer made out of His love.

1 We are chosen for joy. However hard the Christian way is, it is, both in the travelling and in the goal, the way of joy. There is always a joy in doing the right thing. When we have evaded some duty or some task, when at last we set our hand on it, joy comes to us. The Christian is the man of joy; The Christian is the laughing cavalier of Christ. A gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms, and nothing in all religious history has done Christianity more harm than its connection with black clothes and long faces. It is true that the Christian is a sinner, but he is a redeemed sinner; and therein lies his joy. How can any man fail to be happy when he walks the ways of life with Jesus?"

2 We are chosen for love. We are sent out into the world to love one another. Sometimes we live as if we were sent into the world to compete with one another, or to dispute with one another, or even to quarrel with one another. But the Christian is sent into the world to live in such a way that he shows what is meant by loving his fellow men". 1 Corinthians 13, verses 4-7, gives us an idea of what that can mean.

3 Jesus called us to be His friends. He tells His men that He does not call them slaves, *douloi*, any more; He calls them friends. Now that is a saying which would be even greater to those who heard it for the first time than it is to us. The title *doulos*, the slave, the servant of God was no title of shame; it was indeed a title of the highest honour. The greatest men in the past have been proud to be called the *douloi* of God. And Jesus says; "I have something greater for you yet; you are no longer slaves; you are friends." The offer of Christ is a blessedness which not even the greatest men knew before He came into the world; He offers an intimacy with God which was impossible before His coming. Jesus calls us to be His friends and the friends of God. That is a tremendous offer. It means that no longer do we need to gaze lovingly at God from afar off; we are not like slaves who have no right whatever to enter into the presence of the master; we are not like a crowd whose only glimpse of the king is in the passing on some state occasion when, if we tried to come nearer, we would promptly be arrested. Jesus did the amazing thing - He gave us this intimacy with God, so that God is no longer a distant stranger, but our intimate friend."

And everyone is called . Paul tells us that Christ died even for the ungodly, for sinners and for enemies. John 3 v16 reminds us that "God so loved the world.....that everyone who believes should have eternal life." The reading from Acts has the Jewish believers being amazed when Gentiles became Christians. It was a real shock to them to realize that God cared as much about the Gentiles as he did for them. Clearly the ceremonial law was quite secondary—and wrong when it excluded Gentiles. We are to set before the whole world a revelation of Christ in the love that marks his community—that can be what people see even in us !

P.S. William Barclay wrote in 1960. Today we use much more inclusive language ! Richard Ledger

Meditation Because

Because he emptied himself of all but love, you can be filled. Because his body was broken, your life can be whole. Because his blood was shed, your sins can be forgiven. Because he submitted to injustice, you can forgive. Because he finished his Father's work, your life has worth. Because he was forsaken, you can never be alone. Because he was buried, you can be raised. Because he lives, you don't have to be afraid. Because he reached down to you, you don't have to work your way up to him. Because his promises are always true, you can have hope. *Anna Reid.*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Gracious God, who bids us to love one another. May we listen to the voices of all who speak out for a more loving world; inspire us to gifts of love and friendship; sustain us when we stand together for change; and transform our offerings so that we become a part of the miracle of your love. Christian Aid

O Lord, ruler of the world, even while the earth was without form you were King and you will still reign when all things are brought to an end. You are supreme and you will never be equalled. You are power and might: there is neither beginning nor end in you. Amen. *Jewish prayer*

Jesus , our Lord, we praise you that nothing could keep you dead in the grave. You are stronger than death and the devil. Help us to remember that there is nothing to be afraid of, because you are alive and by our side. Amen

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word. May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and a strength to our lives. Take us and use us to love and serve all men in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *ASB 1980*

Lord of the Universe look in love upon your people. Pour the healing oil of your compassion on a world that is wounded and dying. Send us out in search of the lost, to comfort the afflicted, to bind up the broken, and to free those trapped under the rubble of their fallen dreams. Amen.

Sheila Cassidy

Almighty God and most merciful Father, who has given us a new commandment that we should love one another, give us also grace that we may fulfil it. Make us gentle, courteous and forbearing. Direct our lives so that we may look to the good of other in word and deed. And hallow all our friendships by the blessing of your Spirit, for his sake who loved us and gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Bishop Westcott 19th century*

A Hymn requested by Warwick and Alison on the occasion of the renewal of their weddings on their ruby wedding anniversary.

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|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Hills of the north, rejoice;
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing:
though absent long, your Lord is nigh;
he judgement brings and victory. | 3 | Lands of the east, awake,
soon shall your sons be free;
the sleep of ages break,
and rise to liberty.
On your far hills, long cold and grey,
has dawned the everlasting day. |
| 2 | Isles of the southern seas,
deep in your coral caves
pent be each warring breeze,
lulled be your restless waves:
he comes to reign with boundless sway,
and make your wastes his great highway. | 4 | Shores of the utmost west,
ye that have waited long,
unvisited, unblest,
break forth to swelling song;
high raise the note, that Jesus died,
yet lives and reigns, the Crucified. |
| | | 5 | Shout, while ye journey home;
songs be in every mouth;
lo, from the north we come,
from east and west and south.
city of God, the bond are free
we come to live and reign in thee! |



St Albans Woodland Burial

Many thanks to all of those who helped at the Open Day on Saturday. It was great weather which made the day really enjoyable. The latest edition of the friends newsletter is now available. It can be downloaded from the website www.woodlandburialtrust.com and paper copies are also available from the churches.

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

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 6 and May 13. Contacts for more information are: Carolyn Morris, Putnoe Heights and Jean Bank, St Marks.

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

Bedford Town Band Diamond Jubilee Celebration concert held at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Ave., on Saturday 2 June at 7.30pm. All are very welcome. Tickets are £7 & £8 and available from John Lingings on 01234 306676, Frescoes Coffee House in Mill Street, The Central Box Office, Bedford 01234 269519 or at the door at Priory on the night. Come and enjoy an emotion stirring evening with a traditional English Brass Band.



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.

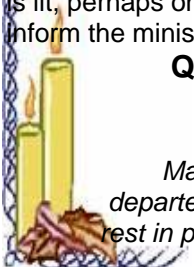
Prior to our Lord's Ascension He commanded his Apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. At this service on the Sunday between the Ascension of Jesus and the day of Pentecost, the theme of the service will be 'Waiting for the Spirit'. This date is also the anniversary 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)

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.

**Quentin John Lewis
Edgar York**

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 Daniel Frederick Joseph Barratt will take place at 3.15p.m. on Friday 18 May at the Crematorium

The funeral of Philip Purvis Gilbert will take place at 10.0a.m.on Friday 25 May at the Crematorium

The funeral of Alan Haylock will take place at 2.30p.m.on Friday 25 May at the Crematorium

The funeral of Agnes Kathleen Sheridan will take place at 12.15p.m. on Monday 28 May at the Crematorium

Mission Action Planning

The following is a first draft of outcomes of our Mission Action Planning. Please think about it and discuss it in groups and it will eventually be brought to church councils. If you have any thought please speak with the ministers or a member of the Church Leadership Team. Special thanks to Sam for guiding the process and drawing together this document.

Three things about our parish and the world

1. The population is increasingly aging and this is reflected in the age profile of the catchment area of our Partnership churches. Society is changing and people are attending church less as they disengage in general with organized activities. This can lead to feelings of isolation for some individuals, especially the older generation. We need to ensure we meet the needs of the people in our community whilst always looking for ways to increase our engagement with the younger generation and families.

2. Engaging with young families often happens outside the routine of Sunday Services given other pressures on their weekend time. Many of these people are concerned about unemployment and the current economic uncertainty.

3. Through our weekly activities we engage with a significant number of people from many diverse elements of the community around the Partnership churches. This gives us an opportunity to encounter people with a wide range of both capabilities and also needs.

Three things about our church

1. We are seen as an open and welcoming church with strong community links and involvement. Many people are regularly involved in supporting activities as willing volunteers. This engagement with the wider community is also reflected in our strong sense of home and overseas mission support.

2. Through our website, and communications such as the weekly Partnership News and other activities, we increasingly operate and are seen as a global 'church without walls'. This gives opportunities to meet with people from all backgrounds and ages face to face; children, mothers, fathers, grandparents, careers, single people, people in relationships, married, divorced, bereaved, the older generation and many more. Via our web presence, we interact with an even wider range of people who meet us in the virtual world.

3. We are a caring church with strong pastoral support provision and mission ethos. Our pastoral support reflects the social dynamics of the catchment area of the partnership churches. We are meeting an increasing diversity of people through our weekly activities, all of whom we need to care for and demonstrate God's love to them, irrespective of their circumstances or background. Our commitment to meet the needs of others less fortunate than ourselves is reflected in our sustained focus on home and overseas mission.

Our vision

To be acknowledged as Partnership Churches where all are welcome, the living Christ can be encountered and worshipped. As a people of God, we are seen to reflect his glory in the world through the manner in which we engage with, support, and care for the broader global

community in which we live. In so doing, all who encounter the Partnership Churches in our worship, mission and weekly activities are encouraged, equipped and enabled to realise their true and transformed God given potential.

Three priorities

1. To enable and empower the church and its people in the community through worship, mission and service as we go out into the community
2. To enable and empower the community and its people in the church through wider community involvement and use of the church plant and buildings as they come into the church
3. To be responsible stewards of God's church and resources to ensure all our activities are properly financed, resourced, and empowered as we engage with God in his transforming work of redeeming his people and all creation through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Five goals

1. Enable spiritual growth through offering variety, depth and breadth in our teaching, preaching and worship and in the manner in which all people who touch our churches can encounter Jesus. This includes not only our Sunday worship but activities such as Messy Church, Story Box, Open House; our community engagement in homes such as Anjulita Court, Highfield; and the broader activities which take place in the church buildings. Introducing an occasional evening service with various formats will be evaluated and expanded by December 2012.
2. To reflect God's glory in society by our engagement in the community by ensuring we are maximizing the potential of the Partnership churches plant and buildings for community use, continually evaluating opportunities for further service and interaction on an ongoing basis.
3. To renew and update our welcome areas and booklets to better reflect and communicate the work in which we are engaged, both to those people in our church and to our many visitors. As part of this revision process we will evaluate regular distribution of literature regarding the church and its activities across the Partnership Churches community and catchment area and the use of social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter by September 2012
4. To continually strengthen our strong pastoral support to the older generation and to those who encounter the church through the occasional services such as baptism, weddings and funerals, and to the younger generation of parents and families through our regular activities. To maintain our focus on home and overseas mission and to launch the annual autumn mission project in 2012.
5. To further strengthen links between the churches and to encourage and give opportunity for everyone in the Partnership to develop and use their talents. Ensure that all we engage in across the Partnership, both now and in the future, is properly resourced by a wide and diverse body of people who have much to offer God and all his creation as we engage in his redeeming, working together to expand his Kingdom. This will be reviewed by the Leadership teams on a bi-annual basis with recommendations being out to the church councils as appropriate.