



Partnership News

14 February 2010



Sunday next before Lent

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Reverend Anne Brown
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions – Mr I Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship

Preacher – Reverend Anne Brown
Leadership — Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions -Dr Tim Wilkes

21 February 2010
First Sunday of Lent

9.30am St. Mark's – Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions – Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion

Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership –Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions – Mr Eddy Peck

Readings 1.Deut 26: 1-11 2. Rom 10:8b-13
3.Luke 4:1-13

Thank You

The flowers at St. Mark's this week have been given by Judith Griffiths in loving memory of her husband on his birthday.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Deborah & Kevin Wallace in loving memory of their son Billy, and treasured memories of Deborah's sister, Michal Smith.

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

Let the organ thunder,
let the building quake.
Filled with awe and wonder,
let the people wake.
Fling the door wide open,
welcome rich and poor.
Through our praise and worship
let us love, adore.

Andrew E Pratt (born 1948)

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)

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

Any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and will be publicly available to newspapers etc. When you submit copy, please tell us if you do not want information circulated more widely.

Partnership News is 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 Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349

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 Delia Shephard 273628
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 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's
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.
- 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 J Birks ☎219607
- 12.00pm 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. Liz ☎ 302349
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's. David Fowler ☎ 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 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 or 07881730747
- 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 ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting February 15 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 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 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** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting February 16 'Tea and Chat ' Betty Wyatt ☎ 350188. **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 Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting February 23. Details from 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.
- 9.00am 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
- 10am U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month.
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 17 February Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 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** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
- 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 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 Janice Loxley ☎ 347073
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 17 February 2010 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details
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 for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424 .
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 group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070
 11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.
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 01234 363283
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St.Mark's ☎267444
1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741
4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094
7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julie Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397
9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183
5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468
2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton ☎297138 or 07910835994
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. 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
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. Please see Liz ☎302349 .

Please note

Putnoe Heights Church Council
 this Monday 7.30pm
 all welcome to attend



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – Tuesday 22 June 2010
 Monday 8 November 2010
St Mark's Leadership Team –
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 24 May
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 16 Mar 2010,
Putnoe Church Council - 15 February
Pastoral Group Meeting - 20 April at 4.30pm
Churchyard Committee - 24 February at 11am
Putnoe Heights Mission Group—
Partnership Council—TBA
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings
Deanery Meeting
Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting Feb 23rd 7.30pm at St. Mark's.
Circuit Meeting 8 March at Oakley
Woodland Burial Trustees – Sunday 21st March
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Sunday next before Lent

Theme today 'Awe and Wonder'

Opening Verse of Scripture - .Psalm 99

The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name-- he is holy.

Collect Prayer for the Day -

Before we read we pray

Almighty Father, God of grace and goodness, awaken us to your glory, that our lives may reflect your radiance, that we may share in your likeness, and in walking the way of Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Collect from David Adam "Glimpses of Glory" for Sunday before Lent Year C*



Icon installed in the new Transfiguration Chapel at St John's Church Epping. Icon painted by Sr Irène-Marie OSB of the Bec community in Normandy

First Reading – Exodus 34:29-35

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai.

When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

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

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

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

Gospel Reading - Luke 9:28-36

About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to

fulfillment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father, who's Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of His glory, that He may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for He is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns - Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Morning Worship

- 1 Immortal, Invisible, God only wise 9 (*Tune St Denio*)
2. O happy day 702 (*Tune Festus*)
3. O worship the Lord 505 (*Tune Was Lesbet*)
4. My God how wonderful thou art 51 (*Tune Westminster Turle*)
5. Love Divine, all loves excelling 267 (*Tune Blaenwern*)

Commentary The links between the lectionary readings

In Exodus 34 God's glory is reflected on Moses' face as he speaks God's word to the people. Moses also spoke to God for the people. Luke tells us that Moses appeared in glory with Jesus at his transfiguration. Jesus' way of losing life to save it is his 'departure', his 'exodus'. This is the model to imitate, 'listen to him'. Jesus' dazzling appearance reveals him as the one who speaks for God and as the one who through suffering and death will ascend to be at God's right hand for us (see Acts 7.54-60).

Paul proclaims that God will also transfigure us, changing us all from perishable into imperishable people. Christ who died for our sins has been raised for us. And so, in 1 Corinthians 15.57, Paul can say, 'Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ'.

Old Testament Exodus 34.29-35

Moses entered the cloud on Mount Sinai and received from God the two tablets of the covenant. Returning to the camp he found the people worshipping the golden calf and he shattered the tablets. Moses then interceded with God, 'if I have found favour E consider too that this nation is your people'. The Lord renewed his promise to be with the people on their journey and granted Moses a vision of the divine glory. Moses was asked to 'cut two tablets of stone like the former ones', and the covenant was renewed. Coming down again from the mountain, the glory of God shines from Moses. He was fearful at the burning bush, and the people are fearful of his shining face. But Moses calls to them, as God had called to him. Moses comes out to speak God's words to the people, and he goes in to intercede with God for them.

New Testament 1 Corinthians 15.51-58

Paul has been considering with the Corinthians what it means to be made in the image of God. In chapter 15 he compares the first Adam, the first 'man of dust', with Christ, the last Adam, 'the second man from heaven'. Some of the congregation have misunderstood their calling, and, like the first Adam, have sought for themselves a superior status. This is the way of sin that can lead only to death. Paul has encouraged them in the way of love, following the last Adam who died for them and 'became a life-giving spirit'. This is the way of transfiguration, from the mortal to immortality. It is God's victory in us. For now, we are to 'be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord'.

Gospel Luke 9.28-36,(37-43)

Praying after his baptism, Jesus was named as God's Son and empowered by God's Spirit. Now he takes Peter, John and James to pray with him on a mountain, and the voice addresses them. Luke emphasises the impact Jesus' transfiguration has on the disciples. They 'saw his glory' and even 'entered the cloud'. With Jesus in glory, they see Moses and Elijah, who also were constant in prayer. Moses interceded for the people and God forgave them 'just as you have asked' (Numbers 14.20). Elijah prayed for a widow's dead son. 'The Lord listened to the voice of Elijah: the life of the child came into him again' (1 Kings 17.22). For

both men their mediation between God and the people cost them much suffering and gained them great glory. Moses came down from the mountain with his face radiant, Elijah 'ascended in a whirlwind into heaven' (2 Kings 2.11). They can talk with Jesus about his death and 'departure' (exodus) in Jerusalem. Jesus, the man of prayer, is the radiant glory of God: 'listen to him'. (On the next day the disciples still belong to a 'faithless and perverse generation'. They have not yet realised that it is by trusting God that humanity is healed.

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Meditation

'God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illuminated by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason.'

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

God, let the light which shines from the crucified and risen Christ continue to have its effect in the darkness of human life.

Let his light be shed on the impossibilities of politics and economics, so that lives may be saved from the misery of starvation and hopelessness; so that bodies and spirits may not be broken anymore, by hatred and violence.

Give new vision, new commitment, new and strange humility to the politicians of our own country and the world.

Give them a vision of a world at peace, and such a yearning for it that it may be their chief desire to find the way to peace, with justice.

Deliver them from the temptation of imagining or pretending that they have all the answers, and help them to listen to each other and be open to fresh insight from each others' truth, discovering answers never dreamed of yet.

Give new vision, new commitment and new confidence to your people in the Church.

Keep us always open to truth from whatever source it comes and yet keep us true to the light we have in Christ, so that we may take our stand with him and share his sacrifice.

Sustain the faith of those among us who will go on asking, knocking, seeking until they receive and find and have the door opened to them into the fullness of your light. By their faithfulness bring this body to those mountain moments when it is transfigured and shines: its existence justified; its way ahead made clear and its hope in your promises restored.

Let the joy and certainty of every bright revelation encourage us when we struggle with doubt and fear; when we long to do good but find it hard to discern; when we are frustrated, disillusioned, bewildered by the apparent helplessness of good.

When the darkness of illness, pain and the shadow of death, take away our power: open our eyes to the healing, rescuing power of Jesus' resurrection.

Give us times of celebration and delight; give us triumphs of spirit; give us love that perseveres and sees your glory in unlikely places: so that we may find you and serve you in every human need, and discover your will for us in every true word and every good deed: until your purpose for us is complete and you are honoured as you ought to be everywhere, for ever.

Amen

Opening prayer for use in our worship

**God of glory and God of grace, source of life and maker of light,
whose beauty is beyond our imagining,
and whose power we cannot understand; we praise and adore you.
Let your light shine upon us now, revealing your glory and mercy and love,
that we may be lifted out of ourselves, into the light and joy of your presence
and worship you with our whole being.**

Home Groups Would you consider having a Homegroup meeting in your house this Lent? There are six sessions planned in the course, however you could do perhaps three and ask folks to do the others themselves at home? If you are interested then please speak with one of the ministers.

If you do not have time to visit a homegroup, then you can still participate by downloading the material from the Diocesan website www.stalbans.anglican.org

Lent Group led by Wendy Waters at 13 Farnham Way, Putnoe, 7.45pm on 22 February, 8 March and 22 March. Tel 401834.

St Mark's Card Stall. As the Wesley Owen shop has closed down we are having to seek an alternative source of suitable cards etc. In the meantime, please forgive the lack of choice.

Half term at Putnoe Monday 15 Feb. Storybox meets as usual between 12.00 and 1.00 followed by Storybox plus for the 5 - 10 age group between 1.15 and 2.45. All non -regulars welcome.

Putnoe Heights. Thank you to all those supporting our Emergency Relief Fund. £150 has been sent to the Haiti Earthquake Appeal plus £50 from other Mission funds, as part of the Partnership donation.

We have 150 Christian Aid count your blessings leaflets. These leaflets are a great way to think about what is important in life and help raise money for Christian Aid.

Fashion Show and Nearly New Sale. Putnoe Conservative Branch at Putnoe Heights Church Thursday 25 February at 7pm. Price £3.50.

Lent Reading. Sam has recommended two books for Lent reading this year

Tokens of Trust: Rowan Williams £9.99

God on Mute: Pete Greig £7.99

Don't forget both books can be ordered from Amazon via the church web site. As an alternative to reading a specific lent book why not try reading the same book of the bible each day through Lent. Some of Paul's shorter letters such as Philippians or Colossians are ideal for this, or even the letters of John which are even shorter. For the more ambitious there is always Hebrews or even Mark, the shortest gospel, or Luke the gospel of the current church year. Sam

Archbishop Rowan calls for dialogue

Christian relationships must not be further reduced to "vicious polemic and stony-faced litigation", the Archbishop of Canterbury urged in a powerful presidential address in which he took both sides of the Communion debate to task. "Trust one another

for your own good."

Ways had to be found to decide contested issues which did not "simply write off the others in the debate as negligible, spiritually un serious or without moral claims". Questions about the balance of liberties in society were "not best ad dressed in the megaphone tones we are all too used to hearing". Dr Williams drew parallels with national and international de bates on the Equality Bill and the ques-tion of assisted dying. The basic conflict in the former was "not between a systematic assault on Christian values by a godless government on the one side and a demand for licensed bigotry on the other".

The freedom of government to settle de bated moral questions for the diverse communities of civil society was not something that should be endorsed too rapidly; nor should those communities try to determine for the whole of society which legal freedoms should be granted to any particular category of people.

What mattered was government acknowledgement that there was "a boundary that is risky to cross with out creating ideological powers for the state that could be deeply dangerous for liberty in general".

As for the Anglican Communion and homosexuality, he reminded the Synod of the global impact of both the freedom claimed by the US Episcopal Church to ordain a partnered homosexual bishop and the anti-gay legislation in Africa. It was not, he insisted, a "simple plea for the sacrifice of the minority to the majority".

He once again defended the Covenant, as a means of holding the Communion together, though he accepted that it may create "a situation in which there are different levels of relationship between those claiming the name of Anglican".

But without what he called a "three-dimensional" view of one's opponents, people faced the prospect of being separated in the "zero-sum, self-congratulatory mode that some seem to be content with", and the "anxious, self-protective image that is so much in danger of entrenching itself in the popular mind as the typical Christian position".



OutCry Campaign

The only children in the UK who can be locked up indefinitely without the oversight of the courts and without having committed any crime are sons and

daughters of asylum seekers or migrants detained with their families. The Children's Society is pressing the government to change its policy to stop children being detained at places like Yarl's Wood. You can join the campaign at www.outsrycampaign.org.uk



President and Vice-President address General Synod

You may have been discouraged if you read articles recently such as that in the Church Times by Bishop Colin Buchanan stating that the Covenant relationship between the Church of England and the Methodist Church was of little use or worse. A much more positive statement was made this week by the Methodist President and Vice-President who affirmed their commitment to a covenant relationship with the Church of England



“We are prepared to be changed as a Church if that will serve the needs of the Kingdom.”

The President and the Vice-President of the Methodist Conference addressed the Church of England's General Synod last week, expressing the Methodist Church's commitment to a covenant relationship with the Church of England and answering questions from synod members in a discussion following their address.

Revd David Gamble and Dr Richard Vautrey said that the Covenant relationship was a “serious, deeply committed relationship” and “not an irrelevant extra”. They said that responses to the challenges of the Covenant should be driven by a desire for mission.

Revd David Gamble said: “Within God's overwhelming gracious covenant relationship with us and with our churches, we are in a covenant with each other. For better for worse, for richer for poorer, but always for the gospel.”

Dr Richard Vautrey talked about the work that the two Churches do together, referring to the Churches' joint action on climate change and support for the Citizens for Sanctuary campaign.

“We can and do work together on issues of social justice, on issues that we both know God calls on us to challenge our society and our world,” said Dr Vautrey. “There is more that we could and should be doing together. David and I have just come back from a visit to Israel/Palestine. There can be few other places in the world where the cries for justice and peace strike deeper in to the heart. We know that Archbishop Rowan is shortly to visit Israel, and perhaps on his return we should explore ways that we could jointly work to help Methodists and Anglicans to respond to the increasingly desperate cries for help coming from the Holy Land.”

Revd David Gamble posed the question of how the two Churches could respond to the challenges of the 21st century; a society of different faiths, cultures and histories.

“Methodists approach the Covenant with the Church of England in the spirituality of the Covenant prayer,” said Revd David Gamble. “So when we say to God ‘let me have all things let me have nothing’, we say it by extension to our partners in the Church of England as well. We are prepared to go out of existence not because we are declining or failing in mission, but for the sake of mission. In other words we are prepared to be changed and even to cease having a separate existence as a Church if that will serve the needs of the Kingdom.”

You can read the full text of this on our church website www.thisischurch.com

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.

**Nora May Seamer
Betty Zuckerman
Catherine Isobel Holdsworth
Michal Smith
Billy Wallace**

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

Lent Ash Wednesday Service

We will be holding our usual service for Ash Wednesday at St Mark's at 7.30pm. The service this year will take place in the Wren Room.



Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Mr Richard James Norman will take place at St Mark's Church on Monday 22 February at 11.00am in the chapel.