



Partnership News

17 January 2010



Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows

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 – Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows Service

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows Service

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions – Ministers

January 2010

Third Sunday after Epiphany

9.30am St. Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs Claire Peck
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship

Preacher – Mrs Claire Peck
Leadership – Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions – Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Readings 1.Neh 8: 1-3,5-6,8-10 2. 1 Cor 12:12
31a 3. Luke 4: 14-21

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church last week were given by Veta Hudson-Rae in memory of her parents and uncle, and by Gwen Beswick and family in memory of Peter.

The flowers at St. Mark's this week have been given by Barbara Joy in loving memory of Alan.

The flowers at St Mark's last week were given by May Dingwall in loving memory of her friend, Jean Wallis, on what would have been her 80th birthday

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

O God, our refuge and strength, we hold before you the nation and people of Haiti, and pray for healing in the midst of tragedy and devastation. Give comfort to the homeless, the bereaved and the suffering, courage to survivors, wisdom to those who seek to help, and light to all who live in the shadow of death. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our rock and our salvation. Amen. +Alan St Albans

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 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.

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 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
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 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 January 18 (Moorfields) 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

9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement
for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299

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 January 19 2010 Tea & 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 January 26 @poetry' Frank Batt
Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle
☎309043

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's
1st week 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. Contact Janet King 313946

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly.
Next - 20 January 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 20 January 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. Starts again on 14 January 2010 Emma Strangwick ☎211070
 11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.
12pm Storybox Restarts on 14 January 2010. 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. Mary Rich ☎272470 Next meeting 24 September
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. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550
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. Jackie Barr ☎395347

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
6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360
 6.30 - 7.30pm Ladies Kick Boxing weekly at St. Mark's. Parker Lake ☎07984427854
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 Tel 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 .

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council –
St Mark's Leadership Team – 19 January
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – , 8 Feb
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 18 Jan 7.45pm
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 Jan 2010,
Putnoe Church Council - 15 February
Pastoral Group Meeting - 19 January
Churchyard Committee - 26 January 2010, 11am
Putnoe Heights Mission Group—Weds 6th Jan at 14 Flint Way at 7.30pm
Partnership Council—TBA
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Deanery Meeting
Circuit/Treasurers Review meeting at St. Mark's
Circuit Meeting 8 March at Oakley
Woodland Burial Trustees – Sunday 21st March
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 18th Jan

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

Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows

Opening Verses of Scripture –Ps 36 v 5, 6

Your love, O lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.

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

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Bible Reading from the Law–Exodus 24:3-11

When Moses went and told the people all the Lord's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

(Reader: For the wisdom that guides us - **All: We praise you, O God**)

Second Reading from the Prophets - Jeremiah 31: 31-34

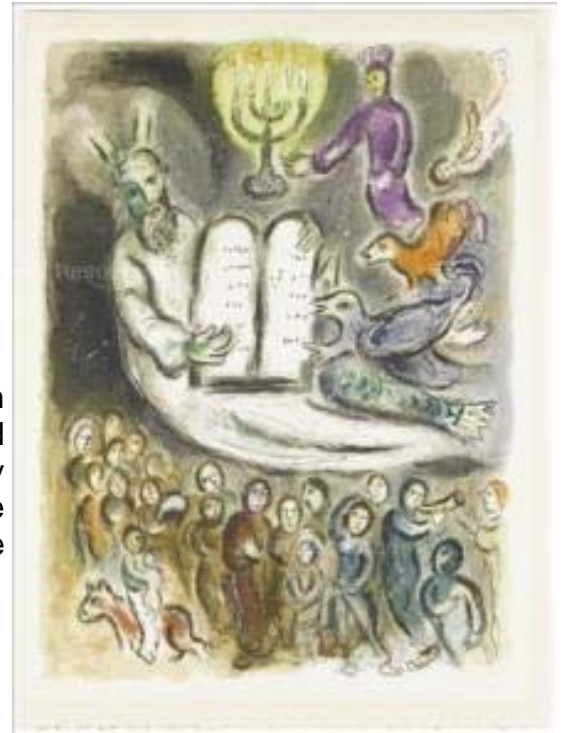
"The time is coming," declares the LORD "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

(Reader: For the word that inspires us -- **All: We praise you, O God**)

Third Reading from the Epistles Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

(Reader: For the truth that enlightens us - **All: We praise you O God**)



*Moses receives the
ten commandments
Marc Chagall 1966*

Gospel Reading - John 15: 1-10 *When announced* **All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**

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

(Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ- **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Meditation

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing;
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

In our culture we tend to prize our ability to make decisions and choose our own path in life. It can feel very hard to give that up. But this prayer is like a love poem. It is about surrendering to God in love and joy. And what God offers is a loving relationship. The Covenant is not a contract in which God and human beings agree to provide particular goods and services for each other! It is not something that we have to do to create a relationship with God. God has freely and graciously already made it possible. Rather, the Covenant is the means of grace by which we accept the relationship and then seek to sustain it. It is therefore not so much about getting in to a relationship with God as it is about staying in it. It is not about acquiring a relationship with God, but living within the loving relationship that God has already offered us. Wesley recognised that people needed not just to accept God's invitation to live in a relationship with Him but also to grow in that relationship with Him too. He therefore emphasised that God's grace and love constantly prompts and seeks to transform us, and so we should continually seek and pray to grow in holiness and love. www.methodist.org.uk

A Covenant Invitation

As a new year begins, many congregations around the world perform the Methodist Covenant Service, a practice that dates back to the movement's founder, John Wesley. On many occasions, he urged that an opportunity be provided for Methodists to make, or renew, their "covenant" with God. His first formal covenant service was held in 1755 at the French Church (borrowed for the occasion to accommodate large numbers), situated in the Spitalfields area of east London. Jesus' words in the gospel reading are a timely reminder that we have a covenant relationship with God through the grace of Jesus, not because of our activities and busyness. Moreover, Jesus goes on to say that anyone who does not accept the invitation to

remain and dwell in Him, so that He can remain and dwell in us, will be unfruitful. Our busyness and activity will lead to nothing unless we are empowered and directed by His life giving Spirit, constantly drawing upon the strength that He supplies through His abundant riches and love for each one of us. Paul, writing in Romans indicates that our commitment to God is no mindless acceptance of Christ and His ways, it's a conscious decision to dedicate our lives to the service of God and our fellow human beings. And as we live out that decision, we begin to conform more to the way of Christ and less to the way of the world, not through adherence to a set of principles we feel compelled to follow, but because through the renewing of our hearts and minds we are become new creations and have an increasingly different perspective on life.

It's very easy for us to see today's service, where we combine the Methodist Covenant Services with the renewal of baptism vows, as just about our service for God. The Covenant prayer which starts, 'I am no longer my own but yours', seems to emphasise that element of our Christian lives. But as we have seen, our covenant with God is not primarily about our service but about our relationship with Him. Out of His love for us and for no other reason, God calls us into a relationship with Him and invites us to share in His work as part of that loving relationship. Our service is therefore not so much about working out what we should be doing but about working out what God is doing and be being part of that flow. As Rowan Williams puts it in his book, 'Tokens of Trust', what we see in the bible is not a record of God who is always triumphantly getting His own way by doing miracles, but a God who gets His way by patiently struggling to make Himself clear to human beings, to make His love real to them, especially when they seem not to want to know, or want to avoid Him and retreat into their own fantasies about Him. We can only be truly used in His service if we let ourselves be truly loved by God and enter into a full and rich relationship with Him. The covenant service and the renewal of our baptism vows are an opportunity to review our relationship with God and within that context, our service with and for Him. Has our relationship with God and our service deepened over the last year or are we treading water? Do we want to expose ourselves to the full flow of His almighty love or do we feel safer when we control the flow ourselves? Do we want to live out what it really means when we pray, 'I am no longer my own but yours'.
Sam Cappleman

Hymns (Mission Praise and Covenant Service Booklets)

1. Guide me O thou great Jehovah 201
2. For I'm building a people of power, 151
3. Christ whose glory fills the skies 79
4. Take my life and let it be 624

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

O God, Searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *David Tripp*

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all that I have and possess. Thou hast given all to me. To Thee, O Lord, I return it all. All is Thine; dispose of it wholly according to Thy Will. Give me Thy love and Thy grace, for this is sufficient for me. For with these I am rich enough and desire nothing more. Amen *Ignatius of Loyola*

My Lord God I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen *Thomas Merton*

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

Telecare: It is extremely helpful to the Ministers to be able to have feed back, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down on the Telecare scheme, please do so

Footprints Walking Group You are warmly invited to join us for a delightful walk, on Sunday 17 January, of just over 3 miles to Renhold and back via the Howbury Hall estate. We will meet by the parish notice board in Asgard Drive near its junction with Norse Road, for a 2.00pm departure. Alison and Warwick Holden, 01234 403551 / 07710

Putnoe Heights Alarm System Would anyone having access to the Church Office please note that a new keypad has been installed : the entry procedure and alarm code are unchanged. Details of revised (simpler) exit procedure are available in the office. Lawrence W.

Martina Voraberger. Some of you may remember Martina, Time for God volunteer, when she did a placement with us. I have now heard from a friend of hers that Martina is getting married this summer and they are producing a "wedding newspaper". We have been invited to send any messages that we would like printed in the newspaper. If you would like to send a message please could you let me have them no later than the end of March. Wendy (St Mark's Church Office)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity The Bedford-Wide United Service this year will be held at St Paul's on Sunday 24 January at 6.30pm. The preacher will be the Rev. Geoffrey Colmer, who is the Regional Minister of the Central Baptist Association. Short Lunchtime Services are being held during the week at the following venues: Monday 18 January St John's, St John's Street. Tuesday 19 January St Joseph & the Holy Child, Midland Road. Wednesday 20 January St Peter de Merton, St Peter's Street. Thursday 21 January Friends Meeting House Lansdowne Road. Friday 22 January Salvation Army, Commercial Road. Monday 25 January Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue. All the services start at 12.30pm. Tea/coffee will be provided and you are encouraged to stay, bringing your own sandwiches if you wish. These services, too, will provide an excellent opportunity to have a chat with other Bedford Christians.

Bedford Deanery Synod. You are invited to St Andrew's Church on Thursday 4 February at 7.30pm to hear a presentation by Rev Canon Stephen Lake, Sub Dean of St Albans Abbey and Chairman of the Diocesan Liturgical Committee to listen to a presentation 'Transforming Worship.'

Methodists' New Year's Resolution - to cut carbon emissions by 10 per cent within a year
Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church, signed up to the 10:10 campaign yesterday on behalf of over 100 staff at Methodist Church House in London. Throughout 2010, staff will work to cut 10 per cent off the building's energy use. Martyn said: 'We begin to change the world when we change our lives and lifestyles. It is absolutely right, then, that as Christian disciples heeding God's command to be good stewards of the planet, and increasingly 'earth keepers' rather than 'earth eaters', we commit ourselves to joining the 10:10 campaign. Together we can make a small but significant change and express hope in God's future.' Using the principle of 'small actions, big difference,' office staff will be encouraged to switch off lights and computers when they are not in use. There will also be a travel survey, initiating a year-long challenge to look at travel patterns for work engagements in Britain and with partner churches worldwide.

Tamsin Omond, Faith Coordinator for the 10:10 campaign, said: "It is great to have the Methodist Church joining the initiative. Faith groups have recently had a strong voice on this issue and turning words into action is essential to tackle the global problem of climate change. All our personal actions reinforce the message to our governments regarding the scale of ambition that we expect from international agreements."

The wider Church is encouraged to join the campaign via www.1010uk.org.

Archbishop's message of support for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti

The Archbishop of Canterbury has given a message of support to the people of Haiti affected by the devastation caused by Tuesday's earthquake. "I am profoundly shocked and concerned to hear about the devastating earthquake in Haiti. As the news comes through, we are learning more about the tragic loss of life, injury suffered and terrible damage to the country. We stand alongside all the people in Haiti affected by this terrible disaster in prayer, thought and action as the situation unfolds. We pray for the rescue of those still trapped and look towards the rebuilding of lives and communities. I commend the swift action of the UK Government's Department for International Development and the relief agencies and churches in mobilising an emergency response. In this time of catastrophic loss and destruction, I urge the public to hold the people of Haiti in their prayers, and to give generously and urgently to funding appeals set up for relief work."

Those who wish to donate may do so through Christian Aid's Haiti Earthquake Appeal, <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/>

Appeal launched to help thousands struck by devastating Haiti earthquake

The Methodist Church in Britain has launched an emergency appeal and granted £20,000 in immediate aid to Haiti after a catastrophic earthquake rocked the Caribbean nation. Reports revealed that the 7.0-magnitude quake, the worst to hit the country in two centuries, tore down the HQ of the UN Mission, the presidential palace and thousands of homes in the space of a minute at 16.53 Haitian time and 21.53 GMT. Survivors used the micro-blogging site Twitter to report on the unfolding tragedy.

Revd Marcus Torchon, a Haitian Methodist minister serving in the Liverpool District on an exchange programme, said: "I am still waiting for news from family members who are missing. I managed to speak to my nephew after the quake happened, but since that phone call there were more than 10 after-shocks. Now the line is dead because the major phone networks are down.

"It is really destabilising emotionally. Practically, I would like to be of service to them. I feel that at some point I may have to go there when the airport is open. At the end of the day, we have nothing but our faith in God."

Revd Tom Quenet, Partnership Coordinator for the Americas and Caribbean, established contact with the President of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas at 3am GMT today. Tom said: "Following the damage caused by four successive hurricanes that hit the island in 2008, I fear that the people of Haiti will wake up to scenes of devastation, fear and loss of life."

Haiti's Methodist church is the largest membership district of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean & the Americas with 12,000 members. Tom Osbeck from aviation ministry Air Calvary said: "The buildings, homes, businesses and hospitals of Port-au-Prince are flattened. We stand outside and weep as we hear thousands of crying people. Thousands have died – many, many around our house."

David Carwell of Mission Aviation Fellowship said: "All kinds of things in our house shook and slid and came tumbling to the floor. There have been many aftershocks and tremors. They seem to be weakening, but I doubt if it's over yet."

The Methodist Church in Britain is appealing to people to make their response through the World Mission Fund while international relief agencies and governments work to bring relief to Haitians.

Donations can be made through the Just Giving webpage here: www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=1492 or by sending a cheque payable to the World Mission Fund and posting it to Dave Bennett, Fundraising Coordinator, at Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR.

Postal donations should be labelled 'Haiti Appeal'. Further information from Revd Tom Quenet or Carole Richmond, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR. Tel: 0207 486 5502

Further information from Revd Tom Quenet or Carole Richmond, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR. Tel: 0207 486 5502

Prayer for the People of Haiti

Powerful God who causes the power of the universe to create and destroy. We thank you for lives spared and miracles that have taken place in the devastated country of Haiti. Give us grace to live with the mystery of your power that at times like this leaves us confused, broken and shaken. We pray for the people of Haiti and ask that you will comfort the grieving and the injured. We are humbled by their confidence in you in times of trouble. May the embrace of compassion and humanity be a shelter and refuge.

May your word feed and nourish as the world brings relief and rebuilding.

We pray for the Rev Gesner Paul and the people of the Methodist Church in Haiti.

We ask that you will strengthen them as they work to bring relief and comfort to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

This day and every day, give us the will to listen to your voice and work together to heal broken lives, build destroyed homes and establish justice for all your people. Amen.

Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.

Charles Boness
Dorothy Earwaker

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



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Marlene Malins will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Monday 18 January 2010

A memorial service for Mrs Waters will take place at St Mark's Chapel on Wednesday 20 January at 3.00p

The funeral of Mrs Ovenden will take place at St Mark's Church at 2.00pm on Tuesday 19 January