



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

18 November
Ordinary 33



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 18 November–

9.30am St Mark's – Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Ministers

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Sunday 25 November

9.30 St Marks's – Morning Worship
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mr Barry Southam
Intercessions - Mrs Sam Ware

Readings 1 Daniel 7: 9-10 .2. Revelation 1: 4b –8
3. John 18: 33-37

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 Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mrs Jean Mc Kercher in memory of her dear husband Eric.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Myfanwy Mason in loving memory of her sister Margaret Alice.

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 on the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

And now, Serene Son of God,
whose will subdued the troubled waters
and led to rest the fears of the people,
let your majesty master us,
your power of calm control us;
that for our fears we have faith,
and for our disquietude perfect trust in you;
who live and govern all things,
world without end. Amen.

*John Wallace Suter (1890-1977),
Dean of Washington Cathedral*

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 Mills

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

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website
www.ThisChurch.com

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 342613

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. Jean Kirk 317699
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Morag Stewart 360103

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)

2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (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 . Restarts on 10 September

2.00pm U3A History Group St Mark's (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

66.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

Zumba - Explosion Fitness—Putnoe Heights - Sam Baptista 07402965490

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– 19 November Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

7.45pm Opus Choir at St Mark's Mrs Sutherland ☎269100

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 Skinner ☎07989080389

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 below)

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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (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.

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎0789187957

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker ☎07900 232648

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

Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting Jaffa Orchard. Details call Janet King 313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers

Workshop St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

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

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.(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)

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition—Putnoe Heights (contact details below)

11am U3A Keep Fit. - Putnoe Heights

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 21 November 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

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see details below)

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan

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 21 November. Wendy Waters /401834

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

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

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or ☎07910835994.

6-8pm 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. Sylvia Woods 365095

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 at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 21 November Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. 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 No meeting on 1 November.

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.

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

2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's. (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's 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 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 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 U3A Whist St Marks. (contact details below)

2pm U3A Italian—Putnoe Heights (contact details below)

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights

5-8pmStars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker ☎07900 232648

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 w.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's 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 Feb,11 June

St Mark's Leadership Team - 22 January

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 February

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 24 January

Putnoe Church Council - 19 February

Pastoral Group Meeting - 5 February

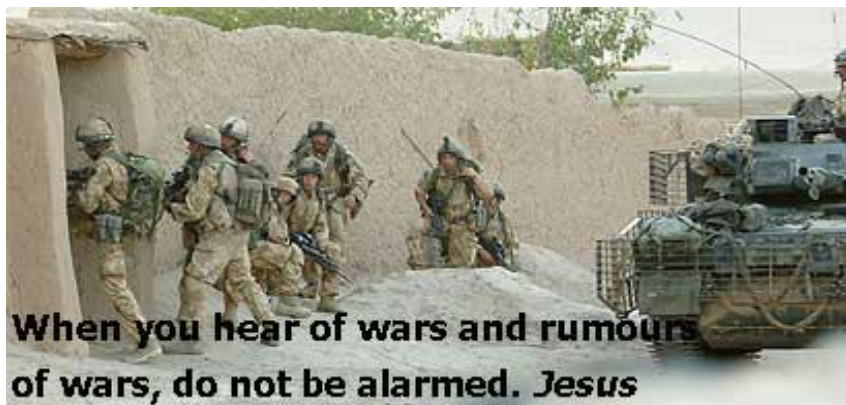
Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Ordinary 33

Opening Verse of Scripture - Psalm 1:1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.



Collect Prayer

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Common Worship

First Bible Reading –Daniel Chapter 12:1-3

At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

0(This is the word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - Hebrews Chapter 10:11-14, 19-25

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching

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

Gospel Reading - Mark 13: 1-8

When the reading is announced –**All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**

As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?" Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you not only with our lips but in our lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns *(Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Holy Communion)*

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Tune Austria 817

Through all our days we'll sing the praise Tune Greensleeves *(On Partnership News)*

Through all the changing scenes of life, Tune Wiltshire 73

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord: Tune Battle Hymn 242

Mediation

Just because people are religious does not mean that they are nice. The religious leaders at the time of Jesus were hell bent on killing him because he posed a threat to their power and wealth. Jesus wanted to bring down their entire religious system and was prepared to die in the process. Religion has always had the capacity to be extremely toxic and spread war and hatred. It's not that religion itself does this, it's just that as human beings we can use anything to perpetuate hatred. Those that have no religious faith can just as easily use ideology as a basis for death, seen across the world from Stalin in Russia to Pol Pot in Cambodia. But today Jesus wants to warn us specifically about religious people, not Markists. In the Gospel reading this week he warns us of those who come in his name seeking to deceive. 'Watch out' says Jesus, be on guard, most importantly be careful of those who speak pious words.

Commentary

Jesus must have wondered what on earth to do with his stupid disciples. Here they are in Jerusalem in the Gospel passage today behaving like spell bound tourists as they gaze at the wonder of the Temple building. We can perhaps understand that simple folk would be overwhelmed by the majesty of the temple. It would have been the most magnificent building they had seen by far. The Temple was twice the size of Solomon's temple, construction had begun before Jesus was born and every year Jewish people from all over the world were still contributing towards the enhancements which were made. The exterior was covered in marble and gold to ensure that it gave the appearance of suitable place for God to inhabit. However, Jesus needs his disciples to get beyond all of this. He has spent his time teaching them of the corruption and greed of the Jewish leaders and the system which they operated. Mark records that following the triumphal entrance into Jerusalem Jesus overturned the table of the money changers and those selling sacrificial offerings. Then he prophetically cursed the unfruitful fig tree which symbolised the temple. Such prophetic acts should have served to demonstrate the disgust which Jesus had for the Temple and all who supported the corruption of and exploitation of ordinary people. It was the religious authorities in Jerusalem who had promised to take Jesus' life and he knows that this is not time for a sightseeing tour. Not only is his death imminent but the very structures of Judaism and the temple itself are about to be destroyed.

The apocalyptic language which follows shows Jesus using words to paint a picture which describes the impending fall of Jerusalem and its temple. These words from Mark's Gospel have been described as a little apocalypse, in Revelation we see the full blown thing. They both use the genre of apocalyptic literature which was filled with mysterious signs, extravagant language, visions, cosmic events and descriptions of destruction. These are pictures and they truly say more than a thousand words.

Mark wrote at a time when these words would feel real to his listeners. The Roman Jewish War began in AD66 and there was war with Rome and tensions between the Jewish people themselves, such as the anger felt by the rebels towards priestly collaborators. Rome had problems itself with a political crisis involving several emperors in succession but in AD70 Vespasian's son Titus brought 60,000 soldiers who broke down the defences of the city and instigated an almost unimaginable bloodbath. Thousand were killed and the temple was burned down and eventually gradually sacked.

Jesus is giving to his disciples a warning that these things will come. Jesus has already predicted his passion and death and soon he will feel the cruel blows of those who, threatened by his teaching, want him silenced. They must not become beguiled by the opulence of the temple or imagine that it is anything less than the product of a corrupt system of exploitation. They must trust that destruction of all they hold dear will come and in spite of all that falls down around them they must continue to trust and believe that God is still in control.

There have been those who have seen in the words of Jesus messages about the end of the world. At different times in world history such people have opted out of society and taken themselves up mountains to look for the returning Jesus riding a cloud. However these words are not meant to be used like that. They are words of encouragement in a time of great distress and persecution for believers. Jesus tells them decisively 'Do Not Be Alarmed.' The message is one of hope, there is to be huge destruction but despite the temptation to believe God doesn't care, God does and he is with people. Appearances are deceptive, God can be trusted and believers should be encouraged and inspired.

The message for us is that we too in the face of whatever apocalypse we face, must continue to persevere, working with God to live in the way which Jesus showed. The words of Jesus teach us that we must not worry about or try to determine the "day and the hour" of his return. We trust that Christ will come and whenever that is it is for God to decide. In the meantime we do not throw down tools, rather we work to be Christ's living presence in the world.

Mark needed to convey to the church the fact that this was not unexpected, Jesus himself had warned that this would be the case, and so they should continue to trust. In our times we face our own trials and tests as we live out our Christian lives. Our commitment to Christ can cause us discomfort and even suffering. The gospel encourages Christians to remain strong and faithful during such times of duress and assures us that Jesus will be revealed as the real King and Lord of creation. Those who keep faith will come to a final vindication of all we trusted in – but did not yet see in our lifetimes. Meanwhile, the message that sustains us in our extravagant and poetic readings today is that Christ is faithful and will sustain us in times that test our faith.

As we approach Advent, the first coming of Jesus at Christmas, it is a time when we also remind ourselves that Jesus has promised that he will return. We too like those first Christians can face difficult times. We face all manner of real difficulties, we deal with losses and endings each day. We can all experience the loss of someone close to us, ill health can strike us down, a marriage might break up or we might lose a job. When such terrible times afflict us, then we all find them hard to face. Yet in times of testing Jesus gives his instruction to us that we must live without panic.

These are not just the words of a motivational speaker. Jesus tells his followers that there is no need to worry, this is not because we need positive thinking, rather because he will be with us. We will encounter strife, but at such times Jesus calls us to trust and stand firm. Jesus calls us to have endurance and trust that he abides with us. When times of testing come, Jesus promises to give us the strength that we need. This is not a case of enduring through thick and thin and pushing ourselves along, this is a reminder that we are never alone. *Charles Royden*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week ahead

O Beauty, so ancient and so new! Late have we loved you, though you were always with us. You call to our heart. You burst on our deafness. You scatter our blindness. We draw breath at your fragrance. Our heart pants for you. Our soul hungers for you. You touch us and we are consumed at the thought of your peace. Amen. *St Augustine (354-430)*

Dear Father and Mother of us all, maker of the light, keeper of our souls, we thank you for your warm presence, for keeping us safe, and taking away our fears. Help us remain close by your side, where there is peace and joy for evermore, we ask it in our brother Jesus' name. Amen

Govern all by thy wisdom, O Lord, so that my soul may always be serving thee as thou dost will, and not as I may choose. Do not punish me, I beseech thee, by granting that which I wish or ask, if it offend thy love, which would always live in me. Let me die to myself, that I may serve thee; let me live to thee, who in thyself art the true life. Amen. *Theresa of Avila*

O God in heaven, have mercy on us! Lord, Jesus Christ, intercede for your people, deliver us at the opportune time, preserve in us the true genuine Christian faith, collect your scattered sheep with your voice, your divine Word as Holy Writ calls it. Help us to recognize your voice, help us not to be allured by the madness of the world, so that we may never fall away from you, O Lord Jesus Christ. *Albrecht Durer (1471-1528)*

I am two men; and one is longing to serve thee utterly, and one is afraid. O Lord, have compassion upon me. I am two men; and one will labour to the end, and one is already weary. O Lord, have compassion upon me. I am two men; And one knows the suffering of the world, and one knows only his own. O Lord, have compassion upon me. And may the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ Fill my heart and the hearts of all men everywhere. *Used by Prebendary Austen Williams (1912-2001)*

St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre

We are now on the final countdown to our Craft Fayre on Saturday. Any new donations towards the Church stalls can be brought in from Monday 19 Nov. We will be setting up on Friday 23 from 5.00p.m. We are organising a fish and chip supper for helpers at around 7.00pm. If you are able to take any leaflets to deliver and raffle tickets to sell to family and friends that would be a great help and go a long way to making this year's Craft Fayre a Bumper success. Many many thanks Avril.



Just one week to go, a quick reminder of the items needed for our stalls: **Picnic Hamper for the raffle** – . A list of is on the table in the Foyer. **Raffle Tickets** – Available on the table in Foyer after service. Please take a few books home for family and friends, returning counterfoils and any unsold books during the week beginning 19th November or on the Saturday of the Fayre. **Tombola** – Any NEW unwanted gifts\Christmas presents etc. for our Tombola stall. **Cake Stall**- homemade cakes required please see Milly. **Refreshments** – homemade tray bakes to sell at our Refreshment Counter. **Second-hand Book Stall** – Any books or paperbacks in good condition. **Indoor/Outdoor Plant Stall** – Any plants accepted please see Wendy Waters All donated items for the above stalls can be brought up to Church anytime week beginning 19th November. Many thanks to those who have already offered their help, either in the form of goods or on the day, it is very much appreciated on all fronts. Avril

Bedford Town Concert Brass will be holding a concert "An Evening of Brass and Voice" at St Mark's on Friday 30 November at 7.30pm. The band are pleased to have as their guest a new and exciting choir "Alive & Singing". Tickets £8, Conc £5, children under 14 Free available on 01234 306676, Frescoes Coffee House Mill St or on the door on the night.

Urban Folk Quartet Saturday 24 November at 8pm at St. Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road. 6.30pm pre concert dinner. Concert and dinner tickets £16, £15 concessions, £11 students. Concert tickets £8, £7 concessions, Students 16-21 £3. Children free accompanied by an adult. Available from St. Andrew's Church Centre Office 01234 216881. email: centremanager@standrewsbedford.org

Footprints Walking Group Annual Planning Meeting. Tuesday 20 November at 7.30pm. At the home of Margaret and Alan (Tel 327219) All members welcome. Parking can be rather tight so

suggest you try to share cars. Walk on 2 December. Planting trees in Wiles Wood, part of the new Marston Vale Forest. Meet at Wootton Village Hall at 2.00pm for short walk to planting area. Trees, tools, tea and toilets provided. Details from Sue A.

Advent Course

The Advent Course will be interesting to everybody and great for those considering confirmation in 2013. Each session will start with refreshments at 7.30pm with the main meeting 8.00pm - 9.00pm. For our second session we will be joined by The Reverend Dennis Stamps who until recently was responsible for ministerial education in the Diocese.

Thursday 29 November

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm
Session in Church from 8pm
with Rev Canon John Tibbs

Thursday 6 December

In WREN room from 7.30pm
With Rev Dennis Stamps
Vicar of St Nicholas Harpenden

Thursday 13 December

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm
Session in Church from 8pm.

St Mark's Messy Church Future dates: all 3.45 to 5.30pm Wednesday 21 Nov, Wednesday 12 Dec.

Mission Update Thank you to everyone who has given so generously to the Mission Project supporting Kisiizi so far this year. Already we have raised around £2500 between the churches which is a great achievement and truly reflects the mission heart of the Partnership. If you have not already completed your form and returned it either in the offertory tray or directly to one of the church offices there is still time to do so - please let one of the ministers know if have not received a letter explaining the project and details of how to contribute and we can ensure you get one. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you too for your prayers for Kisiizi which are greatly valued and an equally important element of our support.

Christmas Presents Now is the time when many of us will be going online to buy gifts. Please always only ever access Amazon by clicking on the logo on www.thischurch.com. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. Even if you use a computer and go to Amazon and have a look first without clicking we will lose our referral, because they put a secret cookie on your computer! Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes and discounts which can save you a fortune on purchases and help raise money.



Bishops responses to the nomination of the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury

All three bishops in the Diocese of St Albans have responded to the nomination of the Rt Revd Justin Welby as 105th Archbishop of Canterbury.

Speaking shortly after the announcement, the Bishop of St Albans, the Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, said:

"I am delighted to hear the news that Justin Welby has been nominated to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. He is a man of prayer and deep faith who brings a breadth of experience to the role."

"His work in the oil industry has given him insight into the business world and provided the raw material for his writing and speaking about corporate and financial ethics."

"His five years of ministry in Coventry, followed by his time as Dean of Liverpool Cathedral have given him a profound understanding of the problems and opportunities of urban life in Britain today."

"As the leader of the Anglican Communion, he will be able to draw on his overseas experience and knowledge of other world faiths."

"In his present post as Bishop of Durham he has been grappling with issues of economic regeneration in the North East of England as well as helping the churches engage with their communities in relevant ways."

"He will make a worthy successor to Archbishop Rowan Williams and I look forward to working with him."

The Bishop of Bedford, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, said:

"I rejoice in the appointment of Justin Welby as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. He is a man of prayer and vision, with great confidence in the contribution of the Christian Church to society here and abroad. I welcome especially his emphasis on this as a time of opportunity for the Church to serve the nation and to nurture the spiritual well-being of all."

"I, along with local church communities in Bedfordshire, will be praying for him and his family as he prepares to take up the post of Archbishop."

A Hymns for Sunday

Through all our days we'll sing the praise
of Christ, the resurrected;
who, though divine, did not decline
to be by men afflicted:
pain, pain and suffering –
he knew its taste, he bore its sting;
peace, peace has come to earth
through Christ our king and saviour.

His birth obscure, his family poor,
he owned no crown, no kingdom;
yet those who grope in darkness, hope
since he brought light and freedom:
shame, shame and agony –
though guiltless he of felony;
shout, shout his sinless name,
our Jesus, king and saviour.

At fearful cost his life he lost
that death might be defeated;
the Man of Love, now risen above,
in majesty is seated:
low, low was his descent
to those by sin and sorrow bent;
life, life to all who trust
the Lord, our king and saviour.

And all who trust will find they must
obey the will of heaven;
for grief intense can make some sense
to those who are forgiven:
hard, hard the road he trod –
the Son of Man, the Son of God;
hope, hope in Christ alone,
our reigning king and saviour.

Tune Greensleeves

Words: Michael Saward

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.

Ralph Houghton

*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 Joan Vera Burden will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Wednesday 28 November.



Maurice Mills shares his experience as a Games Maker from the 2012 Olympic Games

The Olympics was truly astonishing, a true once in a life time experience. I wrote on a board that was put up for the Aquatics Centre Protocol & Language team. "This has been a "pinch yourself & for everything else there is MasterCard" experience. Totally, unbelievably, incredible, amazing and fantastic moment in my life. None of which would be possible without the protocol team. I've had a blast from beginning to the end in such a privileged role. Thanks to each and every one of you for making this so special. Maurice "It's been emotional" (from Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels)"

I didn't understand what Vinnie Jones meant by that adlib "It's been emotional" until the Olympics. It was an implausibly intense experience since we had to hit the ground running at the Aquatics centre seeing that it was the only venue where medals could be won from day one. It was so alien & electrifying yet so magnificent & terrifying in its enormity. It demanded that you poured your devotion, heart, energy & soul into it & it become all consuming. By the end of the third day I was exhausted & although I knew there had been a previous life, I was not sure what it had been.

I should have guessed, however, how wonderfully amazing it was going to be, being a Games Maker from the very first day to the last for when entering the Olympic park across the bridge, looking up towards the Olympic Stadium, I could only say "WOW!"

I would have been absolutely happy to have been picking up rubbish; however, I had the incredibly privileged role of looking after the VIPs at the Aquatics centre as part of the Aquatics Protocol & Language Team. The atmosphere alone throughout the two weeks in that venue was outstanding. My role included meeting & greeting the VIPs at their drop off point, looking after their information centre, lobby & seating area. Our guest list was like a who's who of both our own & foreign Royal families as well as politicians, heads of states, sporting federations & global organisations & past Olympic stars.

I was fortunate to be in the venue at a time when I could see a number of finals & medal ceremonies including Arlington swimming to bronze & Vollmer creating history with her world record. To be able to sit amongst the VIPs to watch the heats for part of a day & on another day see a water polo semi final.

I have so many personal highlights including touching a bronze medal & shaking hands with an ex-prime ministers but one of my favourites was wishing one of Russia's IOC members (International Olympic Committee) good luck as he came to stand by me, very nervous during the synchronised diving. I was just hoping to make him feel just a little better, a little less tense. The Russian divers had only two more dives left before the competition ended and were in second place with the Americans close behind. They did an excellent dive & he gave me a high 5 & went back to his seat. Then after winning the silver medal & as he & the other Russian's were leaving he gave me another high 5 & then spontaneously gave me a bear hug. At that moment creed, colour, religion, nationality, language meant nothing as I was allowed to share in his sheer joy, his triumph, his moment, his & his country's Olympics.

I cannot give the Olympics better praise than Sebastian Coe did at the closing ceremony "Britain, when our time came, we did it right"

