

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

19 February 2012

Last Sunday after Epiphany



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 – 19 February

9.30am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions – Mrs Sam Ware

26 February – First Sunday in Lent

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions – Mr Alan Bayliss

Bible Readings

1.Genesis 9: 8-17 **2.** 1 Peter 3: 18-22 **3.**Mark 1: 9-15

Midweek Worship 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 Peter and Christine Davies in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

The flowers in St Mark's Church this week are given by Joan Staley in loving memory of her daughter Gill.

Ash Wednesday



Our Ash Wednesday service this year will be held this Wednesday 22 February at St Mark's and will be conducted by The Reverend Eric Royden.
All are welcome.

Prayer for the Week

O Lord, we pray, speak in this place, in the calming of our minds and the longing of our hearts, by the words of my lips and in the thoughts we form. Speak, O Lord, for your servants listen. Amen.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a Vice President for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535 jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@ThisChurch.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. Linda Hoar 782717
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 21428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091 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 - Laura Farthing 210892
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ Fri. Putnoe Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com

Head teacher 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)

.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955

10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's (see contact details below)

12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Emma Gordon ☎07593266091

2.00pm U3A History Group St Marks.(see contact details below)

2pm U3A Music Appreciation - (see contact details below)

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 ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 20 February Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790206016

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)

1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details below)

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

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

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting February 21 'Work of a Councillor' Wendy Rider. Details call Janet King 313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters ☎342613.

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks.(see contact details below)

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 29 February 2012 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

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

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 15th February. Wendy Waters401834

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

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

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

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 will be 29 February 2012. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Jean Ross ☎771870

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A termtime group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

11.30 - 12.30 Baby Yoga/Massage St Mark's starting on the 1st March.☎Laura Amor.341152. 07976259081.

12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby ☎ 363283

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays St. Mark's ☎267444

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (large hall) Children's Chatty Time 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎ 340552.

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

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

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Marks.(see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Marks Mary Rich ☎272470

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

6.30-7.30pm Bootcamp/Circuits. (Fitness) St Marks. ☎Laura Amor.341152. 07976259081.

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 Whist St Marks. Patricia Holland.☎262823

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

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

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

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.St Marks(2nd week) Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry ☎ 01462 674792

6.45pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or

www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's (not 25 March) Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 21 February, 19 June

St Mark's Leadership Team - Thursday 17 May

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 28 May

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 11 June

Pastoral Group Meeting - Tuesday 19 June 4.00pm

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm

Harvest Festival 30 September

Circuit meeting - 12 June

Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees– 12 May Open Day at wood

Putnoe Heights Children &

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

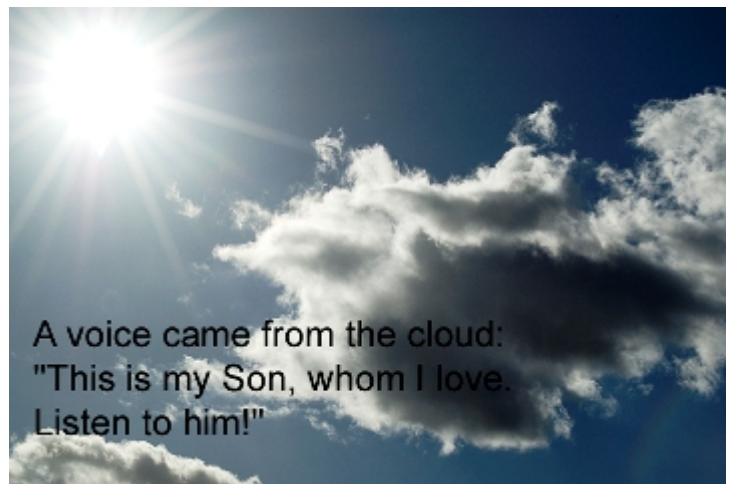
Last Sunday after Epiphany

Opening Verse of Scripture – Mark 9

And a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

Almighty father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory ; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Common Worship



First Reading— 2 Kings 2:1-12

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "but do not speak of it." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho. The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," he replied, "but do not speak of it." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on. Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours--otherwise not." As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart. *(This is the Word of the Lord All: Thanks be to God)*

Second Reading – 2 Corinthians Chapter 4:3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

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

Gospel Reading – Mark 9:2-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, 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 to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came

from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. (*This is the Gospel of Christ* **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion and Mission Praise*)

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder 506
2. Jesus calls us here to meet him (On Partnership News).
3. Meakness and majesty 465
4. There's a wideness in God's mercy 683

Commentary

Mountains and hills feature frequently at significant points in the Israelite nation's story in the Old Testament and in the New Testament accounts of the fulfilment of that story. From Genesis 22 v2 to Matthew 28 v 16 mountains are the place to be to hear God's voice, to hear and act out his commands, to be alone with Jesus, to pray and finally to witness to Jesus' ascension into heaven. In Genesis 22: 2 it is on a mountain that Abraham is tested by God in offering his son Isaac as a sacrifice. In Exodus 19:3 the Lord calls to Moses from Mount Sinai and later in v20 calls Moses up to the top of the mountain where he is given the Ten Commandments. In Exodus 24:12-18 the Lord calls Moses up the mountain again where events, similar to those in today's Gospel, Mark 9: 2 -9, occur with a cloud covering the mountain from which 'the Lord called to Moses' and 'the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire'. In Mark 9;2 and Matt 4:8 the third temptation of Jesus takes place on a mountain; just outside Jerusalem the Mount of Olives is traditionally where Jesus 'wept over Jerusalem', John 11:35. The Mount of Olives is also where Jesus answers the disciples question about the 'end of the age' Matt 24:3. Traditionally the feeding of the five thousand takes place on a hill above the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Not forgetting that Golgotha, the place of the Cross, is believed to be a small hill outside Jerusalem.

With this history it is not surprising that today's account of Peter, James and John being with Jesus to witness another significant event is on a mountain. By telling of this rather strange experience the writer is assuring the three privileged disciples that Jesus is in fact the Messiah. Elijah and Moses, two of the greatest prophets, represent the Old Testament hopes of God's Kingdom. Moses the law giver and Elijah who was expected to be the forerunner of the Messiah. Some may argue that it was an hallucination, in which case why would the writer depict Peter babbling away and lowering the tone of such an event that echoes those of the much revered Moses?

Perhaps it was one such event in Moses' life that triggered Peter's desire to preserve to moment by erecting a shelter. Exodus 33 describes how Moses used to pitch a 'tent of the meeting' and when Moses entered the tent 'a pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses' (v9). Just as in the OT God spoke in the pillar of cloud, he speaks from the cloud in today's Gospel passage that has become know as 'The Transfiguration'. To the justifiably frightened disciples a voice declares: 'This is my Son, whom I love, listen to him'. Similar words to those found in Mark's account of the Baptism of Jesus Mark1:11: 'You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased'. Once they have heard God's voice they are left alone with the Jesus they recognise, know and love.

How puzzled they must have been, no doubt keen to share this unbelievable experience with their friends and family. But no, once again Jesus tells them to keep quiet until 'The Son of Man has risen from the dead'. In Mark v10 it states 'They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what 'risen from the dead' meant. All credit to them for keeping it to themselves but not surprising that they discussed the meaning of 'risen from the dead'. The Jews expected the resurrection but not until the last day (John 11:24) but Jesus seemed to be referring to himself. At that time a puzzle for them of course, but not for us as we have the benefit and joy of knowing about and believing in Jesus' Resurrection an event even more amazing than that witnessed by Peter, James and John. *Wendy Waters*

Meditation Read slowly through Mark 9: 1 – 13 and ponder:

What the other disciples might have thought about not being asked to go to the mountain top, then not being told what happened up there. As surely Peter, James and John, would have been changed by their encounter? .

What your reaction might have been had you been up there? Would you have wanted to put 'shelters' up? Or would you have been dumbstruck and been in silent awe? Or have been so fearful that you would shut our eyes and head down the mountain? Would you also have struggled to keep silent after such a life changing encounter? Would you have been brimming over with questions to Jesus as recorded later in verses 11 to 13?

It is hard isn't it to think honestly how we would react? We could easily be tempted to think the best of ourselves, believing that we would marvel at the wonder of the privilege and be so buoyed up by it that we would become even more convinced of who Jesus was and follow him dutifully and fervently to the end - as Elisha followed Elijah. More likely that we would be buoyed up for a while and then when the struggles of daily living out the Gospel overpowered us we might waiver and be frightened like the three disciples were on the mountain. In order not to loose faith at these times we should perhaps listen again to the words of 'the voice that came from the cloud' "This is my Son, who I love, Listen to him!". Let us listen to Jesus so that the 'Gospel is not veiled to us, such that we know 'light does shine out of darkness, and it shines in our hearts to give us the light and knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ'. *Wendy Waters*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord, I cannot fathom or hold you; I can only ask you to take hold of me. I cannot grasp or contain you in formula or tradition; I can only ask you to fill me with yourself, and make me part of the mystery of your presence in the world. *Angela Ashwin*

Almighty and all-loving God, through the fire of your Spirit you have drawn the hearts of men and women to share in the mystery of your being; by the power of the same Spirit infuse our lives with your presence, so that, as your beloved Son was transfigured in prayer, we too may be transformed, and our lives become a flame of self-giving love. *Angela Aswhin*

May the light and love of God shine in our hearts and through the universe that the whole creation may be transfigured to glory, in and through Jesus Christ, radiant in the splendour of the wounds of love. *Jim Cotter*

Lord Jesus may your transforming love so enfold us when we are anxious, bereaved, confused, frightened, ill or dying, that our trust in you and the promise of your presence never waivers. Amen

Count Your Blessings. During Lent Christian Aid's 'Count Your Blessings' reminds us how fortunate we are in the freedoms and living standards we enjoy. Each day, there is a different focus of prayer, reflection, thanks or an invitation to donate a small amount of money. 'Count Your Blessings' pamphlets and shortened children's version are now available in the entrance lobby at St Marks and in the Welcome area at Putnoe. Please help yourselves. For further information please contact Carolyn Morris at Putnoe 350722 after 12 noon, or Jean Bank at St Mark's 342613

Forthcoming Church Meetings

St Mark's Church Council will take place on Tuesday 21 February at 7.30pm

Ladybird Book Tokens. We would be grateful if any readers of the Daily Mirror could save the children's Ladybird book tokens for Hazeldene Heights Pre School. Many thanks from Laura Leggett

Fairtrade Fashion Show on Saturday 24 March at St Andrew's Church Centre, Kimbolton Road, Bedford. Tickets £1.50 include refreshments. Contact Brenda Mayoh on 268574 or Church Office on 216881 All profits used to promote fair trade.

Putnoe Heating. We are making much progress following the problems with the boilers. The boilers were condemned by the engineers at a recent visit and we have undertaken emergency work to the flue and ventilation systems to get them going. Considerable thanks to all of those who have spent time and effort resolving what has been a quite difficult problem

Many thanks to Judith Stanton and her whist drive supporters for the generous donation of £200 to St. Mark's.

Mother Teresa Group would be very grateful for any knitting wool you have to spare. Any ply, any colour we will knit it! Please leave at St. Mark's Church office. Thank you. Maureen Watling

House Group at the home of Wendy Waters, 13 Farnham Way, 7.45pm on Mondays 27 February; 5 March; 19 March and 26 March. We will use the St Alban's Diocese Old Testament based Lent Course 'Transforming Life'. New people most welcome. For more details contact Wendy Waters 401834.

Table Top Sale at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 10th March at 10am. Tables cost £6.00 each. Light Lunches, tea, coffee and cakes available. Event in aid of church funds. To reserve a Table please contact Ian Morse on 01234-216428

Quiz Night at St Mark's Church, Saturday 10 March 2012. Cost £6 per head which includes Fish & Chip supper. Tickets available from St Mark's Church

Putnoe Lunch Club. We are looking for new members so if you know anybody who would like to come along fortnightly on Wednesday then please do let us know. We are also looking for drivers who will help transport guests.

Maundy Thursday. By popular request our Maundy Thursday service will be held at Putnoe at 7.30pm and will take the form of a Last Supper communion meal provided kindly by the catering team

Special Thanks We greatly appreciate the hard work and marvellous talent on display at St Mark's for the Organ Concert. Thanks to Clive and his guests Tracey and Stewart for an out of this world evening enjoyed by all

A Hymn for Sunday

Jesus calls us here to meet him
As, through word and song and prayer,
We affirm God's promised presence
Where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
Praise the Son who calls us friends,
Praise the Spirit who, amongst us,
To our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
Sharer of our flesh and frailness
Saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
Tell his tales that all may hear;
Tell the world that Christ in glory
Came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other:
Vastly different though we are;
Race and colour, class and gender
Neither limit nor debar.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
Join the hands of age and youth;
Join the faithful and the doubter
In their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to his table
Rooted firm in time and space,
Where the church in earth and heaven
Finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body;
Share the love of which we sing;
Share the feast for saints and sinners
Hosted by our Lord and King.

(tune: a Lewis Folk Melody)



Bedford Ecumenical Lent Services Lent 2012

Theme Less than Gold: Serving God and Mammon Ecumenical Services at 1.10pm on Wednesdays in Lent at

Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford. Each service will include a theological reflection on the Lenten theme

29 February Cllr. Rev'd Charles Royden

7 March Paul Hunt The Chief Executive, YMCA, Beds

14 March A Speaker from the Bedford Foodbank

21 March Michael Campbell Senior Chaplain, Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy

28 March Charles Whitehead Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton Finance Team

Lent Course Dates

The Lent course will begin with refreshments at 7.30pm and the meeting proper will start at 8.0pm

This year for Lent we are looking at doing our Mission Plan. It would be helpful for you to take a look at <http://www.livinggodslove.org/resources/resource/mission-action-planning>

We will be using three evenings during Lent to go through the stages Look, Listen, Plan, after Lent we will be looking at implementation ie Act

There are also materials for homegroups to use during Lent and for personal prayer and Bible study. <http://www.livinggodslove.org/resources/resource/lent-course-2012>

We would like to stress that Mission Action Planning is not about looking for more things to do. It is about recognising who we are, what we do and where we see ourselves in the future. This might mean that we do some new things, however there is no expectation that we will do more. So if we decide to do something new, then we will be giving something else up! We cannot do everything and we already do so much. However it will be good to take some stock of where we are, a kind of audit and ask prayerfully what our strengths and weaknesses are. It should be something which we gain some satisfaction from as we reflect together on the life of our churches. Please speak to Sam if you have any questions !

Meetings

Thursday 15 March at Putnoe Heights Church

Thursday 22 March at St Mark's - Wren Room

Thursday 29 March at Putnoe Heights Church

Please do book these dates in your diary.



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Rest in Peace

Members of Putnoe Heights will be saddened to hear of the death of Reg Woodford. Reg attended the church for many years until prevented by deteriorating health. He was 94 years old when he died suddenly at home last Saturday. A funeral service will be held at Bedford Crematorium on 27 February

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.

Thomas James Harvey
Peter Graham

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



Forthcoming Funerals

There will be a memorial service for Maureen Simmonds at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday 22 February at 11.30. Family flowers only please but kind donations to

Primrose Appeal c/o Arnolds Funeral Service, 48 Roff Avenue, MK41 7TE 01234 359529 Please wear bright colourful clothes !

The funeral of Reg Woodford will take place at Bedford Crematorium on February 27 at 10.45am