



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

St Mark's Edition

1st June 2008 - Ordinary 9



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's Church - Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher - The Rev Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Confirmation

Preacher - Right Revd Richard Inwood, Bishop of Bedford. Celebrant The Rev Jim Gartside
Leadership Team - Linda Hoare
Intercessions - Ministers

8 June - Ordinary 10

9.30am St. Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Bible Readings

1. Genesis 12: 1-9
2. Romans 4: 13-25
3. Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26

Thank You

The flowers at St. Mark's this week have been given by Elizabeth Bean and Barbara Joy in memory of Philip and Alan on the occasion of their wedding anniversaries.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by Veta Hudson-Rae to celebrate the birthdays of Lebert, Christopher, Johanne and Joshua.

Prayer for Sunday

**Grant us your help,
O God, that whatever
by the teaching of your Holy Spirit
we know to be our duty,
we may by your grace
be enabled to perform it;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

William Bright, 1824-1901

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

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 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119

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 332613

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper 306751

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school

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.

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

12.00pm Story box 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

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

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

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 ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 16 June Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 3 June Rev. Jacqueline Owen. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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

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

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 3 June—Beetle Drive . Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

9.30am Childminding Support Group Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎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

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 4 June 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

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 monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎400584

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

6.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month. Mr Farish ☎824984

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome.

Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 4 June 2008
Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

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
14 May for worship and friendly chat. 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.

9.40am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75 for first child. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

12pm Storybox weekly at 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 Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr C Hill ☎772922

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights

Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc. at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. Marriot 303834

7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club St Mark's Mr P Housden ☎376597

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm Improvers St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.

Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

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, games & outings. Next meeting 10 February Liz ☎302349

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –
17th June, 18 November

St Mark's Leadership Team –
23 June

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings 14th July.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

, 11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at 12 noon

Putnoe Church Council - 16 June, 6 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting - 10 June 4.30pm

Churchyard Committee - 11 June 11.00am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council - May 13th at St Mark's

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting - 12 June, 18 September, 13 November

Circuit/Deanery Meeting 12 June

Woodland Burial Trustees -

Mission Group Meeting – 4 June 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way.

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–

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

9th Sunday in Ordinary

Opening Verse of Scripture- Matthew 7

Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock

Collect Prayer for the Day

. O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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** (*Common Worship*)



First Bible Reading -

Deuteronomy Chapter 11:18-28

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth. If you carefully observe all these commands I am giving you to follow--to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways and to hold fast to him-- then the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations larger and stronger than you. Every place where you set your foot will be yours: Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the Euphrates River to the western sea. No man will be able to stand against you. The LORD your God, as he promised you, will put the terror and fear of you on the whole land, wherever you go. See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse-- the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known. (This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans Chapter 1:16-17, 3:22-28

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. (This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 7:21-28

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,
(This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Hymns (*Please distribute Mission Praise, Family Worship and Baptism Sheets*)

1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee (tune Ode to Joy) words Partnership News)
2. Shine Jesus Shine
3. Christ is made the sure foundation 73 (Omit at Putnoe)
4. All I once held dear (Words PN)
5. Love divine all loves excelling 449

Commentary

The passage from the Gospel of Matthew we read today is to be found at the very end of one of the most powerful body of the teachings of Jesus, the Sermon on the Mount. You will remember that the beginning of the Sermon begins with the startling words of the Beatitudes, in which Jesus claims that those who are typically despised by the world are actually blessed of God. After addressing his followers as "Salt and Light", Jesus then gave his own view of the Law, sacred to the Jews. The whole body of teaching is profoundly radical, always endorsing the Law but going far beyond its words, exhorting his hearers to be aware that God sees beneath the surface into the secrets of the human heart.

While all scholars and theologians agree that the Sermon on the Mount is a hugely important vehicle for Jesus' message, many disagree as to what its principal purpose was. Certainly the Sermon on the Mount contains many ideas which would have been disconcerting and even shocking to Jesus' hearers. Jesus' teaching that the passive and the meek were important and specially blessed by God would have surprised and confounded those who believed that God rewarded the righteous.

Earlier thinkers and prophets had preached compassion and care for the humble but Jesus was making a huge claim about their spiritual dignity. Leo Tolstoy, the author of "War and Peace", believed that the values enshrined in the Sermon could, if followed to the letter, create Utopia on earth. The theologian Albert Schweitzer thought that the teachings contained in the Sermon were a kind of interim list of commandments to be followed after Jesus' death until the coming of His Kingdom. Oxford University's Michael Green has a view that the Sermon is a blueprint for the way the Kingdom will be. I suspect that all these scholars are right! We cannot over-estimate the importance of this collection of Jesus' teachings about God, Jesus himself and the way we should interact with God and one another. I am also sure that Tolstoy was right in saying that these teachings could transform the world, but given the weaknesses and deficiencies of humanity that is not likely to happen any time soon. The teachings can, in part, transform each one of us who reads them and believes in them. We can try and live them out, though we fall short of their full implications. And that is where this homely little metaphor of the wise man building his house upon the rock. The point of the story must be that when we build our lives upon the teachings of God, we build in a safe way that will last. I shall be developing this theme in my sermon at St Mark's this morning, and arguing that the foundations of the secure faith are sound teaching and knowledge of Holy Scripture. Only when we have the foundations firmly rooted can the edifice of our lives as spiritual beings develop in a sound way. Those who try and do good

things in the name of Jesus but do not truly know him through prayer and Bible study are in danger of error and egotism. Spiritual preparation is the only way to give our life and work secure foundations.

Meditation

I am reading a biography of William Wilberforce by William Hague. I suspect that I will mention this book several times, because it is full of interesting material which provides food for thought. Wilberforce became very, very rich as a young man and became part of a hard drinking, heavy gambling, all-night partying set of MPs who grouped around William Pitt the Younger. In his diary he notes that he decided to keep his drinking down to six or seven glasses in a session! When Wilberforce arrived at the end of a slow and careful process of accepting Jesus as his Saviour, he decided that he must resign his seat in Parliament. Wilberforce felt that having to curry political favour and engage in party politics would cut across his Christian values. Pitt wrote a warm and lovely letter to his friend begging him not to resign from office, concluding with these words: "the principles as well as the practise of Christianity are simple and lead not to meditation only but to action." Wilberforce took Pitt's advice and decided not to withdraw from public life but to stay in Parliament where he exercised enormous importance in the movement for the abolition of slavery. At times Wilberforce found political life difficult and demanding, as engagement with the real world must always be for Christians, when principles clash with other values. But Wilberforce's example reminds us of the necessity for idealistic Christians to make the effort to engage with the world and to try and bring the Gospel to the world and the world to the Gospel. Joan

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

A prayer in time of suffering

Jesus who was lost and found in the garden, never to be lost again, stand by us in the darkness of our crucifixions, as the women stood by you. Die and rise with us in the suffering of the world, Be reborn with us, as love and hope and faith and endurance outlast cruelty and death. Amen. (Monica Furlong)

Prayer for the week ahead.

Throughout this week enliven our minds, inspire our conversations, inform our decisions and protect those we love. And should this week bring what we neither anticipate nor desire, increase our faith and decrease our pride until we know that, when we face the unexpected, we do not stand alone. Amen (Wild Goose publications)

A prayer for those to be confirmed

O Christ, bless these your servants who have opened their lives and hearts to you. By the power of your cross protect them from evil, in the passion of your love save them from half-heartedness. In the depth of your mercy pick them up when they fall. Be close to them when they face difficulty and distress and dance in their lives with your light and delight.

(Angela Ashwin)



Be careful of your foundations !

The Tower of Pisa was a work of art, performed in three stages over a period of about 177 years. Construction of the first floor of the white marble campanile began on August 9, 1173, a period of military success and prosperity. This first floor is surrounded by pillars with classical capitals, leaning against blind arches. The tower began to sink after construction progressed to the third floor in 1178. This was due to a mere three-meter foundation, set in weak, unstable subsoil.

This means the design was flawed from the beginning.

St Mark's Foyer Refurbishment. The Church Council recently approved a plan for the extensive refurbishment of the foyer at St Mark's. Our architect has now completed drawings showing proposals for a new entrance with pitched roof canopy. The drawings are all now available for viewing in the church office.

Table Top Sale on Saturday 28 June in the afternoon in aid of Church Funds. If you could help with organizing and running this event please see Joan or Liz.

Future Dates for your diary. 'The partnership Summer Musical Workshops !!! Tuesday 19 August 2– 4 pm 'Its Raining Cats and Dogs' aimed at the under 5's with carers. Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 August 10am—3pm 'The 7 Days of Creation' 5 years plus, all abilities. Full details to follow later.

St Albans Woodland Burial Ground Open Day on Saturday June 7 from 2.00pm until 5.00pm. All Welcome. Copies of the latest 'Friends Newsletter' are now available and may be found at each church or downloaded from our website www.woodlandburialtrust.com

Methodist Homes Sunday 8 June. Envelopes are available on the foyer table, please return by 8th July. The magazine can be viewed in the foyer.

St Mark's Coffee Rota. Could you spare time on a Sunday morning to serve coffee after the service? It is a good way to get to know people and, if we have enough volunteers, only means 4 times a year. Please see Milly if you are interested.

The Sunday Telegraph has a campaign to 'Save our Churches.' They are calling for increased government funding, rebates on VAT, making it easier to adapt churches for community use, more grants—all good stuff. To support the campaign visit www.telegraph.co.uk/saveourchurches

FootPrints The next ramble is on Sunday, 1st June at 2.30pm. It is a walk of about 4 miles around Turvey. Parking is in the large lay-by on the right just over the bridge past Turvey Mill. It is not difficult walking, but there are a number of stiles to negotiate. For further details please contact Sue or Richard Butler on Bedford 354183. All are welcome.

Putnoe Heights. On Saturday 7th June from 10:00 - 12:00, Coffee Morning at the home of Des and Linda Hoar, 24 Loring Road, Sharnbrook. Cakes, Raffle. Proceeds to Mission Funds. All welcome. Transport requests/offers contact Sylvia Cohen 343424.

Tuesday Club Annual Charity Evening Tuesday 17 June at Putnoe Heights at 7.30pm. A concert of folk songs and poems by 'Willing Warblers' in aid of Christian Family Care. The cost is £5 including refreshments and a lucky programme.

Thank You We would like to express our thanks to The Royal Bank of Scotland for their funding of £250 towards St Mark's Church Pre-school. This Community Cash back Award is made by the bank in recognition of the voluntary work by their employee Mr Ian Farthing

St Mark's Coffee Shop. The St Mark's Coffee shop will remain open throughout June, however the Leadership Team are reviewing the continued provision of this facility and will make a decision on Summer Opening over the next few weeks.

Copies of the Diocesan News See Round are available this morning. Please take a copy

 Please remember to buy everything you need through amazon at Thisischurch.com—but remember you must always log on to Amazon through www.thisischurch.com first.



Back to Church Sunday. Our churches are both joining in with 'Back to Church Sunday.' Last year 2,000 churches joined in and this year the St Albans Diocese is signing up. We will have our Harvest Festival on 'Back to Church Sunday' which is 28 September. We will use this as an opportunity to welcome people to our churches for a special Sunday. How you can help! This special Sunday will soon be upon us and we need to start praying and planning now. Back to Church Sunday is a special time to invite people along to church with a special welcome. Please think of people we can send a personal invitation to and advise the ministers or a member of the Leadership Team.

Hymns for Sunday Worship

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.

All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres, and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

Knowing you, Jesus
Knowing you, there is no greater thing
You're my all, you're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love you, Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know you more
To be found in you and known as yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All-surpassing gift of righteousness

Oh, to know the power of your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like you in your death, my Lord
So with you to live and never die



**St Mark's Coffee Shop
Every Sunday in June
2.30pm until 5.00pm.**

Weddings

We publish the banns and pray for the marriages of

Maureen Rose Smith and Harry Norman Paul. This is the second time of asking.

Elvis Donald Veira and Julie Diane Gilbert
This the for the first time of asking.

All residents of this parish

Rest in Peace



The funeral of Florence Edith Rowling will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45 on
Wednesday 4th June *Royden*

The funeral of Peter Alec Wheeler will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 2.30pm on
Monday 2nd June *Royden*

Rest In Peace

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

Marcia Angela Lester

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

