



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

20 February 2011

Epiphany 7



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

St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership – Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

27 February – Epiphany 8

9.30 am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr. Bill Brit
Leadership – Mrs. Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Mr. Mike Elliott

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Bill Brit
Leadership - Mr. Gordon Evans
Intercessions - Mrs. Sam Ware

Readings 1. Isaiah 49: 8-16a 2. 1 Corinthians 4: 1-5
3. Matthew 6: 24-34

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 Madge Walsh in loving memory of her husband Glynn on his birthday, and by Julia Furnell in loving memory of her dear husband Hugh and twin sister Florence, on the anniversary of their deaths.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Joan Staley in memory of a dear daughter Gill.

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for This Week

Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love, in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are transformed into the image of Christ our Lord.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mason

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

The Reverend Charles Royden

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

For Data Protection Purposes

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.ThisIsChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@ThisIsChurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 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 - Avril Williams 360605
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-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)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.15pm 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 Gorden ☎07593266091
- 2pm U3A Music Appreciation** - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623
- 3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.
- 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
- 7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—21 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 ☎07790296016
- 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** for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp** - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation** fortnightly. Contact Mrs Reed ☎216623
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting March 1st Mr D Chapman—Bees and Beekeeping For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 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 22 February Prison Officer at Dartmoor - Dave Bone. For more 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.
- 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 U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 2 March Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834

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. Next meeting 26 January.

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 March 2 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

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 group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau Putnoe Heights.

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

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St. Mark's ☎267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

8 -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 Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

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

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

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

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

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice 07964 356355☎

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –

Annual General Meeting 10 April 2011

St Mark's Leadership Team

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 June

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .26 May

St Mark's Forum Meeting - 9 March, 10 May, 13 July

Putnoe Church Council - 13 June –7.30pm

Pastoral Group Meeting - 14th June

Churchyard Committee - 19th May –11.15am

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting - 15 March at Clapham

Deanery Meeting - .

Woodland Burial Trustees – 15th May 12.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 4th April, 1.30pm

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

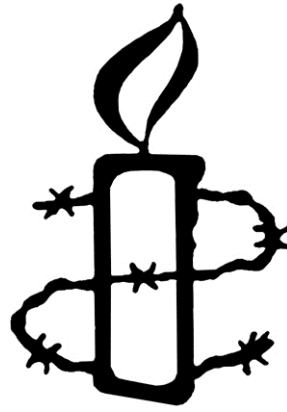
Epiphany 7

Opening Sentence from Scripture –

I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven;

Collect Prayer (Before we read we pray)

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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.



Love your enemies
and pray for those
who persecute you
Jesus

First Bible Reading -Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God. You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. 12And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not defraud your neighbour; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a labourer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling-block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the LORD. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their craftiness,' and again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.'

So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future - all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading-Matthew Chapter 5:38-48

On the mountain, Jesus continued to teach his disciples. 'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I say

to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

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

1. Praise the Lord. Let heaven adore him (Tune: Austria) *On Partnership News*
2. Be still and know that I am God 48
3. Love is his word, love is his way. (Tune: Cresswell) *On Partnership News*
4. Lord for the years. 428

Commentary

"Various laws" is the heading of our Leviticus reading. We are to be holy, because God is holy-and we are to love our neighbour as our self. Quite a thought from so long before the time of Jesus! Do we 'love' ourselves? How much? As for loving our enemies, one of the subjects of our Gospel reading, this is what Bishop Tom Wright has to say about the passage.

"Israel, the chosen people, are challenged to realize that God doesn't have favourites! Israel isn't chosen in order to be God's special people while the rest of the world remains in outer darkness. Israel is chosen to be the light of the world, the salt of the earth. Israel is chosen so that, through Israel, God can bless all people.

And now Jesus is calling Israel to be the light of the world at last. He is opening the way, carving a path through the jungle towards that vocation, urging his followers to come with him. Jesus offers a new sort of justice, a creative, healing, restorative justice. The old justice found in the Bible was designed to prevent revenge running away with itself. Better an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth than an escalating feud with each side going one worse than the other! But Jesus goes one better still. Better to have no vengeance at all, but rather a creative way forward, reflecting the astonishingly patient love of God himself, who wants Israel to shine his light into the world so that all people will see that he is the one true God, and that his deepest nature is overflowing love. No other god encourages people to behave like this! So Jesus gives three hints of the sort of thing he has in mind. To be struck on the right cheek, in that world, almost certainly meant being hit with the back of the right hand. That's not violence, but an insult: it implies that you're an inferior, perhaps a slave, child, or (in that world, and sometimes even today) a woman. What's the answer? Hitting back only keeps the evil in circulation. Offering the other cheek implies: hit me again if you like, but now as an equal, not an inferior. Or suppose you're in a law court where a powerful enemy is suing you (perhaps for non-payment of some huge debt) and wants the shirt off your back. You can't win; but you can show him what he's really doing. Give him your cloak as well; and, in a world where most people only wore those garments, shame him with your impoverished nakedness. This is what the rich, powerful and careless are doing. They are reducing the poor to a state of shame. The third example clearly reflects the Roman military occupation. Roman soldiers had the right to force civilians to carry their equipment for one mile. But the law was quite strict; it forbade them to make someone go more than that. Turn the tables on them, advises Jesus. Don't fret and fume and plot and revenge. Copy your generous God! Go a second mile, and astonish the soldier (and perhaps alarm him—what if his commanding officer found out?) with the news that there is a different way to be human, a way which doesn't plot revenge, which doesn't join the armed resistance movement (that's what verse 39 means) but which wins God's kind of victory over violence and injustice.

These examples are only little sketches, like cartoons to give you the idea. Whatever situation you're in, you need to think it through for yourself. What would it mean to reflect God's generous love despite the pressure and provocation, despite your own anger and frustration? Impossible? Well, yes, at one level. But again Jesus' teaching isn't just good advice, it's good news. Jesus did it all himself, and opened up a new way of being human so that all who follow him can discover it. The Sermon on the Mount isn't just about us. If it was, we might admire it as a fine bit of idealism, but then return to our normal lives. It's about Jesus himself. This was the blueprint for his own life. He asks nothing of his followers that he hasn't faced himself. Matthew is inviting us to draw the conclusion: that in Jesus we see Emmanuel, the God-with-us person. The Sermon on the Mount isn't just about how to behave. It's about discovering the living God in the loving, and dying, Jesus, and learning to reflect that love ourselves into the world that needs it so badly." And like all learners we get it wrong so often, just like the Corinthians. Yet God, in his love, never writes us off. And that really is good news! *Richard Ledger*

Meditation

You have called us to be one, to live in unity and harmony, and yet we are divided: race from race, faith from faith, rich from poor, old from young neighbour from neighbour... O Lord, by whose cross all enmity is brought to an end, break down the walls that separate us, tear down the fences of indifference and hatred; forgive us the sins that divide us, free us from pride and self-seeking, overcome our prejudices and fears, give us courage to open ourselves to others; by the power of your Spirit make us one.

Opening worship of the sixth assembly of the World Council of Churches (Vancouver, 1983)

Yet with the woes of sin and strife, the world has suffered long,
beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not, the love-song which they bring:
so hush the noise, you men of strife, and hear the angels sing.

And still the days are hastening on, by prophets once foretold,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling,
and all the world send back the song, which now the angels sing.

E. H. Sears (1810-76) Based on Luke 2:14

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Do not give up... When you first begin, you find only darkness and as it were a cloud of unknowing. You don't know what this means except that in your will you feel a simple, steadfast intention reaching out towards God... Reconcile yourself to wait in this darkness as long as necessary, but still go on longing after him whom you love. *From The Cloud of Unknowing (fourteenth century)*

To be there before you, Lord, that's all.
To shut the eyes of my body,
To shut the eyes of my soul,
And to be still and silent,
To expose myself to you who are there, exposed to me.
To be there before you, the Eternal Presence. *Michael Quoist*

My Lord, I have nothing to do in this world but seek and serve you; I have nothing to do with a heart and its affections but to breathe after you; I have nothing to do with my tongue and pen but to speak to you and for you and to publish your glory and your will. *Richard Baxter (1615—1691)*

Our Father, you called us and saved us in order to make us like your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Change us day by day, the work of your Holy Spirit so that we may grow more like him in all that we think and say and do, to his glory. Amen *Soren Kierkegaard (1813—1855)*

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:
Kindle we pray you, in the hearts of all people the true love of peace; and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth be filled with the knowledge of your love:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Francis Paget (1851—1911)*

Thoughts for the Day

He who seeks vengeance must dig two graves: one for his enemy and one for himself

Chinese proverb

"The message of the Bible is that God hates religion...religion is the one great concern of godless men." Karl Barth, Church Dogmatics, (Vol. 1)

The Diocese of St Albans



Living God's Love

Going Deeper into God
Transforming Communities
Making New Disciples

Secondhand Book Sale - Please remember to look out your unwanted books and bring them to Putnoe Heights Church on Friday March 11 between 6pm-7.30pm. Help at the sale on Saturday March 12 is needed. Please contact Linda Hoar if you are able to help. Tel: 782717
 Secondhand Book Sale on Saturday March 12th between 10am-2pm. There will be refreshments and light lunches available.

Bedford Town Band's next concert is at St Mark's Church Calder Rise Bedford MK41 7UY ; 7.30 - 9.30pm 25 February. Entry by programme £7, concessions £6 available from Frescoes coffee shop Mill Street or at the door on concert night. Refreshments available, prize raffle draw..

Holy Week – The Bishop of Bedford will be holding meditations at St Paul's Church Bedford on three consecutive nights in April - 18/19/20
 Monday 18 at 7.30pm - Sacrificial love as generosity
 Tuesday 19 - Sacrificial love as selflessness
 Wednesday 20 - Sacrificial love as faithfulness
 The meditations will include a simple communion service - all are welcome to attend.

Partnership Lent Course

The Lent course this year will be held at Putnoe Heights and look at the essential of Christian belief as expressed in the Apostles Creed. I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Refreshments will be served from 7.30pm with each session starting at 8.00pm and lasting one hour. Since the series will look at the foundation of Christian belief it would be particularly helpful for anybody who is considering confirmation. Please speak with one of the ministers if you would like to consider this.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 Thursday 17 March Charles Royden
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. Thursday 31 March Sam Cappleman
I believe in the Holy Spirit Thursday 7 April Jane Mason

Footprints Walk Sunday 6 March 2pm. Meet at Renhold Church for 4 mile walk to Priory Marina. Transport back to Renhold for car drivers will be arranged. Details—Sue and Gerry.

Action for Children During the festive season and since, several supporters and friends from St. Mark's and other churches have collected the sum of £1179.52 in various ways.

Donations from Colworth Charity Home	487.00
Carol singing at the station	281.15
Sainsburys collection in Kempston	225.03
Christmas Fayre	142.63

Diaries, Christmas cards, etc.	43.71
Home and counter collecting boxes.	<u>450.00</u>
	1629.52

The aim of the charity is simple but ambitious — to help vulnerable children and young people achieve their full potential—as long as it takes. This is done with a wide and innovative range of services for them and their families.

House Group at the home of Wendy Waters will be held on Mondays for 6 weeks beginning at 7.45pm on 7 March. We will use the Diocesan Lent Course 'Living God's Love'. If you would like to come please phone Wendy Waters 401834.

Putnoe Heights Church are looking for volunteers to help decorate the quiet room . If you are able to help please contact either Sam Ware on 01234 304058 or Jean Kirk on 01234317699

Bedford foodbank

A meeting has been arranged on Wednesday 9 March from 12 noon till 1400 at the Salvation Army Hall, Commercial Road, Bedford, MK40 1QZ to explore the viability of setting up a Bedford foodbank similar to those in Milton Keynes and Cambridge. We look forward to welcoming all who are interested in setting up such a project – a light lunch will be provided. Sue Wall, Project Coordinator of MK Foodbank will give a presentation on their project. Bedford foodbank will be an independent charity that works across the churches. Whilst the foodbank will be a Christian organisation, it will serve people of all faith groups and beliefs or none. We are passionate about inclusion and being non-judgemental is central to our vision. We believe that everyone has the right to have food on their plate, dignity, skills, a chance to be sign-posted to appropriate support networks, to work, and to have hope for the future. Our vision is to build a community where people of all backgrounds feel included and where they have the opportunity to live with dignity and hope. The food bank will provide free groceries amongst other linked services, so that no one has to go to bed hungry. How a foodbank works Foodbank vouchers issued by statutory agencies or other charities can be redeemed at the foodbank. The vouchers entitle client to a box containing 10 meals (3 days' supply of emergency food). Volunteers meet clients over a cup of tea and signpost them to agencies able to assist with any longer-term issues. For catering purposes if you would like to attend, could you kindly advise by emailing Kevin, Salvation Army Centre Coordinator – kevin.sandford@salvationarmy.org.uk.

Hymns for Sunday

Praise the Lord, let heaven adore him,
praise him, angels, in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him;
praise him, all you stars of light.
Praise the Lord, for he has spoken;
worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
laws which never shall be broken,
for their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord, for he is glorious;
never shall his promise fail;
God has made his saints victorious;
sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
hosts on high, his power proclaim;
heaven and earth, and all creation,
praise and glorify his name.

Love is his word, love is his way,
feasting with men, fasting alone,
living and dying, rising again,
love, only love is his way.

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord;
Better than splendour or wealth.*

Love is his way, love is his mark,
sharing his last Passover feast,
Christ at his table, host to the twelve,
love, only love, is his mark.

Love is his mark, love is his sign,
bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
'This is my body, this is my blood.'
Love, only love is his sign.

Love is his sign, love is his news;
'Do this,' he said, 'lest you forget
All my deep sorrow, all my dear blood.'
Love, only love, is his news.

Love is his news, love is his name,
we are his own, chosen and called,
family, brethren, cousins and kin.
love, only love, is his name.

Love is his name, love is his law;
hear his command, all who are his:
'Love one another, I have loved you'
love, only love, is his law.

Love is his law, love is his word;
love of the Lord, Father and Word,
love of the Spirit, God ever one.
Love, only love, is his word.



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Those who sign up for Easyfundraising receive special offers—this week there was a 10% discount from Mark's and Spencer !!

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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.



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

Wheelchair wanted

We have had a request for wheelchair by a severely disabled person in India. This person has no legs and needs a chair with large wheels which they can propel themselves. Please contact St Mark's Church office.

Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Mrs Joyce Burton will be held at St Marks Church at 2:00pm on Tuesday 22 February 2011 followed by the cremation.

