



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
24 May 2015
Pentecost



Sunday Services

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

24 May - Pentecost

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr Mike Cooper
Intercessions - Ministers
Organist - Miss Marion Prior
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen
Organist - Mr. Alan Bunker

31 May Trinity

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mr. Mike Cooper
Intercessions - Mr. Mike Elliot
Organist - Mr. John Mower
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mrs. Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Ministers
Organist - Mr. John Mower

Readings 1. Isaiah 6: 1-8 2. Romans 8: 12-17
3. John 3: 1-17
Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's
Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur
House on first Monday of every month.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have been given by Val Peacock to celebrate her birthday.

The flowers at St Mark's Church have been given by Geoff & Margaret Appleton.

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.

Banns of Marriage

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Graham Paul Hornsby and Alice May Court, both of this parish to be married at St Pandiona & St John the Baptist Church Eltisle (second time of reading)

Prayer for Sunday

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me,
Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me,
Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of
friend and stranger. *Attributed to St Patrick (372-466)*

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

Deacon Jane Mills
c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

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

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

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

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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Churchyards Administrator
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Open Mon-Thur 9-5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Geoff Gypps 365630
Leadership Team Mr Barry Southam 219714
barrysoutham@aol.com
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre
Charity No 1160981.

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Margaret Appleton 354708
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm -
3.45pm For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com
8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
(See website for more details)
9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955
10.00am-12 U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's Liz Mason 07816522200
12.00 noon Storybox Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630
1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts On April 20
2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights– fortnightly
4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Zoe Wilcox 07767311424
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 07928483418
6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571
6.30pm-8pm Cubs at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
6.30pm Fit For All Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Mary Daly 217127
7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.
7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399
7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting– 18 May Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567
7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. 9.30, 11.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30. Lorrie Pearson 340473

11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946
1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895
2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.
3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393
7.15-8.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571
7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390
7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 9 June Mowsbury Park Café 2.30.pm. Details Diane Bayliss 268101
8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.
10.00-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.
10.00am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Janet King 313946
11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 3 June Contact Putnoe Office 365630
1.15pm Social Bridge Club St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.Contact 1st week of the month. Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966
3.30-4.30pm Vita Fit St Mark's starting 29 April for 6 weeks Liz Roe 07901684538
3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 17 June 2015 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698
4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
5.00–6.00pm Rainbows at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091
6.00pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

6.00-7.00pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel.01234 353865

7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts at Putnoe ages 10.5-14; Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.

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

7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 3446008.

Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 3 June Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) Jill Cooper 357960

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.

10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

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 342613

1.00-2.30pm Wiggles & Jiggles Putnoe Heights. Drop in.

1.00 - 2.30pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's (Weeks 1 & 3 in the month) Contact 897401

1pm-2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552. 2pm -

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

2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210

3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07768481499

6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284

7.00pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's (3rd week in month). Carol Plant 01832710504

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Rosemary McNeilage 405594

7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Linda Stephen 409493

8.00pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50

Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

Friday

9.30am -3.30pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, 2nd week per month.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

4.50pm-7.00pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email: phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

Saturday

9.00am Faith Temple Ministries St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593

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

Sunday

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

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre at St. Mark's. 1st Sunday Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's . A crèche is also available.

2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th Sunday. Closed for summer break. Re opens 13 September. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – tba

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Annual Congregational Meetings -

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 2nd June

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting – 28 May

Putnoe Church Council - 11 June

Pastoral Group Meeting– 15 September 2015 4.00pm

Churchyard Committee - TBA

Circuit meeting – 16 June at Putnoe Heights

Deanery meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees – 17 May

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 1 June 2015 2pm

St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015, 25 May and 31 August.

Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 27 September.

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

Pentecost

Sentence of Scripture Acts 2:17-18

In the last days, God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.'

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by that same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Bible Reading - Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: " 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

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

Second Bible Reading - Romans 8:22-27

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

(This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)



Gospel Reading - John 15:26-27 & 16:4b-15

When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you. "Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgement, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

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

Post Communion Sentence

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns for Sunday *(Please distribute Special Pentecost service sheet and Hymn Sheets)*

1 Wind of God dynamic spirit, **2** Spirit of holiness, **3** Born by the Holy Spirit, **4** The spirit came at Pentecost, **5** Let every Christian pray.

Commentary

Seven weeks after celebrating Easter we are here at the festival of Pentecost when we remember the giving of the Holy Spirit. This Christian celebration is big, it sits as the third major festival after Easter and Christmas. It is often called the birthday of the church, the time when the Christian Church began, however this is to miss the point that these early believers were not part of a separate Christian church, they were Jews, firmly rooted in Jewish spirituality. The name Pentecost comes from the Greek word for 50, 'pente'. The roots of this special time lie in the Jewish Harvest festival, the Festival of Weeks; Shavuot. It celebrated the completion of the Spring or wheat harvest and it commemorated the giving of the law to Moses on Mt Sinai.

This is hugely significant -

- The Old Testament Covenant, established in the Exodus, which the Passover commemorated, was completed at Mt Sinai with the giving of the law.
- The New Covenant, established in the cross and resurrection was completed in Jerusalem with the giving of the Holy Spirit

What this means is that

- Under the Old Covenant Moses gave the Law on Mt Sinai
- Under the New Covenant Jesus gives the Holy Spirit

The giving of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament by Jesus is therefore contrasted with the giving of the law by Moses on Mt Sinai and there are similarities in the events. God descended upon Sinai accompanied by fire and sound, it was likened to the sound of a trumpet (Exodus 19).

So now we read that there is a new beginning and there is more fire and there is more noise - this time described like 'wind'. In Acts, Luke uses phrases such as 'like the blowing of a violent wind' and 'what seemed to be tongues of fire.' This is poetic speech to use words to point beyond their real meaning to a deeper significance.

This is the fulfilment of what was promised in Jeremiah 31 'I will write their laws on the their hearts'. This is a new beginning, it marks the transition from old to new. The Apostle Paul made great play of this move from law to spirit. Pentecost was the time when the followers of Jesus could realise their potential. At Pentecost the believers were given spiritual rocket fuel to propel themselves forward. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples new found power and the ability to leave the security of their upper room and head on down into the market place to share the Gospel message of Jesus. Without the Holy Spirit they dared not move, in fact Jesus told them not to move, they were to be still and wait until the Holy Spirit came. But when the Spirit did come, then they were able to act not in their own strength, but in the power of God.

We are told that the disciples were able to speak real other languages. Jerusalem was a cosmopolitan place

anyway but we know that there were lots of people in Jerusalem because of the harvest feast. The work of the Holy Spirit is seen to bring nations together. When somebody is talking nonsense we often say that they are 'babbling'. It refers back to the episode in the Bible in Genesis 11 where the Tower of Babel was built and we are told God broke up the nations and gave them different languages. Now the opposite is happening, God is uniting people. Babel tells of the world being divided, Pentecost of a world being brought together.

The disciples all were speaking different languages and people thought they were drunk. The Apostle Peter, seized the opportunity and he reminded the gathered devout Jews about what the prophet Joel had said. He realises that this is a huge moment in God's history of dealing with humankind and he quotes Joel to describe what new thing God is doing.

'I will pour out my spirit on all flesh.' This is an inclusive message - all flesh, not just the chosen few who belonged to a special nation - The Christian message is multi-cultural. Acts names 15 different peoples who can hear about Jesus in the language their mothers taught them.

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,.....and your young men shall see visions.

This is a message where age was no barrier, young people were included. In the new community young people would wake up and speak God's truth !

Your old men shall dream dreams. Yes and old people too. No longer would they live in the past telling people how good it used to be, now they would by the Spirit dream dreams, they would be visionary about the future !

Even on the male and female There is no gender barrier to God's spirit

Slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. Even slaves, poor people and people in chains are included

So with God's new creation, God's new covenant people, it is going to be different. It has all nations, young people - sons and daughters, old people it is not restricted by gender and there is no social barrier it includes even slaves. We can see what happened as a result of this Pentecost experience. This was a transformation of those disciples. The Twelve go from a defeated, sorry lot of losers to those who tilted the world on its axis. The disciples were dramatically changed and it is this change which speaks so powerfully about the truth of the resurrection of Jesus. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

This was a very special day - but of course it doesn't end there. Pentecost isn't something which we remind ourselves about, which happened long ago, Pentecost is an ongoing blessing on God's church today. We are a part of this, we are privileged to be people of the new order of things, Pentecost is something which we are called to a part of too. Pentecost is the time when we celebrate that we too can receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to enable us to trust and believe and live more like Jesus.

The Holy Spirit isn't just for the spiritual giants, the Mother Therasas of this world. It is the Holy Spirit which inspires us in the ordinary day to day and sometimes very mundane parts of our lives. It is the Holy Spirit which leads some people to give of themselves to move chairs after the service, to visit the sick... all signs of God's grace.

Jesus promises through the Holy Spirit to be within us as we seek to order our lives to the new covenant, the new way of doing things. Without Pentecost, without the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus would have been a historically interesting person and people would have enjoyed telling stories about him, he might have even become famous, as a dead person. But after Pentecost Jesus was alive again and the disciples were able to experience his risen power.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Before ever you made us, O Lord, you loved us. Your love has never slackened nor ever shall. In love all your works have begun, by love you sustain them and in your love our life is everlasting. So let the beginning and ending of all our loving be to see our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Julian of Norwich (c. 1343-c. 1417)

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

O God, send forth your Holy Spirit into my heart that I may perceive, into my mind that I may remember, and into my soul that I may meditate. Inspire me to speak with piety, holiness, tenderness and mercy. Teach, guide and direct my thoughts and senses from beginning to end. May your grace ever help and correct me, and may I be strengthened now with wisdom from on high, for the sake of your infinite mercy. Amen. *Saint Anthony of Padua*

BELIEF'S Spring course entitled "Reading the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) Today" will run on Wednesday Evenings at St Andrews Church Kimbolton Road Bedford from 8pm to 9.30pm as follows

Week 3 27th May 2015: The Value and Importance of the Hebrew Scriptures to Christians today: Janet Tollington, of Westminster College, Cambridge

Week 4 3rd June 2015: The Psalms: Brother John, of Turvey Abbey

Week 5 10th June 2015: The Old Testament: Brother William, of Turvey Abbey

This course will cost £4 per session (including refreshments) payable at each session

We do not want anyone to be deterred from attending any of BELIEF events for financial reasons. If you find the fees prohibitive, please contact us. Stephanie Field BELIEF Coordinator Tel 01234 330314 belief@standrewsbedford.org

Putnoe Heights "Missions knitting and crochet group". Knit-a-square for KasCare, providing comfort for orphans and vulnerable children in South Africa. <http://www.knit-a-square.com> a mission project for everyone. We could meet once a month; knit at home; donate wool or postage to send the items we have made. KasCare likes knitted and crochet 8 inch squares sent to them to make blankets to keep children warm. For more details speak to Carolyn Morris or visit their website for patterns and instructions.

Mother Teresa Support Group meet at St Mark's every other Tuesday at 2.30pm to knit and natter. (Wool and needles provided.) Please call Maureen Watling Tel.262225. New people always welcome. Next meeting Tuesday 26 May.

Do you have a skill or something which you do which you could share with Open House. It might be singing or making things or you may have some special photographs which you could show from a trip. Open House would like to welcome you along. Open House provides a relaxed café style environment where people are free to meet and make friends, enjoy themselves and perhaps try a new activity or learn a skill. Please get in touch with Charlie if you could offer to come along one Wednesday.

Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to St Albans Diocese: June 2015

Sustaining Ministry and Personal Faith - Thursday 18 June 2015 at 7.15pm.

I invite you to come and hear Archbishop Justin speak to clergy, lay ministers, ordinands and congregation members on Thursday 18 June in the Cathedral. Archbishop Justin will draw on his experience and life, as well as his interest in Benedictine spirituality, as he explores the wells which sustain his faith in his demanding role. I know that his insights will be relevant to us all as we seek to fulfill our various ministries and grow in our personal faith. The format for the event will be:

7:15pm Arrive at St Albans Cathedral and mingle with friends from across the diocese over drinks
8:00pm Talk by Archbishop Justin
8:45pm Period of quiet reflection
8:55pm Compline
9:15pm Leave the Cathedral in silence Bishop Alan

Easter Offering Dedication Service at Kempston East Methodist Church on Wednesday 27 May at 2.30p.m

An Invitation from the Brickhill BEE Group Thursday 28 May, 1pm until 3pm in the Wren Room. The Citizens Advice Bureau together with Bedford Borough Council are coming along to help give advice and guidance on reducing your energy bills. All advice is free, impartial and strictly confidential. Bring along your energy bills and lets see if switching to an alternative provider will work out better. Bedford Borough Council will also be on hand to offer help and advice.



Sunday 24 May, 12 noon until 4pm
Brickhill BEE Group would like to invite you on a tour around the area starting out from, and returning to St Mark's Church, Calder Rise, Brickhill. The trail visits homes taking part in this years Brickhill Green Open Home event where you can witness first hand the changes that have been made to people's homes - making them far more energy efficient and/or using renewable energy.

Can you help Today

We need folks to help keep St Mark's open today to show people our boilers, panels and solar hot water etc? Please speak with Wendy if you can be around for any time between 12 noon and 4.00pm - even if its only for 30 minutes !

Pilgrims on a Journey the Prayer Handbook of the Methodist Church will be available in August. Please let me know by end of June if you would like a copy for personal or community use, including public worship. Vera Pearson 270737 (St. Mark's).

Car Boot tomorrow

Monday 25 May Last chance to clear out your cupboards before the August Bank Holiday boot sale. Anything for the stall can be left in the foyer on Sunday. The church will be open all day. Cakes and tray-bakes can be left in the kitchen or brought in on Monday morning, before 9.30 please. Any offers of help would be gratefully received. Please contact Linda Parry.





Friends for Life is holding a Volunteer Induction Session on Saturday 6 June at Priory Methodist Church, Bedford. Friends for Life seeks to reduce isolation amongst Care Home residents by providing Personal Befrienders to visit residents who have few or no visitors. This work is very flexible and highly rewarding. If you can spare just half an hour each fortnight to massively enhance the life of a Care Home resident, please consider volunteering. Further sessions will take place in July, September and November. For more information please contact Joanne Barrow on 01234 213038; barrow.ffl@virginmedia.com or visit www.friendsforlifebedford.org.uk

Partnership Mission

Bishop Richard is joining us in the Partnership on the week commencing 13 July and he will be preaching at both services on Sunday 19 July. During the week he will be visiting schools, lunch Club, Anjuluta Court, and as many church activities as possible.

Please put these dates in your diary

Tuesday 14 July at St Mark's Church - an evening exploring the Christian faith with the Bishop addressing questions. There will be entertainment and refreshments provided.

Saturday 18 July

- During the day we will be providing a Church marquee for the Brickhill on the Green Fete.
- In the evening we are having a Caribbean Evening at Putnoe Heights with food and entertainment.

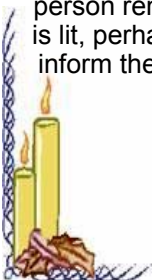
Ways you can help

- Make sure that you invite the Bishop to any activities which you have going on - speak with one of the ministers
- Please remember the Bishop and the Partnership Mission in your prayers and use these great opportunities to invite friends so invite them along to the Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday services.

There will be more information nearer the time

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



Heather Ivett

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

Pentecost

The Dove was a special and sacred bird for Jewish people. It was used in sacrifices but Jews were not allowed to hunt them or eat them.



In the Song of Solomon the lovers address each other as 'my dove.' The dove became a symbol of the Holy Spirit combining the virtues of strength, purity and gentleness. Today is Pentecost - Whit Sunday, so called after the white robes which people wore to be baptised on this day. At Pentecost we commemorate the gift of God's Holy Spirit on all Christian people.

In the story of Noah the Dove returns with an olive leaf so that Noah knew that the waters were subsiding. The Dove became a symbol of hope and the dove with an olive branch in its beak is the sign of peace. The Holy Spirit gives us hope, even in our darkest days, and inspires us to work for peace and to pray for peace between the nations of the earth.



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www.easyfundraising.com. This works exactly the same when you shop with John Lewis, M&S and a whole host of other shops. This has an added benefit that you will also get some special offers - you can't lose! Please click the link on the church website go online and sign up now



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Horace Allan Lavia will take place at St Mark's Church on Friday 29th May at 1.00pm