



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

25 May 2008

Ordinary 8



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 - Morning Worship
Preacher - The Revd Eric Royden
Leadership Team - Mike Cooper
Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
Preacher - The Revd Eric Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen
Joan is on holiday this week.

1 June - Ordinary 9

9.30am St. Mark's Church - Morning Worship
Preacher - Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions - Ministers

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
Preacher - Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Linda Hoare
Intercessions - Ministers

Bible Readings 1. Deuteronomy Chapter 11:18-28
2. Romans Chapter 1:16-17, 3:22-28
3. Matthew 7:21-28

Thank You

The flowers at St. Mark's this week have been given by Wendy and Mick Ovenden in loving memory of her mother Ruth May Norton on the occasion of her birthday.

We are always grateful for any donations for 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 Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) and add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

O Lord God,
perfect in us
that which is lacking of thy gifts
of faith to increase it
of hope to stablish it
of love to kindle it.

And make us to fear
but one thing only
the fearing of aught more than thee
our Father, our Saviour, our Lord,
for ever and ever. Amen.
(Lancelot Andrewes 1555-1626)

Contact Details

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)

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. NO meeting on 27 May. 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 - AGM 31 May at 5pm

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.**

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary

Because Easter falls so early this year, the Methodist lectionary provides for the readings from the Eighth Sunday after Epiphany to be used today.

Isaiah 49:8-16a Psalm 131 or Psalm 62:5-12 (UMH 787) 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Matthew 6:24-34 - Our commentary follows these readings.

Opening Verse of Scripture-

Philippians Chapter 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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 - 1saiah 49: 8-16a

This is what the LORD says: "In the time of my favour I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!' "They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill. They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water. I will turn all my mountains into roads, and my highways will be raised up. See, they will come from afar-- some from the north, some from the west, some from the region of Aswan." Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me." "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me. (This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

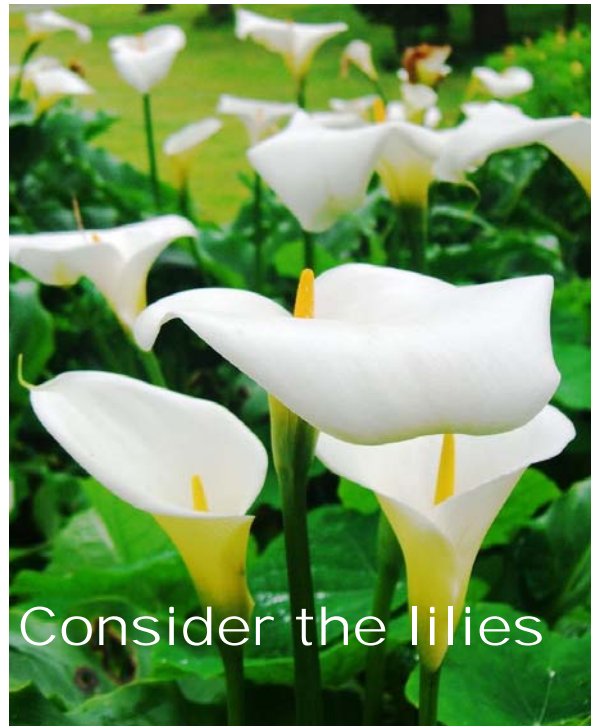
Second Reading - 2. 1 Corinthians 4: 1-5

So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 6: 24-34

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.



"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Hymns (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise*)

1. All my hope on God is founded 16
2. There is a redeemer. 673
3. Take my life 624
4. Breathe on me breath of God 67
5. I the Lord of sea and sky (On Partnership News)

Commentary

In today's Epistle, Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, he is trying to give encouragement and support to those who are feeling discouraged on their Christian journey. He says he never loses heart on the task God has given him to do, in spite of all he suffered in that task, He tells what inspires him to keep going on First there is the awareness of the magnitude of what he has to do, and when he realises that, it motivates him just as it will motivate us to do quite amazing things beyond our imagination, bringing added strength to the task.

Secondly, there was immense gratitude for the mercy received from God despite all Paul had done to harm the Christians before his conversion. He now wanted to do all he could to make atonement for his actions no matter what the cost.

Sometimes our intentions are misinterpreted and our words twisted to give a wrong impression, or are taken out of context. This accusation faced Paul. He was accused of being dishonest and unscrupulous, distorting the gospel message. If such a great servant of the Lord was to suffer so, we perhaps can be encouraged to endure the attacks on us,

Paul was the supreme missionary. Apart from writing half of the New Testament, he travelled the whole of the ancient world planting Churches and preaching the gospel. His words still influence and form the basis for countless messages. He insists that anyone with an open mind would be bound to accept the Christian message in view of the simple way he proclaimed it. In spite of this, there were those who just would not accept and believe his teaching. To them Paul said they were allowing their minds to be blinded so that they could not believe.

All through the Bible the men who wrote the various books tell of the power of evil in the world. Sometimes they call that power Satan or the Devil. Jesus Himself spoke of the power of this world, and in His teaching of the Lord's Prayer, used the words 'that we be delivered from the power of the evil one'.

A casual glance at any newspaper reveals the extent of evil in the world, and as matter of personal experience we all know how real evil is. Those who cannot, or will not, accept the good news of Christ are those who have given themselves over to the evil of the world so that they are unable to accept God's message God never wilfully abandons people, rather He lets them face the consequences.

Paul emphasises that in Jesus Christ we see God and shows us what God is like. Jesus said, 'he that hath seen me hath seen the Father'. Paul always preached that people should not look at him or believe in him, but look to Christ in order that they should see the glory of God come to earth in a form all can understand. (Eric Royden)

Meditation It is so easy to lose heart and question one's faith as we experience problems, heartache in our daily life, and to see all our efforts to encourage those around us to share in our faith come to nothing. No one however experienced more discouragement than Paul. Having experienced divine intervention and conversion his entire life was devoted to proclaiming the faith he at one time so fiercely opposed. In consequence he suffered beatings, hardship, persecution, arrest and illness, yet never gave up and always trusted his Lord. Often the difficulties we face can be a test of our faith. As we remember the suffering of Jesus on our behalf it should inspire us to persevere. Doubt comes into every heart, and it has been said that a person who has never doubted has never fully believed. We can never argue a person into believing, we just have to present the message and leave the Holy Spirit to act. We face unprecedented attacks on our faith from television, where there is such a strong anti-Christian bias. When any Christian presentation is shown, it is invariably of a very liberal interpretation, by people whose faith is to say the least rather tenuous. In the words of the hymn, 'be strong, be bold, for the Lord your God is with you' (Eric Royden)

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Forgive us when we try to live without a master

Help us when we try to be our own master .

Help us to find that lack with in us that makes us need to have so much control.

Help us to find the reason we cannot trust more than ourselves.

Help us when our possessions become our master. ..

Too often we allow THEM to give us our direction and our purpose.

God with us, whose unfailing mercy is our refuge even when our broken choices corrupt your glorious creation: lead us to the safe haven of righteousness and uphold us on the rock of Your presence, so that in times of trial we may stand firm, anchored in faith. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ revealed and rejoice in the glory He shared with us, through Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

Julian of Norwich (c1342– after 1413) was an English mystic and Benedictine nun, she was also an anchoress. This means that she walled into the Norman Church of St Julian in Norwich during a mass for the dead. From this cell she ate frugal meals, and days in contemplative prayer. .She had many reasons to worry about life, she lived during the Black Death that killed 75 million people in medieval Europe. Many people interpreted the bubonic plague as divine punishment, but not Julian. In her unapologetically optimistic view of life, she believed that God loved every person and that he would redeem every tear. In her book of visions called *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love* — by some accounts the first book published in English that was written by a woman — Julian wrote one of the most well-known sentences in all of Christian history that's also the perfect antidote to worry. In her thirteenth vision or "shewing," Julian concluded that she was wrong to worry about the sins and sorrows of life. Jesus told her that these trials and tribulations were, in fact, "behovely" (from which we get our word "behoove"). Even our sins and anxieties are somehow incumbent upon us. They're part of our human story. Despite "all the pains that ever were, or ever shall be," Julian believed that God longs to "comforteth readily and sweetly." He does so by reassuring us that, because of the certainty of his boundless love, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."

And this word: *Thou shalt not be overcome*, was said full clearly and full mightily, for assuredness and comfort against all tribulations that may come. He said not: *thou shalt not be tempted, thou shalt not be afflicted*; but he said: *Thou shalt not be overcome*. God willeth that we take heed to these words, and that we be ever strong in sure trust, in weal and woe. For he loveth and enjoyeth us, and so willeth he that we love and enjoy him and mightily trust in him; **and all shall be well.**

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.

1st Putnoe Brownies will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on Saturday 21 June with a party and would love to invite as many ex- members as can. The pack formed on 2 February 1958 but did not register and officially come into existence until 20 June 1958. This would make the oldest Brownie 60 and the youngest first members 57. If you know anyone who was a Brownie or a leader at the unit please contact Sharon Tanner on 01767699399 or email irstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk with their details so we can send them an invitation. We would also love to try and get some old photos as we only have recent pictures.

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.

"Are you sitting comfortably?" You may notice a couple of rows of chairs (borrowed from the Wren Room) in the Church over the coming weeks. We're "trailing" them, with a view to eventually replacing the rather tired-looking ones we have at the moment. New chairs will have a place to put books etc. If you have any views on this, please either write your comments on a form (on the table at the back of the Church), or speak to one of the Leadership Team.

Fundraising In the past few months we have raised over £200 for various charities including Keech Cottage Hospice, St John's Moggerhanger and Cystic Fibrosis. We are now currently supporting McMillan cancer support in Bedfordshire. Thank you for your continued support. Cards can always be made to order. Claire 266408 or Margaret 267567

Car Boot Sale. We would very much like offers of help in the kitchen between 10.00am and 11.30am Please see Avril or phone her on 360605

Shopmobility - The Howard Centre, Bedford. Bedford Shopmobility is in need of volunteers to help with the booking in and out of wheelchairs and scooters. The commitment would be for a half day at a time on a regular basis. If you are able to help, please contact Mary Curtis at 1 The Howard Centre or telephone 01234 348000.



St Albans Woodland Burial Trust

The AGM of the Woodlands Burial Trust will be held on 31st May at 5pm in St Mark's Church.

St Albans Woodland Burial Ground Open Day on Saturday June 7 from 2.00pm until 5.00pm

Methodist Homes Sunday 9th June. Envelopes are available on the foyer table, please return by 8th July. The magazine can be viewed in the foyer.

Many thanks once again to Judith Stanton whose whist drive has raised £140 for St. Mark's.

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

All Shall Be Well

"The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less. We buy more, but enjoy less. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life, not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships.

Dr. Bob Moorehead



Please remember to buy everything you need through amazon at Thisischurch.com

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.

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

Putnoe Heights - Christian Aid collection raised £1058, £400 of which will attract Gift Aid recovery. Sincere thanks to all the collectors and all who gave so generously.

St. Mark's - Christian Aid collection raised £116.39. Many thanks to collectors and donors.



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.

Hymn for Sunday

I, the Lord of sea and sky.
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you send me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have bourned my peoples pain.
I have wept for love of them,
they turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them,
whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them,
my hand will save.

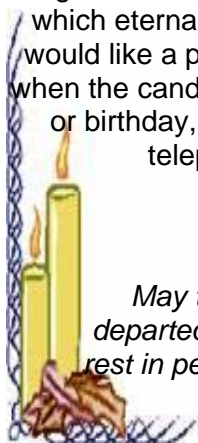
Finest bread I will provide,
till their hearts be satisfied,
I will give my life to them,
whom shall I send.

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.

Angela Kiff

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



Weddings

We publish the banns and pray for Maureen Rose Smith and Harry Norman Paul. This is the first time of asking.

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