



# Partnership News

**Easter 5**  
**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church**  
**28 April 2013**



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

## Today Easter 5

**9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship**  
Preacher – The Reverend Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Margaret Appleton  
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship**  
Preacher – The Reverend Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions - Ms Sam Ware

## Sunday 5th May Easter 6

**9.30 St Marks – Family Worship with Baptism**  
Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger  
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank  
Intercessions – Ministers  
**11.00 am Putnoe – Family Worship with Baptism**  
Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger  
Leadership – Mrs Jenny Snelson  
Intercessions – YPG

### Annual Congregational Meetings

straight after services

**Readings** 1. Acts 16: 9-15 2. Revelation 21: 10,22  
–22:5 3. John 14: 23-29

**Midweek 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 St Mark's Church this week have been given by Joyce Bean in memory of Raymond.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Linda and Des Hoar in loving memory of their parents.

*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 on the foyers*

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## Prayer for Sunday

Let us worship the Christ  
who draws near to each of us.  
Let us praise the Christ  
who loves the worst among us.  
Let us bless the Christ  
who shares with the least among us.  
Let us glorify the Christ  
who intercedes for all among us  
in the presence of God the Father. Amen.

*Ann Griffiths (1776-1805)*

**The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman**  
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a Vice  
President for Hewlett Packard)

**Deacon Jane Mills**  
c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre 365630  
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.ThisIsChurch.com

### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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.*

### Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846  
**Leadership Team** Mrs. Jean Kirk 317699  
**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

**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Morag Stewart 360103  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892  
treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)  
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685  
**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**9.-3.45pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**  
(See website for more details)  
**.9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430  
**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955  
**10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Calligraphy** at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation** at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (see contact details below)  
**12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris [youth@thischurch.com](mailto:youth@thischurch.com) 365630  
**1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make** For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– [chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk) .  
**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** (see contact details below)  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190  
**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.  
**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859  
**6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**6.30pm Boot Camp** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081  
**7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson 353518  
**7.00pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020  
**7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091  
**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 15 April Judith Stanton. 823313  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016  
**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507  
**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389  
**10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** (see contact details below)  
**1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles** 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552  
**1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp.** St Mark's (contacts details below)

**1—3pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's (contacts details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details)  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895  
**2pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).  
**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225  
**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs 406784.  
**4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468  
**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957  
**7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390  
**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648  
**6.30pm MT Karate** (all ages) Karen King 07941264885  
**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455  
**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** (Meets fortnightly). Next meeting 30 April - Members evening and Quiz - Eileen Marriott Details Janet King 313946

## Wednesday

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly Changing to Fridays from 5 April (Same time an place.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647  
**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.  
**9.30am Discover & Do** (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666  
**10am-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.  
**10am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. (contact below)  
**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.  
**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks (see contact details below)  
**10am U3A Diet and Nutrition-** Putnoe (contact below)  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit**  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 1 May at Putnoe Heights Office 365630  
**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)  
**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811  
**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** St Marks.(see contact details below)  
**2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan** Putnoe Heights  
**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966  
**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 15th May Wendy Waters 401834  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731  
**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. Sylvia Woods 365095

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

**8.00pm 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 1 May 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 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

## Thursday

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

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

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green 244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

**110-11.30am Gentle Yoga** For more details contact Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305

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

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

**1pm—2.30pm Drop in (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

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St.Mark's (contact below)

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Mark's Mary Rich 272470

**5.00pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale 406094

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

**7.30pm Gentle Birthing** St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231 (as from 4th April)

**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 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

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

**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass 294220

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

## Friday

**10am -12.00 U3A Photography** St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St. Marks (see contact details below)

**2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist** St Marks. (contact details below)

**2pm U3A Italian**-Putnoe Heights (contact details below)

**2pm U3A Gardening** - Putnoe Heights

4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker (07900 232648

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

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

## Saturday

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

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

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

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

## Sunday

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

**10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre.** 1st Sunday Feb/Apr/ Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

**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.

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

## Messy Church Dates

Weds 17 April; Weds 17 May; Weds 19 June; Weds 18 Sept; Weds 16 Oct; Weds 20 Nov,

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



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** –11 June, 8 October

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 9 May 2013

**Annual Congregational Meetings** 28 April 2013

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 3 June

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting**

**Putnoe Church Council** - 10 June, 24 Oct

**Pastoral Group Meeting** - 7 May 4.00pm

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** - 2 May at St Mark's

**Commemoration Service** Sunday 3 November 3 pm

**Circuit meeting** -

**Deanery Meeting** -

**Woodland Burial Trustees**– AGM –Sunday 9 June

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** –

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

## Easter 5

### Introductory Sentence - Galatians Chapter 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus

### Collect Prayer for the Day— Before we read we pray

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Common Worship

### First Reading — Acts 11 v 1 – 18

The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticised him and said, You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them. Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened: I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.' I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' This happened three times, and then it was pulled up to heaven again. Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God? When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.

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

### Second Reading - Revelation Chapter 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life."

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

### Gospel Reading – John 13:31-35

When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

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

"I am the  
Alpha and the Omega,"  
says the Lord God,  
who is and who was and  
who is to come, the Almighty.  
*Revelation 1.8*



## Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Hymns** (*Please distribute morning worship and hymn sheets* )

Now is Christ risen from the dead (*Lasst uns erfreuen*)

All heaven declares MP 14

On the day of resurrection (*Marching*)

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise (*Lux Eoi*)

Lift high the cross (*Crucifer*) MP 417 HP 170

## Commentary

Reinhold Niebuhr, was asked if he could name the time and place of his salvation, his answer was "2,000 years ago on a dusty hill named Golgotha outside Jerusalem's wall." The point is clear, it was then that Jesus gave to us the most visible demonstration of God's enduring love for humankind. Christians believe that God took human form and died for his creation, bringing forgiveness even to those who drove nails through his flesh and pronouncing 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do'. It was an act of supreme divinity and shows that God's love transcends all barriers and is not restricted even towards those who hate and murder the most beautiful example of human life which has ever been lived. It is for this reason that we can say that love is fashioned in the shape of the cross. It shows to us that the embrace of God stretches to all of humankind.

This lesson was not understood immediately by the first Christians and we see this in our reading from Acts today. At first the community who followed Jesus were conscientious Jews who followed the Bible, our Old Testament. It restricted their membership to those were born and ritually inducted into Judaism. Early believers in Jesus therefore needed to be circumcised, to eat kosher, they needed to be good Jews. Then there was a transformation in which some of these first believers realised that God's embrace extended far wider than they had understood. This Revelation came to Peter after he had a vision of God telling him to eat meat which was specifically forbidden in Leviticus as being unclean. Peter believed that he had learned from God that nothing he had created was unclean. Immediately following this world changing revelation Peter was invited to Caesarea to the home of the centurion Cornelius, a Roman—not a Jew. It was a truly momentous occasion, Peter tells Cornelius that it was against the Jewish law for him to associate with a gentile like Cornelius. Previously Jews like him believed that God commanded them to keep away from impure or unclean people. However Peter now realised that this was wrong, there was no such thing as unclean people. God did not make impure or unclean. In the words of Peter

'I now realise that God does not show favouritism, but accepts people from every nation who fear him and do what is right.' (Acts 10:34).

Ever since this early revelation the Christian church has been open to gentiles. However progress has not been easy and from the outset there was controversy amongst the apostles themselves over this openness, just as we have often struggled to be as open as Peter. We have at times fallen back and considered that God really did make some people less pure than others, the racial prejudice of the church is a good example. It is a sad fact that Peter himself even after this revelation subsequently lacked courage when confronted by James and the believers from Jerusalem. We read in Galatians 2:12 that the Apostle Paul publicly rebuked Peter for bowing to pressure to reject the gentile outsiders. Paul was furious that Peter and his friends withdrew from fellowship with the gentile believers and Paul tells us that the reason Peter did so was because he was 'afraid.'

We know that subsequently Peter learned his lesson, but it is a lesson which all of us need to learn again and again. We must all be prepared to risk the criticism of others and stand up for

what we know to be right. Peter knew that the scriptures which we now call the Old Testament had to be revised in the light of the new laws which came from the cross of Jesus. If Jesus could forgive those who butchered him, then a new world was being created in which God welcomes every person from any nation. No longer could people be divided into clean and unclean. Perhaps we should all this week ask ourselves, 'who do I think of as impure or unclean. How have I distorted the all embracing, sacrificial love of God? If we seek to live in the love of God, we are not in a position to impose requirements that keep out those whom God's love includes. *Charles Royden*

## **Meditation**

God, give me grace to accept  
with serenity  
the things that cannot be changed,  
courage to change the things  
which should be changed,  
and the wisdom to distinguish  
the one from the other.  
Living one day at a time,  
enjoying one moment at a time,  
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
taking, as Jesus did,  
this sinful world as it is,  
not as I would have it,  
trusting that You will make all things right,  
if I surrender to Your will,  
so that I may be reasonably happy  
in this life,  
and supremely happy with You forever  
in the next.

Amen.

*Attributed, Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)*

## **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

Alpha and Omega, you make your home with us, you dry our tears and quench our thirst, you are the tender love that welcomes all people. Like a mother, you nurture your children, giving them life, teaching them to love. Come and dwell among us, and make all things new. Amen.

God of all people, our hearts are too narrow, our perspectives are too small. We reject those who are not like us — those who disagree with us. We forget that all are your beloved children, and neglect your call to love one another. Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we have failed to be a people known by our love. Show us how to be more caring. Teach us how to love one another, and make us faithful disciples. Amen.

God of love, hours before he was betrayed and arrested, our Lord Jesus commanded that his disciples must love one another. Make this our first thought and intent. Fill your church with the gift of your abiding grace.

God of love you desire that humanity should dwell together in unity and peace. Heal us of the anger and bitterness in which violence and hatred breed. Teach us the way of self-giving love.

God of love you challenge us to embrace a broad community. Silence the narrowness of our charity. Give us a heart to praise you in thought and deed.

God of love you show compassion and mercy to all your children. Embrace in your love all who cry for relief in their suffering. Revive our longing hearts.

God of love, in the resurrection of Christ Jesus you open to all people the gates of your New Jerusalem. Welcome to your heavenly city all who have died. Take away the heartache of grief and replace it with the joy of your eternity. Amen.

## **Poem Prayer**

Taken from the book of poetry called  
Leavings (2012), by Wendell Berry

"I know that I have life  
only insofar as I have love.

I have no love  
except it come from Thee.

Help me, please, to carry  
this candle against the wind."

**St Mark's Preschool** are saving Sainsbury tokens. If anyone has unwanted tokens they would be delighted to have them. There is a box out during Pre-school hours or you can give them to Janet Day or hand them in at the office. Thank you very much.

**Methodist Women in Britain.** District Craft Day on Saturday 18 May at Priory Methodist Church, Bedford from 9.45am to 4.30pm. There are 13 different workshops and everyone is welcome to attend. Hot and cold drinks are provided but please bring your own lunch. The cost is £4 per half day session and please book early as places are limited. Closing date for bookings is 9th May. Booking form and details of workshops are available from Pam Seymour 01234 305695 email-pams@tgis.co.uk or Ruth Watkins 01296 485087

**Hazeldene Heights Preschool** are looking for an Early Years Assistant for the April - July term to work with children with additional needs. Level 2 or 3 in Childcare or equivalent is required. Please contact Mrs Laura Leggett on 01234 326685 for further details.

**Community Concert** The Eagle Choir at St. Andrew's Church 7.30pm Saturday 11 May to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the coronation. All profits to Swaziland Schools Project. Tickets £8, concessions £7, student 16-21 £3 available from St. Andrew's Church Office 216881 or central box office 718112.

### **Christian Aid Week 12-18 May** "Bite Back at Hunger"

Christian aid is an agency that works to bring an end to poverty around the world and every year, one week is designated to a national House- to-House collection by Christians of different traditions working together for that common aim. Please help with the delivery and collection of gift envelopes, on behalf of St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Churches in the Brickhill and Putnoe areas during the week of 12-18 May. The envelopes and collector's information packs will be ready to collect, in each church, on Sundays 5 May and 12 May. Contacts for more information are: Carolyn Morris, Putnoe Heights and Jean Bank, St Mark's.

**St Mark's Preschool** are holding an Open Day on Saturday May 11 2pm -4pm. Do visit with your children. There will be activities and refreshments.

**Action for Children** Box holders and friends. Please bring your boxes so that we can count the contents while you join us for tea and cakes between 2 and 4pm on Wednesday 1 May at Ladyslaude Court, Bramley Way.

**Easter Offering Service** is prepared by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund. Everyone is welcome to attend and this year the local venues are - Amphill Methodist Church Wednesday 8 May at 2pm and Sandy Methodist Church on Thursday 9 May at 3pm.

**Putnoe Art Group** are pleased to announce a Spring Exhibition and sale of pictures, to be held at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday, 11th May from 10.30am to 4pm. Free entry to all and a great welcome with tea/coffee and home-made cakes for just £1. We look forward to seeing you.

**Footprints** The next walk is on 5 May at 2.30pm at Gamlingay and Sugely Wood, an easy 2-2½ miles with no stiles! Take the B1040 from Gamlingay to Waresly, after ½ mile turn right at brown nature reserve sign, drive up track and park on right hand side of track. Walking boots or Wellies advisable as parts of the walk were quite muddy. For more details please contact Alan & Ruth Bunker.

**Bedford Town Concert Brass** would love to entertain you and invites you to "An Evening of Brass" at St Mark's Church at 7.30pm on Friday 3 May. Why not start off your Bank Holiday weekend with a traditional British Brass Band Concert. Tickets on the door £8, Concessions £5 and accompanied children under 14 Free of Charge

## **Annual Congregation Meetings 2013**

To take place after Sunday worship 28 April 2013  
**Opening Prayers** The Reverend Charles Royden

### **Preliminary**

Appointment of minute secretary to the Annual Congregational Meeting.

### **Record of number of persons present**

*(Please note that no record is required of names of those present or apologies from the congregation for absence)*

### **Giving Thanks**

Expressions of thanks to any leaving office

### **Elections to Office**

1. Election of Church Leadership Team
2. Election of Deanery Synod representatives
3. Election of Church Council representatives

### **Presentations**

- Presentation of Terrier and Inventory
- Presentation of current church policy documents
- Presentation of August church accounts
- Presentation of membership lists (Electoral roll etc.)
- Presentation of review usually by Church Leadership Team and presented in written document form

### **Closing Prayers**

*Please note that there will not be 'any other business.'* Matters concerning the life of the church should be referred to members of the Church Leadership Team for their attention, to be brought subsequently to Church Council.

## The Gift of Grace

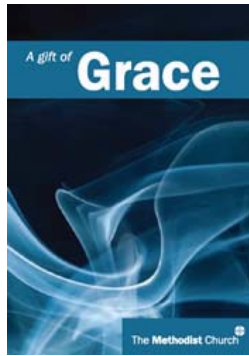
"Everything is a grace because everything is God's gift," said St Thérèse of Lisieux. This is just one of the quotations to be found in *A Gift of Grace* - the latest addition to the popular *A Gift of* series. The beautiful booklet combines scripture, poetry, quotations, hymns and reflections to explore the theme of grace.

"God's grace is surprising, exciting and subversive," said the Revd Dr Mark Wakelin, President of the Methodist Conference, "but it can also be gentle and understated. *A Gift of Grace* offers us the opportunity to reflect on this gift and to consider how we might pass it on to one another as a sign of God's love." *A Gift of Grace* is designed for churches and individuals to give away to their friends, neighbours and communities, but is also ideal for small-group or personal reflection.

Charles R Swindoll is among those quoted in the booklet, saying: "Grace has to be the loveliest word in the English language. It embodies almost every attractive quality we hope to find in others. Grace is a gift of the humble to the humiliated. Grace is a gift of tender mercy when it makes the least sense."

Other contributors include the Revd Ruth Gee, the President-Designate of the Methodist Conference, Julian of Norwich and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

The booklets *A Gift of Grace* is available to download free from here <http://www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/lectionary-and-other-resources/a-gift-of-grace>



*Joint statement from the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster, Justin Welby and Vincent Nichols, concerning the ongoing violence in Syria* Since the very first days of the Syrian conflict in March 2011, we have prayed as we watched in horror and sorrow the escalating violence that has rent this country apart. We have grieved with all Syrians - with the families of each and every human life lost and with all communities whose neighbourhoods and livelihoods have suffered from escalating and pervasive violence. And today, our prayers also go with the ancient communities of our Christian brothers and sisters in Syria. The kidnapping this week of two Metropolitan bishops of Aleppo, Mar Gregorios Ibrahim of the Syriac Orthodox Church and Paul Yazigi of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch, and the killing of their driver while they were carrying out a humanitarian mission, is another telling sign of the terrible circumstances that continue to engulf all Syrians. We unreservedly support these Christian communities, rooted in and attached to the biblical lands, despite the many hardships. We respond to the call from the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East, and the Syriac Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East, urging churches worldwide to remain steadfast in the face of challenging realities and to bear witness to their faith in the power of love in this world. We both continue to pray for a political solution to this tragic conflict that would stem the terrible violence and also empower all Syrians with their fundamental and inalienable freedoms. We also call for urgent humanitarian aid to reach all who are suffering. We pray that Syria can recapture its tradition of tolerance, rooted in faith and respect for faiths living side by side

.+ Justin Welby + Vincent Nichols

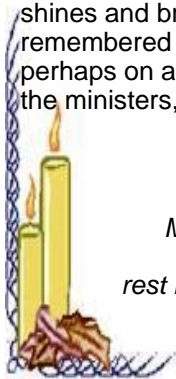
**Thank You** To everybody who came to the Abbey on Saturday for the Canons service. Thanks also for all the kind messages and support it is very much appreciated. *Charlie*

### 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.

**Jeanne Ann Setchell**

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



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Thank you for shopping using the link on ThisisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases and help raise money.



### Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.  
*There are no funeral this week*