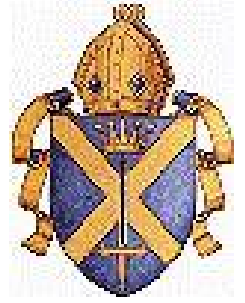




Partnership News

6 June 2010
Ordinary 10



Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's – Family Worship & Baptism

of Logan Jack Benson, Terell Anthony Christian
Robinson and Ben Alan Marshall
Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Family Worship & Baptism

Preacher – Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions -The Nash Family

13 June – Ordinary 10

9.30am St. Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Mason
Leadership – Mr Mike Ovenden
Intercessions – Mrs Delia Shepherd

11.00am – Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Mason
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes
Readings 1 1 Kings 17: 17-end 2.Gal 1: 11-end
3.Luke 7: 11-17

Midweek Worship

Holy Communion at St Mark's Chapel every Wednesday
at 10.00am and at Sir William Harpur House on first
Monday of every month at 10.00am

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Dawn Allinson in memory of her husband Maurice.

The flowers at St Marks Church this week have been given by Barbara Joy and Elizabeth Bean in memory of Alan and Phil on their wedding anniversaries.

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

Prayer for Sunday

Lord Jesus Christ,
help us to be sensitive to your presence;
Give us ears to hear your word
Give us hearts to feel your love
Give us minds to understand your truth
Give us wills to practice what you teach
To your glory Amen.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mason

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

The Reverend Charles Royden

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

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Avril Williams 360605
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955

10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

12.00pm Story box 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.

3.30pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747

4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

7.30pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting May 31 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 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016

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

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

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Sally Banks ☎ 870357

1.15pm Sing and Stomp. For toddlers & their carers. Run by the Putnoe Children's Centre. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895

2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting June 8 Mrs. Anne Alderman. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

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

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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

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

7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 15 June 'Infra Red Devices' Allister Pirrie Janet King ☎313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.

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

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10am U3A Card Making, St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet King ☎313946

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - June 9 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966

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 or 07910835994.

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

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

407725

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎ 347073

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting 16 June Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Alan ☎ 345312.Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

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

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424 .

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.

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

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins 07919402797

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

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

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

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

Friday

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

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

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

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

5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

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

Sunday

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

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

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

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun.



St Mark's Church Council – 22 June, 8 November.

St Mark's Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 7 June at the Manse, 18 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting ; 27 Sept.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 noon, 13 July, 15 September, 16th November

Putnoe Church Council - 21 June, 25 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting - 13 July 4pm

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group—9th June 7.30 14 Flint Way

Partnership Council—TBA

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings

Deanery Meeting - 17 June.

Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting

Circuit Meeting 10 June, 13 Sept.

Woodland Burial Trustees –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 12 July at 1.15pm

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

Ordinary 10

Opening Verse of Scripture -Psalm 8:1

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

Collect Prayer for the Day Before we read we pray:
God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord.



And seeing her the Lord felt compassion over her

First Reading – 1 Kings 17:8-16,17 - end

Then the word of the LORD came to him: “Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.” So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.” “As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread – only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it – and die.” Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.’” She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah. Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. She said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?” “Give me your son,” Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then he cried out to the LORD, “O LORD my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?” Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this boy’s life return to him!” The LORD heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived. Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, “Look, your son is alive!” Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth.”

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading – Galatians 1:11-24

I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw none of the other apostles – only James, the Lord’s brother. I assure you before God that what I am writing to you is no lie. Later I went to Syria and Cilicia. I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” And they praised God because of me. (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – Luke 7:11-17

Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out – the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.” Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us in hope, and make us grow in love, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns - (Please distribute Family worship and Mission Praise)

1. Jesus is Lord 367
2. Father I place into your hands 133
3. As the deer 37
4. Life giving Christ (On Partnership News) Tune Waly waly
5. For the fruits of his creation 153

Commentary

In the last couple of weeks I have conducted funerals for lovely caring young mothers, who have left behind loving families after losing battles with cancer. Why do such good people die young? Why when folks live good lives and do the right thing, do tragedies happen to them? Life seems so unfair and there is seemingly no reason to any of it. What does the Bible say about all of this? Is there something which we can do to change the odds in our favour when the chance of finding justice in life apparently lacks any fairness at all and appears more to do with luck and chance, like a game of roulette?

Sometimes people will seek to provide pious platitudes in the face of these deep questions, but truthfully there are no easy answers. The best that we can do is to hold alongside these issues which trouble us, some important truths which help maintain our faith. Recognising that we do not have the answers, as the Apostle Paul said, ‘we see only a poor reflection in a mirror.’

We had a long version of the Old Testament reading today because it speaks to these questions, as does the Gospel reading. The prophet Elijah meets a widow who due to a drought expects to die. She decides to gather sticks, build a fire, cook a small meal with the last morsel of grain and oil and then she and her son will succumb to the inevitable. It is not an uncommon event even today in parts of the world where people die because they lack the most basic needs of life.

Elijah, the man of God, does not try and talk her out of it but rather asks the widow to feed him first. The woman is asked to share food even from her starvation diet. What happens next is a miracle, it is as though God has rewarded her kindness to the prophet by providing food miraculously. The story might end there and we would draw the conclusion that if we live good lives tragedy will be averted. However the story goes on, the son gets sick and dies (or at least stops breathing).

What follows is characteristic after somebody dies, guilt demands that everybody looks around for somebody to blame. Somebody must be guilty, so the widow blames Elijah and then blames herself. She thinks that God has brought death to punish her past sins. Elijah responds perhaps as we often do, he is utterly confused and angry with God at the lack of justice in the world. “You repay this woman’s generosity by killing her son?” We are told that Elijah managed to resuscitate the man, but sadly such miracles are rare and how do we respond when the dead cannot be brought again to life?

Then we come to the Gospel reading and we have an equally disturbing scene with the Widow of Nain. It was the practice of the ancient Jews to bury their dead outside the city, usually on the day of death or the next day. There is a funeral procession on the way to bury a young man who has died. Imagine the pallbearers carrying the body aloft on a bier, the widowed mother is following the professional mourners with their cymbals, flutes and high-pitched shrieking and wailing. The dead man was the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. Not only had she lost a child, from now she would have little hope, widows were vulnerable, weak and without much opportunity for economic support. Her loss of a child would also have brought back memories of the loss of her husband and she would have been desperate with grief,

feeling that life for herself was now as good as over. Into this scene of desperation comes Jesus. He sees the widowed, desolate mother, and we are told by Luke that he has compassion for her saying "Do not weep." Jesus ignores ceremonial impurity, reaches out and touches the funeral bier. Can you imagine the scene and what must have been going on in the minds of those around? Imagine a stranger today stopping a hearse, telling folks not to weep and touching the coffin. We are told the young man sat up and began to speak, and so Jesus like Elijah and Elisha before him, gave the son back to his mother.

So what can we discern from these two episodes? We can see that misfortune is not brought about by God, who does not delight in our suffering. Perhaps the most important word in the two readings is found in verse 13 of Luke 7

7:13 kai idôn autên o kurios esplagchnisthê ep autê

And seeing her the Lord felt compassion over her

In our Bible the words are translated, 'his heart went out to her.' The point is that when confronted by a funeral Jesus wants to touch the suffering with compassion and raise the dead. We don't understand why it happens, it makes no sense but that is probably all we need to know, for now.

Charles Royden

Meditation

Early in the Second World War, in May and June 1940, the German Army made great advances and kept pushing the British Expeditionary Force towards the sea, as well as the French and the Belgians. For a while, Hitler halted his advance outside the French port of Dunkirk. The Allied soldiers presumed they would all soon be captured as prisoners of war, and they destroyed much of their fighting equipment, to prevent the Germans using it. Ships, small fishing boats and pleasure craft set out from England to try to rescue some of the many soldiers trapped around Dunkirk. By June 4th 1940, almost by a miracle, over 330,000 British, French and Belgium troops had been evacuated from Dunkirk, under gunfire from the Germans. Would Hitler now invade Britain? On that same day, Winston Churchill, Britain's Prime Minister, gave one of his most famous speeches in the House of Commons: "We shall not flag or fail. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air. We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender." Dunkirk was a terrible and humiliating defeat for Britain and her allies, but most of the men were rescued. Four years and two days afterwards, Britain and her allies would return on D-Day to start to liberate the occupied countries of Europe.

Prayer of Saint Ignatius Loyola: Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and to ask for no reward, save that of knowing that we do your will. Amen.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord our God, open us up to your Spirit living within us, that we may live fully each day of our lives. Touch us, that we may become more aware of all that is around us, growing in a sense of wonder and awe, and in appreciation for all that we see and hear and touch, taste and smell. May we live in such a way that we never take anything for granted, but always be appreciative and express our thanks to those who are part of our lives. Amen.

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. Into your hands, O Father, we commend our souls and our bodies; our loved ones and our neighbours; our benefactors and our friends; all who confess their faith and all who stand in need of your mercy and protection; bless us with your grace and grant that we may never be separated from you; but abide with you in time and in eternity, now and for ever. Amen *Edmund of Abingdon, 1180-1240*

Perfect within us, O Lord, the work of grace which you have begun. May we think, speak and do only what is pleasing in your sight. Keep us from falling back into the sins of which we have repented. May we live our lives in your presence and finish them in your fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *William Bright (1824-1901)*



Thanks to John Day for this photograph of Sam at the wedding of his daughter Hannah recently. Mother Jennie conducted the wedding and we wish the happy couple a wonderful life together.

Sunday morning Taxi Service St Mark's is now providing a taxi service for the 9.30am service. This service is free of charge for those who have difficulty transporting themselves to Church. To book this service all that you have to do is to telephone St Mark's Church Office during the week before 1.00pm on Friday. We will then arrange to have you collected by our driver, it is as simple as that! If you require any more information please speak with Avril Williams 360605

TNT We look forward to meeting again on Sunday 27 June at 2.00pm for our annual bicycle ride to the Danish Camp. All Welcome. -Carolyn Morris

Circuit Walk On Saturday 12 June from Priory to Willington to Sandy. Meet at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue, Bedford at about 10-15 am. For more information contact Geoff Talbot (07850 605719 or geoffal@btinternet.com).

New Prayer Group. The new quiet/contemplative prayer group will start Friday 11 June at 2pm until 2.45pm in the Quiet room at Putnoe Heights Church. For more information please contact either Eileen Brown 267909 or Sam Ware on 304058

Children and Youth group meeting, Putnoe
Our next meeting will now be on Monday 12 July 2010, at 1.15 p.m. in the meeting room, instead of Monday 14th June 2010.

Footprints Walking weekend Sept 24-26: The chosen venue for this year's weekend away is the Best Western Studley Castle Hotel, Castle Road, Studley, Warwickshire B80 7AJ, built in the victorian style of a medieval castle. Please contact Barry Snelson at the Putnoe Heights Church office

[Tuesday to Thursday] on 01234 365630 or at home on 01234 344417 as soon as possible to register your interest. Non-walkers are welcome as there is ample opportunity to visit local places, such as Stratford-Upon-Avon."

Footprints Walk The next walk is on Sunday, 6th June starting at 2.30pm. It is just over 3 miles and starts from St Denys Church in Colmworth. This is just south of the junction of the Little Staughton road with Honeydon Road. If there is no parking available near the church, there is more a short distance down Honeydon Road (a waymarked footpath leads back to the church). Further details from Sue or Richard Butler Tel: 354183.

Anjulita Court, Woodlands Park, Bramley Way Brickhill, is holding a Summer Fete on Saturday 3 July from 11am until 3pm. You are invited to join everyone there for their first Summer Fete. Attractions include a Plant Stall, Cake Stall, Face Painting, a Tombola. Raffle and many more things.

A Hymn for Sunday

- 1 Life-giving Christ, our hope and head,
who met the sad and raised the dead;
new miracles of love begin
for mourners, and the dead in sin.
- 2 Draw near to homes of double death
where stirs no sign of pulse or breath:
confront this last of enemies;
command the dead, that they arise!
- 3 By the compassion of your heart,
your Spirit given, your hand stretched out,
by costly power and kingly word
bring life to lifeless ones, O Lord!
- 4 So shall they rise and breathe and speak;
death's powers dissolve, its shackles break:
old wounds are healed, old wrongs put right;
on ancient darkness shine your light!
- 5 Then filled with praise and holy fear
let all in wondering faith draw near
and know that Christ our hope, our home,
our prophet and our God, has come.
- 6 Praise Christ who raised a widow's son;
in Christ the Father's will be done:
Christ with the Spirit's fulness came;
all glory to the Saviour's name!

Tune Waly Waly

Churches disappointed by weak commitments on nuclear disarmament

An alliance of nine UK Churches has expressed disappointment at the failure of nuclear weapons states to agree deadlines for actions on nuclear disarmament. While the Churches welcomed progress made on discussions on the Middle East and a declaration by the UK on number of warheads, they were highly critical of the refusal of the nuclear powers to agree timeframes for future discussions at the conference in New York, which ended this week.

Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading, said, "Nuclear weapons are a legacy of the cold war era and have little relevance to the threats that we face today. There is a growing recognition that having one set of rules for some nations, and a different set of rules for everyone else is unsustainable. Moving towards the elimination of nuclear weapons is not only morally right but the best possible guarantee for our nation's security."

The Churches' campaign, entitled Now is the Time, calls on the British Government to make a commitment to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, building a safer future for all.

Revd David Gamble, President of Methodist Conference, said: "Consensus on non-proliferation is a major achievement, and one that reflects a growing understanding that nuclear weapons are a threat, not a guarantee, to our security. But in failing to agree a timeframe for further discussions, world leaders appear simply to be paying lip service to the concept of nuclear disarmament. We didn't expect the conference to produce a detailed plan for banning nuclear weapons, but we were looking for a commitment to move forward on the issue. The International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament and a whole host of others, from NPT state parties, former ambassadors and NGOs have all produced versions of a road map that could take us to zero nuclear weapons. The nuclear

states stand alone in shying away from discussion of the detail."

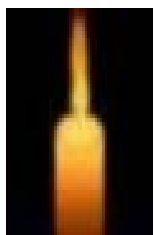
Revd Pat Took, President Designate of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, said: "If the nuclear armed powers do not go further to demonstrate that they are prepared to relinquish nuclear weapons, then the existing international commitments on non-proliferation could unravel, leaving us all in a much more dangerous and insecure situation. The call to work towards a world free of nuclear weapons comes not only from the majority of the world's governments but also overwhelmingly from people of all nations. I pray that we will raise our voices loud enough such that our governments have no choice but to be spurred into action."

The three church leaders were a part of a delegation that delivered a petition to the Prime Minister at Downing Street on Wednesday. The petition urged the UK to declare a 'no first use' policy and to support the process for negotiation of a new international agreement leading to the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

The alliance includes the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), the United Reformed Church, the International Affairs Department of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, the Catholic Bishops Conference of Scotland and the Archbishop of the Church in Wales.



Action for Children A very big thank you to all who supported and helped on the stall at the Car Boot Sale. £120 was raised to help vulnerable and neglected children. *Margaret Standley*



Visit our online chapel, Light a Candle of Remembrance. We have now provided the opportunity to visit our online chapel and light a prayer candle. Please visit www.thischurch.com and click on the candle.

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.

Kay Lesley Risi

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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Forthcoming Funerals

There are no funerals this week

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.
Dalai Lama, 21st century