



Partnership News

7 February 2010



Second before Lent

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

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00am Putnoe Heights –Family Worship

Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership –Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions -Mrs Claire Peck

14 February 2010
Sunday next before Lent

9.30am St. Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Reverend Anne Brown
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions – Mr I Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights– Morning Worship

Preacher – Reverend Anne Brown
Leadership – Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions – Dr Tim Wilkes

Readings Exodus 34:29-35;
Psalm 99; 2 Cor 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36.

Thank You

The flowers at St. Mark's this week have been given by Barbara Pinney in memory of her husband Keith.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Elsie Slack in memory of her husband Hartley.

The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman will this morning be taking service at The Transfiguration, Kempston assisting during their interregnum.

Prayer for Sunday

Lord, teach me to trust you in whatever situations I may find myself. Help me to pray, not just when my boat is sinking, but in all the times and places of my life where you can make a real difference. Help me with my family and friends to establish better relationships, in my place of work to allow you to inform the way I behave. Forgive me when I make you a stranger and walk with me always. 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 Mobile07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
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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.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 Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
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 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

Headteacher 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. Liz ☎ 302349

1.30pm U3A History Group St Mark's. David Fowler ☎ 824474

2pm U3A Drama St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059

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 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 February 15 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

8.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers at St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Sadler ☎01767 651767

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

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. 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 'Open the Book' Mrs. Sheila Lawless. 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 & Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month. 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 February 9 'Pride in Bedford' Debra. Details from 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.

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 17 February 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 17 February 2010 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details

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 for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's 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.

9.45am 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 01234 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 Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

8.00pm 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. Julie 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. Please see Liz ☎302349 .



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 9 February

St Mark's Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – , 8 Feb at 70 Brecon Way

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting ; 24 May

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 16 Mar 2010,

Putnoe Church Council - 15 February

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group—

Partnership Council—TBA

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings

Deanery Meeting 4 February

Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting Feb 23rd

7.30pm at St. Mark's.

Circuit Meeting 8 March at Oakley

Woodland Burial Trustees – Sunday 21st March

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Second Before Lent

Opening Verse of Scripture - Luke
Chapter 21:18

'Not a hair of your head will perish, by your endurance you will gain your lives.'

Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read we pray

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen. Common Worship



First Bible Reading—Genesis 2: 4b –9, 15-end

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens-- and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground-- the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

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

Second Reading –Revelation 4

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had

crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the centre, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

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

Gospel Reading - Luke 8:22-25

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

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

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father, who's Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of His glory, that He may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for He is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns

Come, let us praise the Lord 92, O give thanks to the Lord 497, Jesus calls us all the tumult 359, Be still and know that I am God 48, When we walk with the Lord 760

Commentary

The commentary and meditation are taken from 'Unexpected Journeys' by Eddie Askew. They are based on the account of Jesus calming the storm in Mark 4: 35- 41 so the words are slightly different to the Luke version we read today.

'He said to his disciples,' Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?'

In the sudden calm that followed the sudden storm emotions were in chaos. I imagine them motionless, frozen in position, bewildered, looking at Jesus in wide-eyed wonder. Storms didn't end so abruptly and they certainly didn't end when were someone told them to. They were on the edge of what they knew and understood, staring into something way beyond their experience. Of course they were afraid.

Fear is a reaction that tells us to run away or struggle, or do whatever will make us safe. It isn't always rational in its response and doesn't always produce the result we'd like. From narratives in the Bible we learn that fear seems to be an immediate human response to the presence of God - or of one of his messengers. Moses "hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God." (Exodus 3:6). And when the angel appeared to Mary and later to the shepherds in Bethlehem's fields, they were all afraid.

The story of the storm on Galilee seems to imply that fear and faith are opposites which can't be yoked together. Jesus' question 'Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?' suggests that the one elbows out the other. That's fine for a sermon on Sunday morning but most people's life experience tells them that it's not as simple as that. We're human and we are afraid of many things. That's the way we're made. We often try to hide our fears, particularly in a Christian context, because we're afraid - and that's another fear -

that our lack of faith will bring disapproval of other believers. We pretend to a courage we don't possess and that arouses the guilt that leads to more fear.

Jesus can deal with it and he deals with it in love. As the writer of John's first letter tells us "perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment." (1 John 4:18). When Jesus asks his disciples in the boat about their fear it isn't a confrontation we witness.. I hear his voice, not strong and challenging as theirs had been when they woke him, but gentle and sympathetic. He'd seen their fear and responded to it. Now he helped them to understand that his presence could strengthen faith and that faith can, slowly perhaps, deal with their fear. And with the fears that many of us face daily.

"Why are you so afraid?" Jesus asked. Fear lessens as faith grows, but in an imperfect world full of imperfect people, and an imperfect church full of imperfect Christians, we stand with the disciples. I'm not sure that our love and faith can ever be strong or complete enough to drive out fear totally. In my experience faith isn't the same as certainty. Certainty doesn't need faith. I'm certain that two plus two equals four. That's a fact and I don't need faith to accept it. Faith is what I cling to when doubt and fear try to take over my life and, in a disturbing but comforting way, faith and doubt go together.

Faith isn't the conquering of all doubt and fear. It's the courage to believe in the midst of it. There are folk who never appear to doubt and who feel no need to ask difficult questions of life. In one way that may be a blessing but in another way asking questions and facing doubts can lead us into new truth - or a deeper understanding of the truth we already hold. And it's through the truth that followers of the way can find new life. Which is what Jesus was and is and offers us.

Meditation

I've been afraid, Lord, many times, you're well aware of that. Yes, I believe in you, in goodness and in love. In truth, although that's not an easy one when I have to face myself and, more, face you. In truth, I am afraid of many things. The calm and cool exterior I try so hard to show can sometimes mask a multitude of doubts. An avalanche of questions roaring down into my life which threatens to engulf and freeze my faith. Questions borne out of insecurity to which the pulpit words of preachers offer little. I'm only human. Very human, that you know.

I'm sure you don't object to questioning. My mind is your creation and I can't be blamed for using it. Yet question's aren't always answered in a way I understand. And faith, I'm sure, is not the conquering of fear and doubt but more the courage to believe within my doubt and fear. The comfort is that when I come to you for strength in fear and trembling I find your hand stretched out for mine. And in the storm-free silence I can hear your patient reassurance telling me that hand in hand with you I can survive and grow, and leave the answers for another day.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker. Where nothing was you wove the web of being and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment. Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more. In Christ your Son, the life of heaven and earth were joined, sealing the promise of a new creation, given yet still to come. Taught by your Spirit, we who bear your threefold likeness look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured and the earth transformed.

Scottish Liturgy

When I feel threatened or believe myself to be a failure, give me courage to enter my still centre, the place of buried treasure and sunshine and solitude, where you are, Lord, and where it no longer matters who approves of me or how successful I am because you are there, and, in your presence, I rediscover the confidence to be me. Angela Ashwin

Lord, I know that however fearful I may be, nothing can separate me from your love; neither death, nor life, angels, nor principalities, things present, nor things to come, evil powers, heights or depths, nor anything else in all creation – nothing at all! Based on Romans 8: 31 - 9

Following Jesus

Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 20th century*

Christ did not appoint professors, but followers. If Christianity (precisely because it is not a doctrine) is not reduplicated in the life of the person expounding it, then he does not expound Christianity, for Christianity is a message about living and can only be expounded by being realized in men's lives. *Soren Kierkegaard, 19th century*

Footprints Our next walk will begin at 2.00pm on Sunday 7 February from the signposted car park at Moggerhanger Park. The 3 mile route passes through the snowdrop woods then out into open country with wide views across the Ouse valley. Details from Sue & Gerry Allen Tel 407264

Home Groups Would you consider having a Homegroup meeting in your house this Lent? There are six sessions planned in the course, however you could do perhaps three and ask folks to do the others themselves at home? If you are interested then please speak with one of the ministers. If you do not have time to visit a homegroup, then you can still participate by downloading the material from the Diocesan website www.stalbans.anglican.org Wendy Waters will be running a group, details to be announced soon

Mission Coffee Morning on Saturday 13 February 10am to 12noon at the home of John and Sally Gunning, 23 Brecon Way. Raffle. Proceeds to Mission Projects. All Welcome.—Sylvia Cohen 343424

1st Putnoe Brownies are looking for adult size plain round neck t- shirts to decorate for the blue peter appeal "Operation Smile". The T shirts are to be used as operation gowns for children undergoing cleft palate surgery in India. Please leave for Liz.

Many thanks to Judith Stanton and her supporters for the donation of £150 raised at a recent bridge evening.

Just a note to say a very big thank you to everyone at Putnoe Heights for the gorgeous flowers which were delivered to me on Monday. They brought some much needed cheer and it was a very kind thought. Sue Lawrence.

St Mark's Card Stall. As the Wesley Owen shop has closed down we are having to seek an alternative source of suitable cards etc. In the meantime, please forgive the lack of choice.

Half term at Putnoe Monday 15th Feb. Storybox meets as usual between 12.00 and 1.00 followed by Storybox plus for the 5 - 10 age group between 1.15 and 2.45. All non -regulars welcome.

Thank you for your support with Rocking Rachel's Rocking Bingo which raised £55.00 and last weeks Newly New Sale which raised approx. £140. All this will be sent to the Samaritans Purse Organisation for their children support in Haiti.

We have 150 Christian Aid count your blessings leaflets. These leaflets are a great way to think about

what is important in life and help raise money for Christian Aid.


Lent Book Reviews For a change, rather than reviewing books which have a day by day plan for Lent the two books below are suggestions for books that can be read during Lent and have used the Easter or Lent theme as part of their structure. If you've never tried reading a book at Lent before 'God on Mute' is an easy place to start. For a more reflective read, try 'Tokens of Trust'. If you want other suggestions just ask one of the ministers.

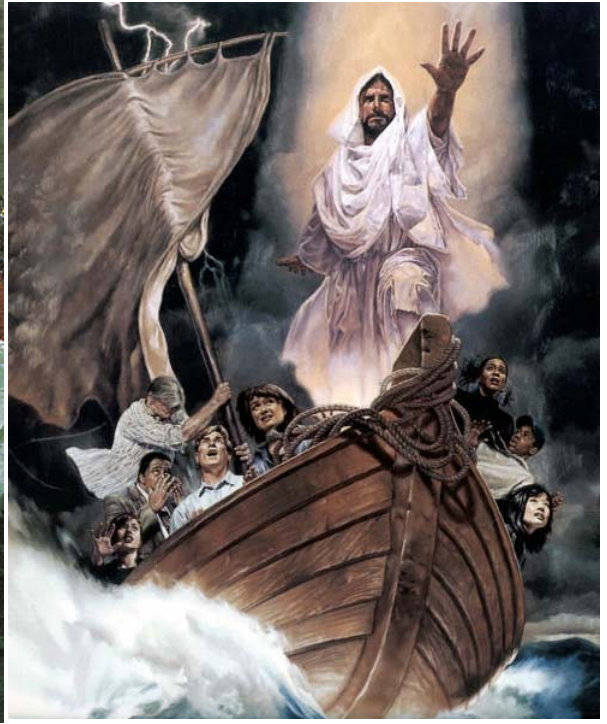
Tokens of Trust: Rowan Williams £9.99

Rowan Williams is not always the most accessible of authors but this slim book is more readable than many. It's based on a series of talks given in Canterbury Cathedral in the week before Easter in 2005 and focuses on various elements and statements of the Apostle's and Nicene creeds. These statements are explored not in terms of theological check lists but as durable statements that help us understand who and what we can trust in this world and how lives and the church can be utterly transformed as we truly accept and live out the great 'I believe' claims of our creedal statements. A good book to read a few pages of each day through Lent.

God on Mute: Pete Greig £7.99

Written from an evangelical perspective this very readable book, structured around the four days between Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday, deals with the topic of why God does not always seem to answer our prayers. Dealing honestly with the challenges we all face regarding seemingly unanswered prayers the author uses his own harrowing experience through the serious illness of his wife to explore what happens when we pray and why it is that sometimes God does not seem to answer our prayers as we would expect. The book also draws on the writings of others who have wrestled with the subject of God's apparent absence at times of great need and as such gives a broad perspective on the topic of prayer and our maturing dialogue with a God, who is always present but sometimes appears to be 'on mute'.

 Don't forget both books can be ordered from Amazon via the church web site. As an alternative to reading a specific lent book why not try reading the same book of the bible each day through Lent. Some of Paul's shorter letters such as Philippians or Colossians are ideal for this, or even the letters of John which are even shorter. For the more ambitious there is always Hebrews or even Mark, the shortest gospel, or Luke the gospel of the current church year. Sam



February 2010 meeting of the Methodist Council

The first major issue tackled by Council was that of the Church’s engagement with social media such as Twitter, Facebook and blogging. The guidelines seek to encourage representatives to make creative use of new media, while at the same time they highlight the potential pitfalls of its misuse. Toby Scott, Director of Communications and Campaigns, said, “How we relate to one another and to those outside the church is central to our calling as individual Christians and as a Church. New media presents exciting opportunities for Christians, but it also challenges us to behave with integrity and respect as in all other spheres of engagement.”

The Council also discussed the nature of leadership and authority in the Church and whether the Church’s current leadership structures should be reviewed. In particular, members considered the roles of President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference. Currently, the President and Vice-President are

elected to serve for one year, with the President as a presbyter and the Vice-President as a lay person or deacon. Council members considered the possibility of a new a tripartite ‘Presidium’, consisting of a presbyteral President and two co-Presidents - one lay person and one deacon.

The Revd Ken Howcroft, Assistant Secretary of the Methodist Council, said; “Clear and effective structures of leadership are essential for any organisation, and for the Church it is especially important that our leadership reflects our Methodist identity and our Christian commitment.’

Other topics discussed at the Council included urban mission, a future strategy for world church relationships, the Church’s position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and changes to the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme.

All of the papers discussed by the Methodist Council can be found online here. <http://methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.content&cmid=1325>

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.

**John Gaunt
Roy Hubbard**

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



Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Betty Zuckerman will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 12 February at 11.30am

The funeral of Mr Richard James Norman will take place at St Mark’s Church on Monday 22 February at 11.00am

The funeral of Catherine Isobel Holdsworth will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on Friday 12 February

The funeral of Nora May Seamer will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 11 February at 11.30am