



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

7 October- 27th in Ordinary



Church of
England

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

Today 7 October - 27 in Ordinary

9.30am St Mark's – Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions – Ministers

11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions - YPG

14 October - 28 in Ordinary

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions – Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership – Mr Barry Southam
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Readings 1. Amos 5: 6-7,10-15 2. Hebrews 4:12-16
3. Mark 10: 17-31

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 Putnoe Heights Church this week
have been given by Derrick Wren in loving
memory of his wife Betty, on their wedding
anniversary.

*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.*

Prayer for Sunday

Each morning and each evening
let the peace of the Father be ours.
Each day and each night
let the peace of the Son be ours.
Each dawn and each dusk
let the peace of the Spirit be ours.
Let the blessing of the three in one be ours;
both now and for ever. Amen.

Carmina Gadelica

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mills

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

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

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

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

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

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 365630

1.30-2.45pm Chat and Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk . Restarts on 10 September

2.00pm U3A History Group St Mark's (see contact details below)

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 Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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– 16 October Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

7.45pm Opus Choir at St Mark's Mrs Sutherland ☎269100

8pm '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 ☎07790206016

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507

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 (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 Group. St Mark's (see contact 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 below)

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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (see 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.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. 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

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

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

7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting Saturday 20 October Anniversary Celebrations. Details call Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly. Contact Marion Sutton ☎217647

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

9.30am Discovery & 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.(see contact details 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)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 10 October 2012 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

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

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)

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 17 October. 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. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Mrs O Holt ☎266004

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 at St Mark's 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 17 October Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Valmai ☎219555 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

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 (large hall) Children's Chatty Time 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

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.

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

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

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

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights 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

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 Law ☎825574.

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)

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

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 Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or w.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

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

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 – 9 October, 19 Feb, 11 June

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 15 October,

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm

Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - 16 November

Woodland Burial Trustees– 30 September

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -

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

Ordinary 27

Opening Verse of Scripture - As for me, I will walk with integrity; redeem me, Lord, and be merciful to me. My foot stands firm; in the great congregation I will bless the Lord. Ps 26 v 11 - 12

Collect Prayer Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading - Genesis 2: 18-24

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.

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

Second Bible Reading - Hebrews Chapter 1:1-4, 2: 5-12

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honour and put everything under his feet." In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Mark 10: 2-16

Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" "What



Adam and Eve, Marc Chagall

did Moses command you?" he replied. They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away." "It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.'" For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery." People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.
(This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Family Worship and Mission Praise, also baptism sheets at Putnoe)

1. O for a heart to praise my God 495
2. Jehovah Jireh, 354
3. For the beauty of the earth, 152
4. I heard the voice of Jesus say, 275
5. Love divine, 449

Commentary

We can think we know ourselves pretty well until we meet someone who just might know something about us we didn't know. Good friends, and especially married couples, do not really give themselves to each other as a donation. That would presume that there was complete self-acceptance. What is explicit in marriage is the promise to give each other experiences of waking up to each other's truths. One cannot accept what one does not know. Lovers say that they will give the gift to each other of self-awareness, as much as possible. Friends also say that they will accept the other's struggle to accept what they are learning about themselves. Here's the pay-off. The more there is acceptance of the self, the more there will be the generous offering, or, donation to the other in the relationship.

God's grace gives us the awareness of who we are and aids us in accepting who we are. This is a slow process of course and God is patient. This spiritual journey is meant to, little-by-little, free us for more freely offering us as a graced gift to God's people. We will want to give what we have accepted even though there will always be more to learn about the mystery of ourselves.

The early chapters of Genesis have many stories attempting to explain God, creation, human beings, and community order. It is somewhat like the authors are painting a huge picture of how things were and why they are not now and how the picture got cut up into puzzle-parts, and what is God going to do about all that. Genesis seems to satisfy the human desire to have basic "Big Questions" answered. The whole question of how everything came to be and why this and how come that?

One big question gets answered in our First Reading. No, it is not the question of why man was created first! Actually it is a micro-creation narrative within the second creation narrative of Genesis. Why there are two creation stories in the first book of the bible is a good one and has a good answer which I do not have room to write about. Just trust me. God created all living things, but the highest creation is the human person. This person was presented with all the other forms unlike his own and was dissatisfied. God saw this dissatisfaction and saw it as "good." Yes, that is what I meant to write! God saw that human beings would search for completion, satisfaction and saw this searching as "very good." In fashioning "woman" God gave the man a closeness to himself, but just not quite, and this form of separation or distinctiveness would form the framework for the real meaning of human love; a revelation of God's love, but not a substitute or replacement for that love. They will "cling" to each other, embracing their physically-different bodies, while their search for true union continues toward God.

Longing is a blessing and God's love desires us to experience finite love as so many ways to put the puzzle back into its original union. In short, Genesis is the story of the necessity for order in relationships and of how God is working things out.

The Pharisees have another “big question” for Jesus in today’s Gospel. Divorce is the topic, but the question is intended to provoke Jesus into countermanding the Law of Moses. Jesus answers by going back before Moses by quoting lines from our First Reading for today. The trap which the Pharisees set failed. We do not hear any more on the topic, apart from a little discussion afterward in the house. Jesus finishes His teaching in the presence of His disciples but the fascinating discussion is broken up when mothers and fathers are bringing their children to Jesus. The disciples desire to continue this interesting conversation, but Jesus becomes upset and invites the children to come to him to be touched, blest and welcomed.

These teachings on such hot topics as the importance of union in community are difficult. The children represent the simplicity of heart and mind needed on the part of those who would be a part of the “kingdom” or new order which Jesus was initiating. Marriage and any true loving relationship between a woman and a man is a gift from God which keeps on giving. A loving relationship, and especially that blest in Marriage, is a covenant of continuing God’s creation. The two commit themselves to bringing forth life within the other. They say “Yes!” I will assist God in creating, but not in completing, you. I will accept your assisting God in creating me. I will accept the process of suffering you will cause me in the process of God’s creating me through you. This is how God intends to put the puzzle together with all these strange-appearing pieces with various angles and dents. Jesus, by blessing the little ones, invites all of us to lives of “growing up” and “growing-within.” Little ones love what’s new, different, and puzzling. These readings are not directly a denouncement of divorce, nor a statement about the necessity for everyone to marry. The readings are about God’s ways of creating us and the necessity of our being available for all these ways. *Larry Gillick.*

Meditation

"It is not good for the man to be alone," God says in the reading from Genesis. Humans are social beings: God created us to live and work together, to share our lives, to care about and for each other. Shortly after this story in Genesis, Cain asks the rhetorical question: "Am I my brother's keeper?" The rest of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures answer with a resounding: "Yes!" The unity of humankind is shattered every day by the many scourges of injustice: racism, sexism, poverty, hunger, homelessness, war. We are constantly violating the fundamental principle: "let no man separate what God has joined." God has joined us in a society of brothers and sisters because it is not good for us to be alone: let no one separate that society through collusion in injustice. "...social nature makes it evident that the progress of the human person and the advance of society itself hinge on each other. For the beginning, the subject and the goal of all social institutions is and must be the human person, which for its part and by its very nature stands completely in need of social life. This social life is not something added on to man [and woman]. Hence, through [their] dealings with others, through reciprocal duties, and through... ..dialogue [they] develops all their gifts and are able to rise to [their] destiny." (Vatican II, Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, 1965: 25 – inclusive language added) Gerald Daring

Prayers for Sunday and the Week ahead

Lord, your love embraces young and old, rich and poor and all are made in your image. Enable us to share in your love together in our families and communities that we may be a source of delight and rejoicing for you. **Amen.**

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead. Lord, you hide your face when we trust in ourselves; strip us of false security and re-clothe us in your praise, that we may know you as the one who raises us from death, as you raised your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Daily Prayer Refrain from Psalm 30

Loving God, who chose to send your Son into our world, be with us today as we make our daily choices. Help us keep our eyes fixed on you, that in your eyes we may be wise, that we may grow in wisdom and reflect the glory of your incarnation, Jesus Christ who is with us always in the power of your Spirit.

Amen

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us paralysed, but whose presence is overwhelming, breathe on us with your abundant life; that where we cannot see we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you. **Amen**

The God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Social Evening. There will be a Partnership Church Social event organised at St Mark's on Saturday 17 November, please put this in your diary as we are looking to make it a great event for all the family.

Resurfacing Work Avon Drive will be closed to traffic from Kimbolton Road roundabout to Bourneside from 8am –6pm starting on 8 October 2012 for four days.

Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. We will be holding a special service of commemoration of loved ones who have died at St Mark's Church on 4 November. All are welcome to attend so please do encourage anybody you know who would appreciate this special service.

Christmas Craft Fayre – 24 November 2012

Now that the Car Boots have been put to bed for the winter our big fundraising event is Christmas Craft Fayre. We have a number of Church Stalls that need your support, i.e. plant stall, homemade cake stall, Craft stall and of course tray-bakes for refreshments. So plant up your cuttings (indoor and out), bake your cakes and tray-bakes then come and enjoy the day with a cup of tea and a lovely ploughman's lunch. Help on the day is always needed and is very much appreciated. Any queries about the above just contact Avril via the Church Office. Thank you.

What's it all about? In the Autumn each church in our circuit will hold a Sunday service focusing on the ministry of both worship leading and preaching followed by a taster evening for local preachers and a training course for worship leaders. See notice board for more information

Tuesday Club 50th Celebrations. You are invited to a Celebration Concert of light music by Kempston Musical Society on Saturday October 20 at 7pm at Putnoe Heights Church. Tickets £7 (including a raffle ticket) on the door. Everyone welcome.

Advent Course

This year we will be running a Partnership Advent Course at St Mark's for three weeks. The course will also be great for those considering confirmation in the 2013. Each session will start with refreshments at 7.30pm with the main meeting 8.00pm - 9.00pm More details to follow but put these dates in your diary.

Thursday 29 November

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm
Session in Church from 8pm

Thursday 6 December

In WREN room from 7.30pm

Thursday 13 December

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm
Session in Church from 8pm

Hilda Hicks has asked me to let everyone know that she is making great progress since being admitted to Shand Ward at Bedford Hospital last week. She would like to thank everyone for all their cards and visits. On Thursday 27 September [last Thursday] she was transferred to a Nursing home that has a 12 bed rehabilitation unit accessed by Bedfordshire Health care trust. It is not known how long she will be staying. The address for this is: The Knolls, Plantation Road, Leighton Buzzard. Beds. LU7 3JE Tel 01525 380600.

Church Councils Just a reminder that our church council are coming up soon in the Partnership. St Mark's Tuesday 9 October
Putnoe Heights Monday 15 October
Please remember that these are open meeting and everybody is welcome to attend.

Concert at St Mark's we are delighted to announce that there will be another concert held by Clive Simmonds at St Mark's. Clive will once again be supported by his guests Taylor Wilson (mezzo soprano) and Stewart Kempster (bass). The concert will be held on Saturday 9 February at 7.30pm. This year there will also be some music from the musicals and some more 'jazzy' numbers. Clive has obtained a reconditioned piano for St Mark's and whilst entrance will be free the concert will help raise funds towards this.

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch. Many thanks to all who supported the Harvest Lunch last Sunday. A profit of £291.00 has been added to the autumn Kisiizi Appeal. Sue Allen.

Footprints The walk planned for October 7 will now take place on Sunday 14th and starts from Wootton village hall at 2.30pm. The walk is approximately 3 miles in length, fairly easy walking and most of it on good paths. There is plenty of parking space behind the village hall. For any further information please contact Alan and Ruth Bunker.

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Anne Brown(Chair of the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District) will lead a Pilgrimage to the Holy land from 19-29 May 2014. This is a comprehensive 11 day tour including a stay in the Negev desert. Anyone who is interested please see details of schedule and booking form on the notice board.

Hyacinth bulb vases If anyone has any of these vases spare could you please either give them to Avril Williams or bring into Church Office. Thank you.

Open House are having their first birthday celebrations at St Mark's Church Community Centre on Wednesday 10 October. Please drop in during the day and join in the celebrations

An Autumn Craft Day will be held at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 20 October from 9.45am to 4.30pm. Cost £4 per half day session.. Please book by 11 October. Booking form and details of workshops available from Pam Seymour. Tel 305695; Email –pam@tgis.co.uk

Action for Children A big thank you once again to the 14 volunteers who knocked on 522 doors for the September's House to House Collection on behalf of Action for Children. The total raised in our St Mark's/Brickhill area was a very worthwhile £532. Action for Children will be able to claim a further £40 from HM Revenue & Customs as a result of the kind donors who filled in their Gift-Aid forms. It is a strange fact that even in these stringent times the average envelope content continues to increase by about 6% each year. Mike Elliott.

Bedford Town Concert Brass would like to invite you a joint concert with Marsh Gibbon Silver Band - two band for the price of one! The concert is to take place at St Mark's Church on Saturday 20th October at 7.30pm. Tickets available from John Lingings 01234 306676 or on the door. Tickets £8 and concessions £5 Children under 14 Free. See poster.



Messy Church Celebrates its 2nd Birthday On 17 October At 3.45 to 5.30pm. We invite the wider Partnership Congregation to come along to share in some of the celebration. Refreshments are served at 3.45pm. A meal for the families and the team is served at 5pm but we will not be able to cater for additional guests to share this meal. We look forward to seeing you! For more information contact Wendy Waters 01234 401834

Friends For Life social evening on Wednesday 24 October at 7.15pm at Priory Methodist Church. Brief up-date on events and development of the project over the last 12 months followed by a buffet. Please let Joanne Barrow know if you will be attending on 01234 213038 or at joanne.barrow4ntlworld.com.

Very few days pass when I am not, brought swiftly out of myself by something beautiful:

The flash of sunlight on a Cornish beach;
The juxtaposition of two colours in the landscape;
The tenderness, momentarily overheard, in a mother's voice;
The glimpse of eternity in the eyes of a dying friend;
The smell of new mown hay;
The feel of a summer breeze upon my cheeks;
The breath of a curious cow upon my neck when drawing in a field;
The colours where sea and sand meet caught in a backward glance;
The adventure into infinity when sea and sky become one
And in the timeless moment when the sun hangs poised above the dawn horizon.

All these experiences, often uninvited, are very precious
Like the love and laughter of friends.

John Miller, Artist's Statement



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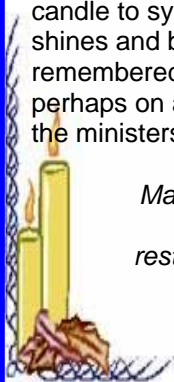
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Rest In Peace

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.

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



Forthcoming Funerals



Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

The funeral of Frank Patrick Sheridan will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on Tuesday 16 October