

Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

## 8 July 14th 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 8 July –14th in Ordinary

**9.30m St. Mark's - Morning Worship**  
Preacher – Deacon Jane Mason  
Leadership - Mrs Elizabeth Bean  
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship**  
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason  
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

### Sunday 15 July 15th in Ordinary

**9.30am St Mark's – Holy Communion**  
Preacher - Mrs Claire Peck  
Leadership – Mr Mick Ovenden  
Intercessions– Mrs Wendy Waters  
Intercessions - **11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion**  
Preacher - Mrs Claire Peck  
Leadership - Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae  
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen  
**Bible Readings** 1. Amos 7: 7-15 2.Ephesians 1: 3-14  
**3. Mark 6: 14-29**

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

### Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given  
by Mrs Eason.

### Prayer for the Olympics

On this the day on which the Olympic torch travels  
through Bedford, we pray for the Olympic Games

Loving God,  
as this torch travels our nation,  
preparing us to celebrate the skill and determination  
of those competing in the Olympic and Paralympic  
Games,  
strengthen us to love you and serve our neighbour  
with all the skill and determination you give us,  
through Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

As this light travels our nation,  
may your light, O God,  
shine in the hearts of all  
who gather to celebrate the  
energy, skill  
and dedication of others.  
Send your Holy Spirit  
to light up our lives  
and set our hearts on fire with  
love for you;  
through Christ our Lord. 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 Vice  
President for Hewlett Packard)

#### Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE  
348091 Mobile 07807 145135 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](http://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 Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** John Hitt 404186  
**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 312613  
**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](http://www.ThisChurch.com)

Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett ☎326685

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

**9.-3.45pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

**.9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

☎211955

**10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's (see contact details below)

**12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris

[youth@thischurch.com](mailto:youth@thischurch.com) 365630

**1.30-2.45pm Chat and Make** For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– [chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk) There will be no meeting on 2.July.

**2.00pm U3A History Group** St Marks.(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 July Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

**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)

**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.

**4.30pm—6pm BIGG Writing** Putnoe Heights Natalie John

**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎0789187957

**7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

**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](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting July 10 Gentle Exercise Sally

Banks Details call 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.

**9.30am 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 4 July 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 20 June Wendy Waters401834

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

**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden

**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** meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 4 July Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring 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 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights** £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Mrs. P. Cass ☎294220

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St.Marks. (see contact details below)

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Marks 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 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 Whist** St Marks. (see 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 Laura Harrow

☎07834529833

**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 [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's (not 25 March) Contact Adrian Felice [www.bedfordtkd.com](http://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, 11 June

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 11 September

**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

**Harvest Festival** 30 September

**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 14

### Opening Verse of Scripture

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

### Collect Prayer *Before we read we pray*

Servant Lord, grant us both the opportunity and the will to serve you day by day. May all that we do and how we bear each other's

burdens be our offerings of love and service to the glory of your name. Amen Methodist Worship



### First Bible Reading - Ezekiel 2: 1-5

The LORD said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' And whether they listen or fail to listen - for they are a rebellious house - they will know that a prophet has been among them.'

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

### Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 2:2-10

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say. To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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

### Gospel Reading - Mark 6:1-13

Jesus went to his home town, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offence at him. Jesus said to them, "Only in his home town, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honour." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

Then Jesus went round teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff - no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals

but not an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them." They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

(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 up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Hymns** (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymns and Psalms*)

1. Come to us Creative Spirit: 377 (tune Angel Voices)
2. God's Spirit is in my heart: 315 (Go Tell Everyone)
3. Give me the faith which can remove: 767 (Tune Mount Sion or alternative Mozart)
4. Father hear the prayer we offer: 436 (Tune Sussex)
5. Lord of all hopefulness: 552 (Tune Slane)

### **Commentary**

Today is designated as 'Action for Children' Sunday, this is a UK children's charity that you may know by its former name 'NCH'. For over 140 years it has been committed to helping the most vulnerable and neglected children and young people break through injustice, deprivation and inequality, so they can achieve their full potential. The charity was started in 1869 by Thomas Bowman Stephenson, a young Methodist minister who was shocked by the plight of homeless children on the streets of London. With the help of two friends, Alfred Mager and Francis Horner, he converted a disused stable block into The Children's Home. Over time, their work has shifted away from children's homes towards community-based projects like children's centres, supporting vulnerable families, trying to prevent potential problems and it has always been active in helping form national childcare policy. You can find more information on their website; [www.actionforchildren.org.uk](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk)

Three core values have remained constant throughout their history:

**Passion** – the desire to help children and young people overcome injustice and disadvantage

**Equality** – the belief that all children and young people have equal worth and equal rights

**Hope** – the belief in a child or young person's potential, no matter what they have experienced or done.

Which could be seen as manifesto for the Christian life as a whole perhaps, but how does this relate to the readings today?

In the gospel, Jesus' return to his home town provokes strong emotions. The sense of 'local lad done well' is overtaken by a very real difficulty, when people who have known him take offence at the idea that he can be anything other than the carpenter's son they recognise. The challenge in word and action comes from what proves to be 'too close to home', Jesus acknowledges this by stating that 'Prophets are not without honour except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house'. One challenge the story immediately raises is whether we are prepared to hear truths that are 'close to home'.

Action for Children is aware that many people find it difficult to accept the extent of neglect and levels of child poverty experienced in Britain. Indeed the Churches persistent impression that any form of abuse does not happen in Christian families and places of worship is a real example of how many people seem to think these things happen somewhere else rather than right here among us. Perhaps the challenge is to open our eyes, ears and hearts to hear what is really happening in the lives of so many people today. Jesus' response to his rejection is to send out the disciples in pairs, to teach and act in the surrounding villages. In 'commissioning' them he emphasises the need to hold word and action together in following him, as the gospel of John puts it, "we are to do the truth".

The seemingly simple requirement to simply walk away when people reject them, or refuse to listen to what they feel compelled to share, is easier said than done. If we attempt to put ourselves in their position we may be reminded of situation where we have felt 'overlooked'. I imagine that for you, as for myself, this

has not been a happy experience, it can be so hard not to take such rejection personally and it can really knock our confidence and perhaps eventually stop us from trying. For the work of Action for Children it is all too relevant, our homes and families should be a place of safety and refuge, when this is challenged it can be difficult to build new relationships, or indeed to trust anyone.

In his letter to Corinth Paul speaks of 'a thorn in the flesh' (perhaps some physical affliction) which has both caused him difficulty in pursuing his ministry but also kept him humbler than he may have otherwise been. I personally struggle with his apparent implication that suffering is a good thing, leading to salvation. Some forms of 'liberation theology' almost seem to rely on that, risking a situation where people 'put up with' the hardships rather than feeling motivated to challenge injustice. Elsewhere (e.g. Romans 8) Paul tells us that it is these very hardships that actually cause us to strive for change and justice. Whilst it is true that all my past experiences have made me stronger, and can make me a better minister, I still would not wish them on anyone else, and would rather speak of a faith that inspires me to make this world better step-by-step, rather than relying on things all being 'right' in the next life.

What is your response in word and action to injustice today ...and every day... for as long as it takes?

*Jane Mason*

Bless us, Christ Jesus. You come to comfort our hearts when the incomprehensible happens — the suffering of the innocent. (Brother Roger, Taizé)

### **Meditation**

Somebody asked me this week if I knew a good carpenter. They are not easy to find and they are not cheap! These days carpenters are skilled people, who can command a good price if you are lucky enough to find one. The reading from Mark today is the only place where we learn that Jesus was a carpenter. However in his day carpenters were not regarded too highly. They ranked below the peasant farmer. Furthermore, to call Jesus "son of Mary" is a possible slur upon Jesus' questionable parentage. The normal reference would be to the father, not the mother.

Jesus however will not be held back by the things others say about him, or the way they categorise him. If people have a problem then he will move on. Prophets are generally honoured, he says, but not in their hometown, nor among their clan, or even in their own house! Jesus leaves his hometown and continues his mission among the other rural villages of Galilee.

Jesus sends the disciples out two-by-two. They are allowed means of travel (staff, sandals), but not means of day-to-day nourishment (bread, money). They will be entirely dependent on the hospitality of those they encounter. They will go into houses, some houses, however, would not be safe because the people there would neither "receive" nor "hear" them. In that case, the disciples are to "shake off the dust under the feet as a witness against them." Opponents are not to be fought but rather avoided and left to their own devices--"shake off the dust"--and let it be known that they are opponents.

It is interesting that three of the four brothers of Jesus named in this lection also share the names of three of the twelve disciples. Some think that these three were members of the Twelve, in which case one-fourth of the original inner circle of 12 would have come from Jesus' own family. After Jesus' death, his brother, James, headed the church from Jerusalem until his own death in AD 62 (or AD 69). On the other hand, these names were all relatively common at the time. In fact, outside of James, and rather remarkably, none of the other siblings of Jesus appear to have been active in the early church.



### **Prayers for NCH Sunday and the week ahead**

Loving Lord, you placed children at the centre of your work and ministry; made each one welcome, let them know they were special, wanted and loved.

You challenged the tradition that their value is as tomorrow's people, that their place is to listen and learn; when it is we who can listen and learn from them a pattern for discipleship today.

We pray for children and young people who have been left on the fringes of decisions that affect their lives. For those who feel powerless, frustrated and hopeless; those who are confused and hurt, caught in the middle of adults' battles, and for those who are the centre only of unwelcome attention.

You said it would be better to die than to harm a child; that to understand you we must understand children. So when we look at children and young people help us to see your face looking back at us. Amen.

### **New Methodist President**

The Revd Ruth Gee has been elected President Designate of the Methodist Conference for 2013-2014 and Dr Daleep Mukarji has been elected Vice-President Designate. The results of the elections were announced today at the annual Methodist Conference, meeting this week in Plymouth.

Revd Ruth Gee is the Chair of the Darlington Methodist District, and represents the Church on Churches Together in England, the Free Churches Group and the Joint Implementation Commission, which supports the Anglican Methodist Covenant. She is passionate about sharing the Gospel and enabling people to grow in their discipleship. She lives in Darlington, with her husband Robert, who is a Methodist minister. Ruth has two grown-up children: Andrew and Rachel.

"It's an enormous privilege and very humbling to be elected", Ruth said. "I am looking forward very much to serving alongside Daleep. I believe that there is a need for us as Christian disciples to raise our eyes beyond ourselves to see glimpses of God's glory. We are called to walk so closely with Christ that we can instinctively recognise him at work in the world and be challenged and inspired by that."

**Circuit Summer Celebration** Milton House, Milton Ernest (by arrangement with Mr & Mrs Clifton Ibbett) Saturday 14 July 2012. 3.00 pm games. 5.30 pm Open Air Worship 6.30 pm Formal Finish (but people are welcome to stay on if they wish) Milton Ernest is a private house with extensive grounds (gardens, park and lake) in the heart of the North Bedfordshire countryside. We hope this summer event will be informal allowing people to enjoy the venue and one another's company and coming together at the end of the afternoon for worship. Please bring your own picnic chairs or rugs & umbrellas - limited provided seating is available.

**Wanted - Photographs!** I am planning to put together a 2013 photo calendar to sell at the Christmas Fair in November and would like photographs of St Marks and Bedford. Photos should reflect church life, the key sights of Bedford as well as the different seasons. Photos can be emailed to me ([moragstewart2@hotmail.com](mailto:moragstewart2@hotmail.com)) or handed in at the office in a sealed envelope with your name and contact details enclosed, any time from now until the end of September. 12 photographs will be selected for the calendar. Get snapping. Morag Stewart

**A Celebration of our Communities, with Bedford Council of Faith** Wednesday 11 July 6pm - 9pm Outside St Mary's Church, Goldington, MK41 0AP. Inside St Mary's church if wet. Bring your own picnic, circle dancing, drummers, parachute games, 21st Century Education Trust Choir. For all ages For more information contact: [bcof@bcof.org.uk](mailto:bcof@bcof.org.uk) 01234 772385 (ext 3)

**Action for Children** Thank you to everyone who helped to make the event at Ladyslaude Court a worthwhile occasion. Some long standing lantern box holders met each other again and the residents. If you too would like a lantern box please add your name to the list on either St Mark's or Putnoe Heights notice boards. The total from the boxes from May 2011—June this year is £250. 33 with a further £25 from the refreshments provided on the 27th. Janette will happily welcome us on another occasion. Thank you to Mary for arranging event.

**St. Mark's Craft Club Appeal** - Wanted for projects for the Christmas Fayre - Round soaps and round wreath bases in either cane or polystyrene. Please if you have any hand them in to the Office at St. Mark's. Thank you..

**Great Gappo Show** on Monday 23 July at Putnoe Heights from 12 - 2pm. Tickets available from Carolyn Morris. £1 adults, £2 children and £3 on the door.

**Clean Square Plastic Pots** (up to 4") are needed By Marion Prior, for cuttings, to be sold at next year's boot sales. If you have some to offer, please leave them at St Mark's Church Office. Many thanks.

**Open House** Every Wednesday at St Mark's we welcome the Open House group. We have been fortunate that a committed team of volunteers have continued the work of Club House, the charity helping those with learning disabilities. We are always grateful for new helpers so if you can spare an hour or two please do drop in and introduce yourself to Cheryl and the team.

**Christian Aid Week News.** We thought you would be encouraged to read the following notice being sent to our local papers by Peter Littleford, Chairman of Bedford Christian Aid Committee.....Bedford and Kempston turns up trumps again! The house-to-house and other collections made in Bedford and Kempston for Christian Aid held during May this year have come to a very pleasing £31,971.53. This is over 17% better than last year's total and comes in a year when many people have been finding money in short supply. The Bedford Christian Aid Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to this marvellous total, whether it was through making donations, distributing and collecting envelopes, or fund-raising by other means. Many thanks to the people of Bedford and Kempston! Carolyn Morris & Jean Bank.

**Thursday Prayer Group** Putnoe Heights will not meet on July 19th and July 26th.

**July 8th is the last Junior Church** before the summer holidays at St Mark's. It will resume on 9 September. Jaana

**Mission Action Plan (MAP)** Thank you to all of those who have contributed towards the MAP which has now been agreed by both Church Councils. The MAP is a way of thinking about our mission and setting future goals. It is not a finished document in the sense that we wish to reflect upon it going forward and make any necessary changes in the light of our experience as a church. Please do feel able to continue to discuss in homegroups etc and reflect thought back through the Leadership Teams. Copies of the MAP can be seen on the church website

**Flowers at Putnoe** Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of flowers at Putnoe on any Sunday during the next six months, is invited to enter their name on the rota on the notice board in the welcome area.

**Methodist Prayer Handbook** 2012/2013 "Crossing the Chasm" is now due for publication. The cost, which is the same as last year, will be £3. 50 each. If you wish to purchase a copy, please contact Vera Pearson on 270737 who will be ordering these very soon.

**Tea Dance – Live** Bedford International Athletics Stadium (Barkers Lane, Bedford – Opposite the Fire Station) 1.00pm – 4.00pm (Come along at anytime during this period) Wednesday 8th August

This is a special "one off" International themed Tea Dance for complete beginners to more experienced dancers. We would like to invite you to join us at this prestigious venue for an afternoon of fun and friendship. The Dance is held inside and we welcome anyone new to Tea Dances.

This Tea Dance is part of the Olympic Live site celebrations at Bedford International Athletic Stadium during the summer. The venue will be the home for a Giant screen showing live BBC Olympic coverage between 3rd – 9th August. Enjoy refreshments in front of our big screen and try our other activities on offer during the week.

For more information on the Live site call 01234 718821 or visit our website at [www.bedford.gov.uk/sports](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/sports)

## Prayers for the Olympics

Eternal God, giver of joy and source of all strength, we pray for those who prepare for the London Olympic and Paralympic games. For the competitors training for the Games and their loved ones, for the many thousands who will support them.

And for the Churches and others who are organising special events and who will welcome many people from many nations. In a world where many are rejected and abused, we pray for a spirit of gracious magnimity, humility and respect and for the health and safety of all. May we at the last be led towards the love of Christ who is more than gold, today and forever. Amen *Revd Christopher Woods*

### Thought

"Jesus only directly answers 3 of the 183 questions that he himself is asked in the four Gospels! (I will let you find them!) This is totally surprising to people who have grown up assuming that the very job description of religion is to give people answers and to resolve peoples' dilemmas."

*Fr. Richard Rohr O.F.C.*

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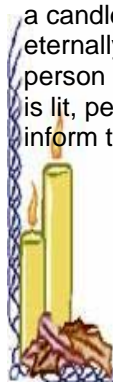
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## Rest In Peace

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.

**Olive Edna Yearell**  
**June Churm**

*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 Lawrence Kay** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 16th July at 12.15pm

**The funeral of Frederick Charles Wilbraham** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 17th July at 12.15pm