



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

10 July 2011 – Ordinary 15



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

10 July - Ordinary 15

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Mrs Delia Stewart

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions – Ministers

17 July - Ordinary 16

9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher– Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions – Mrs Sam Ware

Bible Readings 1.Genesis 28: 10-19a 2.Romans 8:
12-25 3. Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

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

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week
have been given by Chris Nixon in memory of her
mother, Cilla Williams.

*We are grateful when people make donations towards
flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an
anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please
contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Ann Hitt
404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in
the foyers.*

Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be
the life and light of your Church: open our
hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may
bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy
and peace; 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

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mason

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

The Reverend Charles Royden

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

For Data Protection Purposes

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

Partnership News is also archived on our
church website www.ThisisChurch.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 Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs. Linda Hoar 782717
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091
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 - Laura Farthing 210892

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)

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

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

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

12.15pm 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 Emma Gordon ☎07593266091

2pm U3A Music Appreciation - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—18 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 ☎07790296016

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 for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357

1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552

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

2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation fortnightly. Contact Mrs Reed ☎216623

2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting July 12 Mrs. Molly Taylor MBE. For more details contact 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-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

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

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

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

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting July 12 'Riding for the disabled' Elisabeth Curtis Centre. 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.

9.00am 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 U3A Card Making. St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - July 6 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

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 26 January.

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 will be July 6 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 ,Valmai 219555 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

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

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. 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 group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau Putnoe Heights.

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

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

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

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry 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 -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 Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pauline Hooper ☎350079

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

5.50-7.05pm 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. 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



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –

St Mark's Leadership Team

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5th October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .3rd October

St Mark's Forum Meeting - 13 July

Putnoe Church Council - 17th October

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting - 15 September at Putnoe Heights.

Deanery Meeting - .

Woodland Burial Trustees –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 17th October

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

Ordinary 15

Introduction

The Gospel reading today tells the parable of the sower. God is at work in the world, but there is a snag, God expects us to co-operate in order for his will to be achieved. This is important, we have within us the ability to work with God, or to completely do our own thing. God does not control us, he seeks to co-operate with us. We all have that free decision, do I accept and follow God or not?

So ask yourself, how fertile is your life to allow God's seed to grow ?



Opening Verse of Scripture Ps 119 v 105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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

First Bible Reading – Genesis 25: 19-34

This is the account of Abraham's son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger." When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them. The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" That is why he was also called Edom. Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans 8: 1-11

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live

according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop--a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear." "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Hymns (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise*)

1. King of Glory, King of Peace, **397**
2. Sing to God new songs of worship, **600**;
3. Jesus my Saviour, **On Partnership News**;
4. Heaven shall not wait, **On Partnership News**;
5. Come down O love divine, **89**

Meditation

Although we refer to today's gospel reading as 'The parable of the sower' often our focus is on the seed. What happens to the seed as it falls on various types of ground, hard, fertile, rocky, or just full of weeds. But perhaps the true focus should indeed be the sower. Jesus starts the parable with the sower and the message is given to those who would join with Him in the work of sowing. God Himself is the primary sower, it is He that sows the word, sometimes through us. But one of the key messages of the parable to those who would join Him in His work is that we have a responsibility, through our words and our actions to prepare the ground so that when the seed reaches the ground it will not be misunderstood, fall on shallow soil or get choked by worldly cares and concerns. We are to prepare the ground as much as we can and trust God as His words accomplishes more than we ever dreamed.

Commentary

When times are hard, when there is a natural disaster or sometimes when we are going through times we can wonder where God is in the world and why doesn't He seem to intervene more. The parable of the sower is a vivid reminder that there is nothing wrong with the message of the Kingdom and God's intervention as He speaks to His world, it is the ground itself which can be unreceptive. It's simply no use suddenly to start to try to grow seed in unprepared ground. There is no inherent fault in the message of God, it is a question of receptivity of the hearers. As we speak out the words of God and act out His love it is clear from the gospel reading that different people will respond in different ways. Some will be very receptive, some not at all, some will be initially enthusiastic and then fall away, and others will find that their faith becomes less and less central in their lives as they become consumed by the cares and riches of the world. Perhaps we can identify in part with each of these scenarios in our own lives from time to time, or even every day, either as the sower or as the ground the seed falls on. Knowing where we find ourselves in this parable is important, and it will vary, probably from hour to hour. But more importantly Jesus knows and understands the realism of our sharing the gospel and knows that sometimes it will seem like hard, fruitless work. But we should not lose sight of the overall message, the harvest will be generous, thirty, sixty or a hundred fold what was sown. In an interesting echo with the Old Testament reading Isaac sowed seed and reaped a hundredfold as the Lord blessed him (Gen 26 v 12). There are even those who would say that many in the church are modern day Esau, effectively despising their birthright of a hundred fold blessings through lack of a true hearing and understanding of the word, and diluting the reality the living Christ in their lives.

Whatever we may think about the story of Esau and Jacob and the selling and buying of a birthright in today's reading, it is clear that God blessed Isaac and his descendants. And so it will be with the words and actions that we sow. It's sometimes difficult to see what impact and effect it might be having on those around us but God's word will not return to Him empty. It will accomplish its purpose as Isaiah tells us in the alternative Old Testament reading for today (Is 55). In the words of the Old Testament, the desert will blossom like a rose. There is also a seemingly wasteful extravagance to the parable. If seed is so precious and relatively expensive, why sow it on some ground which is clearly unsuitable. Why not be more careful with where it is sown. Avoid the path and rocky ground so that none is needlessly wasted. Perhaps the clue is in the return of the harvest. A typical yield may be five to ten fold. Ten times this and a return of a hundredfold is unimaginable, beyond the wildest dreams of the tenant farmer or day labourer who would make up a significant part of the audience hearing the parable. This is the abundance of God at work. This is not the work of mere mortals. We may sow the seed but it is indeed God Himself who brings the harvest from it. It is God that is profligate with the seed and His love. His economy is not the same as ours.

As we reflect on today's reading we should not overlook the way that Jesus points to our own fruitfulness. We become fruitful through hearing and understanding. This not only takes time but also effort. An occasional glance at scriptures or sitting in church sometimes probably may not be enough. Care and thought needs to be put into the task of hearing and understanding God's word so that it can take proper root. We may need to prepare the ground by removing the odd stone or boulder and doing some weeding where the thorns have taken root. When we do this we will be surprised, not just at the fruitfulness in our own lives, but in the lives of those we touch as together we become a kingdom people, bearing fruit in the way God intended. *Sam Cappleman*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

May God, who has sown the seeds of eternal life in our hearts, pluck out the weeds of sin we confess and bring forth in us the fruit of good works for the harvest of eternity. **Amen** *Michael Counsell*

Draw your church together O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, serving him in his mission to the world, and together witnessing to his love on every continent and island. **Amen** *New Zealand Prayer Book*

O Lord, whose way is perfect, help us always to trust in your goodness, to walk in the way of faith, and to follow in the path of simplicity. Teach us to cast our cares on your providence, that we may possess a quiet mind and a contented spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

God the Sender, send us, God the Sent, come with us, God the Strengtheners of those who go, empower us, that we may go with you and find those who will call you Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Storybox and Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights is having it's last session on 25 July 2011 and to end, we have invited a Magician along to come and entertain! It's for all ages – under 1's are free - and would love to see many there. Lunch will be provided and there will be a raffle with brilliant prizes. You are welcome from 12 – 2, with the Magic Show starting soon after 12 and lunch after. Tickets are £2 child, £1 adult and lunch is included. Tickets are available from Putnoe Heights Church Office (Tel: 01234 365630) or from Storybox, Storybox Plus and Junior Church at Putnoe Heights. Any queries, contact Putnoe Heights Children's and Youth Worker Emma Gordon 07593266091 or email youth@thischurch.com.

Summer activity days at Putnoe Heights Church Running on Monday 1- Tuesday 2 August 2011 are 'Jonah and the Whale' activity days. Two weeks later there will be 'Feeding the 5,000' activity days on Monday 15 – Tuesday 16 August 2011. These days will include crafts, games, puppets, singing, drama and lots of fun! All ages are welcome, under 5's must be accompanied by an adult. Packed lunches will be required, drink and snacks will be provided.

Times are – Monday 1 – 12pm-3pm
Tuesday 2 – 1pm-3.30pm
Monday 15 – 12pm-3pm
Tuesday 16 - 1pm-3pm

Any queries, contact Putnoe Heights Children's and Youth Worker Emma Gordon 07593266091 or email youth@thischurch.com.

Circuit 'Celebration of Ministry' for Martin Hounsfeld 3pm Service and tea Sunday 17 July at Priory Methodist Church. **Circuit Service** - celebration of Bedford North circuit 6.30pm Sunday 7 August at Priory Methodist Church.

Putnoe Heights 'Spring Clean' will be on Saturday 23 July from 10am to 12 noon. Offers of help needed, please let Linda Hoar or Jean Kirk know if you are able to help.

Flowers at Putnoe Heights—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.

'Run the Race' the Methodist annual prayer handbook will be available for August. The cost will be £3.50 plus p.p. (maximum). If you would like a copy please contact Vera Pearson (270737) who will be ordering these during July.

Refresh your Relationship A 6 hour workshop run by Relate at St. Mark's Church centre 30th July 7

10am-4pm. £150 per couple inc. finger buffet lunch. To book contact training@relatebedsandluton.org.uk or phone 01234 342503.

'Top Marks' for St Mark's Preschool

The staff and support team at St Mark's Preschool was delighted to receive an 'OUTSTANDING' (Grade 1) judgement as a result of the Ofsted Inspection on June 13th. This judgement recognises everyone's hard work over recent years, building on the 'good with outstanding features judgement in 2007 and the high standards which have been set. St Mark's is a very happy, well run preschool which is extremely popular in the area and this outcome is a celebration of all that has been achieved to date. The Church also wishes to congratulate Helen Harpin, Head teacher of St. Mark's Preschool, on gaining a BA Hons degree in Early Years. This is a marvellous achievement as Helen has continued to be a working practitioner during the three years of study. Janet Day

Prayer Group will not meet on Thursday July 28th.

St Mark's Storybox

The last session before the summer is on Thursday July 14th. We meet again on Thursday Sept 8th. Many thanks to Jaana and all who helped throughout the year.

MHA Collection. The amount raised in this year's collection for MHA was £117.70 (jointly Putnoe Heights and St Mark's). Grateful thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause. Pam Kinselley.

Hymn Praise In response to requests, a hymn praise service will be held at Putnoe Heights Church at 6-30p.m. on Sunday 11 September. Anyone who would like a favourite hymn included please email eric.royden@gmail.com or phone 294496.

The words the Lord spoke - "Lest gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them"--leave room for repentance. We are advised not to be quick in cutting off a fellow believer...."

Jerome, 4th century bishop

Heaven shall not wait

for the poor to lose their patience,
the scorned to smile, the despised to find a
friend: Jesus is Lord;
he has championed the unwanted;
in him injustice confronts its timely end.

Heaven shall not wait

for the rich to share their fortunes,
the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least:
Jesus is Lord;
he has shown the master's privilege -
to kneel and wash servants' feet before they
feast.

Heaven shall not wait

for the dawn of great ideas,
thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of
pain: Jesus is Lord;
he has married word and action;
his cross and company make his purpose
plain.

Heaven shall not wait

for our legalised obedience,
defined by statute, to strict conventions bound:
Jesus is Lord;
he has hallmarked true allegiance -
goodness appears where his grace is sought
and found.

Heaven shall not wait

for triumphant hallelujahs,
when earth has passed and we reach another
shore: Jesus is Lord;
in our present imperfection:
his power and love are for now and then for ev-
ermore.

My Jesus, my Saviour,

Lord, there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am,
Never cease to worship You.

*Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the
Promise I have in You.*



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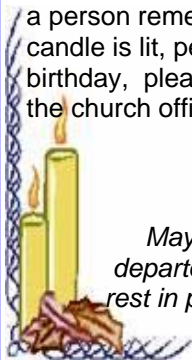
Please remember to shop at Amazon.com by clicking on the link on ThisChurch.com for just about anything you need. You can also sign up to Easyfunding. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online at discount prices! Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thischurch.com, then we obtain 5%

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.

Peter Richardson

*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 Mr Albert William Robert Denton will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 15 July at 1.45pm

The funeral of Mr Derek Robin Henderson will take place at St Mark's Church on Friday 15 July at 10.00am followed by committal at Bedford Crematorium

