



Partnership News

10 October 2010

Ordinary 28



Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

11am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions – Mrs Sam Ware

17 October – Ordinary 29

9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mrs Wendy Waters

11 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Readings 1. Genesis 32:22-31
2. 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18. 3. Luke 18:9-14.

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 Bill de Boltz in memory of his wife Peggy.

Prayer for This Week

Help us Lord to spread your fragrance everywhere we go.
Flood our souls with your spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly, that our lives may only be a radiance of yours.
Shine through us and be so in us, that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul.
Let them look up and see no longer us but Jesus!
Stay with us and then we will begin to shine as you shine; So to share, as to be a light to others; the light, O Jesus, all will be from you, none of it will be ours; it will be you, shining on others, through us.
Let us preach without preaching, not by words but by our example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do, the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to you.

*Cardinal Henry Newman (1801 –90)
used daily by Mother Theresa's missionaries of Charity*

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
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The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
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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 Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 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 - Avril Williams 360605
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

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

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

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

12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing.

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—18 October - St. Mark's Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016

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

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

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Sally Banks ☎870357

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

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

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

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 12 October Harvest Festival. 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

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

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

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting October 26 'God's Acre'. Anne Doody For more 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 Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

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

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next -13 October 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. Monthly. First meeting 6 October. 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

6.15pm 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 20 October. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

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

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. 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. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

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

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins 07919402797

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

8 -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. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

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

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

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

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

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

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

Sunday

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

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

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

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

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 8 November
Partnership Council 18 October 7.30pm at St Mark's
St Mark's Leadership Team 18 October
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 18 October
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 noon, 16th November
Putnoe Church Council - 25 October.
Pastoral Group Meeting - 12 October 4.15pm in chapel
Churchyard Committee
Putnoe Heights Mission Group
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings
Deanery Meeting - . 18 November at St Peter's
Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting
Circuit Meeting
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 18th October 1.15pm

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

Ordinary 28

Opening Sentence from Scripture Ephesians Chapter 5:19-20

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Collect (Before we read we pray)

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, 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



Old Testament Reading 2 Kings 5: 1-3 and 7-15c

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.

As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!" When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage. Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. Please accept now a gift from your servant." (This is the word of the Lord -- **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading Timothy 2: 8-15

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; we are faithless he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself. Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (This is the word of the Lord—**All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading Luke 17: 11-19

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When he saw them, he said, Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him--and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

(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.

Hymns for Sunday (Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship)

404 Let all the world, in every corner sing

170 Give thanks

182 God has spoken to his people

168 Give me the faith which can remove

428 Lord for the years



Jesus Is Coming

God wants us to be.

God is the God of every aspect of our lives, and not just what we see as 'church', 'religious' or 'spiritual'. This is one of the reasons I like Celtic Spirituality so much, in that there is no division between sacred and secular, in fact you may say there is no such thing as secular, as God made everything and everyone and is in everything and everyone.

This leads on to the other appointed readings for today, where those healed were not necessarily part of the 'chosen people', one at war with Israel and the other considered 'unclean' by the people, yet they were blessed by and came to acknowledge God.

Commentary

When I trained for ministry one of my fellow students had this on a t-shirt, on the back was the legend 'LOOK BUSY!'

Her non-Christian housemates had bought it for her when she left for college. It was a joke gift that they thought she would never wear, but it actually started a few good conversations over the three years we were there.

I was reminded of this t-shirt when reading the 2 Timothy passage in the lectionary for this Sunday, in verse 15 it says;

'present yourself to God as one approved'.

While it is true that we cannot fool God, who sees to the very heart of who we are and what we do, we are also encouraged to strive to be better than we are. Paul writes about this elsewhere, in his letter to the Ephesians, with that familiar passage about the whole armour of God.

As a young person the idea that you could 'put on' Christian values as you would put on a coat, a hat or perhaps even a mask, troubled me. Over the years I have come to realise that we are not being asked to pretend, rather, by consciously remembering to 'put on' truth, righteousness, eagerness to share the good news, faith etc... we are forced to consider our behaviour. Over time we have to think about it less, until one day we may suddenly realise that we no longer have to 'put them on' at all.

By constantly striving to act in a certain ways (with Kingdom values you may say), those characteristics actually become a part of us, more like hair or nails which we just have to maintain rather than clothes we can take off. So we are not pretending, by simply putting on our 'Sunday best' and not letting our faith impact on the rest of our lives, rather we are trying to be the person

In the Gospel reading Christ actually makes a point of commending the faith of the Samaritan, the only foreigner amongst the ten it seems. We can only guess that the other nine were Jews, if they were they would know that presenting themselves at the temple would prove their faith, but Jesus comment is that, although all ten were healed it is only this one person who returns, having done so, to give thanks. Do we sometimes think it is our right to receive what God promises? Or take for granted the love we feel? If it is unexpected or from an unexpected quarter do we value it more? Do we feel resentment when someone 'not part of us' receives the same?

Sometimes our expectations of who is good or bad can be challenged, in good ways for example when prejudice is overcome, but also negatively through broken trust. As well as asking us to strive to be better people ourselves God asks us to see people as he does. We are to welcome the stranger, welcome home those who went astray and not to judge them for perceived or past wrongs but to love them for who they are, as the person God made, and with the potential to be the person God wants them to become. *Jane Mason*

Meditation

I offer you a few prayers for the week ahead, all from 'Celtic Parables', a collection of stories, poems and prayers; edited by Robert Van De Weyer.

Grasping Water

You cannot grasp water in your hand; it drops through your fingers.
You cannot grasp truth in your mind; it drops through your thoughts.
You can only possess water by drinking it, by taking it into your body.
You can only possess truth by living it, by taking it into your heart.

God's Laws

Where are God's laws?
Are they found in a book? Is the gospel a book of law?
What are God's laws?
Are they a set of rules? Is salvation blind obedience?
God's law is in our hearts, it is our desire for goodness.
The gospel helps that desire to grow, Salvation is its harvest.

How have you spent your day?

How have you spent your day?
You have been working hard, but for whose sake?
You have been tilling the soil, but for what purpose?
There is no virtue in work; only in its aims.
Eat now, to refresh and comfort your body.
Then sit down, and reflect on your aims.
The truth may frighten you, but do not flinch.
You will rise tomorrow with fresh vigour.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

O Holy Spirit, giver of light and life; Impart to us thoughts higher than our own thoughts and prayers better than our own prayers and powers better than our own powers, that we may spend and be spent in the ways of goodness and love, after the perfect image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen
Eric Milner - White 1884– 1963

O consuming fire, O Spirit of love, descend into the depth of my heart and there transform me until I am fire of your fire, love of your love, and Christ himself is formed in me. Amen *Elizabeth of Schonau, d.1184*

O God of love, we pray thee to give us love: Love in our thinking, love in our speaking,
Love in our doing, and love in the hidden places of our souls;
Love of our neighbours near and far; Love of our friends, old and new;
Love of those with whom we find it hard to bear, And love of those who find it hard to bear with us;
Love of those with whom we work, And love of those with whom we take our ease;
Love in Joy, love in sorrow; Love in life and love in death;
That so at length we may be worthy to dwell with thee, Who art eternal love. *William Temple 1881-1944*

Sankey Moody Evening at Putnoe Heights

Church 31st October at 6.30pm. On this evening we will be remembering the meetings held by these two great evangelists and it is an opportunity to enjoy singing a collection of some old favourite hymns and songs. The BBC 'Songs of Praise' programme featured the music last year and was popular with listeners, so making it an attraction for everyone. We would like to form a small choir to lead the singing so as to help make the service more enjoyable, and Mike has kindly stated his willingness to hold a rehearsal beforehand. Please speak to either Mike (Puttock) or contact me, ericroyden@gmail.com, telephone 07722138410. Let us make this an enjoyable and memorable evening.

Abbeyfield Bedford 40th Anniversary Celebration

Praise Presented by Pam Rhodes, 3pm Sunday 24 October 2010 at St. Paul's Church Bedford. For invitations please apply to: Abbeyfield Bedford Society, 18 Linden Road Bedford MK40 2DA & return by 1 October 2010.

Footprints Walking Group All are welcome to join me on a 3.2 mile walk around Paxton Pits Nature Reserve on Sunday 10 October. The walk is mainly on good, gravelled paths or grass. There are no stiles to climb and no hills. Don't forget your binoculars – this is a waterfowl reserve. There is the enticing prospect at the end of the walk of a cup of tea at the Visitors' Centre (and they have dark chocolate Kitkats!). We will meet in the car park near the Visitors' Centre in time for a 2.30pm departure. The reserve is in the village of Little Paxton, just north of St Neots. It is about 30 minutes' drive from Bedford. From the A1, take the 3rd exit after the Black Cat, signposted Little Paxton, and follow the signs to the Nature Reserve. Follow High Street through all its twists and turns, past the Church and the Anchor pub, to its end. For more information, please contact Alison Holden alisonholden@ntlworld.com

A Joyful Noise

at Putnoe Heights Church Community Centre on Saturday 16 October 2010. 1.30 - 5pm. This is for all children aged 7-13. There will be an afternoon of music, singing, drama, dance and craft. Cost is £2. Book with Emma by email to youth@thischurch.com or phone 07593266091 if you wish to be part of the day.

Home for Christmas? Would you share your festivities with an international student at a UK university who might otherwise be stuck on an empty campus? HOST is looking for invitations for 2 or 3 days for students from China and many other countries. Hosting makes a worthwhile contribution to international goodwill. Please see www.hostuk.org

or call HOST's voluntary regional organiser Paul Ryall on 01692 630710.

Action for Children A big thank you to the 23 volunteers who knocked on nearly 900 doors for this 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 £761. Action for Children will be able to claim a further £45 from HM Revenue & Customs as a result of the 54 door-step donors who kindly filled in their Gift-Aid forms. Individual 'thank you' cards with amounts collected are being distributed. Mike Elliot

St Mark's 'Messy Church' Update. Six children and their mothers came to our first session last Wednesday. They all enjoyed themselves and joined in well with the singing and during the story time. The pizzas were a great hit with children, mothers and helpers when we shared a meal together after taking part in several messy activities. The team of helpers did a magnificent job and there was a true sense of fellowship between us all. We hope and pray that more children with an adult will come to our next session at 3.45pm on Wednesday 10 November. For more information speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal The youth team at Putnoe Church are launching the Christmas Shoebox Appeal again this year. Via the Samaritan's Purse organisation filled shoe boxes will be delivered to some of the world's poorest children, boys and girls between 2 to 14 years, in time for Christmas. If you could please donate any of the following items soft toys, jigsaws, building blocks, cars, dolls, soft balls, stationery items, stickers, puzzle books, toothbrushes/paste, soap, hairbrushes, hats and caps, necklaces, sweets (long sell by dates), bangles, sunglasses. We will also need empty shoeboxes and Christmas wrapping paper. Please leave at Putnoe Office for the youth team. Any question, contact Emma Gordon. Thank you." Alternatively if you would prefer to donate some money this can be used towards postage. The boxes need to be completed by the beginning of November.

The Putnoe Harvest Lunch was enjoyed by 80 people on 3 October. Many thanks to all who helped especially those who baked puddings and all who helped to clear up afterwards - many hands made light work. A profit of £289.00 has been passed to the Leadership Team. *Sue Allen*
Thanks to Sue and all the team for another excellent Harvest Fellowship Meal

St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre

Only 6 weeks left to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 20 November. We would be grateful for help with :-

Tombola – Any new unwanted gifts\Christmas present etc. for our Tombola stall.

Raffle – Raffle books will be available from Sunday 10 October. Please take a few books to sell to family and friends. We would also be grateful for any new items suitable for the raffle.

Cake Stall - Milly is kindly co-ordinating the cake stall again. If you are able to bake a cake for this stall please contact Milliy via the Church Office.

Refreshments – We would very much appreciate donations of traybakes to sell with tea and coffee. Ploughman's lunches will be on sale at lunchtime as usual. Volunteers to help in the kitchen on the day would be very much appreciated. To put your name down please see Avril Williams.

Secondhand Book Stall - Delia kindly volunteered to co-ordinate the secondhand book stall again this year so please have a look in your cupboards for any unwanted books.

Indoor Plant Stall -We are having an Indoor Plant Stall. If you have any indoor plants or have split any plants and would like to donate them to our stall we would be very grateful. Please contact Wendy Waters or contact the Church Office.

All donated items for the above stalls can be brought up to Church anytime week beginning 16 November. We will need lots of help on the day especially when the Fayre finishes at 3.30pm Many hands make light work and it would certainly be appreciated. This is one of our main fundraising events of the year and we are hoping to make it an even bigger success than last year, with your help I am sure we can.

Welfare benefits some myths dispelled

Wendy Waters, our Reader, has many years of experience helping people with welfare and benefits. She has helped many members of our churches to understand how to apply for assistance and with advice.

Based on my experience, over the past 7 years, as a Welfare Rights Adviser I feel passionately that the media and some government ministers present a one sided perspective of benefit claimants. Also misinformation about benefit entitlement is spread in a variety of ways. The system is very complex, and needs simplifying, and successive governments have promised to simplify the regulations for at least the last 15 years! But simplification is in itself not easy because people's lives are not simple. When I read and hear people maligning benefit claimants I like to remind those who will listen that we never know if accident, illness or redundancy will come our way. Not by choice or design but by pure misfortune we may unexpectedly find ourselves without income, unable to pay rent; mortgage; council tax and food. Then we have no other choice but to claim 'benefits'.

I am fully aware that there are those who abuse the system, but what is not so often publicised is that a third of older people do not claim what they are entitled to. My fear is that with all the current adverse publicity elderly people will be even more reluctant to claim. I could go on at much greater length, but I won't. However I would like to high light one very good, non means-tested benefit, that people over 65, who are in poor health or have a disability and have difficulty managing their personal care or safety in their home should consider claiming, this is Attendance Allowance. Once this benefit is in payment it can lead to additional means-tested benefits such as Housing Benefit (help with rent) and Council Tax Benefit (help with Council Tax) and Pension Credit.

If you would like more personal advice I am happy to speak privately to any member of the congregation.
Wendy Waters

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.

George Bernard Austin
Cliff Prigmore
Janis Plocins

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



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Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Mrs Margaret Saunders will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 11 October at 12.15pm

