



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

13 November 2011

Remembrance Sunday



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

13 November - Remembrance Sunday

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions -Mrs Sue Allen



20 November - Christ the King

9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Follett
Leadership – Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher – Mr Follett
Leadership - Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions – Dr Tim Wilkes

Bible Readings 1.Ezekiel 34: 11-16,20-24

2Ephesians 1: 15-23 3.Matthew 25:31-46

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 Doreen Denny in loving memory of her husband Len.

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Elizabeth Bean and family in loving memory of Phil.

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

O God our heavenly Father, whose love sets no boundaries and whose strength is in service; grant to the leaders of the nations wisdom, courage and insight.

Give to all who exercise authority a determination to defend the principles of freedom, love and respect. Give strength to protect and safeguard the innocent and clarity of vision to guide the world into the paths of justice and peace.

This we ask through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 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 Hoare 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
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 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ 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)

.9.45am - 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 (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 Emma Gordon ☎07593266091

2pm U3A Music Appreciation - (see contact details below)**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. Emma Gordon 07593266091 or 365630

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

6.15 - 8.15pm

6.15pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's Sam Thompson

☎07766421000

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– 21 November 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)

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. (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group. (see contact details below)

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

2.00pm U3A (see contact details below)

2pm U3A Photography St. Mark's (see contact details below)

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 15 November 'Remembrance' 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

6.15pm 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 November 15 Jaffa Orchard. 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.

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters ☎342613.

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am U3A Card Making, (see contact details below)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 23 November 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 (see contact details below)

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. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

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 16 November 2011 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. 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 Restarts on 8 September.

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

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 (see contact details below)

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

2- 4pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎275229

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 857850 or 07919402797 .

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry (see contact details below)

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 ((see contact details below)

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French (see contact details below)

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

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com or bedfordtkd@googlemail.com.

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 – 21 February 2012

St Mark's Leadership Team - 16 February 2012

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 25th Jan 2012

7.30pm at 24 Loring Rd. Sharnbrook.

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - Mon. 23rd

Jan 2012 7.30 Putnoe Meeting Room

St Mark's Forum Meeting -

Putnoe Church Council - 13 February 2012

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting - 8 February 2012 @ Kempston East Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees – 27 November

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 16 January 2012

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

Remembrance Sunday

Opening Verse of Scripture -Psalm 121: 1-2

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Collect Prayer (Before we read we pray)

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Common Worship*



First Bible Reading - Micah 4: 1-5

In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.

They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. All the nations may walk in the name of their gods; we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

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

Second Reading - Romans 8: 31-end

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Gospel Reading - 1 Corinthians 15: 50-end

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Hymns (*Please distribute special service sheet and Hymns and Psalms*)

1. Awake my soul (*Morning Light*) 632
2. The National Anthem (*back of hymn book*)
3. I vow to thee my country (*On Partnership News*)
4. Make me a channel of your peace 776
5. O God our help in ages past (*Tune St Anne*) 358
6. All my hope on God is founded (*Tune Michael*) 63

Commentary - Remembrance Sunday

We gather together today and there are several different aspects to our service. We thank God for those who have suffered as a result of war, and for those who have been disabled and injured in recent wars who suffer daily. We remember those who have been called upon by our country to put themselves in danger who are currently engaged in war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Increasingly Remembrance Sunday has overtaken All Souls as the yearly time in our society to remember all of those who have died. So we remember loved ones and bring to mind our own loss. This means that this service is inevitably a time of mixed emotions. There is thanksgiving for memories. There is pride - and quite rightly some of it is national pride for the courage of our armed forces. There is also pain, possibly anger, emptiness and all of the other things we feel when faced with death and suffering. Inevitably there is also a great deal of questioning whether war is really necessary in some circumstances and whether we are right to invade other countries.

So it is that Remembrance Sunday confronts us with some difficult questions about ourselves. Wars happen as a result of what we humans do to one another. They come from human anger, resentment, greed. Religion is often blamed for war, sadly doing away with religion would never stop wars. At the heart of war lies a willingness to kill other human beings because they are different, or because they have something which we want. We would fight with or without a God who we use to try and justify ourselves. However, if there was no religion we would have to stop some of the nonsense which we think when we do go to war. In wars we often convince ourselves that somehow God is on our side. Sometimes we imagine that the people we are bombing are somehow not God's children too, so it doesn't matter how many of the other side are killed, the casualties which really matter are our own.

Remembrance Sunday also confronts us with difficult questions about God. The recognition that life originated 15 billion years ago and that creation has been evolving ever since is truly remarkable and awe inspiring. Looking at the wonder of the natural world many people find it difficult not to be drawn to the conclusion that there is a creator God. Yet looking into the face of evil and suffering challenges our faith in God and evil and suffering appears to be built into the very fabric of the universe as much as beauty itself "I cannot persuade myself", wrote Darwin, "that a beneficent and omnipotent God would have designedly created the Ichneumonidae (wasp) with the express intention of their feeding within the living bodies of caterpillars". Their macabre habits are shared by their cousin the Digger Wasp. The female not only lays her eggs in a caterpillar so that her larvae can feed on it but she carefully guides her sting into each ganglion of the prey's central nervous system so as to paralyse but not kill it. In this way she keeps the meat fresh. Maybe the prey is aware of being eaten alive from inside yet unable to move a muscle to do anything about it. Darwin asked the right question about the Ichneumonidae. Could a kind God deliberately create this? He said no. His challenge led many after him to question their pre-scientific understanding of God. Truthfully, when faced with suffering, many good people find it impossible to believe in God.

A Jewish survivor of Treblinka told how the Nazi's kept a squad of Jewish slaves to clear out the gas chambers and bury the bodies. The Jewish prisoners had to open the doors of the gas chambers and drag the bodies to the grave. He said that sometimes they found living children, still alive, clinging to their mothers. They strangled them before throwing them into the grave. People who visit Auschwitz say that the thing that most shatters them is the pile of children's shoes.

The dilemma is simple, if God is good God cannot be almighty, if God is almighty, God cannot be good. Some suffering is human in origin and we all need to know that there are consequences of our actions. We make choices and those choices can be good or bad. But, ultimately no answer is given for the great sufferings, many caused through natural disasters like earthquakes, over which we have no control, only the realisation that we have to learn to live with the mystery of suffering and continue to trust in God.

We might all shout at God asking why he allows it. But ultimately the question is what are we going to do after the shouting has stopped? In one of the great texts of the Holocaust, Elie Wiesel describes the execution by hanging of a young boy in one of the concentration camps. He tells us that the boy twitched in his death throes on the end of the rope, a voice was heard crying out 'Where is God now' To which came back the answer, 'God is there; hanging on the gallows' There is an ambiguity in the reply. Was God killed with the boy, because it is impossible to believe in God amidst such dreadful suffering. Or was God so identified with us in our sorrows that God dies our deaths and suffers our pains. So for many people ideas about God have to be challenged. It is not defensible to believe in a loving, omnipotent God who sits and observes impassively. The denial of God as one who feels the world's joys and sufferings was largely due to the Greek notion that perfection involves immutability - if God is perfect then God cannot be changed in any way by what happens in the world. But on the contrary, to be enriched by the enrichment of the world is to be responsive to the world and therefore to be more loving. Responsiveness, not immutability, is the nature of perfection. The only God who can be worshipped is a God who suffers with us. At the heart of our faith as Christians lies the fact that Jesus of Nazareth, who reveals God to us, dies. The crucifixion of Jesus rescues us from naïve optimism because it identifies God with our pain and suffering. The death of Jesus shows God bearing the pain most visibly, God suffers. There is no easy way out, no legions of angels flying to the rescue. God like us suffers. Like us when faced with unbearable grief, Jesus shouts 'why me?' or 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?' Yes we have pain, yes we have doubt, but we believe in a God who speaks to us of goodness in the world. We are confronted all around us by evil, but so too are we faced daily by goodness. There are great saints as well as appalling sinners, some a mixture of both. The great love that we know in others is a love which finds its source not in a meaningless universe, the result of an accident.

We do not have the answers to the suffering and pain in the world. But the death of Christ shows us that the idea of a God who watches impassively is wrong. We do not know why God allows suffering, but we do know that it hurts God as much as it hurts us and there is nothing which he is able to do to wave a wand and make it go away. A love that leaves the lover unaffected by the joys and suffering of the one who is loved is not love at all. A lot of this is expressed in the hymn God is Love. I leave you with the second verse as a meditation. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

God is Love: and he enfoldeth all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking under sorrow's iron rod,
Then they find that selfsame aching deep within the heart of God. Amen.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:
For the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God;
For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;
For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;
For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;
For peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free;
For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen

Mission Appeal 'A time to give thanks, for things we take for granted' Thank you to those who have already given gifts for our Mission Appeal this year BeCHaR. (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless) Please note that you can continue to give over the coming weeks using the envelopes provided and placing them on the offering plates or delivering to the church offices. Cheques may be made out either to St Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church.

Footprints. Footprints planning meeting (for next years programme) Tuesday 22 November 2011 at 7.30pm at the home of Alison and Warwick Tel 403551

Putnoe Provender Sunday 4 December. Sales of the evr popular Christmas pudding, cakes, mince pies and much more in the Welcome Area after morning service. Proceeds in aid of BeCHaR, our autumn mission project. (Contributions gratefully received). Sally & John Gunning 305925.

Putnoe Good Neighbours need volunteers. We are a voluntary group who do what we can to be good neighbours. We are not asking for any set time commitment, just a helping hand when someone in the community needs occasional help. It could be 10 minutes to collect a prescription, read a form or water plants when they go to into hospital. Be part of the Putnoe Big Society. For information please call or text; 07968 300033.

Commemoration Service. There will be a service remembering loved ones on Sunday 13 November at 3.00pm at St Mark's Church. All are invited to come along to this service at which prayer candles may be lit in memory of those who have died.

Missions Group at Putnoe Heights church have sent a cheque for £150 to the British Red Cross for the Turkey earthquake appeal.

Advent Texts and Emails- This Advent the Diocese of St Albans is offering a very special kind of Advent calendar. They will send you every day a text or email with a special religious thought for Christmas. It will help you to take time to pause each day to prepare for Christmas. You can sign up by visiting www.livethechallenge.co.uk where you can also download stories and activity sheets

St Mark's Weekly Offering Envelopes

Replacement sets of Weekly Offering Envelopes are available after the service this morning. If you don't current use the envelope scheme or would like to find out more about regular giving to the Church please contact Jim Williams tel 01234 360605.

Bedford Messiah Choir present Handel's Messiah on Saturday 26th November 2011 at 7.30pm at Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford in aid of Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. Entry by programme Adults £8.50 Concessions £7.50 including seasonal refreshments. Some programmes are available at St Mark's Church Office.

Anjulita Court Christmas Fayre. Saturday 26 November 11.00 am-3pm. Gifts, cards, cakes, treats, raffle and refreshments. Admission 50p. Bramley Way, North Brickhill.

Stevenage Male Voice Choir in Concert - Soloist Minika. Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 26th November at 7.30pm Tickets £5 - proceeds to Karibuni Trust.

Magnet Magazine. £10 will cover the cost of Magnet Magazine for the coming year with three copies being issued; Easter, Harvest and Christmas. It would be a pity to miss out on this inspirational and beautifully illustrated magazine. Order yours through Hilda Hicks (Putnoe) or Margaret Standley (St Mark's) or the Church Office before December 18

Open House Coffee Morning at St Mark's Church on Wednesday 16 November 2011 from 10.30–12.00 in aid of Children in Need. The folks of Clubhouse would really appreciate seeing you turn up to help them raise money. Show your Spots! Please come along and help us raise lots.

King's Arms Project have three exciting vacancies as part of our work with the homeless in Bedford. These include a full-time Nightshelter Manager; a part-time Fundraising position; and a full-time Support Worker. See: www.kingsarmsproject.org for more details on all vacancies or email: project@kingsarms.org

Kings Arms Vacancies

There are vacancies for a Nightshelter Manager, Fundraiser (part-time), and a Full time Support Worker Do you have a desire to be on the frontline of seeing lives transformed? Closing date 1st December 2011 For more information or an application pack for any of these vacancies, please email: project@kingsarms.org – see: www.kingsarmsproject.org – or call: 01234 350900

St Mark's Church Christmas Craft Fayre Saturday 19 November

There is now only a week to go to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 19 November 2011. We would be grateful for any help with the following:

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

Cake Stall: Milly is kindly co-ordinating the cake stall again this year. She would be very grateful for any offers of cakes. If you are able to bake a cake for this stall please contact Milliy via the Office.

Refreshments: We would very much appreciate donations of tray bakes 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. Any help gratefully received.

Secondhand Book Stall: Delia has agreed to coordinate the secondhand book stall again this year so please have a look in your cupboards for any unwanted books. We do ask that they be in good condition please

Indoor Plant Stall: After the success of last year's plant stall we are doing the same again this year. 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. Marion would be pleased to receive gift of either indoor or outdoor plants, also small carrier bags. All donated items for the above stalls can be brought up to Church anytime during week beginning 15 November please (unfortunately we do not have space to store items before the 15 November).

We will need lots of help on the day especially when the Fayre finishes at 3.30p.m. Many hands make light work and it would certainly be appreciated

One Week to go and counting Thank you for your

Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.



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

support so far with items for the Fayre. This week the Street leaflets are available from the table in the Foyer. We would be very grateful if you could take your street and deliver the leaflets to each house. If you can do another street as well that would be wonderful. Any leaflets left over please return to the Church. All the Christmas services are also printed on the back, so it is quite important to make sure Brickhill is informed about

St. Mark's Christmas Services.

Raffle tickets are also available.

Please take a few books and sell to family and friends. It is a good way of advertising the event.

Please make sure that you bring any counterfoils, money and unsold books back to St Mark's Church office by 18 November.

Any items (books, plants new gifts for Tombola etc.) for the Fayre can be brought up to Church anytime week beginning 14 November. Sadly we do not have room to store items before then.

Many thanks *Avril Williams*



I vow to thee, my country,
all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect,
the service of my love:
the love that asks no question,
the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar
the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters,
the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted
the final sacrifice.

And there's another country,
I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her,
most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies,
we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart,
her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently
her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness
and all her paths are peace.



No Forthcoming Funerals