



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

14 August 2011 – Ordinary 20



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

14 August - Ordinary 20

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher– Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions – Mrs Claire Peck

21 August - Ordinary 21

9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs. Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mr. Ian Farthing

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher– Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Kirk
Intercessions – Mr. Alan Bayliss

Bible Readings 1. Exodus 1:8 - 2:10
2. Romans 12: 1– 8, 3. Matthew 16:13 - 20

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 Christina and Maurice Halsey in loving memory of their granddaughter Davine Stuart.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Roger and Jean Bank as they celebrate their Wedding Anniversary

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

Prayer for the Week

Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death;
victory is ours through him who loved us.

Bishop Desmond Tutu

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 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-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.

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

Weightwatchers. St. Mark's Sam Thompson

☎07766421000 Starts 25th July.

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—15 August 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 (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 (see contact details below)

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 16 August Cream Tea 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 August 16 Strawberry Tea and raffle. St Mark's 2.30pm. 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. (see contact details below)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 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. 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 September 7 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 (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. ☎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 (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.bedfotrdtkd.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 –

St Mark's Leadership Team - 6 September 2011

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 3 October

St Mark's Forum Meeting - Tuesday 13 September

Putnoe Church Council - 17 October

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting - 15 September at Putnoe Heights.

Deanery Meeting 15 September

Woodland Burial Trustees – 4th September 12.30

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 17 October

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

Ordinary 20

Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 67:1

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

Collect Prayer (*Before we read we pray*) Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading Isaiah 56:1,6-8

This is what the LORD says: "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant-- these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." The Sovereign LORD declares-- he who gathers the exiles of Israel: "I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered." (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

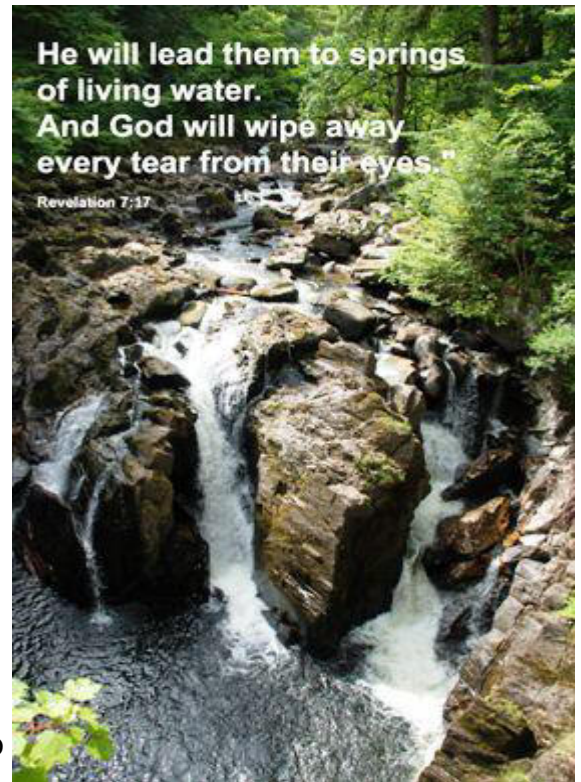
Second Reading - Romans Chapter 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all. (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'" Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit." Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'" Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it



to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour. (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

1. Ye servants of God your master proclaim. 784
2. God forgave my sin in Jesus' Name 181
3. Jesus shall reign where're the sun. 379
4. Amazing grace 31
5. The kingdom of God is justice and joy 651

Commentary

The alternative Old Testament reading for today is Isaiah 56:1,6-8 and is representative of what all the prophets proclaim. God's salvation is for all nations. The whole reason for Israel being called as a nation of light is so that other nations can see their way to the true and living God. Zechariah's song at the birth of his son, John the Baptist, sets it all out clearly. Salvation for all nations through Israel is quite a promise. The people of Israel are rightly proud of being God's chosen people, but as they thought of themselves as special - chosen - they thought everyone else was outside and not included - so the prophets had to remind the people that "the promise is not just for you - but for all the other people on earth.

Susan Sayers writes: "It was true. Starting with the chosen nation, God wanted all the people on earth to have that special friendship with God which Abraham had. It isn't just for a few people, or for one particular nation, but for people of every age, country and time. With God not one person is left 'on the outside'. God's loving is for everybody, everywhere, every time. If that's how it is for God, then that's how it must be for us as well. We must make sure that in all our loving we don't leave people out. Check whether there are people we deliberately avoid. Do we assume some people are not worth telling about Jesus? Would we rather some types of people didn't come to our church? If God had thought that about us, most of us wouldn't be here. It's his love for us that brought us, and he has love for lots of others who need us to show it to them, and love them into the kingdom.

Paul with a passion for spreading the good news to the gentile world, is equally strong in proclaiming hope for his own people of promise. God is never fickle, and if his promise has been made, it will, in good time, be fulfilled. He can even see how God can bring blessing out of their rejection of Jesus, the source of hope. What that does is to place even the chosen people of promise in the position of receiving God's mercy, spelling out to them his amazing forbearing love. In today's Gospel we are given an example, a foretaste, of those putting their faith in God who are gentiles. Not only the centurion (who was obviously closely involved with the Jewish people, since he had built their synagogue) but also the Canaanite woman (belonging to a country which was the traditional enemy to God's ways) is recommended by Jesus for here remarkable faith, which touches his heart and impresses him. It is seen in sharp contrast to the 'experts' - the Pharisees who are able to see Jesus at work and hear his teaching with all their background of promise behind them, and are still blinded to the truth of fulfilment.

And as a P.S. In the Old Testament reading from Genesis we see the generosity of God's love at work in Joseph. It really did make him a new man. Much later Paul was to write: "If anyone is on Christ, he is a new creation." God's love is for anyone and everyone - even you and me!

Richard Ledger

Meditation

We have to be careful to pay attention to the words of Jesus in the reading from Matthew today. Jesus tells his disciples that what we eat does not make us unclean. It is one thing for him to argue with the Pharisees about the religious traditions, but now he has set aside the nothing less than the scriptural food laws. This was important for Jesus because the food laws created an absolute barrier to contact with gentiles. In order to reach out to gentiles, something would have to be done about the food laws, so Jesus cancelled them out entirely. Having done this, the stage is now set for outreach to gentiles.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Eternal God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, the strength of the wills that serve you; help us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom. *Pope Gelasius' prayer book 7th or 8th century*

In the rush and noise of life, as you have intervals, step within yourselves and be still. Wait upon God and feel his good presence; this will carry you through your day's business. *Reinhold Niebuhr, twentieth century*

God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. *Author unknown*

Lord of the Universe look in love upon your people. Pour the healing oil of your compassion on a world that is wounded and dying. Send us out in search of the lost, to comfort the afflicted, to bind up the broken, and to free those trapped under the rubble of their fallen dreams. *Sheila Cassidy*

Make us true servants to all those in need, filled with compassion in thought, word and deed; loving our neighbour, whatever the cost, feeding the hungry and finding the lost.

Lord, make us healers of body and mind; give us your power to bring sight to the blind; love to the loveless and gladness for pain, filling all hearts with the joy of your name. *From One Worship*

A Sobering Possibility

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its décor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me splutter and gasp-
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh year
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbour
Who never said anything nice.

Bob, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus: 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How did all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

'And why is everyone so quiet,
So sombre-give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' He said,
'They're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you!'



Woodland Burial Tour A Unique Opportunity

On Tuesday 30 August at 11.00am there will be a guided tour of St Albans Woodland Burial Ground. This will be an opportunity to ask any questions which you may have about how funerals take place or what you can do to make a very personal service. Trustees will be accompanied by other professionals who will be available to answer any questions which you may have.

Located via The College Equestrian Centre Church Road, Keysoe, Bedford. MK44 2JP

More details can be obtained from the
Administrator: Mrs Linda Parry
Tel/Fax +44 1234 342613
Email: office@woodlandburialtrust.com

Summer activity days at Putnoe Heights Church '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 15 – 12pm-3pm

Tuesday 16 - 1pm-3pm

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

St. Mark's Junior Church resumes on Sunday September 4. St Mark's Storybox resumes on Thursday Sept 8. Many thanks to Jaana and all who helped throughout the year

News from Kisiizi Hospital at Putnoe. Kisiizi was founded in 1958 by the late Dr John Sharp. In 2008 the patients, staff and local people celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The hospital now has 248 beds in 7 wards; has 40,000 patients a year; and the new Out-patient block is nearly complete. If you would like to read more about Kisiizi hospital please look for this week's newsletter in the welcome area or ask me for a copy. Carolyn.

Action for Children works with disadvantaged & disabled children and their families through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church. The annual house-to-house collection takes place in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark's has the responsibility for covering Brickhill. Last year 21 collectors raised

£806 (inc. Gift Aid.). If you could spare a few hours early in September to distribute and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area. Please contact me For more information. Mike Elliot Tel: 342507

Coffee Morning You are invited to a joint Missions coffee morning and celebration of Dorothy's 80th birthday on Saturday 27 August at 35 Brecon Way between 10am and 12noon. Donations for the raffle may be dropped off at any time the previous week. Thank you. Stephen and Pauline Clare.

The Pilgrim's Progress will be performed at the Bedford Civic Theatre, on Wednesday 28th September. Tickets are available already- please call 01234 269519 or book online at www.bedfordcornexchange.co.uk.

Saltmine Theatre Company remains the only professional theatre company with a Christian ethos performing consistently in mainstream theatres in the UK. The Pilgrim's Progress has already toured to 18 regional venues throughout the country to great acclaim.

St. Mark's Chat and Play. Holiday Chat and Play on 18 of August. Normal Chat and Play starts again on September 8. Jo Garner 400071

Praise Service. A service of worship inspired by the songs of Moody and Sankey 6.30pm Sunday September 11 at Putnoe Heights Church, conducted by Rev. Eric Royden

Support for Older People. there will be a conference on Saturday 24 September from 9.00am - 12.45pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Lane, Goldington. This will look at raising awareness of physical, spiritual and mental needs. It will also consider looking at ways to reach out to those in nursing and residential homes. Speakers will be from Age UK, Friends for Life and local GP's

Fair Trade. The fair trade shop in St Andrews Church Centre, Kimbolton Road is open Sundays 11.15am - 12.15pm and Wednesdays 11.30am - 12 noon. We sell jewellery, textiles, bags and baskets, wood and metal crafts.

Offerory Envelopes (Putnoe Heights). Sets of envelopes for the next twelve months are available for collection from a table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the envelope scheme (or contribute to church funds by standing order), is invited to contact John Hitt, tel 404186.

Do you have room in your life and home ?

Could you offer support to a 16-20 year-old?, so they can learn independent living skills? Bedford Borough Council has joined together with YMCA Bedfordshire to implement a new 'Supported Lodging Scheme' in Bedford Borough.

Supported lodgings is where individuals, couples or families become 'Hosts' and provide accommodation and support for a young person in their home. Hosts will be supported by a dedicated Supported Lodgings Coordinator, provided with training and on-going support, an income and a suitably matched young person. Please call Amy Elliott at YMCA Bedfordshire on 01234 307040 or 07508807441 for an information pack or informal discussion.

North Bedfordshire Circuit Launch Celebration on Saturday September 3rd 2011.

Kings House Complex, 245 Ampthill Road.

2.00 p.m. Family Fun

3.00 p.m. Barn Dance

3.45 p.m. Afternoon Tea

4.30 p.m. Informal Worship

4.50 p.m. Launch Service

6.15 p.m. End of Formal Worship

Please see notice in Welcome area at Putnoe Heights for further details. Everyone Welcome.

Prayer Group There will be no meeting of the Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights on Thursday 18 August. Sylvia



A Reflection on a Week of Rioting

Reflecting on recent events before attending the recalled sitting of the House of Lords, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, said:

The tragedy of the events of recent days is that those who will pay the heaviest price are those who most need stability and encouragement in local communities – people who run small local businesses, people who need efficient emergency services, people, old or young, with limited mobility. In no imaginable sense does the violence we have seen help anyone; those who have been involved have achieved nothing except to intensify the cycle of deprivation and vulnerability.

That being said, we now have a major question to address, which is how to combat the deep alienation we have seen, the alienation and cynicism that leads to reckless destruction. The Government has insisted on the priority of creating stronger, better resourced local communities. This priority is now a matter of extreme urgency. We need to see initiatives that will address anxieties and provide some hope of long term stability in community services, especially for the young. Meanwhile the Church will maintain its commitment to all communities at risk, and is ready to offer its help and solidarity in every possible way.

A Prayer for peace in our communities

Gracious God,
We pray for peace in our communities this day.
We commit to you all who work for peace and an end to tensions,
And those who work to uphold law and justice.
We pray for an end to fear,
For comfort and support to those who suffer.
For calm in our streets and cities,
That people may go about their lives in safety and peace. In your mercy, hear our prayers, now and always. Amen

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.

Meirwen Powlson

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 Cedric John Butcher, will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 17 August at 12.15pm

