



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

14 October- 28th in Ordinary



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

Today 14 October - 28 in Ordinary

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions – Ministers
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mr Barry Southam
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

21 October - 29 in Ordinary

9.30am St Mark's – Holy Communion
Preacher - Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion
Preacher - Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Readings 1. Isaiah 53: 4-12 2. Hebrews 5: 1-10
3. Mark 10:35-45

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

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week
have been given by Val Peacock in loving
memory of her husband, Trevor.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been
given by George Burton in commemoration of
Joyce's birthday.

*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 on the foyers.*

Prayer for Sunday

Alone with none but thee, my God,
I journey on my way.
What need I fear, when thou art near,
O King of night and day?
More safe am I within thy hand
than if a host did round me stand.

St. Columba of Iona, sixth century.

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 Mills

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

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday in a
colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please
send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to
vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items submitted
for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on
our website and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website
www.ThisChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs. Jean Kirk 317699
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Morag Stewart 360103

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com

Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett ☎326685

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

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

2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (see contact details below)

12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thischurch.com 365630

1.30-2.45pm Chat and Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk . Restarts on 10 September

2.00pm U3A History Group St Mark's (see contact details below)

2pm U3A Music Appreciation - (see contact details below)

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner

☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 16 October Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

7.45pm Opus Choir at St Mark's Mrs Sutherland ☎269100

8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790206016

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507

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

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)

1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton

(centre assistant) for more information ☎340552

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details below)

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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (see contact details below).

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

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

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker ☎07900 232648

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

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

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

Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting Saturday 20 October Anniversary Celebrations. Details call Janet King 313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly. Contact Marion Sutton ☎217647

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.

9.30am Discovery & Do (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons ☎328380 or ☎07788824666

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

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks.(see contact details below)

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

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

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 24 October 2012 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's.

Mr Barnes ☎261811

1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for

children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 17 October. Wendy Waters 401834

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C 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 Mrs O Holt ☎266004

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 17 October Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Valmai ☎219555 Rosemary ☎405594 or Graham ☎406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Jean Ross ☎771870

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner ☎400071 or ☎07719670624

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

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays St. Mark's ☎267444

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (large hall) Children's Chatty Time 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

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

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's. (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Mary Rich ☎272470

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Carol Plant ☎01832710504

8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law ☎825574.

8.00pm 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 Pat Cass ☎294220

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan ☎01234 309105.

Friday

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)

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

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (contact details below)

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

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker ☎07900 232648

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

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.St Marks(2nd week) Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

6.45pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

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

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

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or w.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com ☎07964356355

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 9 October, 19 Feb, 11 June

St Mark's Leadership Team - 22 January

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 February

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 15 October,

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm

Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - 16 November

Woodland Burial Trustees– 30 September

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -

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

Ordinary 28

Opening Verse of Scripture - Amos 5 v 6

Seek the Lord and live.

Collect Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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*

First Bible Reading - Amos Chapter 5:6-7, 10-15 6-7

Seek the LORD and live, or he will sweep through the house of Joseph like a fire; it will devour, and Bethel will have no one to quench it. You who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground

You hate the one who reproves in court and despise him who tells the truth. You trample on the poor and force him to give you grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. For I

know how many are your offences and how great your sins. You oppress the righteous and take bribes and you deprive the poor of justice in the courts. Therefore the prudent man keeps quiet in such times, for the times are evil. Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

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

Second Bible Reading - Hebrews 4:12-16

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Mark 10:17-31

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No-one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honour your father and mother.'" "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God". The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus



The Rich man; seated at the left behind his treasures, while Death grasps his money
Print made by Hans Holbein the Younger - Woodcut 1526

looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no-one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."
(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. Amen

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

1. Praise the Lord, his glories show 14
2. Majesty (in Partnership News)
3. Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart 378
4. God it was who said to Abraham (In Partnership News)
5. All for Jesus 251

Commentary

I offer the insight of Susan Sayers, William Barclay and Bishop Tom Wright.

"The prophet Amos urges his hearers to seek the Lord and live, implying that unless they actively seek God and his goodness, truth and justice, they will find themselves unable to inherit God's blessings in their lives or their nation. Seeking God is a quest that alters our whole outlook on life. It isn't a casual hobby, or a weekend interest. While we actively seek God, we will be listening and looking attentively, and this will move us to question our own motives for doing things, and the way we behave. We cannot be seeking God, for instance, if we are trampling on all that is right and good, despising those who tell the truth and crushing the poor. If we are honest and serious in our search, the very seeking will begin to change us, by changing our hearts. The writer of Hebrews has obviously seen and experienced this process, and likens the power of the word of God to a sharp sword - or perhaps for us the image of a surgeon's scalpel - with its precise, clean cut enabling the healing work to be done. Once the thoughts and attitude of our hearts are being transformed, through God's power, then the impossible business of conquering sin becomes a distinct possibility; hope is in sight for us at last!

The young man in today's Gospel is keen. He comes running up to Jesus, wanting to know how he can inherit eternal life. Typically, Jesus doesn't answer directly, but picks up on the young man's thinking, as shown in calling Jesus 'good'. His seeking has already led him to recognise goodness in this preacher, and Jesus helps him further along to look at what God's ideas of goodness are, and where that challenges the young man's life. When he moves away frowning, it isn't that he disagrees with Jesus, but that he has just realised he is right. Like the young man, we who seek will find Jesus challenging us, and then we have to choose whether to go on with the search, or press cancel." (*Susan Sayers*)

"The great truth of this story lies in the way it illumines the meaning of eternal life. Eternal life is life such as God Himself lives. The word for *eternal* is *aionios*, which does not mean lasting for ever; it means such as befits God, or such as belongs to God, or such as is characteristic of God. The great characteristic of God is that God so loved and God so gave. Therefore the essence of eternal life is not a carefully calculated keeping of the commandments and the rules and the regulations; eternal life is based on an attitude of loving and sacrificial generosity to our fellow-men. If we would find eternal life, if we would find happiness, joy, satisfaction, peace of mind and serenity of heart, we shall not find it by seeking to pile up a credit balance with God by keeping commandments and observing rules and regulations; we shall find it in reproducing God's attitude of love and care to our fellow-men; for to follow Christ and in grace and generosity to serve the men for whom Christ died are one and the same thing. In the end the young man turned away in great distress. He refused the challenge, because he had great possessions. And his tragedy was that he loved things more than he loved people; and he loved himself more than he loved others; and any man who puts things before people, and self before others, must of necessity turn his back on Jesus Christ." (*William Barclay*)

"The discussion that follows the rich man's sad departure reflects the disciples' shock at being told that wealth won't buy you a place in the Age to Come. Their surprise only makes sense if we assume that they regarded wealth as a sign of God's pleasure - a common view in both Judaism and paganism, though there was already much in the Old Testament which challenged that attitude.

Jesus slices through their amazement. Riches can no more go into the Age to Come than a camel can go through a needle - a typical and deliberate overstatement, like saying 'you'll get your riches into God's kingdom when you can put the entire ocean into a bottle.' Everything will be upside down and inside out; all things are possible to God; the first will be last and the last first. In particular, though, those who have left family and possessions to follow Jesus will receive things back even in the Present Age - a new and ever-enlarging family of their fellow disciples, with homes open to them wherever they go (and persecutions waiting for them too, a theme Mark wants to rub in); and, of course, in the Age to come, the God-given life of that new Age. All the early Christians came to believe that with Jesus' death and resurrection the Age to Come had indeed broken in to the Present Age. That's one of the hardest points for us to grasp today about their way of looking at the world, and at God. But if we even begin to take it seriously, we'll see that there is nowhere to hide from Jesus' uncompromising - though cheerful and celebratory - demand for discipleship. The call 'Come on! Follow me!' echoes down through history, and everyone is judged by the answer they give" (*Tom Wright*)

Meditation

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.

You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a king.
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything. *Martin J Nystrom (b1956)*

Thought for the day

The plain meaning of Jesus' words is that it is impossible for a rich person to enter into the way of the kingdom. It is not humanly possible, he says. It can't be done. The disciples worry, "And who is able to be saved?" If this super-pious rich guy can't get in, who can? The disciples assume a world in which the people at the top of the social and economic ladder are specially favoured. Aren't riches a sign of God's blessing? No, says Jesus, not even close. Everything is upside-down in God's kingdom. He is to sell what he has and give to the poor. Note that the text does not actually say that he has to give all to the poor. He just has to give, that's all. Apparently, this was too much. The man has been all about "doing" something. He is all about getting and achieving--first possessions, and then eternal life. He acquires, he does not give. Jesus makes another important point "All things are possible for God." Jesus is not interested in personal piety. He is notably unimpressed with the rich man falling down in front of him and calling him a gracious name. He's not interested in skipping over this life to get to the next one. He's not interested in keeping the commandments if you don't keep the two big ones--love the One God, and love your neighbour--and, as far as worrying about possessions, he appears to regard it as a disease from which one needs healing.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week ahead

I believe, O Lord and God of the peoples, that thou art the creator of the high heavens,
that thou art the creator of the skies above, that thou art the creator of the oceans below.

I believe, O Lord and God of the peoples, that thou art he who created my soul and set its warp,
who created my body from dust and from ashes, who gave to my body breath, and to my soul its
possession. *From the Carmina Gadelica*

Give us grace, O Lord, not only to hear thy word with our ears, but also to receive it into our hearts and
to show it forth in our lives; for the glory of thy great name. *Author unknown*

Lord Jesu, I give thee my body, my soul, my substance, my fame, my friends, my liberty, and my life.
Dispose of me and all that is mine as it may seem best to thee and to the glory of thy blessed name.
John Cosin, Seventeenth century

God of your goodness, give me yourself, for you are sufficient for me... If I were to ask anything less
I should always be in want, for in you alone do I have all. *Julian of Norwich, Fourteenth century*

Social Evening. Tickets are now available for an evening of music and entertainment with special guest Vittorio at St Mark's on Saturday 17 November.

Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. We will be holding a special service of commemoration of loved ones who have died at St Mark's Church on 4 November. All are welcome to attend so please do encourage anybody you know who would appreciate this special service.

Christmas Craft Fayre – 24 November 2012

Now that the Car Boots have been put to bed for the winter our big fundraising event is Christmas Craft Fayre. We have a number of Church Stalls that need your support, i.e. plant stall, homemade cake stall, Craft stall and of course tray-bakes for refreshments. So plant up your cuttings (indoor and out), bake your cakes and tray-bakes then come and enjoy the day with a cup of tea and a lovely ploughman's lunch. Help on the day is always needed and is very much appreciated.

Raffle tickets will be available after Morning Service on today.. Any queries about the above just contact Avril via the Church Office. Thank you.

Tuesday Club 50th Celebrations. You are invited to a Celebration Concert of light music by Kempston Musical Society on Saturday October 20 at 7pm at Putnoe Heights Church. Tickets £7 (including a raffle ticket) on the door. Everyone welcome.

Advent Course

This year we will be running a Partnership Advent Course at St Mark's for three weeks. The course will also be great for those considering confirmation in the 2013. Each session will start with refreshments at 7.30pm with the main meeting 8.00pm - 9.00pm More details to follow but put these dates in your diary.

Thursday 29 November

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm

Session in Church from 8pm

Thursday 6 December

In WREN room from 7.30pm

Thursday 13 December

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm

Session in Church from 8pm

Church Council Just a reminder that Putnoe church council is on Monday 15 October. Please remember that these are open meeting and everybody is welcome to attend.

Hyacinth bulb vases If anyone has any of these vases spare could you please either give them to Avril Williams or bring into Church Office. Thank you.

Putnoe Heights Refurbishment. Starting at ½ term Friday 26 October The large hall will be given a new floor and new boilers will be fitted.

Messy Church Celebrates its 2nd Birthday On 17 October At 3.45 to 5.30pm. We invite the wider Partnership Congregation to come along to share in some of the celebration. Refreshments are served at 3.45pm. A meal for the families and the team is served at 5pm but we will not be able to cater for additional guests to share this meal. We look forward to seeing you! For more information contact Wendy Waters 01234 401834



This year, for the first time, our Messy Church families will be donating items for the Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' Shoe Box Appeal. If you would also like to contribute items for the 'Shoe box' presents there will be a container for them in

church from 21st October to 18th November. A leaflet, which you can take as you leave church today, gives more details and most importantly lists what can and cannot be donated.

For more information please contact: Wendy Waters 01234 401834, or Margaret Appleton 01234 354708.

An Autumn Craft Day will be held at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 20 October from 9.45am to 4.30pm. Cost £4 per half day session.. Please book by 11 October. Booking form and details of workshops available from Pam Seymour. Tel 305695; Email –pam@tgis.co.uk

Bedford Town Concert Brass would like to invite you a joint concert with Marsh Gibbon Silver Band - two band for the price of one! The concert is to take place at St Mark's Church on Saturday 20 October at 7.30pm. Tickets available from John Lingings 01234 306676 or on the door. Tickets £8 and concessions £5 Children under 14 Free. See poster.

Friends For Life social evening on Wednesday 24 October at 7.15pm at Priory Methodist Church. Brief up-date on events and development of the project over the last 12 months followed by a buffet. Please let Joanne Barrow know if you will be attending on 01234 213038 or at joanne.barrow4ntlworld.com.

Open House will be having a birthday party celebration this Wednesday 17 everybody is invited.

St Mark's Church Council At last week's church council it was decided to put the falt back into residential use and seek a suitable tenant. The church council also agreed a programme of works for saving energy including insulation, new boilers and solar thermal hot water.

Pastoral Support Group. There will be a meeting on Tuesday in the chapel at St mark's

Hymns for Sunday

Majesty, worship his majesty;

unto Jesus be glory, honour and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority,
flows from his throne unto his own,
his anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus,
magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship his majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

Jack Hayford

God it was who said to Abraham,

'Pack your bags and travel on.'
God it was who said to Sarah,
'Smile and soon you'll bear a son.'
Travelling folk and aged mothers
wandering when they thought they'd done—
this is how we find God's people,
leaving all because of One.

God it was who said to Moses,
'Save my people, part the sea.'
God it was who said to Miriam,
'Sing and dance to show you're free.'
Shepherd-saints and tambourinists
doing what God knew they could—
this is how we find God's people,
liberating what they should.

God it was who said to Joseph,
'Down your tools and take your wife.'
God it was who said to Mary,
'In your womb, I'll start my life!'
Carpenter and country maiden
leaving town and trade and skills—
this is how we find God's people,
moved by what their Maker wills.

Christ it was who said, 'Zacchaeus,
I would like to eat with you.'
Christ it was who said to Martha,
'Listening's what you need to do.'
Civil servants and housekeepers,
changing places at a cost—
this is how Christ summons people,
calling both the loved and lost.

In this crowd which spans the ages,
with these saints whom we revere,
God wants us to share their purpose
starting now and starting here.
So we celebrate our calling,
so we raise both heart and voice,
as we pray that through our living
more may find they are God's choice.

*John L. Bell (b. 1949)
and Graham Maule (b. 1958)*

Thank You. All the clients, volunteers, staff and directors of the Prebend Day Centre would like to thank you for their harvest gifts. Your donation ensures the provision of hot, nourishing meals, allowing vulnerable adults access to one of the most basic human needs at BeCHaR. *Ryan Flecknell*



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Rest In Peace

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

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



Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

The funeral of Frank Patrick Sheridan will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on Tuesday 16 October