



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

14 September 2008

Ordinary 24



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

**9.30am St. Mark's– Morning Worship**  
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership Team – Mrs Laura Farthing  
Intercessions – Mr Chris Izzard

**11.00am Putnoe Heights– Morning Worship**  
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership Team – Mrs Sam Ware  
Intercessions – Mr Eddy Peck

**21 September– Ordinary 25**

**9.30am St. Mark's– Holy Communion**  
Preacher - Mr B Owen  
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper  
Intercessions –Mrs Margaret Appleton  
**11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion**  
Preacher - Mr B Owen  
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash  
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

### Bible Readings

1. Exodus 15: 2-15
2. Philippians 1: 21-30
3. Matthew 20: 1-16

## Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Margaret Standley and family in loving memory of John on his birthday.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by Mollie and Deryck Cutler to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

*We are always grateful for any donations for 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 Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.*

## Prayer for Sunday

Make us ever eager, Lord,  
to share the good things that we have.  
Grant us such a measure of thy Spirit that we may  
find more joy in giving than in getting.  
Make us ready to give cheerfully without grudging,  
secretly without praise, and in sincerity without  
looking for gratitude, for Jesus Christ's sake.  
Amen.

## Contact Details

**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)

**The Reverend Charles Royden** (Day off Thursday)  
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.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

## Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

## Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417  
**Leadership Team** Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119  
**Treasurer** Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** - Mr John Hitt 404186  
**Youth & children's worker** - Mrs Spavins 302349 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** - Mr Mike Cooper 306751  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**  
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

**8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school**  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634  
(See website for more details)

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

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's  
Mr Kellie ☎721063

**10.45am U3A Playreading** St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

**11am - 12. The Right Track** at St Mark's. Signpost information for people with learning difficulties. Gina Barton ☎07999859980

**12.00pm Story box** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

**1.45pm U3A History Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

**4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

**4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747

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

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

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

**7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** Meets monthly at St Mark's. Contact Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 18 August Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

## Tuesday

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

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

**9.40 -12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Philips 01582 485333

**10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

**1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

**2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 23rd September, members afternoon. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

**3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

**7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group**  
St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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

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

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

**7.30pmChartered Management Institute** St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club -** Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 23 September Harvest. More details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

**9.15am Paint Tots** St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

**9.30am Childminding Support Group** Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949

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

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

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

**10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

**10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

**Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 1 October 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch** St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

**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** monthly. All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

**2pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎400584

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

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

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

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

**6.30pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

**7pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the

month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods ☎365095

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073

**7.00pm U3A Sky at Night** 2nd Wednesday of the month. Mr Farish ☎824984

**7.45pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 17 September 2008. All welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016  
7.45 for 8pm God talk—women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. 26 June will be at 14 Flint Way. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

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

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

**12pm Storybox** weekly at 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 Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**5.30pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.

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

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group.** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

**7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc.** at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. Marriot 303834

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

**8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle.** St Mark's 1st week each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

**8.00pm Brickhill Wives** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group** St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

**1.30pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

**6.30pm -7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm**

**Improvers** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

**7pm Bedford Arts Society** fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

**7.45pm Astrology Group** St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

### Saturday

**9.00pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

**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. Not in August.

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

**4pm B.A.M.A.A.** at St Mark's. Chinese soft martial arts. Mr Chris Butcher ☎07886894922

**6pm T.N.T.** Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Next meeting Please see Liz ☎302349.

## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council –**, 18 November  
**St Mark's Leadership Team –** 24 November  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –**  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting-29th September** at 7.30pm.

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -**

12 November all at 12 noon

**Putnoe Church Council -** 6 October.

**Pastoral Group Meeting -**

Monday 30th September at 4.30pm

**Churchyard Committee -** November 12 at 11am

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group –**

**Partnership Council -**

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -** 2nd October

**Deanery Meeting -** 18 September, 13 November

**Circuit/Deanery Meeting**

**Woodland Burial Trustees -**

**Mission Group Meeting**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –**

15th September, 1st December.

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

# Ordinary 24

## Opening Verses of Scripture 1 Corinthians 13

'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs...'

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## First Bible Reading - Exodus 14: 19-31

Then the angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord -- Thanks be to God)

## Second Reading- Romans 14: 1-12

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgement on disputable matters.

One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned

to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgement seat. It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God." "So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord—Thanks be to God)

### **Gospel Reading Matthew 18:21-35**

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow-servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow-servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow-servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart." (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - Thanks be to God)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the Apostles teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

1. Timeless love we sing the story (Tune All Saints 707 MP, 60HP)
2. Freely Freely 181 MP
3. I heard the voice of Jesus 275MP (Tune Kingsfold)
4. God is love 187 (Tune Abbots Leigh)
5. O God beyond all praising (Tune Thaxted)

### **Commentary**

We read last week that when there are issues and disputes in the church they are to be dealt with, and Jesus does not expect his followers to just brush them under the carpet. If somebody is out of order then go and have it out with them, don't gossip and tell everybody else about it—go to the person concerned. There is a recognition by Jesus that problems do have to be dealt with, by the people concerned.

This is not an excuse to go around telling people your thoughts about them. Most of the time it might be better just to forgive them without the need to blow the issue out of all proportion. If we went to everybody about every little thing then it would be ridiculous.

'Excuse me I really do not like you coming to church wearing a Manchester United shirt.' (they lost yesterday to Liverpool by the way).

I think what Jesus is saying is this, if you have to say anything, say it to them quietly. Don't go and make a meal out of it with everybody else! Very often people do the opposite, they will speak to anybody other than the person concerned. 'Do you know what so and so said to me...' If a matter is so important then have it out and go face to face, that way it can be sorted out. Not a letter, or a text, or an email - face to face!

So in the reading today, Peter comes and asks Jesus how many times he should forgive. Peter in an attempt to be generous suggests "As many as seven times?" Seven is generous. Seven is a holy number to Jewish people, symbolizing "perfection, fullness, abundance, rest, and completion." The rabbinical

standard is three, based on Amos 1-2. Peter had every reason to suspect that Jesus would have given him a pat on the back for this generous suggestion. Jesus is unimpressed, he takes the seven and multiplies it by seven. "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy times seven" (v. 22). The message which Jesus gives is that when it comes to forgiveness you shouldn't even be counting. Forgiveness means that you have let go of it, put it in the past, it should no longer be reckoned. Jesus is telling us to throw away the calculator and record keeping. Jesus is using numbers to exaggerate and make his point. He is fond of using exaggeration in his stories, such as when he said cut off the bits of your body which cause you to sin! He goes on to do the same thing in the story of a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. The king saw one slave owed him 10,000 talents. The annual income of King Herod was 900 talents so 10,000 talents can be expressed in our terms by billions. A talent was the largest unit of money known in the Near East in New Testament times and 10,000 was the largest number used in counting. So what Jesus does is to multiply the largest unit of money, by the largest Greek number! The result is unimaginably large — a working man's wages for 200,000 years.

No slave has any hope of paying these amounts and so his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. The miracle happens. The king goes far beyond what the slave has asked. He grants, not just a little more time, but forgiveness of the great debt. But then we learn that as the slave went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him 100 denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ). The second debtor uses exactly the same words that the first debtor used. But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. A denarii was worth the daily wage of a labourer. So the hundred denarii debt represent a working man's wages for one hundred days and is tiny compared with the ten thousand talent debt. The problem is that the man does not have it and immediate payment is required. The first debtor had no chance of ever repaying his ten-thousand talent debt, but it is quite conceivable that the second debtor will be able to repay his hundred denarii debt.

Such forgiveness and yet such a failure to understand the need to be equally forgiving to others. We cannot imagine the first slave's lack of compassion, given his recent narrow escape. Understandably the fellow slaves were greatly distressed and went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. The Jesus principle of forgiveness means that we are accountable to show forgiveness. We enjoy salvation by the grace of God, but this parable warns that God expects us to manifest at least some small portion of that grace in our relationships with our Christian brothers and sisters. There is a direct message to us, the standard of forgiveness we use can equally be applied to us by God. *Charles Royden*

### **Meditation**

"The whole emphasis of the New Testament is on forgiveness of sins, reconciliation, and holy living manifested and made possible by the love of God through the Cross of Jesus Christ."

### **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

Faithful God, we need your forgiveness, constantly renewing our lives, freeing us to be a people of faith, hope and love made whole by your grace. We pray for those struggling to forgive others; people who have had great wrongs done to them or to those they love. Loving God, help us to forgive from our hearts. Amen

We pray for those who cannot forgive themselves; people who cannot live with the knowledge of what they have said or done. We pray for those in desperate need of forgiveness; people torn apart by guilt or regret, their lives in need of rebuilding. Loving God, help us to forgive from our hearts. Amen

We pray for ourselves, learning to offer forgiveness by absorbing hurts and not returning them; learning to offer to all the forgiveness made known in Christ upon the cross. Loving God, help us to forgive from our hearts. We pray for ourselves, learning to accept forgiveness as we give our lives in faith to you our loving Father, learning to accept the forgiveness offered by others as we live in humble love with one another. Loving God, help us to forgive from our hearts. Amen

**New Term** Storybox plus for our 5- 9 year olds restarts at Putnoe on Monday 15th September 3.30 Junior Church and YPF restarts at Putnoe on Sunday 14th September. We look forward to welcoming back old and new members, why not bring a friend as we have an exciting term planned.  
Liz and Sam

**Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch** Sunday 5th October (note Harvest Festival Service will be held on Sunday 28th September). Tickets available for lunch from Putnoe Office, £5.00 per adult (£2.50 children under 10).

### **BEH District Women's Network**

Induction Service of Silvia Thomas as District President at 2pm on 24th September at Ampthill Methodist Church.

Autumn Craft Day on 18th October, 9.45 to 4.15 at Priory Methodist Church. Contact Pam Seymour, Tel 305695 for booking forms. To be returned by 6th October.

Autumn Fellowship Day on 23rd October, 11am to 3.30pm at Biggleswade Methodist Church. The theme is "Sensing God."

For further information on the above events, see the posters in the Church Foyer.

**Putnoe Heights Church** will hold its Methodist Homes for the Aged day on Sunday 5 October. There will an opportunity to give to the work of MHA through envelopes which will be distributed on Sunday 21 & 28 September. Proceeds from the Harvest Lunch on 5 October will also be given to MHA.

**Church Lunch Club** (Alternate Wednesdays) would welcome any members of St Mark's or Putnoe Heights like to come. If you are interested, please give your name to Margaret Standley, Jenny Emsley or Pam Kinselley. We would also welcome additional helpers, either on a regular or irregular basis. We also need drivers. With the building work in progress at Putnoe, our Autumn session will not start until 1 October but don't leave it until then to let us know.

**The Right Track** Supporting People with Learning difficulties—do you want to know about Direct Payments? Benefits? Housing? and many more. If so come along to the drop-ins at St Mark's Church between 11am - 12 on 20th October, 17 November and 15 December

**Organ Tuition** Fulfil your dreams and learn to play the church organ with support from The New School of Organ Studies. Sponsorship offered to all regardless of age or experience. Teaching centres at St. Albans, Hemel Hempstead, Luton, Bedford and Tring. Contact Roy Mek 01582 575823

**Harvest Quiz Night** at St Mark's Church 7.30pm Saturday 4 October. Up to 8 members in a team which can be arranged on the night. Tickets are available from the church offices. Cost £5 which includes fish & chip supper. Bring your own drink.

**Line Dancing** restarts at St Mark's Church on Friday 26th September. Classes are now being held in Large Hall (non carpeted) Beginners 6.30 - 7.30pm. Improvers 7.30 - 8.30pm. Contact 782360

### **Join the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.**

Autism Bedfordshire Adult Skills Group are holding a MacMillan Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy in Biffa Room, St. Mark's Church on Tuesday 23rd September 10.30 - 11.30am. All Welcome.

**Putnoe Heights will host a Circuit Service** on Sunday evening 9 November at 6.30pm, for Claire Peck's Commissioning as a Local Preacher.

**Bedford Hospital** is currently applying to become a Foundation Trust, this means that, although the hospital will remain part of the NHS, it will gain freedom from central government control, instead your local hospital will be accountable to you, its local community and its staff. We are therefore inviting the people of North and Mid Bedfordshire to sign up as members of the hospital. Membership is free and you can get involved as much or as little as you like. Benefits include:

- Receiving newsletters and updates about the hospitals activities and invitations to forums
- Being able to have a real say in how your hospital is run
- Being able to join the NHS discounts scheme and receive discounts in some of your favourite shops
- Being eligible to stand for election as a governor on the Trust Council of Governors and represent your community at four meetings a year

If you would like more information about the Foundation Trust application, membership or the Council of Governors please contact the membership office on 01234 792627 or write to Foundation Trust Administrator, Bedford Hospital NHS Trust, Kempston Road, Bedford MK42 9DJ or click onto the Foundation Trust pages of our website [www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk](http://www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk)



### **Autumn Mission Project**

After evaluating a number of options for projects to support it has been agreed that both churches will support Mission Aviation Fellowship for our Autumn mission project this year.

*Look out for further details in the coming weeks.!*

# Back to Church Sunday

28 September

This year our harvest celebration will be a time for inviting to church new friends, or people we have not seen for some time. Please help us by giving names to any member of the Leadership Team

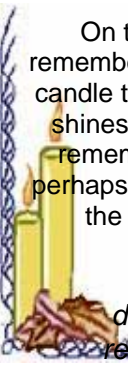


## Hymn for Sunday

- 1 O God beyond all praising,  
we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing  
that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder  
at every gift you send,  
at blessings without number  
and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you  
and wait upon your word,  
we honour and adore you,  
our great and mighty Lord.
  
- 2 Then hear, O gracious Saviour,  
accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favour  
may serve you as our king;  
and whether our tomorrows  
be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows  
and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty  
and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty  
our sacrifice of praise. (Tune Thaxted)

**Solidarity urged as violence rocks Church in India** The Methodist Church is calling for urgent prayer for thousands of persecuted Christians in India as violence flares across the state of Orissa. The British Methodist Church offered its support to The Church of North India (CNI) this week as more than 50,000 people were left homeless and many killed in attacks following the worst anti-Christian violence India has seen since independence 60 years ago. Revd Dr Enos Das Pradhan from CNI made contact with the World Church Relationships Office, asking Methodists to uphold their brothers and sisters in Orissa in prayers for peace. "Fear of attack has taken every Christian into its grip and our people are living in the most persecuting time of their lives," he said. "Will you join us in prayer for our brethren in Orissa? Kindly uphold the people of Orissa in your prayers, that God grants them strength to bear the losses and also to be witness of His love in these trying times." CNI, the British Methodist Church's partner in the region, has been at pains to condemn the killings of both Hindus and Christians. Revd Dr Pradhan also condemned the killing of Hindu leader, Pradhan Swami Laxminarayan Saraswati and his four associates in his letter to British Methodists. teve Pearce, Partnership Coordinator for Asia, was keen to pass on CNI's request. "To use religion as a justification for attacking individuals or groups is abhorrent and yet we are seeing widespread community violence," he said. "We have heard of horrific attacks on homes, places of worship and individuals. Many of us were moved this week by a press photo of a young girl whose face had been burnt because she was a Christian. We ask the Indian Government to act for peace, to act for the vulnerable and quickly undermine the culture of intolerance and violence while there is time." Kasta Dip, Coordinator of Youth Concerns for CNI emailed youth and children's Connexional team colleagues at the British Methodist Church. "We have been hearing news of killings everyday," said Kasta. "My hometown Bolangir is in the western part of Orissa. There have been already over 60 instances of violence, including the burning alive of at least eight persons and over six hundred homes. "Last night three CNI churches were burnt. Pray for our three dioceses in Orissa."

### 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.'*

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### Rest in Peace

*There are no funerals this week*