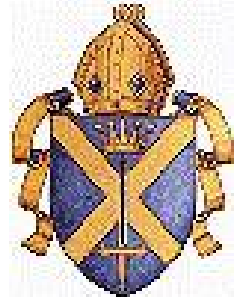


Partnership News

15 August 2010
Ordinary 20



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 – Holy Communion
Preacher– Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing
11.00am Putnoe – Holy Communion
Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions – Ministers

22 August - Ordinary 21

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs. Claire Peck
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mr. John Tatman

11am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs. Claire Peck
Leadership - Mrs. Sam Ware
Intercessions - Mr. Tim Wilkes

Readings 1. Isaiah 58: 9b -14. 2. Heb. 12: 18 - 29.
3. Luke 13: 10 - 17.

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

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.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights church this week have been given by Maurice and Christina Halsey in loving memory of their granddaughter Davine Stuart, and by Gwen Benson in memory of her husband Derek.

Prayer for this Week

Let your love fall upon the altar of our hearts,
O Lord, as fire from heaven.
Teach us to guard and cherish its holy flame.
Strengthen our souls and kindle your love within
our cold hearts that we may walk before you as
pilgrims eager to reach their celestial home;
through Christ our Lord. Amen

Gerhard Teersteegen, 1697-1769

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 Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wedy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Avril Williams 360605
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

☎211955

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 19 July Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Sally Banks ☎ 870357

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

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

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

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting August 17 Cream Tea.. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

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

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

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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

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

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting August 24 Strawberry Tea at St Mark's. For more details call Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next -September 15 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

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

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823

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

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

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

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe

Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎ 347073

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

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting September 1st. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Alan ☎ 345312. Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

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

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

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

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins 07919402797

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

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

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

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

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

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

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

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

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

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

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

Sunday

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

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

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

*-If you are not helping start fires here on earth
are you complicit in the status quo which,
GOD help us, is not what is to be?
Wesley White*

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 8 November.

St Mark's Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 18 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 27 Sept.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 noon, 15 September, 16th November

Putnoe Church Council - 25 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee - 29 September

Putnoe Heights Mission Group

Partnership Council—TBA

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings

Deanery Meeting - .

Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting

Circuit Meeting 13 Sept.

Woodland Burial Trustees –22nd August 12.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Ordinary 20

Opening Sentence from

Scripture Romans Chapter 8

Continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness

Collect *(Before we read we pray)*

O God you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your

commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Common Worship*



Old Testament Reading - Jeremiah. 23:23 - 29

"Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD , "and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD . "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD . "I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their fathers forgot my name through Baal worship. Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD . "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD , "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

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

Epistle Reading – Hebrews 11: 29 - 12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days. By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated-- the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God

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

Gospel Reading - Luke 12:49 - 56

(After the Gospel is announced **All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

"I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a

baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time? (Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ – **All: Praise to Christ our Lord.**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion and Mission Praise*)

1. Ye servants of God 784
2. Majesty 454
3. Come let us sing of a wonderful love 94
4. The kingdom of God is justice and joy. 651

Commentary

Jeremiah tells us something of God's greatness — He is everywhere - not just a 'local' God of limited influence. The children at Thurleigh Lower School used to sing the song "Far beyond the Universe," that contains the line, "There is nowhere I can go where His love cannot reach me" - a wonderful thought for us all in our daily lives - and in Jesus God who "fills the heaven and the earth" dwells with us. Luke and his readers would understand that Jesus and his message were the signs by which everyone ought to have interpreted "the present time". They ought to have known that the age of God's rule had already begun. The kingdom of God was breaking in on history: life would never be the same again; God was disclosing his nature and purpose; God in Jesus was reconciling the world to himself. But people who were (like us) weatherwise, remained spiritually insensitive. May we recognise, welcome and respond to signs of God's kingdom today. And may we rejoice to run our race of faith looking to Jesus who died for us, rose and is exalted on high. He was obedient to death on the cross as Paul says in the letter to the Phillipians, "so God exalted him to the highest place.... That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." What encouragement this is to us all. And we are invited to do it in company with the millions of saints on earth — and all those who have gone before! *Richard Ledger.*

I find this very helpful in thinking about the nature of God.

'For as I walked through your city and looked at the places where you worship, I found an alter on which is written, "To an Unknown God". That which you worship, then, even though you do not know it, is what I now proclaim to you,' (*Acts 17.23 GNB*)

God is....

- God is the Word, which became flesh and dwelt among us. (*John 1.14*)
God is the Light, that no darkness can totally obliterate. (*John 1.5*)
God is the Peace, that reaches out to us in life's fiercest storms. (*John 14.27*)
God is the Hope, that gives confidence of a brighter future. (*Romans 15.3*)
God is the Comfort, that reaches even our deepest sorrows (*2 Corinthians 1.3*)
God is the Healing, for self-inflicted wounds of wilfulness and sin. (*Revelations 22.2*)
God is the Forgiveness, that shouldered the burden of our follies. (*John 1.9*)
God is the Love, that never writes us off, whatever we have done. (*John 3.16*)
God is the Life, which hold us secure to the gates of death and beyond. (*John 11.25*)

Edmund Banyard

Meditation, My Name is I Am

I was regretting the past, and fearing the future
Suddenly my Lord was speaking: 'My name is I am'.
He paused. I waited. He continued.
'When you live in the past
With its mistakes and regrets, it is hard to stop.
I am not there. My name is not 'I was'.

When you live in the future, with its problems and fear. It is hard. I am not there. My name is not 'I will be'
When you live in this moment, It is not hard. My name is 'I am' *Found in a church in Porchester*

Not there when needed?

'Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died,"' (John 11.21 NRSV)

Where were you, Lord, when I really needed you? Why was there no answer to my prayers, the most urgent prayers I have ever prayed, was it some fault on my part?
And it's not just me — an unexpected diagnosis, tragic accident, sudden redundancy, marriage breakup, untimely death. . . .
Where are you, Lord, when our world falls apart and we need you so very much?
Lord, when we do have to face really dark times, help us to hold on to our faith, that you have been that way before us, and that you are with us now, sharing our distress and supporting us, even though for the moment you seem very far away.

The risen Christ says: 'And remember, I am with you always, To the end of the age (Matthew 28.20
Edmund Banyard

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

You are the great God — he who is in heaven.
You are the creator of life, you make the regions above.
You are the hunter who hunts for souls.
You are the leader who goes before us.
You are he whose hands are with wounds.
You are he whose feet are with wounds.
You are he whose blood is a trickling stream,
You are he whose blood was spilled for us.
Prayer of a Xhosa Christian from Africa

O thou, from whom to be turned is to fall, to whom to be turned is to rise, and in whom to stand is to abide for ever; Grant us in all our duties thy help, in all our perplexities thy guidance, In all our dangers thy protection, And in all our sorrows thy peace; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *St. Augustine (354-430)*

Father, I am seeking: I am hesitant and uncertain, but will you, O God, watch over each step of mine and guide me. *St. Augustine (354-430)*

When peace, like a river, attends my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say, It is well, it is well, with my soul.

The story is told that Horation Spafford wrote this hymn following two major traumatic events in his life. The first was the Chicago Fire of 1871 which brought him to financial ruin. The second was the death of his four daughters who died at sea when the ship they were on with his wife collided with another ship as they crossed the Atlantic Ocean. It is said that Stafford wrote the hymn as his ship passed the spot in the Atlantic where his daughters lost their lives. Stafford does not question, he manages to find peace in knowing God is present even in his moment of grief and suffering.

There are those moments when we rant and rave and express the sickness that we feel when we view injustice and devastation in our world. When we cry out for justice on behalf of people and community because our souls refuse to be well amidst the devastation and injury we see. After our lament, maybe, just maybe we too can sing, "It is well, it is well, with my soul," as we appreciate the presence of God with us in time of trouble.

Junior Church at Putnoe Heights and St. Mark's
There is no Junior Church during August. We start again on 5th September. The crèche at St Mark's will be available all the time as normal.

Storybox and Story Plus at Putnoe Heights

starts back Monday 6th September. Thank you to all volunteers who do a great job every week! Emma

St Mark's Messy Church—helpers needed. This will be held monthly from 3.45pm to 5.30pm. First one Wednesday 6 October. Many thanks to those of you who have already responded to Wendy Water's talk on 18 July. As Wendy said on the day 'many hands make light work', so please prayerfully consider if this is something with which God is calling you to be involved. No special skills needed just willingness to be part of this exciting new venture for school age children and their carers. For more details please see the display at the back of the church, or speak to: Janet Day, Jean Bank, Marion Prior, Richard Ledger or Wendy Waters..

The Putnoe Heights Friday afternoon silent prayer group will not be taking place during the summer holidays. We will reconvene on Friday 3rd September. Many thanks. Sam Ware (304058) and Eileen Brown (267909)

Website Changes. Some of you will have noticed that the church website has not been refreshed for a couple of weeks. This is due to some technical changes which are taking place at present. we hope that the site will be up to date very soon but with a few major enhancements.



St Mark's Hog Roast and Mini Quiz

Saturday 4th September 2010 7.30pm Tickets £8.00 Please Bring your own liquid refreshments. There will be dietary

concessions for those who do not love roast pig.

Come and join us for our Summer Workshop

Daniel and the Lion, for all children aged 5 yrs +, at Putnoe Heights Church. This will take place on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th August 2010, 10.30am -until 3pm with games, singing, drama and crafts. Two fun days! Bring your own lunch, drinks provided. Some help on both days would be gratefully accepted. For further details contact Emma Gordon-Youth Worker 07593266091 or Carolyn Morris 01234 350722 after 12 noon.

Your Church Needs You! Putnoe Heights are currently looking for church members who can help

with Sunday Intercessions; communion stewards and office volunteers. Please consider becoming one of our invaluable volunteers and join one of our rotas. Contact Sam Ware 304050 or Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

Action for Children –House to House Collection Action for Children works with disadvantaged and 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. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron.

The annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in the first two weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £972 (includes Gift Aid) If you could spare a few hours during early September to distribute and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)

Flowers from St Mark's and Putnoe Heights If you know of anybody who would value flowers from our churches, perhaps during an illness or following a bereavement, then please advise any member of the Leadership Teams.

Coach Trip to Festival of Quilts at NEC Birmingham on Thursday 19 August. £23 including entrance, leaving Putnoe Heights at 8.30am and leaving NEC at 4pm. More details Val Morgan Bedford 266963.

Kempston Musical Society mixed choir who sing for pleasure, are seeking new members. They meet Thursday evenings 7.30 -9.30pm at the Church of Transfiguration Hall, Bedford Road, Kempston . New term starts on the 9 September, membership fee £25 per annum. Auditions are not required. Enquiries to Janet Welsh Tel: 01234 781010 or email: Kempstonmusicalsociety@hotmail.com

Race for Life I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who kindly sponsored me to take part in Race For Life. As a result of your generosity, I am delighted to tell you that I have been able to send a cheque for £200 to Cancer Research U.U. Marian Mathews

Have you any spare knitting wool? Mother Teresa Group welcome donations of wool (double preferably but any gratefully received) which may be left at St. Mark's church office. Maureen Watling tel. 262225.

Offertory 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 to have more information about it, is invited to contact John Hitt, tel 404186.

Recycling of Print Cartridges If you have any print cartridges or toner cartridges for recycling please bring them up to the Church Office by 31st August when the company are coming to collect them. They also take old mobile phones. All proceeds from the recycling to go to Church Funds. Many thanks Avril Williams

Autumn 2010 Courses from Belief

Issues in Religion and Medicine
Wednesday evenings in Autumn 2010

13 October End of Life Issues Dr Jenny Wilson
20 October Anxiety and Stress Dr David Mason
3 November Abortion Dr Chris Nixon
10 November Cosmetic Surgery Dr Stephanie Johnson
17 November To be arranged
Venue: St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2PF Each session: 7.45 pm to 9.15 pm Cost: £20 for the whole course or £5 per session. Tea and coffee provided.
c/o Priory Methodist Church
63 Newnham Avenue Bedford MK41 9QJ
Tel 01234 293688 email: office@beliefbeds.org.uk
<http://www.beliefbeds.org.uk/>

Many thanks to everybody who sponsored Claire Peck for The Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research UK. Well over £100 has been raised. If you still owe any money please would you let Claire or Margaret have it as soon as possible.. Thank you

Help wanted. St Mark's are seeking to find a replacement assistant to help Emma Strangwick at Chat and Play for next term. The first session starts on Thursday 9 September. Even if you don't feel able to take on this employed role, we really would appreciate offers of help so that we can start the new term.

Faith Communities in the 'Big Society'

Together with the Chief Rabbi and Archbishop of Westminster and leaders of other faiths, the Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday hosted a discussion with the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles, and the Minister for Decentralisation, Greg Clark on the government's new scheme.

The Secretary of State Eric Pickles said:

"We see the Big Society as a very practical way to put people in control of the decisions that affect them and to encourage everyone to take an active part in civic life.

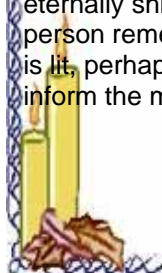
"For years, faith communities have been quietly making a huge difference day-in and day-out, to every single neighbourhood in the country - something that has not been sufficiently recognised by central Government. Today has been an opportunity to do so and to explore how, in realising our ambitions for a Big Society, we can together build on the huge amount of experience faith groups have in getting out into the community.

"Some see religion as a problem that needs to be solved. The new Government sees it as part of the solution. I want to send an important signal that we value the role of religion and faith in public life. The days of the state trying to suppress Christianity and other faiths are over."

Good for the disabled. Would you like an electric armchair which rises to help you up? If so then please contact St Mark's Church office as one is about to be donated for the Church car boot sale.

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

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Forthcoming Funerals

There are no funerals this week