



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

15 September 2013 - Ordinary 24



8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

Today 15 September — Ordinary 24

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion

Preacher – The Reverend Canon Charles Royden
Leadership – Mr Edward Parry
Intercessions – Deacon Jane Mills
Organist - Mr. Martin Thompson
11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion
Preacher – The Reverend Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions — Mrs Claire Peck
Organist - Mr. Alan Bunker

22 September — Ordinary 25

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Ministers
Organist - Mr. Martin Thompson
11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship
Preacher – The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Veta Hudson –Rae
Intercessions — Ministers
Organist - Mr. Martin Thompson

Readings 1. Jeremiah 8: 18-9:1 2.1 Timothy 2: 1-7
3. Luke 16: 1-13

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 St Mark's Church this week have been given by Warwick Holden in loving memory of his wife Alison.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Deryck Cutler in loving memory of his beloved wife Mollie and daughter Jean, and by Gerry and Sue Allen to mark their wedding anniversary.

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

A Prayer for Sunday

God our Redeemer,
you who called your Church
to witness that you were in Christ
reconciling the world to yourself:
help us so to proclaim
the good news of your love
that all who hear it
may be reconciled to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a Vice
President for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.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 Jenny Snelson 344417
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 - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

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

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)
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@thisischurch.com 365630
1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk .
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-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571
6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081
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 September Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218. First session starts 23 September.
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567
Putnoe Heights Children and Youth meeting - Monday 23rd September

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 Skinner 07989080389
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 Grp. St Mark's (contacts details below)

1.3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's (contacts 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)
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895
2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (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.
4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights.. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
7.30-8.30pm 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
6.30pm MT Karate (all ages) Karen King 07941264885
7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455
7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club (Meets fortnightly). 17 September 'Favourite Music' Details Janet King 313946

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.
9.30am Discover & 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. (contact 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)
10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe (contact below)
11.15am U3A Keep Fit
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 11 September 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
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)
2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights
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 18 September. 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 Yvonne Blain 350241 or Brian Sallows 407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe

Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt
266004

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe 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
18 September. Everyone welcome. All dances called,
only £1 including refreshments. 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 07932616468

10.00-11.30am Gentle Yoga For more details contact
Helen Nicholson Tel. 03003004305

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 (small hall) Next Steps 9-
24months Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy
Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552.
2pm -Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per
session inc. refreshments. New members welcome.
Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights

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

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

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin
07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe 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

7.30pm Gentle Birthing St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946
847231

8 -10pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn
dancers)

Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers
each week. Except August. Next meeting 5 September. All
welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details
Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

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

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

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)

2pm U3A Italian-Putnoe Heights (contact details
below)

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights

4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther
Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

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

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday Feb/
Apr/Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

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.

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

Messy Church Dates

Weds 18 Sept; Weds 16 Oct; Weds 20 Nov,



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 – 8 October

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Annual Congregational Meetings

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 10 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 1st October

Putnoe Church Council - 14 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting - 4.15pm 17th September

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 3pm

Circuit meeting - 10th September Wilstead Methodist
Church

Deanery Meeting - 14 November

Woodland Burial Trustees–

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –1.30pm
23rd September

New Year Lunch 19 January at Putnoe

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

Ordinary 24

Sentence of Scripture - Psalm 96:3

Proclaim the glory of the Lord among the nations, His marvellous deeds to all peoples: great is the Lord and worthy of praise.

Collect Prayer for the Day

God our Redeemer, who called your church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love that all who hear it may be reconciled to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Methodist Worship

First Reading Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

At that time this people and Jerusalem will be told, "A scorching wind from the barren heights in the desert blows toward my people, but not to winnow or cleanse; a wind too strong for that comes from me. Now I pronounce my judgments against them." "My people are fools they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good."

I looked at the earth and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone.

I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying.

I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away.

I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger.

This is what the Lord says: "The whole land will be ruined, though I will not destroy it completely. Therefore the earth will mourn and the heavens above grow dark, because I have spoken and will not relent, I have decided and will not turn back."

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



The lost coin in stained glass

Second Reading - 1 Timothy 1:12-17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners --of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Gospel Reading – Luke 15: 1-10

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his

friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

(This is the Gospel of Christ—**Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Hymns

(Please distribute Holy Communion and Hymn Sheets)

1. The Lord is King! lift up your voice, *Tune Christ Triumphant*
2. We come as guests invited, *Tune Passion Chorale*
3. Loving Saviour, Thou art calling, *Tune Blaenwern*
4. May the love of Christ enfold us, *Tune Ar Hyd Y Nos*

Meditation

Paul Tillich, "You are accepted. You are accepted by that which is greater than you, and the name of which you don't know... Simply accept the fact that you are accepted. If that happens, we experience grace."

Commentary

We learn today that Jesus is creating quite a stir. Tax collectors and sinners were gathering to hear Jesus, but the Pharisees and religious teachers were angry with what he was saying to them. What was Jesus saying when he told these parables today that made the leaders so angry?

These are stories about things being lost and things being found. A shepherd leaves his sheep to go and look for something lost. It is a huge risk but the thing which is lost is valuable and therefore it is worth taking that risk and going to search. A woman loses a coin, she doesn't just ignore it and hope it will turn up, it is of sufficient value that it is worth turning the house upside down and going to look for it.

The message is not lost on those who hear these words, God takes time, takes effort, takes a risk and considers that which is lost to be worth his time and energy getting it back safely. Jesus had an intimate relationship with God and this was what he knew of the Father's love. Jesus spoke about a God who was very different from the God the people had heard about before. God had always been a mighty and powerful God, a God who could send plagues and disease, a God who would crush enemies in battle. God was known to forgive if you asked for his forgiveness, but that forgiveness demanded that blood be shed of innocent animals before he allowed reconciliation. This was the God who demanded the pound of flesh before he extended the arm of compassion. Think to yourself of all of those Old Testament passages about God and then compare them with this God of compassion revealed to us in Jesus. In this context it is perfectly understandable that Jesus caused great offence to the religious leaders of his day. They were bound to be angry at his parables and teachings which seemed to show God more interested in the lost than the faithful.

These were more than words for Jesus, his life was a living parable as he lived out this teaching, concentrating on the poor ones, the weak ones, the sinful ones. Jesus seemed to be at the complete opposite end of the spectrum to the religious leaders, not only did he concern himself with those considered on the outside of God's grace, he made matters worse when he told these sorts of parables to the people. The religious leaders would have been shocked at the significance of a shepherd who went out in search of a lost sheep which never contributed anything to being found! Perhaps if the sheep had come grovelling back there might be a way of understanding the forgiveness of God but with these parables it is all so unmerited. The sheep does not deserve to be found and moreover God is made to look so foolish when we hear that the woman who finds her lost coin calls for rejoicing. How can God be made happy when he finds those who have gone astray, or who have been brushed under the carpet? The religious leaders would have been much more comfortable with the lost remaining lost and attention being given to those who tried hard to well behaved. To them the lost coin represented those who were better out of sight and out of mind. These religious leaders had failed to be good shepherds they had let God down and the

people they were supposed to protect and lead. The words of Jesus bring to mind Ezekiel 34:1-6 and the denunciation of the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves and not the sheep.

What does Jesus mean when he says

'I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.'

Who were the ones who had no need for repentance? Everybody needs repentance ! We are all lost, one way or another. The story tells us that God will do anything to find the lost, and there is "joy in heaven" at the finding. This is why it is unimportant that the sheep or the coin do anything to assist their being found. The stories are not about us and our sin or guilt or repentance. The parables are about God and his relentless love which will never give up until the lost are found and brought home. This is a God with a heart compelled by love as would be the heart of any loving parent, driven to rescue and save children who have lost their way. If those religious leaders who were supposed to shepherd and look after the sheep have only looked after themselves, then Jesus is the Good Shepherd who will ensure that people hear what God is really like and bring them home to God. *Charles Royden*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord, you have consecrated the world by sending your Son into the midst of it and by making all things new in Him. We ask you to give us the courage and power we need to share fully in His mission to the world and to further His kingdom in the lives of all people to the honour and glory of His name.

Our loving Father, we give thanks for your goodness and love; for the joy of home and family, and the companionship of friends and neighbours; for the strength that supports us and the love that surrounds us, both when our joy is complete and when it is touched by pain. We give thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: the glory of his humble birth, the graciousness of his selfless life, the obedience and trust that led him to the cross, and the triumph of his resurrection and ascension. We give thanks for your Holy Spirit at work in your Church and in our hearts, revealing your truth, renewing our lives, and bringing us to your eternal Kingdom

Grant, O God, that we who are one in our need of your forgiveness, may be one in our acts of compassion. May we who are made one in your love become one in our common life. May we who are made unique and individual in your sight, dwell together as one race. We pray for peace in our world and especially we pray for countries across the Middle east, remembering the people of Syria and continuing to be mindful of those other countries where human life is taken away by violence everyday. We pray for Christians living in violent situations and persecuted for their faith. May our world leaders be led by your wisdom, give to them a resolve to seek peace and justice and end to the bitterness and hatred which divides people. Forgive us when we use faith, tribe, family or other human distinction as a reason to divide ourselves from one another, help us to remember that you are the father of all humankind and love all of your children equally. Unite us in mutual love and care across the barriers of race and culture.

Comfort those who have lost loved ones. Support the injured and those near death. Inspire the emergency services. Lighten the darkness of those who are near despair. Do not let threats multiply or power be used without compassion. Rekindle hope in our lives, so that we may not walk alone through the valley of the shadow of death confident of your presence alongside us through all that we face.

God, who gave us birth, you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray. You know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Give to us now your grace, that as we shrink before the mystery of death, we may see the light of eternity. Speak to us once more your solemn message of life and death. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days here are accomplished, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in you, and that nothing in life or in death will be able to separate us from your great love in Christ Jesus our Lord. We remember those who have died and ask for your comfort and peace upon all of those who mourn. We remember especially ... Amen.

Prayer for Reconciliation in Syria God of history, Witness of the struggles within families; we pray for the divided family of Syria as brother fights against brother, and sister rejects sister. We pray for those whose love of neighbour has been destroyed in the bitterness of enmity. May fear be submerged in compassion. May distrust be diluted by hope, as a vision of peace illuminates darkened minds and hate-filled hearts. We pray in the name of Christ, our source of light and love. Amen.

Harvest Festival this year is on Sunday 29 September. This is a great time to invite along friends and we also welcome uniformed organisations and church groups

Wanted 2 volunteers to join the lawn cutting rota at Putnoe Heights. If you have approx 1¼ hours to spare once a month I would like to hear from you. The rota runs from March to the end of October. If you are able to help please contact Veta Hudson-Rae, Leadership Team on 360507.

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch Sunday 29 September 2013 1.00pm Tickets are now available from the Putnoe Office on weekdays or after Sunday Services. Two courses, soft drink and coffee. £6.00 or £3.00 for children. Please bring your own wine.

Putnoe Heights Church Storybox welcomed 27 children from 18 families to Storybox during the summer, with their Parents, Grand Parents and child minders. Children who still attend or used to attend Storybox, Storybox plus and Junior Church. They enjoyed stories of Noah's Ark, The lost sheep, Jonah and the Whale and Baby Moses, as well as crafts and games. Thank you to all those who came to help with these groups.

Book Stall at Putnoe : Thank you to everyone who has donated books; we are still waiting for a permanent site for this Book Stall but please continue to borrow—most books are in the Small Hall bookshelves. Borrowing charge 25p. Until we have a permanent home, we cannot take any more books but please keep books you intend to donate until we are up and running. *Pam Kinselley*

Our Mission Appeal 2013. This year will be launched at harvest on 29 September. We will be joining the St Albans Diocese in funding a project in Ethiopia that is teaching farmers about better beekeeping methods. Our gifts will make a real difference. New beehives and improved beekeeping skills are having a life-changing impact on people and communities in Ethiopia. Bees are vital pollinators; flying from flower to flower, they make connections that are fundamental to the life of our planet. The Bishop's Harvest Appeal is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our connected world and to make life changing, loving and lasting connections with people in Ethiopia.

Highland Fling Sponsored Drive

John and Janet Day would like to thank everybody who sponsored their drive to Scotland in the 1929 MG. It was very successful and the 1427 miles were covered with only a few minor problems. Total raised will be about £2500 for St John's Hospice. Thank You

Beds, Essex, Herts, District Methodist Women in Britain (Network).

There will be an Autumn Craft Day on Saturday 19

October from 9.45am to 4.30pm at Priory Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to come and learn a new skill. There will be 16 workshops available at £4 per half day session. Closing date for bookings is 11th October. Details of the workshops and booking forms are available from Pam Seymour. Tel. 305695, email –pams@tgis.co.uk

'Christmas Craft Fayre – Saturday 23 November . It is that time of year. Cannot believe how quickly this year has gone. As usual our Craft Fayre is coming upon us. We are having the usual cake stall, plants, craft, tombola and book stalls. Donations to any of these would be most welcome nearer the time. At the moment we are in need of the hyacinth bulb vases. If you have any that you would be prepared to donate please would you bring them up to the office this week. Your support of the Craft Fayre which is our biggest fund raiser of the year is very much appreciated. Many thanks. Avril'

Update from your Community Agent

NEW – Message in a Wallet - These are kept in your purse or wallet & provide emergency services and hospitals with details of any illness or allergy, & provides them with your emergency contact details. Now available free from your Community Agent. **Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week** 18th – 24th November - Village agents have a small number of free Carbon Monoxide monitors to give to residents who do not have one, or whose current one is due to expire (they usually have a 7 year life). Available free on a first come first serve basis. These have been kindly donated by the Katie Haines Memorial Trust.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is odourless and colourless, highly poisonous gas that is found in carbon-based fuel appliances. If you use natural gas, LPG, heating oil, or solid fuel for heating or cooking, you should be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide. Ensure your appliances are installed and serviced annually by a Registered Gas Installer, a Registered Oil Technician, or a qualified service agent for your fuel type.

Radiator Sheets - Community Agents have a small number of free Radiator Sheets to give to residents on a first come first served basis (max of 2 per resident). These sheets are slotted down the back of your radiators & reduce heat loss by 40%.

Warm Homes Discount £135 (2013/14) You may qualify for this discount from your energy supplier for electricity. This is available to customers in receipt of certain benefits. e.g. Pension Credit. However other customers on a low income may also be eligible. If you want more details please contact us. Community Agents are a free service, here to help you when you with any concerns you may have – large or small. We are funded by Bedford Borough Council. Please call your Community Agent free on 0800 039 1234 This is an answerphone service, so please leave your name address & telephone number, & we aim to call you back within 48 hours

Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2013

Following the success of last year's donation of 38 boxes by Messy Church and the wider congregation, we will be packing boxes at our Messy Church session on 16 October. We will be happy to accept donated items from now on. There is a box at the back of the church where you will see details of what can and cannot be put in the boxes. If you require further information please speak or phone Wendy Waters 401834 or Margaret Appleton 354708.

What to give: All gifts should be new Toys: Soft (but not hand knitted stuffed), finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instruments, cars, trucks, dolls, tennis ball etc. Educational supplies: Pens, pencils, felt pens, eraser, colouring book, notepad, puzzle book etc Hygiene items: Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar soap, flannel etc Other items: Gloves, hat, scarf, bangles, necklaces, sweets sell by date at least March 2014 Please do not give: Food especially chocolate, medicine, no war related items e.g. toy guns, no clothing other than hats, gloves or scarves, no fragile items, no liquids, no sharp items, no novels, nothing of a political nature, no hand knitted stuffed toys. If you do not wish to give items as above, financial contributions towards the £3 per shoe box 'shipping' cost would be appreciated. Thank you

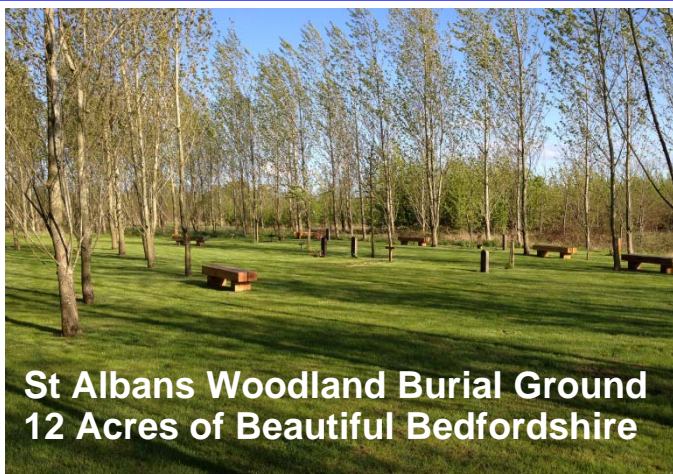
The Contemplative Prayer Group meets in the Quiet Room at Putnoe Heights on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. at 1.45pm/ The September meetings will be 13.09.2013 and 27.09.2013. Eileen Brown 267909.

O Christ of the dove, grant us the purity of the Spirit. O Christ of the sparrow, grant us the Father's protection. O Christ of the mother-hen, grant us shelter beneath your wing. Amen.
Bonaventure of Bagnoregio (1221-1274)

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Thank you for shopping using the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases



**St Albans Woodland Burial Ground
12 Acres of Beautiful Bedfordshire**



St Albans Woodland Burial

We are delighted to have taken 10 acres of woodland to increase substantially the area consecrated for burial at our woodland in Keysoe. We are now assured of providing woodland burial for generations to come. The Trust is a non-profit making charity, established to offer woodland burial, an environmentally friendly alternative to commercial cemeteries and crematoria.

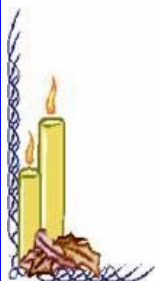
St Albans Woodland Burial Trust (Registered Charity No. 1118216) Mrs Linda Parry, office@woodlandburialtrust.com. Outside office hours contact 07922 053740 or 07973 113861. For information visit our website www.woodlandburialtrust.com

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.

**Patricia Ovenell
Murray Careless**

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



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Enid Kathleen Wait will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 11.30am on Friday 20 September