



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

## 16 October 2011 - Ordinary 29



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

### 16 October – Ordinary 29

#### 9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart  
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership -Mrs Jean Kirk  
Intercessions – Mrs Sam Ware

### 23 October - Ordinary 30

#### 9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing  
Intercessions - Ministers

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs Jenny Snelson  
Intercessions – Mr Alan Bayliss

**Bible Readings** 1. Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18  
2.1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8 3. Matthew 22:34-46

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

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Val Peacock in loving memory of her husband Trevor, and by Barbara Whittingstall with treasured memories of her loving husband Peter.

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

### Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father,  
you taught us by your Son Jesus Christ that all our possessions come from you. Help us to be faithful stewards of our time, our talents and our wealth, and to consecrate gladly to your service a due proportion of all that you have given us. Take us and make us your own; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

#### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a Vice President for Hewlett Packard)

#### Deacon Jane 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](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 Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846  
**Leadership Team** Mrs. Linda Hoare 782717  
**Treasurer** Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** John Hitt 404186  
**Youth Worker** Emma Gordon email - 07593266091 youth@thisischurch.com

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

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

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ Fri. Putnoe Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

*(See website for more details)*

**.9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

**10.30am U3A Play reading** (see contact details below)

**12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Emma Gordon ☎07593266091

**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** - (see contact details below)**3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities. Emma Gordon 07593266091 or 365630

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

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

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

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner

☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15 - 8.15pm

**6.15pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's Sam Thompson

☎07766421000

**7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

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

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

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 17 October. Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

## Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

**1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp** - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552

**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** (see contact details below)

**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** (see contact details below)

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

**2.00pm U3A** (see contact details below)

**2pm U3A Photography** St. Mark's (see contact details below)

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 25 October Marion Goddard 'Arthritis Research UK'. For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

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

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

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

**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

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

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

**7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting October 18- Shoe box packing. 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.

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

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

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

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 26 October. Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .

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

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

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

**1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** (see contact details below)

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

**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834

**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha

Mistry ☎01908 392698

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

**6.00pm Shooting Stars.** Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

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

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

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

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

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

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

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

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be October 19 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

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

### Thursday

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

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

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624 Restarts on 8 September.

**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

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

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

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

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games** (see contact details below)

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

**2- 4pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎275229

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 857850 or 07919402797 .

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

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

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** (see contact details below)

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

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

**8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle.** St Mark's 1st week in

month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

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

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pauline Hooper ☎350079

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography** ((see contact details below)

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

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

**5.50-7.05pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

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

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

### Saturday

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

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

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

### Sunday

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

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

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

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice [www.bedfordtkd.com](http://www.bedfordtkd.com) or [bedfordtkd@googlemail.com](mailto:bedfordtkd@googlemail.com).

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



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council –**  
**St Mark's Leadership Team -**  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -**  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting -**  
**St Mark's Forum Meeting -** Wednesday 9th November  
**Putnoe Church Council -** 17 October  
**Pastoral Group Meeting -**  
**Churchyard Committee -**  
**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -**  
**Circuit meeting - .**  
**Deanery Meeting**  
**Woodland Burial Trustees –** 27 November  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –** 17 October

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



# Ordinary 29

## Opening Verse of Scripture Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

## Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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*



The picture is of what is commonly referred to as the "Tribute Penny" from the bible, perhaps Livia seated on reverse. The coin shows an early portrait of Tiberius. Inscribed on left: Tiberius, AR Denarius, 14-37, Rome. TI CAESAR DIVI-AVG F AVGVSTVS.

## First Bible Reading - Exodus 33: 12-23

Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favour with me.' If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favour with you. Remember that this nation is your people." The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. 16 How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.

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

## Second Reading -1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

## Gospel Reading - Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

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

## Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

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

1. Stand up and bless the Lord, **615**
2. As we are gathered, Jesus is here **38**
3. We come as guests invited **723**
4. Fight the good fight **143**

## Commentary

In rendering to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's we are doing no more that Christ demands. We need to achieve a balance between our family, professional and community responsibilities, meet both their spiritual and temporal needs, and in so doing acknowledge the Lord's sovereignty over all. At the time Matthew was writing it was virtually impossible to separate politics and religion. The heated debate between Jesus and the Jewish authorities has come to a head. He's called the Pharisees discontented sons (they said they would work in the vineyard but then did not go), evil tenants (of the vineyard and who killed the owner's son), and ill fated guests (at the wedding feast where they did not wear the robe of Christ). In last week's readings Jesus challenged the entire religious fabric of the Jewish society. This week it's the turn of politics. Today's gospel reading sees the Pharisees in a bizarre collaboration with the Herodians as they try once more to get the upper hand. The Pharisees and the Herodians were normally in bitter opposition. The Pharisees resented the payment of taxes to Rome because it was against their religious convictions; the Herodians were the political party of Herod, king of Galilee, who owed their power to the Romans and were therefore content to pay for that privilege through taxes. But both parties saw Jesus as a threat and used the question of taxation as an opportunity to trap Him, either politically or failing that, theologically, depending on his reply. On the one hand, if he said that taxes should not be paid he would be brought before the Roman governor for sedition, on the other, if he said that taxes should be paid, he would be seen as affirming the status of Caesar and his authority, and be brought before the temple authorities by the Pharisees for blasphemy against the one true and sovereign God of the Jews. Jesus' answer is wise and perceptive, like many of his responses. Similarly, if we want to bring about God's Kingdom in our society common sense, wisdom, perception and the appropriate response will be required.

But the very question itself was loaded, and, as with many loaded questions they are not really bothered about the answer. They are asking the question to try to trap Jesus and exert their power over Him. As we know, things don't turn out as they expect. It's almost as if Jesus, rather than not knowing what to say, responds with, '...I'm glad you asked that question...' Over the past few weeks in the passages in Matthew leading up to this exchange we have been reading about people who refuse to give God His due, who will not rejoice with His Son, and who will not recognise Him for who He is. Jesus invites His hearers to give (literally restore and appropriate) to Caesar what is due to Caesar and to God what is due to God. A complex question does not always require a complex answer. Jesus' answer is wise and challenging. It forces the Herodians to question what is Caesar's that should be restored to Him, whilst at the same time challenging the Jewish authorities to restore the people of Israel and the Jewish religion itself to God and to give God His due. As last week, Jesus questions the foundations of the society to

those who had posed the question to Jesus in the first place. And they had no answers, they went away speechless.

In the time of Jesus, the denarius bore the image of the emperor Tiberius, who ruled between 14 and 37 C.E., and an inscription: "Tiberius Caesar, Augustus, son of the divine Augustus, high priest." Pharisees were particularly disturbed by the attribution of divinity to Caesar but also considered possession of this graven image to be idolatrous. They devised ways to pay this tax without possessing or handling the coin. It would be very shameful if a Pharisee produced the coin. But if a Herodian in the group produced the coin, the Pharisees would still be shamed by having selected unworthy allies. In either case, the fact that someone in their group possessed and produced the coin was shameful. Jesus' first riposte to their challenge cuts deep. Jesus' concluding exhortation, "Give to God the things that belong to God," implies that neither the Pharisees nor the Herodians are doing that. This is a serious charge. The Pharisees were so devoted to observing the Torah's 613 commandments that they put a "hedge around the Torah" and Jesus challenges both their understanding and their intent.

The image on the coin was Caesar's; we are created in God's image. If we are to give the coins to Caesar we are to give ourselves to God. But perhaps part of the problem for the hearers of this story is that whilst it was possible to give taxes to the Romans and have done with it, wasn't the same with giving themselves to God. Many would give taxes as it was a pragmatic way of coexisting peaceably with the Romans whilst maintaining a degree of religious independence. Even today, giving taxes is something of a one off transaction, even though we might pay monthly; giving ourselves to God, whilst it might start with a transaction like encounter, is a continuous process. One is a finite commitment and obligation, the other is an infinite invitation and an offer of a relationship with a bounteous God.

*Sam Cappleman*

## **Meditation**

At the beginning of our services, we will all say in response to the words, 'The Lord be here', 'His Spirit is with us'. It is at one and the same time a statement of fact and a statement of faith. How we experience His being with us, through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, may depend on how much we care to acknowledge God in our own lives. When Jesus was answering the question of the Herodians and the Pharisees He was answering their question with both fact and faith. Giving to Caesar was a fact. Taxes had either been given or not. Giving to God was faith. It is only by faith that we can give ourselves to God and believe that He has received us into a restored relationship with God through the forgiveness of our sins. Sometimes in our fact oriented and deterministic world we can lose sight of the fact that our spiritual experience is based on faith. A faith that is underpinned and enabled by knowledge and understanding, but a faith nonetheless. The law that the Pharisees espoused seemed to have been more about facts than faith, the knowledge and description of the rights and the wrongs, rather than an enabling framework to allow people to come to know God better. God's presence was with the Israelites if they would but acknowledge it. It was with them in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night when they were in the wilderness. It was with them in the Tabernacle and the Temple and through the gift of the Holy Spirit it is with us all now. And even though the Israelites may not have always acknowledged Him, He would God would continue to lead and to guide them, in all their uncertain times and beyond, in the desert and in the Promised Land. When we look out on the uncertainty in the world today we too need to remember that God will continue to lead us, His presence is with us wherever we are, even if we feel we don't have the commandments and the word of God in tangible form with us. *Sam Cappleman*

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

Heavenly Father, you taught us by your Son Jesus Christ that all our possessions come from you. Help us to be faithful stewards of our time, our talents and our wealth, and to consecrate gladly to you service a due proportion of all that you have given us. Take us and make us your own; for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

Almighty God, as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son, help us to see and know your love for us, so that in humility, love and joy we may place at His feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your people, that richly bearing the fruit of good works, they may by you be richly rewarded, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

I know what must be done. Only now am I beginning to be a disciple. May nothing of powers visible or invisible prevent me, that I may attain unto Jesus Christ. **Amen** *Ignatius of Antioch*



**Open House !** Meets every Wednesday from 10.00am until 2.00pm. Open House will especially welcome people with learning disabilities, their families and friends. This project is offered free of charge to all who wish to

attend, no need to book, just turn up.

If you would like to help with Open House then that would be appreciated please contact St Mark's Church office on 01234 342613

### **Mission Appeal**

*'A time to give thanks,  
for things we take for granted'*

Thank you to those who have already given gifts for our Mission Appeal this year BeCHaR. (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless) Please note that you can continue to give over the coming weeks using the envelopes provided and placing them on the offering plates or delivering to the church offices. Cheques may be made out either to St Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church.

### **BeCHaR**

Thank you for all those who have already supported our Autumn Mission project through both the harvest gifts of food last week and by returning envelopes, giving much needed financial support. Rob Huddart, who is the Chairman of the BeCHaR trustees, will be joining us on 27 November to give us an update on BeCHaR activities and highlight current priorities. We look forward to welcoming Rob in November. Thank you once again for your continued support of our Autumn Mission Project.

**Accommodation is urgently** needed for a Bedford University student. He is a 43 year old PhD student from Malawi. He would need inexpensive accommodation - preferably including all bills and with wifi/internet access for up to 3 months. It is very difficult to get accommodation with the letting agencies for a short term. He works for a Christian Charity in Malawi that specialises in HIV and Aids work. Accommodation with a couple or with a single male professional or in a shared house would be good. If anyone knows of suitable accommodation or can offer accommodation please contact Cass Howes 079208 49742 Chaplain

**Bead & Jewellery Making Workshop** at Sandy Methodist Church on 15 October 10am - 3pm. Everything supplied to make Bespoke piece of jewellery. Cost £15 per head. Bring a packed

lunch. Contact Bernadette to book 01767682743

**Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal** Choosing gifts to put in a shoebox is a really fun part of getting involved in Operation Christmas Child. There is something very rewarding about giving to a child you will probably never meet in this world – especially when you know your simple act of kindness will be felt and appreciated in more ways than you can ever imagine. As the 2012 London Olympics are only just around the corner, the Samaritan's Purse has suggested that, to be a part of the Olympic spirit, this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign can have sports-themed shoeboxes. As well as giving us the chance to do something a bit different with our shoeboxes, this is also a chance to send sporty items out to needy children in our world – children who might otherwise not have the chance to experience the joy of sport for themselves. There is a full list of items that we can and cannot accept on the Children's and Youth notice board in the welcome area at Putnoe Heights. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation we do have some gift aid envelopes for your use. Each shoe box costs £2.50 to send. Empty shoeboxes will also be appreciated. We are starting to collect from 3 October until 23 October so please leave any donations in the office by Sunday 23 October 2011 for our Children's and Youth groups to pack. Thank you. Carolyn and Emma.

**Chat and Play** meets at St Mark's Church at 9.30am on Thursdays . This is a great time for parents and carers to meet together with children and babies. Jo Garner 400071

**Storybox at St.Mark's** meets 12 noon until 1pm on Thursdays. Jaana 363283.

**"Autumn Craft Day,** 29 October at Priory Church, Newnham Avenue. Come and share in fun and fellowship and create some new items or learn a new skill. All are welcome. Please ask Linda Hoar if you would like a booking form and further details."

### **Thought for the day**

'Christianity had no tradition of impressive buildings at the time Constantine became Emperor in the fourth century. This changed with Constantine, who lavished many favours upon the Christian faith, including some great buildings and opulent digs. Said St. Jerome at the time: "Parchments are dyed purple, gold is melted into lettering, manuscripts are dressed up in jewels, while Christ lies at the door naked and dying.'



## St Mark's Church Christmas Craft Fayre Saturday 19 November

There are only 5 weeks left to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 19 November 2011.

Amazing how quickly it comes around. We would be grateful for any help with the following:-

**Tombola:** Any new unwanted gifts\Christmas present etc. for our Tombola stall.

**Cake Stall:** Millie is kindly co-ordinating the cake stall again this year. She would be very grateful for any offers of cakes. If you are able to bake a cake for this stall please contact Millie via the Church Office.

**Refreshments:** We would very much appreciate donations of traybakes to sell with tea and coffee. Ploughman's lunches will be on sale at lunchtime as usual. Volunteers to help in the kitchen on the day would be very much appreciated. To put your name down please see Avril Williams. Any help gratefully received.

**Secondhand Book Stall:** Delia has agreed to coordinate the secondhand book stall again this year so please have a look in your cupboards for any unwanted books. We do ask that they be in good condition please

**Indoor Plant Stall:** After the success of last year's plant stall we are doing the same again this year. If you have any indoor plants or have split any plants and would like to donate them to our stall we would be very grateful. Marion would be pleased to receive gift of either indoor or outdoor plants, also small carrier bags.

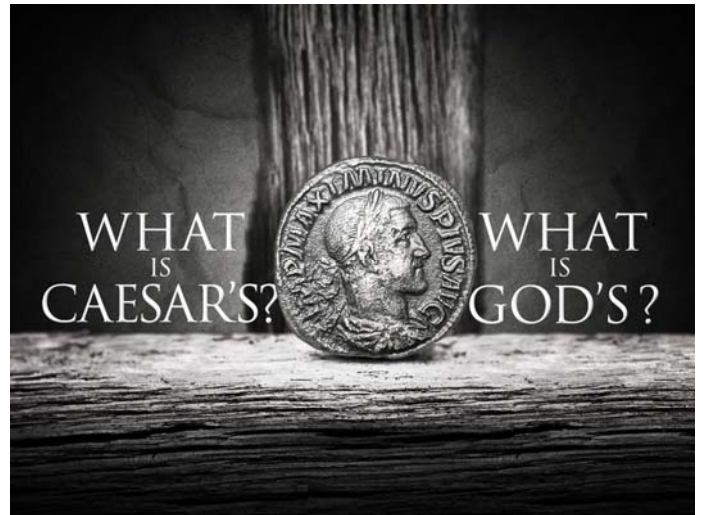
All donated items for the above stalls can be bought up to Church anytime week beginning 15 November.

We will need lots of help on the day especially when the Fayre finishes at 3.30p.m. Many hands make

light work and it would certainly be appreciated. This is one of our main fundraising events of the year and we are hoping to make it an even bigger success than last year, with your help I am sure we can achieve this. Many thanks  
Avril Williams

**Putnoe Harvest Lunch** many thanks to all who supported and helped with the lunch on the hottest day of the year! £290 has been added to the BECHAR appeal.

**Solar Power.** Over the first twelve months the Solar panels at St Mark's have generated over £2,000 in electricity and feed in tariffs. It appears that they will have covered the cost of their installation on or before seven years. After this there will be a further 18 years of tax free guaranteed income under the government scheme.

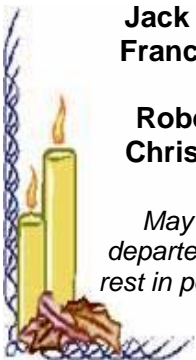


### Rest In Peace

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.

**Jack Thomas Fortnum**  
**Frances (Betty) Whitlock**  
**Madge Walsh**  
**Robert William Dewar**  
**Christine Diverall-Wood**

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



### On going to church

T.S. Eliot wrote a poem inspired by his visits to Little Gidding in his "Four Quartets". It is a long mystical poem but he describes a visit to the church in these words...

"...You are not here to verify,  
Instruct yourself, or inform curiosity  
Or carry report. You are here to kneel  
Where prayer has been valid...  
Here, the intersection of the timeless moment  
Is England and nowhere. Never and always."



### Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Mrs Denise Coates** will take place on Tuesday 25 October at 10.45am