



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

17 August 2008

Ordinary 20



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's- Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team – Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team – Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions – Mrs Sylvia Cohen

24 August- Ordinary 21

9.30am St. Mark's- Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Eric Royden
Leadership Team – Mr. Mike Cooper
Intercessions – Mrs. Mary Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team – Mr. Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

Bible Readings

1. Exodus 1: 8-2:10
2. Romans 12: 1-8
3. Matthew 16: 13-20

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by Gwen Benson in loving memory of her husband Derick.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Brian & Janet Ibberson to give thanks for continued good health and to celebrate their Wedding Anniversary.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

Lord Jesus Christ,
Wisdom and Word of God,
dwell in our hearts,
by your most Holy Spirit,
that out of the abundance
of our hearts our mouths
may speak your praise. Amen.

Christina Rossetti, 1830-94

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

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

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper 306751
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.

St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading

St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

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

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 2nd September - AGM. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting August 12th, Strawberry Tea at St Mark's at 2.30pm Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 18 June 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

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

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

1.45 Scots Society Whist monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073

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

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

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

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

Thursday

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

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

9.40am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

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

12pm Storybox weekly at St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr C Hill ☎772922

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

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

7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club St Mark's Mr P Housden ☎376597

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

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

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

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

Friday

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

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

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm -7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm Improvers St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

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

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

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

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

Sunday

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

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available. Not in August.

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

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

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –, 18 November

St Mark's Leadership Team – 8 September, 24 November

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 1 September
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting-29th September at 7.30pm.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - .9 September, 12 November all at 12 noon

Putnoe Church Council - 6 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting - Monday 30th September at 4.30pm

Churchyard Committee - November 12 at 11am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group – Wednesday 27 August 14 Flint Way 7.30pm

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 4th September, 2nd October 2008

Deanery Meeting - 18 September, 13 November

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees -

Mission Group Meeting

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth

Ordinary 20

Opening Verses of Scripture

he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes *Rev 7:17*

Collect Prayer for the Day —Ps 100 v 5

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading Genesis 45: 1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Make everyone leave my presence!" So there was no-one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be ploughing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance." "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.' "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. Tell my father about all the honour accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly." Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterwards his brothers talked with him.

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

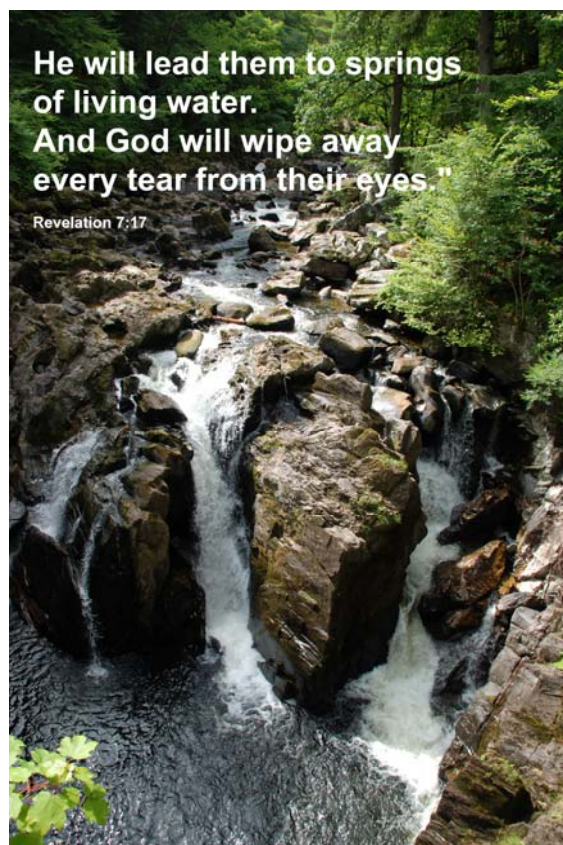
Second Reading Romans Chapter 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

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

Gospel Reading Matthew 15:10-28 ((All: Glory to Christ our Saviour)

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into a man's mouth



He will lead them to springs
of living water.
And God will wipe away
every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 7:17

The Hermitage, Dunkeld

does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'" Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit." Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'" Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour. (This is the Gospel of Christ — **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

1. In Christ there is no east or west 329
2. Give thanks with a grateful heart 170
3. There's a wideness in God's mercy 683
4. Jesus shall reign where're the sun 379

Commentary – Open to All

Earlier in Matthew's gospel Jesus directs the disciples to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" and urges them to steer clear of the Gentiles and Samaritans (Matt 10 v 5 - 6). So it could seem a little strange that now Jesus himself heads in a pagan direction, toward Tyre and Sidon. Indeed, Jezebel, who sought to destroy Elijah, was the daughter of one of the Kings of Tyre, indicating the type of person who was seen as coming from that region! Perhaps not surprisingly whilst He's there Jesus is met by a pagan, a (Canaanite) woman. When His disciples ask Jesus to send her away it would appear that he doesn't, but repeats to them that He has come to the "lost sheep of Israel", those who are professing a faith in the God who is His Father. The Canaanite woman continues to question Him and her faith is rewarded with the healing of her daughter. In not dismissing the Canaanite woman we get an insight into both into Jesus' sense of urgency in helping the Jews to understand the New Covenant which He reveals, and also His openness not to reject anyone who comes to Him in faith.

If this New Covenant is to be understood by the Jews, it's imperative that they, those whose very lives are governed by the precepts of the Old Covenant, understand how their faith can be made complete by belief in Christ, the Messiah, for whom they prayed for daily. The Old Covenant is made complete in the New. Similarly, non-Jews who will profess the faith of Christ crucified need to understand that their faith is based on the heritage of the Old Covenant made complete in Christ, not on something which is completely unrelated to the way in which God has engaged with His people throughout history. There can be no New Covenant without an understanding of the Old. In the Canaanite woman Jesus sees a faith which is as strong and profound as any He has seen in the Jews and it is this faith, and implicit in it the understanding of the interdependence of the Old and New Covenants, which brings healing for her daughter.

But why did Jesus go to this pagan region in the first place? Perhaps it was to live out His mission to seek out the lost sheep wherever they may have wandered. After this interchange Jesus moves on again, back down to the Sea of Galilee and the up into the hills above it so we don't know if the interaction with the Canaanite woman was all that happened there or whether He met with others who lives were similarly transformed.

The interchange with the Canaanite woman takes place in the middle of a number of exchanges between Jesus and the Pharisees and scribes where the Pharisees and scribes are questioning the authority of Jesus and Jesus is questioning their understanding of the Law, and by extension, of God. The point of keeping purity laws, the Pharisees would maintain, was that so the person could be the type of individual that God had intended. Jesus responds in today's gospel passage by emphasising that the type of person God wants is one who is pure, not just on the surface, but deep down too, as exemplified by the words that come out of their mouth. Just to stick to the laws of outward purity misses the point. The discourse with the Canaanite woman underlines this point by taking these exchanges out of the context of a purely Jewish debate and placing them in the context of the broader world of Jews and Gentiles. It shows that Jesus' calling and mission has a far broader scope, it is to the whole world. Through His sacrifice on the cross Jesus offers real purity, inward and outward, to Jews and Gentiles alike.

This broadness of calling is one of the issues that Paul struggles with in his letter to the Romans. The early Christians had to work out the breadth of their calling. For both the readers of Romans and of Matthew's gospel there would be those who believed that the Christian faith was solely for the Jews, an extension of their religion. This was something Paul would battle against constantly and perhaps why he referred to himself as an apostle to the Gentiles. It's a salutary reminder that God includes all in His plan for salvation. Sometimes we too want to keep our faith to ourselves or to those who are like us.

The gospel reading presents us with a number of challenges to our lives. It challenges us not to miss the point by keeping our faith too small or too exclusive but openly offering it to all who ask. It challenges us in that whilst we may not follow the purity codes of the Jews, we need to constantly reflect on our words thoughts and intentions to see whether they are telling us that our own purity, which will be made complete when we met Christ, needs to be worked on until we do. It also challenges us about where we decide to spend our time, sticking with those who are like ourselves or stepping out into unfamiliar territory where we may meet lost sheep who are looking for crumbs that we, through our faith in the One who is the bread of life, may be able to offer them. Sam Cappleman

Meditation

The faith of the Canaanite woman transformed her life. For the Jews Paul writes about in his epistle to the Romans, they were transformed from people described as being 'disobedient to God', to 'those who have received mercy' because of God's grace. God is a God of transformation and of new creation. Each time we celebrate the Communion Service we are reminded of this transformational and creative God. An International Commission, writing on the communion service wrote, "God uses the realities of this world to convey the realities of the new creation. Before the Eucharistic prayer, to the question: 'What is that?', the believer answers: 'It is bread.' After the Eucharistic prayer, to the same question they answer: 'It is truly the body of Christ, the bread of life.'" As we share in the Communion Service, whatever our view of what happens to the elements during the service, we continue on our transformational and re-creational journey of life as we eat and drink of the transforming and re-creating nature of Christ.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation. Amen

O Lord, take our minds and think through them; take our lips and speak through them; take our lives and live out your life; take our hearts and set them on fire with love for you; and guide us ever by your Holy Spirit. Amen

Lord Jesus Christ, who prayed for your disciples that they might be one, even as you are one with the Father,; draw us to yourself, that in common love and obedience to you we may be united to one another, in the fellowship of the one Spirit, that the world may believe that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 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*

May God grant that we who have worshipped Him may be witnesses to Him in His world, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Future Dates for your diary. 'The partnership Summer Musical Workshops !!! - a mixture of story, music, dance, drama, crafts & fun. Tuesday 19 August 2– 4 pm 'Its Raining Cats and Dogs' aimed at the under 5's with carers. Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 August 10am—3pm 'The 7 Days of Creation' 5 years plus, all abilities . Full details to from Liz.'

"Living Fire" the Methodist prayer manual 2008/9 is due for publication. Please contact Vera Pearson Tel 270737 if you wish to order. Price £2. 75

Bobby Van Brickhill Parish Council is looking for 29 homes in Brickhill that could be helped by the Bedfordshire Police 'Bobby Van'. The Bobby Scheme provides a free service to elderly or vulnerable victims of crime on low incomes. No charges are made for the work carries out under the Bobby Scheme. Now, even if you have not been a victim of crime yourself, you case still get their help. The 'Bobby Men' will visit your home and give advice on how to make it more secure. They will provide practical help in improving home security. The service is for owner-occupiers and is mainly for the over 65's but can also be used for other people in the vulnerable category or those who are just not quite 65. If you or someone you know would like the Bobby Van men to help you, please contact the Parish Council office on 271708.

Charity Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale

The Scots' Society of St Andrew, Bedford will be holding this event in the large hall at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday, 30 August 2008 from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. There will be numerous stalls and fun activities with some very worthwhile prizes to be won, donated by local businesses. All Proceeds will go to our annual charity for 2008 – 2009 "Bedford Daycare Hospice" at Gladys Ibbett House in Linden Road. Please come along and help us to support this worthy cause in whatever way you can. All contributions to the cake, produce, plant, book, video, DVD, white elephant or tombola stalls will be gratefully received (delivered to the hall by 9.30am if possible). Admission 50p For further information call Nancy Barr: 01234 268147

Smokeless fuel 2 bags free if collected from Falcon Avenue. 268571

God of Surprises: Gerard Hughes Earlier this year the revised third edition of *God of Surprises* by Gerard Hughes was published. First written in 1985, this book offers an accessible guide to the way of contemplative prayer first used by St Ignatius. For those who find prayer difficult the book offers exercises to follow to help get started in prayer and offers passages from scripture to

contemplate along the way. This is not a book to rush but one to take time over, reflecting on the content of each section before moving on to the next. It explores the various principles of St Ignatius, such as his first which asserts, 'We are created to praise, reverence and serve God' and expands on their meaning for our everyday lives. It offers practical help in helping the reader make decisions, using the contemplative methods Hughes outlines throughout the book. In the final chapter which speaks of the nuclear threat, so real when at the time Hughes was writing the book, Hughes reflects that he believes the real enemy is within us and that, 'until we face the real enemy, the holocaust is bound to come sooner or later'. As we look back on history since that chapter was written there is a sense that this book may not only be profound but prophetic too. *List Price £8.95* Sam Cappleman

Car Boot Sale - Monday 25th August Offers of good quality Bric-a-brac gratefully received at the end of the week running up to the Sale and also tray bakes for refreshments. Please see Avril for more details. 360605

The Valedictory Service followed by a buffet supper in the large hall, for Rev. Dr. Joan Crossley will be held at Putnoe Heights Church on 24th August at 6.30pm. Contributions of sandwiches or cakes welcome. All Welcome.

Garden Of Remembrance The pond in the Garden of Remembrance has now been planted and stocked with fish. Fish food can be obtained from the office at St Mark's if you would like to feed the fish when you visit.

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

NCH House to House Collection. NCH, the children's charity, 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 the Methodist Church, Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. The annual house-to-house collection to support the vital work of the NCH 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 £950. If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out 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 324507)



Telecare Campaign

Are you the only person in your home who comes to church ?
Are you elderly, one of the more senior aged members of our church ?

The we really do want you to enroll in Telecare!!

Now more than ever we really want to encourage church members to join in Telecare. It is an important way for us to keep in touch and make sure that you are not forgotten or overlooked if you become ill.



Back to Church Sunday 28 September

Back to Church Sunday is a national event held on 28 September. This year our harvest festival service take place on 'back to Church Sunday and we want to make it a really special occasion. We would like to send written invitations to invite people to church. Please help us by thinking of anybody you know who might like a special VIP invitation. Just tell the ministers or any other member of the Leadership Team of anybody you know and we will send them an invite. help us to make this a Sunday to remember!

We publish the banns and pray for the marriages of

Christopher Andrew and Gemma Leanne Clarke, of the parish of St Mary, Goldington, on the electoral roll of this parish. (first time of asking)

Gordon George Attenborough and Lindsey Jayne Ferguson of this parish but on the electoral roll of All Saints Church, Kempston (second time of asking)

Thought

He drew a circle that shut me out
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in.
Edwin Markham

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.

Doug Balmforth

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



Rest in Peace



The funeral of Mrs Gladly Mary Inskip will take place on Friday 22 August at 2.30pm *Royden*

The funeral of Mary Elizabeth Roberts will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 18 August at 12.15pm