



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

17 July 2011 – Ordinary 16



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

17 July - Ordinary 16

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 Jenny Snelson
Intercessions – Mrs Sam Ware

24 July - Ordinary 17

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mrs Sue Plant
Leadership – Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher– Mrs Sue Plant
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions – Ministers

Bible Readings 1. Genesis 29: 15-28 2. Romans 8: 26-39 3. Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

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 St Mark's this week have been given by Barbara Joy & Family in loving memory of Linda.

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

Grant us Lord,
not to be anxious
about earthly things,
but to love things heavenly;
and even now,
while we are placed
among things which are passing away,
to hold fast
to those things
which last forever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535
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The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
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For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs. Linda Hoar 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

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school. See website for more details 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 St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

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 - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner
☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15 - 8.15pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's
Sam Thompson ☎07766421000 Starts 25th July.

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—18 July 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 ☎07790296016

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 for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357

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. St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

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

Forrest ☎344043

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

2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation fortnightly. Contact Mrs Reed ☎216623

2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting July 19 Miss Mercedes ' Age Concern' 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

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting July 26 Afternoon Tea. Details call Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

10am U3A Card Making. St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - July 20 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

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

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

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

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

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. Next meeting 26 January.

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 July 20 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 ,Valmai 219555 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

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

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. 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

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau Putnoe Heights.

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

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

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 St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) 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 (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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 or bedfordtkd@googlemail.com.



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –

St Mark's Leadership Team - 6 September 2011

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 3 October

St Mark's Forum Meeting -

Putnoe Church Council - 17 October

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting - 15 September at Putnoe Heights.

Deanery Meeting - .

Woodland Burial Trustees –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 17 October

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

Ordinary 16

Opening Verse of Scripture – Wisdom 12:13

For neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for all people, for your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all.

Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

Lord God your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

First Bible Reading – Genesis 28: 10-19a

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and he said: I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it. He was afraid and said, How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven. Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz. (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans 8: 12-25

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation— but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 13: 24-30,36-43

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the



wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' "An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn. "Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion booklets and Hymns and Psalms*)

1. God of grace and God of glory 712 *Tune Rhuddland*
2. Make me a channel of your peace 776
3. The Kingdom of God is justice and joy 139 *Tune Hanover*
4. For the healing of the nations 402 *Tune Westminster Abbey*

Commentary

In the parable today we read about a man who has sown a field of wheat, but it has not turned out as he would have hoped. He had sown good seed, but an enemy had come along and deliberately sown weeds in the same field. The result was a field which was a mixture of wheat and seeds all mixed up together, full of good and bad.

The disciples ask Jesus for help in understanding the parable. Jesus gives quite an extensive explanation of what various parts of the parable mean. The one sowing the seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed is those who belong to the kingdom, the bad seed is those who belong to the evil one, the enemy who sowed the seed is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, the harvesters are the angels.

The word used for weeds is a word found only in Matthew 13 refers to darnell, a common weed which plagued grainfields. As time passed the good fruit bearing stalks of wheat appeared, but so do the weeds. In this parable the weeds appear because an enemy has deliberately sown them, they are not part of a natural process. Somebody is out to ruin the work of the master of the house ! The servants naturally ask whether they should rip out the weeds, but they are told not to. There is a problem, there is no difficulty spotting which are weeds and which are wheat, but if the weeds are ripped out the wheat will be damaged in the process. The sad fact is that the roots of the darnell are stronger and deeper than the wheat. The result was that the difficult process of separation was best left until the harvest, no matter how much it would have been nicer to sort it out here and now.

This parable is clearly one with a theme of judgement, but it is also one which tells us the importance of patience. We all want to God intervene in the world to correct injustice and fight evil. However we are told that we must wait, no matter how frustrating until the harvest time.

The parable tells us much that we already know, there is good and bad in the world, and it can appear that evil overpowers good. Sometimes the righteous appear to suffer and the wicked prosper. Yet the evil at work in the world is not of God and will be overcome at the end of time.



There is much in this parable to bring out the worst in preachers. Jesus uses familiar imagery of the time, taken from Old Testament books such as Daniel, this lends itself to tub thumpers who have over time tried to frighten people into believing that they would burn in hell if they failed to believe what the preacher told them. Little wonder that some preachers have recoiled in horror and said exactly the opposite, that there would be no judgement at all, just a great big hug from a God like an indulgent who saw only good in an errant child!

However, in the midst of the extremes, this simple parable is supposed to teach us some important lessons. There is evil at work in the world, the source of which was not of God, who wanted nothing more than its ultimate destruction. This evil is sometimes confusing and it is not always easy to jump to conclusions as to what constitutes good and what is bad. Whilst Jesus uses these familiar imagery of judgement, he is introducing very different ideas. Whilst judgement is certain it was not the work for human hands. The hearers at the time would have their thoughts about what constituted wheat and weeds, perhaps Jew and Gentile. Today we might have our assumptions, we love to make our judgements as to who is acceptable and who is not. However it is God who will judge and therefore the process might be more complex than any of us has ever imagined. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

All I'm saying is simply this, that all life is interrelated, that somehow we're caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason, I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." And how can true concern flourish without realizing we're all in this together? Our roots inexorably tangled, "whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

Conventional good guy/bad guy interpretations of the parable today limit the possibilities of continual conversion, reconciliation, maturing in faith and compassion. Rather, let the tares represent all that is within the human character that stifles solidarity with life on this fragile planet. Again, to quote from King, "*We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.*"

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

We thank you Father for calling us to come to you today and to receive the food that our souls need if we are to grow as you have planned for us to grow. We thank you for your forgiveness and your mercy. Open our hearts and our minds to your presence, increase our love for you and for our brothers and our sisters, and guide us in this time of worship so that we might be persons who shine with the light of our Lord and Saviour. We ask it in his name. Amen.

Gracious God, we thank you for your love - a love so great that you have mercy towards all people and give to them the time they need to come to you and to open their hearts to the good seed you want to plant in them. Grant that our lives may be open now to your touch, to your word, to your leading. Help us to be ones who are focussed on the good things that you do rather than the bad things that the evil one does. Help us to be ones who help instead of stand by at the side and criticize - to be ones who love instead of hate - who trust instead of fear - who plant rather than pluck up what has been planted. Lord, hear our prayer....

Storybox and Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights is having its last session on 25 July 2011 and to end, we have invited a Magician along to come and entertain! It's for all ages – under 1's are free - and would love to see many there. Lunch will be provided and there will be a raffle with brilliant prizes. You are welcome from 12 – 2, with the Magic Show starting soon after 12 and lunch after. Tickets are £2 child, £1 adult and lunch is included. Tickets are available from Putnoe Heights Church Office (Tel: 01234 365630) or from Storybox, Storybox Plus and Junior Church at Putnoe Heights. Any queries, contact Putnoe Heights Children's and Youth Worker Emma Gordon 07593266091 or email youth@thischurch.com.

Summer activity days at Putnoe Heights Church Running on Monday 1- Tuesday 2 August 2011 are 'Jonah and the Whale' activity days. Two weeks later there will be 'Feeding the 5,000' activity days on Monday 15 – Tuesday 16 August 2011. These days will include crafts, games, puppets, singing, drama and lots of fun! All ages are welcome, under 5's must be accompanied by an adult. Packed lunches will be required, drink and snacks will be provided.

Times are – Monday 1 – 12pm-3pm
Tuesday 2 – 1pm-3.30pm
Monday 15 – 12pm-3pm
Tuesday 16 - 1pm-3pm

Any queries, contact Putnoe Heights Children's and Youth Worker Emma Gordon 07593266091 or email youth@thischurch.com.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help with the smooth running of all our children's groups at Putnoe. We look forward to seeing you all in September. Carolyn and Emma.

Circuit 'Celebration of Ministry' for Martin Hounsfeld 3pm Service and tea Sunday 17 July at Priory Methodist Church. **Circuit Service** - celebration of Bedford North circuit 6.30pm Sunday 7 August at Priory Methodist Church.

Putnoe Heights 'Spring Clean' will be on Saturday 23 July from 10am to 12 noon. Offers of help needed, please let Linda Hoar or Jean Kirk know if you are able to help.

Flowers at Putnoe Heights—anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of flowers at Putnoe on any Sunday during the next six months, is invited to enter their name on the rota on the notice board in the welcome area.

'Run the Race' the Methodist annual prayer handbook will be available for August. The cost will be £3.50 plus p.p. (maximum). If you would

like a copy please contact Vera Pearson (270737) who will be ordering these during July.

Refresh your Relationship A 6 hour workshop run by Relate at St. Mark's Church centre 30th July 10am-4pm. £150 per couple inc. finger buffet lunch. To book contact training@relatebedsandluton.org.uk or phone 01234 342503.

Prayer Group will not meet on Thursday July 28.

St.Mark's Junior Church resumes on Sunday September 4.

St Mark's Storybox has finished for the holiday and will meet again on Thursday Sept 8th. Many thanks to Jaana and all who helped throughout the year

St. Mark's Chat and Play. Last one before the Holidays on Thursday 21. Holiday Chat and Play on 4 and 18 of August. Jo Garner 400071

MHA Collection. The amount raised in this year's collection for MHA was £117.70 (jointly Putnoe Heights and St Mark's). Grateful thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile cause. Pam Kinselley.

Hymn Praise In response to requests, a hymn praise service will be held at Putnoe Heights Church at 6-30p.m. on Sunday 11 September. Anyone who would like a favourite hymn included please email eric.royden@gmail.com or phone 294496.

Putnoe Heights Mission Fund has donated £180 to Kissizi Hospital to sponsor a bed and £200 to Oxfam for famine relief in Africa. Carolyn Morris

St Mark's Foyer Improvements. Work will commence in August on the project to enlarge the foyer at St Mark's and provide new disabled friendly entrance doors. The work is entirely funded from grants and donations which have been received from charities. The finished work may not look entirely beautiful, since it requires the fitting of a new canopy over the finished doors. There are no funds for this at present and we will complete the work when we have raised more money. Please be patient with the finished appearance in the meantime !

St Mark's Leadership Team Please note that the next date is 6 September 2011

News from Kisiizi Hospital at Putnoe. Kisiizi was founded in 1958 by the late Dr John Sharp. In 2008 the patients, staff and local people celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The hospital now has 248 beds in 7 wards; has 40,000 patients a year; and the new Out-patient block is nearly complete. If you would like to read more about Kisiizi hospital please look for this week's newsletter in the welcome area or ask me for a copy. Carolyn.

Footprints Walk Our next walk is on Sunday, 7th August in the Little Staughton area (a change to the advertised walk). Please meet in the car park of The Crown Inn, Green End, Little Staughton for a 2.30pm start. The walk of around 3½ miles takes us through arable farmland into Cambridgeshire with good views over the surrounding area. The last part of the walk could be quite muddy if we have much rain in the preceding days. All are welcome. Contact Sue Butler (Priory) if you need any further information.

Bedford Borough Council Summer Play Scheme

This scheme is for 5-13 year olds and will operate from 1 August to 26 August . The cost will be £1 per session, payable on door. Local venues for the scheme are Putnoe Heights Community Church (Putnoe Heights) 10am – 12pm 2pm – 4pm Brickhill Lower School (Dove Road) 10am – 12pm For more information on any of our summer activities call 01234 221700 or visit www.bedford.gov.uk/sport

'Top Marks' for St Mark's Preschool

The staff and support team at St Mark's Preschool was delighted to receive an 'OUTSTANDING' (Grade 1) judgement as a result of the Ofsted Inspection on June 13th. This judgement recognises everyone's hard work over recent years, building on the 'good with outstanding features judgement in 2007 and the high standards which have been set. St Mark's is a very happy, well run preschool which is extremely popular in the area and this outcome is a celebration of all that has been achieved to date.

The Church also wishes to congratulate Helen Harpin, Head teacher of St. Mark's Preschool, on gaining a BA Hons degree in Early Years. This is a marvellous achievement as Helen has continued to be a working practitioner during the three years of study. Janet Day



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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.

Derek Robin Henderson

Albert William Robert Denton (Bert)

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



Banns of Marriage

We publish the banns and pray for the Marriages of Ryan Douglas Mullins of this parish and Lorraine Airdrie of this parish and on the electoral roll of Kempston Rural. Also between David Gareth Holland and Suzanne Carpenter both of this parish Both for the second time of asking

Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Elizabeth May Hurrell will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 19th July at 10.45.am

