



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

## 18 September 2011 – Ordinary 25



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

### 18 September - Ordinary 25

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

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason  
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean  
Intercessions – Ministers

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mason  
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware  
Intercessions – Dr. Tim Wilkes

### 25 September- Ordinary 26

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

Preacher - Mrs Liz Little  
Leadership – Mr Mike Ovenden  
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Mrs Liz Little  
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoare  
Intercessions – Ministers

**Bible Readings** 1. Exodus 17: 1-7  
2 Philippians 2: 1-13 3. Matthew 21:23-32

**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 Jenny Emsley, for the funeral of her mother, Mima Noble, and by Valerie Parker in memory of her husband Bill on his birthday.

*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

God of miracles and of mercy,  
all creation sings your praise.  
Like the vineyard owner,  
your grace is extravagant and  
unexpected. Lead us to repentance  
and the acceptance of your grace,  
that we may witness to your love,  
which embraces both those we call friend  
and those we call stranger. 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  
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-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—19 September 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 27 September –Harvest Festival 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 September 20 'Bees & Beekeeping' Mr. Cahpman. 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,** (see contact details below)

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 28 September. 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 September 21 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 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 Restarts 8 September

**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.

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

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).



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council –**  
**St Mark's Leadership Team -**  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 October**  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 3 October**  
**St Mark's Forum Meeting - Tuesday 13 September**  
**Putnoe Church Council - 17 October**  
**Pastoral Group Meeting -**  
**Churchyard Committee -**  
**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -**  
**Circuit meeting - 15 September at Putnoe Heights.**  
**Deanery Meeting 15 September**  
**Woodland Burial Trustees – 4th September 12.30**  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 17 October**

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



## Ordinary 25

### Opening Verse of Scripture - Jonah 4:2

You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

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

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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*

### .First Bible Reading - Exodus 16:2-15

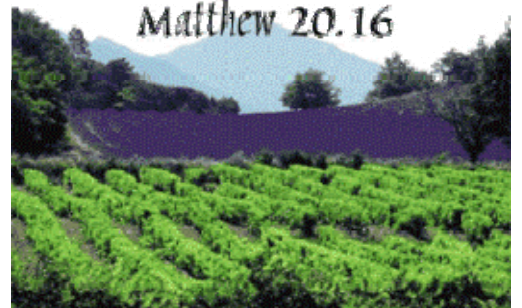
In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD." Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'" While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. The LORD said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'" That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

### Second Reading Philippians 1: 21-30

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me. Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be

So the last  
will be first,  
and the first  
will be last.

Matthew 20.16



destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

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

### **Gospel Reading - Matthew 20:1-16**

*When the Gospel is announced* **All -Glory to Christ our Saviour**

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. "About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. "He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' " 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' "The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Hymns** (Please distribute Holy Communion Books and Hymns and Psalms )

1. Jesus is Lord, creation's voice proclaims it. 260
2. In Christ alone
3. Lord of the Dance
4. Now let us from this table rise 619

### **Commentary** 'Learning the true value of what we have.'

Last Sunday, when I offered to do this week's sermon, I was delighted as I seldom get the opportunity to do this in a communion service. I didn't know what the readings were, so checked when I got home. I started with the Gospel reading, 'the workers in the vineyard', and thought, 'mmm, there's a lot I could say about that'. I moved on to the Old Testament and found the Exodus reading 'the manna and the quail', and started formulating the link in my head. There were those workers who had become so used to living and working in that vineyard that they started to see it as their own and, given the opportunity, actually thought that they would inherit all that the landowner had if they killed his son (!?) and then there were the people of Israel in exile who, having started to take for granted the miraculous food from heaven, start complaining about the monotonous diet!

I then began formulating this train of thought; how much do we take for granted? God gave us this fantastic planet and, not only did we kill his son, we have then gone on to do our very best to destroy the whole thing! There are so many miracles around us, miracles of nature and miracles that God's gifts have allowed us to create; lights at the flick of a switch, running water, global communication and transport etc.... Yet we do not often realise this, we complain when they are not there, and some have even lost the ability to cope without them. I felt that I was on to a good thing so thought I'd just check what Paul's input to all this was in the Philippians reading and I was stopped in my tracks.

This is the reading Maurice, my fiancé, used in his testimony here some six months ago about his diagnosis with Leukaemia, so I almost phoned Charlie to withdraw my offer! But then I thought that actually perhaps God was now telling me that I had to deal with this as positively as Maurice has, for those who were not here or to remind those who were, I will quote an extract of what he said then; *I was asked by someone if upon finding out that I had cancer. "Did I think why me?" God has never given me more than I could deal with & has given me strength to deal with this via family & friends as they have told me how much I mean to them & the difference I have made to their lives. I have also been truly humbled by the love, fortitude, understanding & affection they have shown me. Furthermore, there is a first line drug which works for the majority of people, failing that there is a second line drug and for the small minority that neither drug is effective for, then a bone marrow transplant is required....*

*Who are we to decide what is fair? For I am no saint, I am just an ordinary man who has tried to do his best & at times fallen short of my own standards. So would it be fair if a child had it or anyone else for that matter.*

*I have always said that, unfortunately, it is our nature that we do not grow as a person except in times of adversity & maybe God has decided I need to grow, but most importantly of all I can deal with this... It's not the events in our lives that define us but more how we deal with them. Surely, that's what defines & makes us different as Christians, for do we not believe there is a heaven? I'm not suggesting we run towards death with open arms but we should not be afraid of it either!*

The last few months have been a great challenge to me and my faith, I have come to realise that it can be far easier to deal with our own problems than to come to terms with those faced by the people we care most about. Maurice is responding very well to his treatment and I have to focus on that. I am so fortunate that I have such a caring family, that Maurice is part of my life, and that his family have welcomed me wholeheartedly into a whole new support group.

I have a rewarding ministry, both here in the partnership and with the residents of Anjulita Court and Ladyslaude Court, I am part of two thriving community based congregations and am well supported by colleagues and church members, and I should never take any of that for granted. I am reminded of the film 'Love actually' where a number of apparently dysfunctional people who look outside their current situations for satisfaction learn to value what is right on their doorstep; an ageing rock star learns to express platonic love for his manager and lifelong friend, an awkward couple meet on a film set, a middle aged man foolishly falls for a pretty young colleague, forgetting he has a good relationship with his wife. Yet the film also has the woman who gets together with the man she has yearned for, but thought she had no chance with, only to find that her own brother demands a greater, sacrificial love which promises to cost her dear, and the wife of the man who on discovering he was considering an affair realises that whatever happens, life will 'always be a little bit worse' from now on. This film has power because it acknowledges both the beauty we take for granted and the pain it can cause protecting that.

As for my own journey, I think I can almost say I have come to the point Maurice ended that testimony six months ago with, when he said;

I'd like to read a small piece from the poem "Footprints";

*"God you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way, but I noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I need you most you would leave me" God replied "My precious, precious child, I love you & I would never, never leave you during your times of trials & suffering. When you can see only one set of footprints it was then that I carried you.*

*So I ask that you pray not just for me & those who love & support me but especially for those who do not realise or feel that they are in God's embrace as much as I do. For I can only see one set of footprints in the sand*

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

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Common Worship Shorter Collect*

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding. Pour into our hearts such love towards you that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Methodist Worship*



# Harvest

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

**Sunday 2 October**

9.30am at St Mark's Church  
11.00am at Putnoe Heights Church

*Home Sweet Home*



## **Storybox and Storybox Plus at Putnoe Heights**

is a story time with singing and crafts for 0-5's and their parents or carers, is on Mondays at 12.15 – 1.15. Storybox Plus is for 5 – 9's with snacks, a story and games, crafts and activities based on the story. This happens on Mondays at 3.30 – 5. Contact Emma Gordon, 07593266091 or youth@thisischurch.com, for information.

**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

**Highfield** Services of Worship will recommence on Sunday 18th September at 2.30pm. Supporters very welcome. *Vera Pearson*

**Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch** tickets are now available from the Putnoe Office. The date is Sunday 2nd October (please note the date given in the new Circuit newsletter is incorrect). Lunch of two courses with drinks, will be served at 1.00pm. Please bring your own wine. £6.00 adults, £3.00 children. The catering team would welcome apples etc from your gardens for the desserts.

## **Open House ! Start October 5**

St Mark's is offering to the community an open drop in day centre, starting from Wednesday 5 October and then 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 and so we will depend on the support of volunteers. If you are able to offer help of any sort then please contact St Mark's Church office on 01234 342613

**Club Five - O** are holding a coffee evening in aid of MacMillan Nurses from 7.30 - 9.45pm on Friday 30 September at St. Mark's. All welcome. Free entry. Coffee and biscuits, Cake stall, Book stall etc. More details Lena Tel.01234 271664

**House Group** at the home of Wendy Waters will be held on four Mondays beginning on 19 September. We will be using a Riding Lights Theatre Company video entitled 'Origins and Lemons'. This is a light hearted presentation of the key themes of Genesis chapters 1 – 11, aimed to provoke exploration of the issues of science and faith. We begin at 7.45pm at 13 Farnham Way Putnoe. Contact Wendy Waters on 01234 401834 if you would like to come or for more details.

**Bedford Street Angels.** The AGM of Bedford Street Angels is on Saturday 8 October at 3.00pm at Christchurch, Denmark Street, with Street Angels video.

## **This Harvest St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church are coming to support BeCHaR, (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless)**

Every year at Harvest our churches gather together to give thanks for the many good things which we are able to enjoy. We thank God for the basics like food and water, and we also remember those who work hard to provide all the things we need.

To show our gratitude for how fortunate we are, we always use Harvest as an opportunity to raise funds and give towards a charity. This year we are remembering the most vulnerable and homeless in our own community, those who haven't even got a roof over their heads,.

Our chosen charity is BeCHaR (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless) a local Bedford charity based in Prebend Street Day Centre. They desperately need funds and resources. They need things like tins of food to feed the hungry, they also need our financial support. Please come and join us for harvest, give thanks for what we have and remember those who have nothing.

Over the next few weeks please drop off any tins or gifts for BeCHaR at the churches in the foyer. These will then be taken to BeCHaR. For more information about BeCHaR call our church offices or visit the website [www.prebendcentre.org.uk](http://www.prebendcentre.org.uk)



**Messy Church** starts again on Wednesday 21 September. We are delighted with the response we have had from children and their carers who have joined

'Messy Church' at St Mark's. We began in October 2010 with just 6 children and 4 parents; 31 children and 17 carers came to our last session in June. Between October and June a total of 49 children and 26 carers have come to Messy Church; children have to be accompanied by an adult. Over nine monthly sessions, these have included mums, dads and grandparents. All fully participated in the teaching, worship, activities and the meal with which each meeting finishes. In the sessions we have covered a range of Bible stories: The feeding of the 5000; David and Goliath; The Nativity; Zacchaeus; The Good Shepherd; Saint Patrick; Easter, The Wedding at Cana and the Creation. On the 3 August we had a 'Messy Church' crafts area at the Waveney Green Family Day, 'Gathering on the Green', where making animals out of 'junk' materials proved especially popular.

We have built up an excellent Messy Church team who continue to enthusiastically to give, their time and talents, enabling us to deliver fun and high quality 'Church' to children and adults who might otherwise not hear the Good News. We also benefit from the help of two Pre School staff who bring a few of the children to the sessions. You can see a photograph of some of the 'team' on the Messy Church notice board. This was taken in July at a 'Bring and Share Meal' we enjoyed to celebrate the success of the previous 9 months team effort.

However we do need a few more people to help, especially if some of our regular team members are unable to be at session. Messy Church is held from 3.45 to 5.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next session will be on 21 September. If you are interested in helping please speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters.

### 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.

**Mima Noble**

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



**Thank you** Mike & Wendy Ovenden would like to say thank you for the lovely flowers, cards and the Good Wishes they received for their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

**Organ Recital, Majesty and Mystery**, An Afternoon with the King of Instruments with Anne Page International Organist Sunday 25th September 4.00pm. St Peter's Church, De Pary's Avenue, Bedford MK40 2TX This recital will be followed by a beginner's guide to the organ. "Try your hand (and feet!) At the King of Instruments" Tickets available in advance from: The Corn Exchange Central Box Office Tel 01234 269519 St Peter's Church contact Cinta Heaton on 354361 admin@stpeter.org.uk On the door Tickets £7.00 or £4.00 concessions

**Thank You.** The new organ is now fitted at St Mark's and is a wonderful addition to our worship. Thank you to all of those who have contributed towards the cost. We are hoping to have a special concert at which the organ will be dedicated, in Advent.

**The funeral of Arthur Fleet** will be at 4pm on Thursday 22nd September at Bedford Crematorium. Arthur and his widow Dorothy were members of Putnoe for a long time, moving away when their family grew and rejoining us about 5 years ago. Arthur passed away on Wednesday, on the eve of what would have been his 91st birthday.

**Rest In Peace.** Members of both churches will be saddened to hear of the death this week of Madge Walsh. Madge died in Bedford Hospital on Saturday after a long period illness. Madge will be greatly missed for her lovely kind nature and great sense of humour.



Please remember to always shop at Amazon online using the links on [www.thischurch.com](http://www.thischurch.com) Please always go to Amazon through the church website. They will not credit us with 5%, if you have already looked at the item first.

### Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Mark Powlson** will take place at Bedford Crematorium, at 2.30pm on Thursday 22 September.

**The funeral of Arthur Fleet** will take place at Bedford Crematorium, at 4.00pm on Thursday 22 September.

