



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

18 October 2009

Ordinary 29



Church of  
England

## Partnership Church Services Today

### 8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

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

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard  
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights- Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk  
Intercessions - Ministers

## Sunday 25 October - Ordinary 30

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

Preacher - Revd Eric Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart  
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Eric Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware  
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

### Readings

1. Jeremiah 31: 7-9 2. Hebrews 7: 23-28  
3. Mark 10: 46-52

## Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Barbara Edwards in memory of her husband Cyril on the anniversary of his death.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Val Peacock in memory of her husband Trevor, and by Val Parker in remembrance of family birthdays.

*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 Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.*

## Prayer for Sunday

O God,  
you have folded back the mantle of the night  
to clothe us in the glory of the day.  
Drive all gloomy thoughts from our hearts  
and make us glad  
with the brightness of eternal hope;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*from the Gregorian Sacramentary (sixth century)*

### 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 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.

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 Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417  
Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
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 - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628  
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 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**  
Headteacher 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)

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

**9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063

**10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

**12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights** 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

**1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474

**2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059

**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 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 ☎ 07720713738.

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

**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

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting October 19 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

**9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299

**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 Mrs Brown☎771676

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

**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Sally Banks ☎ 870357

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

**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

**2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting October 20 Word Search A to Z. Details from 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 Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.

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

**6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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

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

**7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month. Brian Ibberson ☎403497

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

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting October 20 Shoe Box packing Details from Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## 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 Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 28 October 2009 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

**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 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 21 October. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details

**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. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.* (No meeting on 9th April)

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

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at 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 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

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎272470 Next meeting 24 September

**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 Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351

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

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group.** 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. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550

**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. Pat Foulks ☎346505

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography** (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

**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

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

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

**6.30pm Line Dancing.** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

6.30 - 7.30pm Ladies Kick Boxing weekly at St. Mark's. Parker Lake ☎07984427854

**7pm Bedford Art Society** monthly Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 1st May Mary Rich ☎272470

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

### Saturday

**9.45am Bedford Stamp Auction** at Putnoe Heights Next Auction 30th May. Contact Stuart or Anne 01327 876438

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

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 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

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



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – 9 Nov

**St Mark's Leadership Team** – 19 January

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** – , 8 Feb

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** 19 Oct.

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting** -

11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010,

**Putnoe Church Council** -

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** - 26 January 2010, 11am

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group**

**Partnership Council—TBA**

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -

**Deanery Meeting** 19 Nov,

**Circuit/Treasurers** Revue meeting at St. Mark's

**Circuit Meeting** at Sharnbrook Methodist Church

**Woodland Burial Trustees** –

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth** –

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

## Ordinary 29

### Opening Verses of Scripture Psalm 91 v 1, 2

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

### Collect Prayer for the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do also for you. Give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all; for you gave up your life and died for us, but live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Methodist Worship)



Mark 10:45

### First Bible Reading - Isaiah 53 v 4 – 12

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

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

### Second Reading—Hebrews 5: 1-10

Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. No one takes this honour upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

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

### Gospel Reading -Mark 10:35-45 –All: Glory to Christ our Saviour

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am

baptized with?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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

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

God is working His purpose out, **189**; Jehovah Jireh, **354**; I am the bread of life, **261**; All hail the power of Jesus name, **13**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Mediation**

It's easy to forget the origins of some of our church traditions and get to the stage where the traditions themselves become more important to us than the events which they signify. Without realising it, sometimes the most trivial of things begin to take on a meaning and importance for greater than ever intended. One tradition talks of a Buddhist spiritual teacher who, when he and his disciples began their evening meditation, a cat who lived in the monastery made such noise that it distracted them. As a result, one day the teacher asked that the cat be tied up during the evening meditations. Years later, when the teacher died, the cat continued to be tied up during the meditation session. Some time later the cat eventually died, and so another cat was brought to the monastery to be tied up during evening meditations. Centuries later, learned descendants of the spiritual teacher wrote scholarly treatises about the religious significance of tying up a cat for meditation practice. Are there things in our lives that have assumed an importance and significance far greater than we ever intended?

### **Who is Melchizedek?**

Melchizedek is a mysterious and enigmatic figure who first appears in Genesis 14 where he greets Abram and provides him with a royal banquet on Abram's return from rescuing Lot and all his possessions from the four kings who have been at war with the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Beor and have captured Lot and his family. Melchizedek, in Hebrew malki-sedeq, which can be translated as 'Sedeq is my king', or '(The God) Melek is righteousness' is the King of Salem (or Jerusalem as it became known) and a priest of the 'God Most High'. He blesses Abram and brings him bread and wine and Abram then gives Melchizedek a tenth of everything. In Ps 110 v 4 a Davidic king is proclaimed by the Lord as a 'priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek'. This is by virtue of David's conquest of Jerusalem by which his house becomes heirs to the Melchizedek dynasty of priest-kings. As Jesus is from the house of David, the Davidic Messiah, it follows that He qualifies to be the priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. The priesthood of Melchizedek is different and distinct from the Aaronic priesthood of the Old Testament in several important ways. The order of Melchizedek is continuous and eternal. It does not need a line of succession in the earthly manner in which the Aaronic priesthood does and is therefore a priesthood of a much higher importance and significance. Secondly, Jesus' qualifications to be the true successor of Melchizedek are not based on tribal alignment. The Aaronic priesthood came from the tribe of Judah, not Levi; Jesus would not have qualified as an Aaronic priest. Thirdly, it is a royal priesthood which adds significant dignity and importance to the high priestly office of Christ. The theologian Guthrie writes, 'The Genesis account of Melchizedek, though mysterious, is nonetheless impressive. Even so he is but a shadow of his great antitype [be better than 'from below' because things that are 'above' always seem to be superior, more senior, more authoritative. Indeed, people who we perceived as being above us can seem to control things, pull the strings and make things happen. Jesus is the God from above and the God from below. His very lowliness and humanity is a living demonstration of His aboveness and His divinity. Jesus Christ]'. As Christians, a priesthood of all believers, it is Christ Himself who is our great High Priest.

## Commentary

There is much content in Hebrews, a book primarily written to Jewish Christians, describing how Jesus fits with their model of priesthood. This is not surprising as one of the key themes of Hebrews is how can men and women approach God. For the Jews of the Old Testament covenant this had clearly involved the priesthood and the writer points out the difference between the Aaronic and the Mekchizedeic priesthoods. But in today's passage, the writer of Hebrews, probably a well educated Greek Speaking (Hellenistic) Jew, makes another point. Not only is Jesus the means of our salvation through His heavenly priesthood and His sacrifice, He is the mediator of a new covenant which will give all access to God. To bring that covenant into existence required His incarnation as He came to live with people on earth. Jesus was both fully God and fully man. The very fact that He was fully man meant that he could be an effective high priest. It's clear from today's reading that Jesus went through hard and difficult times yet stuck with the task that He had been given by the Father. And because He was fully man and went through hard times Himself means that he can fully represent the human condition to God. Through His human experience on earth, through His hard times, His trials and His ultimate suffering on the cross He brought a complete understanding of what it means to be human to the Godhead.

Theologians sometime talk of Christology from above and Christology from below. Christology from above emphasises the divinity of Christ and His transcendent eternal nature. Christology from below emphasises the humanity of the Jesus of history as He lived on earth. But we need to be careful, because an over emphasis on either means that we develop an unbalanced and incorrect understanding of Christ. We can also fall into the trap of thinking that 'from above' must

The disciples too appear to have fallen into the trap of thinking rank and 'aboveness' was important to Jesus in their request to sit at his right and left side in glory. They miss the point that the one who is above all became the one who is below all to serve each one of us. In asking to be exalted in heaven they missed the point of service, servanthood and becoming 'a slave of all' on earth. As Christians we are called to be God's leaders on earth, and in so doing we are called not to be above all but below all. It's clear from the reading today that the disciples, especially James and John, found this difficult to grasp. And in today's society, where status and fame seem to be the be all and end all of who we are, it is still difficult to comprehend. Jesus calls us into a life of sharing in serving with Him. Sometimes that will mean that we are placed in positions of authority in order that we can fulfil the role He has called us to. Other times it will mean that we are placed in positions under or along side others, perhaps lower that we expect to be, and sometimes seemingly much below where we believe we should be. But like Christ, we have the opportunity to better understand those we seek to serve and their needs when we truly identify with them, coming along side them as equals. So often we can so easily, if inadvertently, assume a condescending or superior attitude when we serve others from a position of our 'aboveness', or authority. Jesus call all to join with Him in service and to follow His example of becoming the servant of all, wherever that places us in the strata of our society, and at whatever cost that might incur to our ego's and status'. Sam Cappleman

## Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Father God, help us to know you more fully so that in all things we may serve you to the utmost of our ability in the shadow of your redeeming grace. **Amen.**

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead. Lord, you hide your face when we trust in ourselves; strip us of false security and re-clothe us in your praise, that we may know you as the one who raises us from death, as you raised your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen** *Daily Prayer, from Psalm 30*

Loving God, who chose to send your Son into our world, be with us today as we make our daily choices. Help us keep our eyes fixed on you, that in your eyes we may be wise, that we may grow in wisdom and reflect the glory of your incarnation, Jesus Christ who is with us always in the power of your Spirit. **Amen**

Risen Christ, who loves and serves all, shine your radiance upon us so that reflecting your glory, others may see your presence and feel your touch in their lives. **Amen**

The God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**NSPCC Quiz evening** at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 17th October at 7.15p.m. £8 to include food but please bring your own drinks and glasses. Raffle . Please contact Averil on Bedford 267798 or Jenny on Bedford 261811.

**Turvey Abbey A Christian East/West Exploration** 'New Visions of Monasticism for Lay and Monastics' 14 November 2009 10.30am to 4.30pm Cost £12 Please bring a packed lunch - coffee and tea provided To book, please contact Sister Esther at the address below.

**Christmas Shoebox Appeal.** The youth team at Putnoe would like to launch The Christmas Shoebox appeal again this year, where via the Samaritans Purse organisation filled boxes will be delivered to some of the worlds poorest children, boys and girls between 2 to 14 years, in time for Christmas. If you could please donate any of the following items the children will pack the boxes, alternatively if you would prefer to donate some money this can be used towards postage. The boxes need to be completed by the beginning of November so please start collecting now—soft toys, jigsaws, building blocks, cars, dolls, soft balls, stationery items, stickers, puzzle books, toothbrushes/paste, soap, hairbrushes, hats and caps, necklaces, sweets (long sell by dates), bangles, sunglasses. We will also need empty shoeboxes and Christmas wrapping paper Please leave at Putnoe office. Thank you.

### **Methodists take action on climate change**

Copies of Hope in God's Future – a report and study guide addressing climate change – are flying off the shelves just days after the first printed editions became available. The first print run of the booklet has sold out and Methodist Publishing has ordered a second run.

Hope in God's Future takes the reader on a journey using the changing mood of a worship service as a framework for considering climate change and people's effect on the planet. It outlines the position of the Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and The United Reformed Church on climate change and invites people to see how deeply faith connects with the challenge facing us.

Thaddeus Dell, Carbon Reduction Policy Officer at the Methodist Church, said: "Hope In God's Future gets people to understand the science and how this is linked to our Christian theology. Climate change is the greatest challenge to the Church in our generation. The science is overwhelming and it leads us to a moral obligation. It is especially important for people to engage in these issues ahead of the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen."

The 2009 Methodist Conference adopted sections one to four of Hope in God's Future as a draft

Conference statement. This means that everyone across the Connexion is invited to comment before it returns to the Conference in 2011.

The study guide offers the full text of the report, as well as ideas for creative activities, inspirational prayers and worship, help and advice for leaders, and suggestions for group sessions lasting one or two evenings or even a whole day.

Copies of Hope in God's Future are available from Methodist Publishing at £5.00 each, with discounts offered for bulk buys of 10 or more.

**Archbishop calls for reality check** PEOPLE should get out in the rain and more in touch with nature, the Archbishop of Canterbury said this week in a lecture on climate change. "Our response to the crisis needs to be, in the most basic sense, a reality check."

Dr Williams was giving a keynote address at Southwark Cathedral on Tuesday. "When we believe in trans formation at the local and personal level, we are laying the surest foundations for change at the national and international level," he said.

Eight weeks before the crucial UN Climate Change conference in Copenhagen, his lecture was the last chance for the organisers, the Churches' climate-change charity Operation Noah, to attract funding to prevent its closure next month.

Dr Williams said that humanly created climate change was the result of a long process of dislocation from the natural world. To deal with it, the first essential was to recognise that true humanity lay in fulfilling a responsibility as creatures towards creation.

People could and should make choices about their refuse, their travel, and their domestic energy use on the basis that everyone would be impoverished by environmental degradation.

"But I also want to underline the need for us to change our habits enough to make us more aware of the diversity of life around us." One way to do that would be "to make sure we went out of doors in the wet from time to time (a suitable lesson from Noah)". People should "make sure [they] took opportunities of watching the changing of the seasons on the earth's surface". Actions of this kind might seem trivial compared with "the high drama of 'saving the world'", but "we ought to be asking constantly how we restore a sense of association with the material place and time and climate we inhabit and are part of."

To read more on this check out the Church Times Website [www.churchtimes.co.uk](http://www.churchtimes.co.uk)

**St Mark's sets of weekly offering envelopes** are available in the foyer from today. Regular giving is an essential part of the Church's income, and helps greatly in meeting the costs of running St Mark's. We are very fortunate that so many members of the congregation already give so generously to the Church in this way. You can make regular weekly or monthly gifts, either by standing order or through the weekly envelope scheme. In addition, if you are a UK tax payer, you can Gift Aid your offering - and the Church can claim 20% tax back from the Government. This can also be done through the yellow Gift Aid envelopes on the chairs. If you would like to find out more please speak to Jim Williams after the service or contact him on 01234 360605. As always, thank you for your generosity. *Jim Williams*

**Footprints Walk** Sunday 1st November. Meet at Cople Church at 2pm (please note earlier time) for a 4 mile circular walk. John & Sally 305925.

**Action for Children** A big thank you once again to the 25 volunteers who knocked on over 1100 doors for this September's House to House Collection on behalf of Action for Children. The total raised in our St. Mark's/Brickhill area was a very worthwhile £905 although about 9% down from 2008; no doubt due to the recession. However, Action for Children will be able to claim a further £67 from HM Revenue & Customs as a result of the 76 Door-step donors who kindly filled in their Gift-Aid forms. Individual 'thank-you' cards with amounts collected are being distributed. *Mike Elliott*

**Dreaming of a Holy Night** An evening with Graham Kendrick In Concert with Ban plus guest Philippa Hannah 7.30pm Monday 21 December 2009 At Bedford Corn Exchange. Tickets are available from: Mrs Carolyn Smith Tel: 01234 344 544 1 Abbey Road Bedford, MK41 9LG Please let Carolyn know if tickets are needed for wheelchair users, when booking. Cheques should be made

payable to 'Hope Bedfordshire' and the tickets will be sent by post. Tickets purchased in advance are £12.50 but will be £15 on the night.

**Bedford Ecumenical Lay Institute for Education and Faith.** God Calling ? Being a Christian in ...A series of 5 sessions to be held in the Holtt Room, St. Andrews Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, from 7.45 until 9.30pm. Starting with Education on Wednesday 21 October, Sport on 28 with Mark Pinney, Banking on 4 November with Ed Bloor, Law on 11 with Martin Banham-Hall and Medicine on 18 with Dr. Mary Fenske. Course is free, donations welcome towards the costs and refreshments.

**Kempston Musical Society** Saturday 31st October 7.30pm Bromham Baptist Church Kempston Musical Society present the first of our light concerts in aid of their project to build a school in India. Tickets may be obtained from Bromham Church office, or will be available at the door. Further information 01234 822681

**WREN Funding the future. Grant award under the Landfill Communities fund.** Putnoe Heights Church were fortunate to receive a grant award this week of £10,793 towards the Community Centre Safety System project. This grant will provide for CCTV equipment .

**Advent Retreat Weekend 11 - 13 December 2009**  
**And the desert shall blossom:** A *silent* weekend sharing the peace and beauty of Advent with the Turvey communities.

Cost £90 including £30 non returnable deposit. To book a place, please contact Sister Judith at the address below.

Turvey Abbey, Turvey , Bedfordshire MK43 8DE  
**The Gospel of John** with The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John Dean of St Albans. Saturday 20 February 2010 10.00am to 1.00pm Venue: St Andrews Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2PF £15.00 (waged) £12.00 (unwaged)

To book a place on this course, please contact the **BELIEF** office c/o Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue, Bedford MK41 9QJ  
Tel: 01234293688 E-mail: [office@beliefbeds.org.uk](mailto:office@beliefbeds.org.uk)  
[www.beliefbeds.org.uk](http://www.beliefbeds.org.uk)

## 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.

**Dorothy Mary Tysoe 'Dolly'**  
**Catherine Ruth Morgan**

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



## Forthcoming Funerals

There are no funeral this week