



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

19 July 2009

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

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

Preacher - Revd Eric Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams  
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Eric Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Wendy Nash  
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

## Sunday 26th July - Ordinary 17

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

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard  
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk  
Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

**Readings** 1.2. 3. Mark 6:30-34,  
3. Mark 6: 14-29

## Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given to celebrate the marriage of Joanne Appleton and Thomas Woolley.

*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

Gracious God,  
light and guide of all  
who put their trust in you:  
grant us in all our doubts and uncertainties  
the grace to seek your will,  
that the Spirit of wisdom  
may save us from all false choices  
and that in your light we may see light;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*William Bright, 1824-1901*

## Contact Details

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

### The Reverend 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 275628  
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com  
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**  
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

**8.30-5.30pm 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 20 July 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** 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 August 4 Cream Tea 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

**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. Meeting July 28 Afternoon Tea 2.30pm 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 - September 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

**6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎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 29 July 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

**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

**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 Embroiders** 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 –**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 12 Oct, 8 Feb 2010**

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 20 July**

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 8 Sept , 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010**

**Putnoe Church Council - 5 Oct**

**Pastoral Group Meeting -**

**Churchyard Committee -**

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group -**

**Partnership Council - September 6th**

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -**

**Deanery Meeting 17 Sep, 19 Nov,**

**Circuit/Deanery Meeting**

**Woodland Burial Trustees –**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –**

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

# Ordinary 16

## Opening Verses of Scripture -

Ephesians 3, 18-19

May you, in company with all God's people, be strong to grasp what is the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love.

## Collect Prayer for the Day -

*Before we read we pray*

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our

understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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. *Common Worship*



## First Bible Reading- Jeremiah Chapter 23:1-6

"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the LORD. "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD. "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

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

## Second Reading - Ephesians 2:11-22

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)-- remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

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

## **Gospel Reading** – Mark 6:30-34,53-56 When announced ‘**Glory to Christ our saviour**

The apostles gathered round Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognised them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. Later, when Jesus and his disciples had crossed over the lake again, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognised Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went - into villages, towns or countryside - they placed the sick in the market-places. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

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

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

Christ is made the sure foundation	73
Come sing the praise of Jesus	101 <i>Tune Kilmarnock</i>
I come with joy to meet my Lord	On Partnership News
Lord of the Church	442

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in our faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Commentary**

Let us consider today's gospel readings from Mark's gospel.

Earlier in the chapter we read of Jesus sending His disciples out on mission, now they have returned and tell Jesus the results. The crowd however was so large and making such demands on Jesus that he decided to go across the lake to a quiet place. When the crowds saw Jesus get into the boat they realised what he was going to do, so they moved too. At this point the lake is four miles across the water and ten miles by walking around the top of the lake on foot. On a mild day, with little wind, it would take as long to sail as to walk, so the crowd walked and arrived ahead of Jesus. Most men would have been dismayed at having their privacy denied, but Jesus took pity on the crowd who wanted so much of what He alone could give. He saw them as sheep without a shepherd, and sheep alone cannot find their way.

Many people get lost in life for it can become bewildering. We can stand at some crossroads of life and not know which way to go. In this life we are bound to need sustenance. We need strength to keep going, and the inspiration to lift us out of ourselves. Just as a sheep cannot defend itself from attacks of wild beats, so we need help in defying all the temptations of the world. The Bible says that only with Jesus can we be defended and be able to keep ourselves spotless.

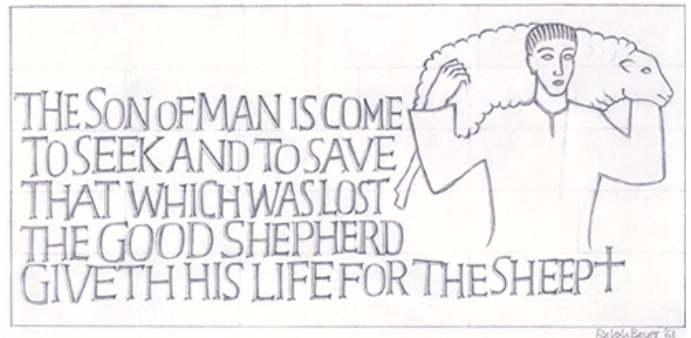
The Bible says the grass was green, which indicates it must have been mid April for that is the time when it is that colour, and it also states that the sun was setting, so placing the time at about 6.00pm.. Jesus realised that the crowd was hungry so he told the disciples that he would feed them. We read this was done from five loaves and two fish.

Jesus then sent the disciples away whilst he retired alone. He went into the mountains to pray, for he faced many problems. He knew the crowd wanted to kidnap him and take him to Jerusalem to make him King, which he had no intention of letting happen, and he didn't want the disciples to be involved. The Jewish authorities were trying to have him killed, and Herod was suspicious of him. At about 3-30am he looked across the lake and saw the disciples were in trouble as a storm had gathered and it was threatening to sink the disciples in their boat. Jesus went to them, and this is where we read of him walking across the water. He remained with them.

We find that as soon as Jesus landed once again, crowds swarmed around him. There are so many people these days who expect to be catered for their every need. There are people you

never hear from unless they want something from you. There are those who will come to Church when the Church can satisfy their needs, but will seldom be seen otherwise. There are similarly those who seek to make use of God. They never think of God unless they need him, their prayers are not intercessory but demands.

In American hotels they have a man or boy called a bell-hop. A Guest rings a bell and the bell-hop appears and fetches on demand. Some see God as someone who is there to be summoned when something is needed. We are all guilty to some extent. How Jesus would be overjoyed if we came more often to offer our service, devotion, and love, and be less demanding. *Eric Royden*



### **Meditation**

If someone asked you, 'What do you think of Jesus Christ?' How would you answer? Would you say, as Christians of an evangelical persuasion would be expected to say, 'he is Lord and Saviour.

Most people have an opinion about Christ - much more so than those of other religious figures. Few would speak ill of him, however simply refraining from rude comments about Christ does not mean that a person thinks rightly of him. Or of his claim to be Sovereign Lord. Most people might say that Jesus is a good example, but few would follow him as Lord. Scripture does not reveal him to merely give us an example of a nice way to live, so that we will feel better about ourselves. The Bible reveals Christ because apart from him we can never have a relationship with God. The best way to learn about Christ is to read the Gospels. There we find all we need to know about him. Every story about Christ reveals him as the only Saviour of sinners. As we journey through the Gospels we find ourselves walking in the shoes of the disciples. We share their understanding of Jesus. We are much like the disciples as we make our way through life, we grasp a little here, and a little there. It is through seeing the truth of Scripture, and wrestling with our questions like the disciples, and observing the Lord's work, that the Holy Spirit is pleased to reveal Christ to us. That is why we study the Gospels. We want our minds exposed to the revelation of Christ, and pray that the Holy Spirit might give understanding so that we truly see him as he is and follow him.

### **Prayers**

Lord, be merciful to your people. Fill us with your gifts and make us always eager to serve you in faith, hope, and love. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

O God, you are the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you; help us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. --Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Common Worship

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"Open wide the window of our spirits, O Lord, and fill us full of light; open wide the door of our hearts, that we may receive and entertain you with all our powers of adoration and love."

*Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), English poet*

## Youth, children and friends summer diary dates

**Monday 20 July** Putnoe Holiday Storybox 12.00 till 1.00 followed by Storybox plus until 2.45.

**Monday 27 July** at Putnoe The Cheeky Dog Children's Entertainer and sandwich lunch 12.00 till 2.00. Tickets £2.50 from Liz or £3.00 on the door/office, accompanying adults £1.00, under 1 year free. This will be the last Storybox and Storybox plus until Monday 7th September

**Monday 24 August** under 5's summer workshop 2.00 till 4.00 and Tuesday 25th and Wednesday

**26 August** 5 years plus summer workshop 10.00 till 3.00pm Join us to "Travel God's world." Both these events celebrate the United Nations Year of the Child and will include stories of Children in the Bible, stories from around the world, music, games, crafts and Fun! Small charge.

There will be no Junior Church or YPF at Putnoe during August. If you are able to help any of these groups in anyway over the summer or at the new term start in September please speak to Liz or Emma. Thank you for all your support. See Liz for further details on all the above events..

**Thursday 16 September** St. Mark's Chat and Play and Storybox restarts.

**Outdoor Bowls Roadshow** - An opportunity to see if you would like to join a local bowls club. In July, 6 bowls clubs are offering sessions for just £1 with all equipment provided. A brochure is on the notice board in St Mark's Foyer. Why not visit and see if you like it.

**Seeking The Way** A course how and where to serve God and his Church. The course is being provided by the St Albans Diocesan Board for Christian Development. Cost £40 Venue The Transept, St Mary's Church, Redbourn. Dates October 17th, November 7th & 21st, 10am - 4pm. Application form and full details about the course available from St Mark's Church Office.

**New Website** - After many months of work we are now close to being able to launch our new church website, [www.thisischurch.com](http://www.thisischurch.com). The change has been made necessary due to a need to convert our existing site away from old technology to the new standard for websites. This has been a complex procedure given the size of our website and we are grateful to the Methodist Circuit who have helped us by providing funding for the work by professionals. The site will go live in August and we would appreciate comments from church members. You can see the new site by visiting the web

address <http://tic.srv26.haisoft.net> Comments please to Charlie by Email.

Our website has now been changed to include minutes of meetings. These can be accessed by visiting each church homepage.

**Dreaming of a Holy Night'** An evening with Graham Kendrick at the Corn Exchange, Bedford at 7.30pm on Monday 21 December 2009.

Tickets: £12.50 in advance (on sale now) or £15 on the night. Help is needed for stewarding and selling CDs. You can also volunteer to join the choir being formed locally. For tickets and more details contact: Brian Addington Tel: 01234 216 080 E-mail: [b.addington@btinternet.com](mailto:b.addington@btinternet.com)

## Action for Children -House to House Collection

Action for Children (formally NCH) works with disadvantaged and disabled children and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including the Methodist Church. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron.

The annual house to house Collection to support the vital work of the NCH will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £950.

If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information, then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel: 342507)

**Methodist Homes for the Aged.** Envelope donations at Putnoe Heights amounted to £87.37 - thanks to all who gave generously.

**Putnoe Prayer Group** will not meet on July 23 & 30

**Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike** on Saturday 12 September 2009 10am—6pm—an opportunity to visit churches all over our region in towns and villages either walking or cycling. Half the money raised will be given to Church Funds and half to Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. For more details and ideas of routes etc. please see Wendy Nash at Putnoe.



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## Hymn for Sunday

(Tune Kilmarnock)

I come with joy to meet my Lord  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
in awe and wonder to recall  
his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us  
share,  
each proud division ends.  
That love that made us makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord.  
His presence, always near,  
is in such friendship better known:  
we see and praise him here.

Together met, together bound,  
we'll go our different ways,  
and as his people in the world,  
we'll live and speak his praise.

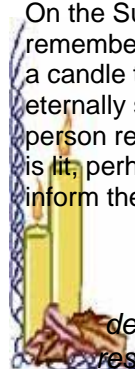
## Church News

The General Secretary of the Methodist Church has responded to the BBC Trust consideration of non-religious voices to be included on Radio 4's Thought For The Day.

Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church, said: "Faith-based communities have a distinctive voice, and large numbers of people listen to Thought For The Day for that very reason, so I would be saddened to lose those crucial few minutes of spiritual reflection. I recognise, however, that faith-based communities do not have a monopoly on 'thoughts'!"

### 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.



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

"The BBC as a public broadcaster has a challenge to represent a variety of views in society, and it is important that this slot remains available as a pause to reflect on spiritual or ethical issues. Sometimes it serves to reassure, sometimes to challenge, but it is a vital space in the middle of a busy news programme. "Methodists are not afraid to be challenged about what we believe, and we are not threatened by hearing secular voices on Thought for the Day. But we, along with other Christians, will hope to continue to be given opportunity to speak of the things that matter so deeply to us."

### Forces deserve Church support

THE newly appointed Bishop to the Forces, the Rt Revd Stephen Venner, called for the British public to maintain their support for service personnel in Afghanistan, after eight soldiers were killed in a 24-hour period last week.

Bishop Venner said it had "not been the quietest week to start", and that his "heart went out to the families who had lost loved ones" in recent days. The soldiers' deaths led to criticism of the Government's strategy in Afghanistan, with the Conservatives claiming that troops faced a severe shortage of military equipment. The Liberal Democrats said British strategy was "over-ambitious in aim, and under-resourced in practice". A total of 184 British personnel have died in Afghanistan since 2002.

Although he said he did not want to be drawn into political and moral questions about Afghanistan, Bishop Venner said "the Church needs to speak into this debate. "I think it's very important that, whatever your view about war, the British public show, as the people of Wootton Bassett have shown this week, that the soldiers and service personnel do have our support and admiration. My job is to get alongside the forces and their families, and, in particular, support the chaplains in the forces. I will be visiting troops in this country as requested and as required, and providing personal support to the three senior chaplains in the forces."

Bishop Venner has not ruled out a trip to Afghanistan if such a visit "could be helpful". He said he did not have information on whether the troops in Afghanistan were adequately resourced, but said he had followed the situation "in the papers, like everyone else. If we as a country send our service personnel to do a job for us, the very least they can expect from us is proper equipment and support."

### Forthcoming Funerals



The Funeral of John Gregory will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 21st July at 3.15pm