

Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

19 September 2004  
25 in Ordinary

The Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both  
Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church



Church of  
England

## Church Services Today

### 8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

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

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Iris Perry

Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions - Ministers

## 26 in Ordinary - 26 September

### 8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

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

Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions - Ministers

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

## Thank You

The flowers in church at St Mark's this week have been given to celebrate the marriage of Deborah Jane Hammond and Simon Alan Jones.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Lynda and Des Hoar in memory of Lynda's parents and Des's father.

## Prayer for Sunday

O Father of lights,  
with whom there is no variation  
nor shadow of turning,  
who abidest steadfast  
as the stars of heaven:  
give us grace to rest upon  
thy eternal changelessness,  
and in thy faithfulness find peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*George W. Briggs 1875—1959*

## 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 Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

### The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.

Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

### The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

Partnership News is now available each week on the  
Partnership Website - [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.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 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 9am - 1.00pm Monday & Friday

9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 313181

## St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy@thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

- 9.30 - 12.00 pm Pre-school** (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Please bring a picnic lunch during the summer,, Bible Stories Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs. Jill Williams 357020
- 7.15 m Guides** -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
- 7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month. Next 20 September St. Mark's Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
- 7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
- 8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

## Tuesday

- 9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
- 9.30am - 11.30pm Jo Jingles** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866
- 10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime** Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828
- 12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World** at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting - 21 Sept. Members—Autographs Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 5 October Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709
- 2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.
- 3.30 - 4.30pm Putnoe Heights Church** Essential Stretch Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- 6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact

Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129

- 6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607
- 7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's Church.** Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
- 7.30- 9.00pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746
- 7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Next meeting 21 Sept. Old Time Music Hall - Melodians Meets fortnightly . Contact Mrs C Davies 219130.
- 8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

## Wednesday

- 10.00 am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 10.00 am Holy Communion** at St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat** Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966
- 12 - 1pm Putnoe Height Church** Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- Luncheon Club** at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 22 September Contact St. Mark's 342613
- 1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555
- 6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449
- 6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies** at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731
- 7.00pm St. Mark's Church** Bunyan Bridge. Contact Brian Sallows 407725
- 7-10pm Putnoe Guild** - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609
- 7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes St. Mark's. Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
- 7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

## Thursday

- 9.30am Thursday Prayer Group** at Putnoe Heights in the side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
- 10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic** at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** Contact 267444
- 10.00am - 11.30am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Contact 244970
- 12 - 1.00 pm Storybox** at St Mark's Church. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities,

songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

**1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.**  
Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

**1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers  
Playtime** Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

**2.30 Bedford Arts Society** at St. Mark's. Contact  
Celia Maddison 782901

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.**  
Contact Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe** Mrs S Lewis 300198

**7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000** Putnoe 2nd Thursday of  
the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

**6.15 - 7.30pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St.  
Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

**7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club** at  
St Mark's Contact Mr Hatton 824988

**7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild** St Mark's- 3rd  
Thursday month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

**7.45pm. Housegroup**-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little  
Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact  
Betty Wyatt 350188

**8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle** meets at St  
Mark's Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact  
Mr John Broadhouse 740271

## Friday

**10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Church  
Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

**6 -7.00 pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr  
James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

**7. 30 - 9.30pm** Young Peoples meeting Contact  
Pastor Tarr 376841

**7.30pm Music Group** St. Mark's Church/monthly  
**6.30pm -8.30 pm Dog Training Classes** at St.  
Mark's Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

## Saturday

**10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St  
Mark's** -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle  
304865

**7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge** at St Mark's  
Contact Ann or Peter 212066

**Peace Project Saturday School** at Putnoe Heights.  
For details contact Mrs.E.Tarr 309881

## Sunday

**1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe  
Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881  
Mob. 07891095746

# News, Views and Information

## The Calendar

**Putnoe Centre Management** -27 Sept, 15 Nov

**St Mark's Church Council**

October 13 2004, Feb 1 2005

**Churchyards Committee**

Next meeting on Monday 17 Jan at 10am

**St Mark's Centre Management Meeting**

Wednesday 29 Sept

Wednesday 10 Nov

**St Mark's Leadership Team**

Next meeting on 17 Nov, 12 Jan

**Deanery Synod**

18 Nov,, 10 Feb

**Partnership Council** 18 Jan

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team**

22 Nov

**Putnoe Church Council**

11 Octr 2004, 7 Feb 2005

13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

**Pastoral Group Meeting**

Monday 20 September at 10am (Change of date)

Calendar dates now appear on our church website  
www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise us if you have  
a date to be added to the church calendar.

**Magnet Magazine** If you are subscriber at St Mark's  
Church, will you please collect the current edition  
from the Church foyer.

**Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch** Sunday 3 Oct.  
Tickets are now available in the church office £4

adults,£2 children under 10. Soft drinks provided  
bring your own wine.

**Bedford YMCA** are seeking a Treasurer to oversee  
the control of their finances & provide financial  
advise. Day to day financial work is carried out by  
paid staff. If you are in sympathy with the aims &  
purposes of the YMCA, & are interested, please  
contact Tony Gratton (Chief Executive) 01234307802

**Wells For Malawi** Thank you to everyone who  
has expressed their support for the Wells for  
Malawi project over the last week either through  
personal or group donation or through  
expressing a willingness to hold an event or  
function. We have spoken with 'Faith in Action'  
who are truly encouraged by our support. They  
have indicated that they would like to deepen as  
many wells as possible before the rains come in  
November and we will forward money to them as  
soon as we have an appropriate amount as an  
interim installment to help with their cash  
flow. Putnoe Heights have agreed to act as a  
'bank' for the Partnership for the project so it  
would be helpful if you could make your cheques  
payable to Putnoe Heights Church. If you have  
already made out a cheque to St Mark's don't  
worry we will ensure the money is transferred to  
the right place.



## Bible Notes

### 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Verse of Scripture Psalm 113:4

The Lord is high above all nations and his glory above the heavens

**The LORD is high  
above all nations  
and his glory  
above the heavens.**

Psalm 113.4



#### A Collect Prayer - 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 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.

#### First Reading – Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, saying, "When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?" - skimping the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat. The LORD has sworn by the Pride of Jacob: "I will never forget anything they have done. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

#### Second Reading– 1 Timothy 2: 1-7

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle--I am telling the truth, I am not lying--and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

**Gospel Reading – Luke 16: 1-13** (Please stand for the Gospel. When announced 'The Gospel is taken from .....' please respond—**Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.' "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg-- know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.' "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' " 'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.' "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' " 'A thousand bushels<sup>[2]</sup> of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.' "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. <sup>11</sup>So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." (Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ - **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

**Post Communion Prayer** Keep, O Lord, your Church, with perpetual mercy; and because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Hymns

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell. MP 20
2. I am a new creation MP 254
3. Broken for me broken for you 66
4. Now thank we all our God. 486

### Commentary

This is one of the most difficult parables to understand, yet Luke went to the trouble of recording it, so it is clearly worthy of our attention. It is in cases like this that we need the scholarship of archaeologists and historians to help us properly understand our Bible. Otherwise the story seems to suggest that embezzlement is a life choice commended by God. T.W.Manson has pointed out that we either read the moral of the story as “I applaud the dishonest steward because he acted cleverly” or “I applaud the clever steward because he acted dishonestly”! With the help of Bible scholars we see the story in the light of Jewish commercial practices of the day. Jews were forbidden to take interest from other Jews when they lent money (See Exodus 22:25) But humans being what we are, some argued that while the law prohibited charging interest, this was only to protect the very poor and that if considered in the context of business practice it was just good sense to charge. Pious rich men knew that their stewards imposed an illegal levy but pretended not to know. The story is aimed at the disciples who would assume the role of stewards of the church after Jesus’ death. In the parable the steward has to tread a path between ruin and security, he has to choose between serving his master and getting him the most amount of money or cutting his losses and getting what he could out of a situation. It isn’t as straightforward as the saying that follows in verse 13, “You cannot serve both God and money”. In this complex parable, the steward had to rescue a dire situation by thinking quickly and coming up with a creative and effective solution that was also in tune with the spirit of the Mosaic law against money lending. This story speaks to us, as a church, about using our resources wisely, while always asking what God requires us to do. As people of God, we must tread a careful path between care for the things of this world, which must be taken seriously, and serving the Kingdom of Heaven, where different values apply. We must use our minds to reconcile the contradictions between the laws of God and our instincts as humans. *Joan Crossley.*

**Meditation** I am reading a biography of Christopher Wren, chief architect to Charles II, and the designer of St Paul’s cathedral, the Sheldonian theatre, a score of churches, Chelsea Hospital etc. He was also a scientist, inventor and scholar. He is the sort of person who makes you tired just reading about him! His personal life was unfortunate, since both his wives died very shortly after marriage, and several of his children predeceased him. His real emotional life was found in his friendships with other scholarly men and women. Through their love and encouragement his gifts were able to find free expression and full development. Perhaps that is what this strange sentence from Luke means “use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings”. We must be encouragers, feeders of other people, helping them develop their gifts for the glory of God and for the betterment of humankind. Who knows what wonderful things may grow if we provide help and encouragement! *Joan Crossley*

### Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love. Mother Teresa

O God, may I find and praise your goodness dwelling within every human being. May I be a living sign of your generous love, and help everyone to live more intimately with you. May we respect the evolving nature of all creation, and grow to our fullness of life with you. Guide our search into our entire human nature, and into all creation, to know what you want us to do. Amen

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offence. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me. A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your holy spirit take not from me. Cleanse me of sin with hyssop, that I may be purified; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness; the bones you have crushed shall rejoice. *Psalms 51*

Blessed Lord Jesus, I believe that You are present in the most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Come into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**Deanery Synod Motion** Following the decisions taken by both church councils earlier this year the following motion was presented at Deanery Synod on Thursday evening, the first opportunity we have had to put this motion since it was discussed by our churches.

*'We want to encourage and support the exercise of Christian Ministry by all people, both lay and ordained, within the Anglican Church and beyond.*

*We recognise that in the spiritual ministry, leadership, teaching, guidance and pastoral oversight that the church offers it is important to remain faithful both to our understanding of the word of God and to the church's ancient creeds and formularies, and to our increasing understanding of church and Christian leadership, from the earliest times through to the present age.*

*We would like Diocesan and General Synod to clarify and communicate the specific timescale for when some aspects of ministry, leadership and pastoral oversight will no longer be determined by gender within the Church of England and detail their comments as to whether this timescale is appropriate and acceptable in a church which seeks to be credible, relevant and significant in today's society.'*

We are pleased to report that this motion was passed with 27 people voting in favour, 3 against and 3 abstentions. It will now be passed to Diocesan Synod for their response and we will keep you updated regarding the progress of this important topic.

**The Methodist Church in Britain** has submitted its written response to the Select Committee currently studying the Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill. The Church retains its opposition to euthanasia, but recognises the moral complexities found in some situations. The Methodist Church response reads, in part:

"The Methodist Church opposes euthanasia but recognises that this does not lessen the complex moral problems integral to the final stages of some terminal illnesses. The Christian tradition insists on the infinite respect owed to every individual human being. This respect is not proportional to their level of well-being, nor to any assessment of how seriously ill, injured or disabled they are."

### **BESLAN - seeking hope from the horror and grief by Bishop Christopher +Hertford**

Words seem useless, almost obscene. As if anything that I write can do proper justice to the savage horror and wickedness in Middle School No. 1, Beslan in the first days of September. The passage of the weeks seems, in some sense, to allow reflection and so these words, but truthfully it feels presumptuous to try to encapsulate our revulsion and shame as if any words can be appropriate. So, with some trepidation I invite you to share the horror and, by God's grace, the hope.

I was moved in the days after the murder of the innocent by the various religious contributions on BBC Radio 4's Today programme. Archbishop Rowan, as the father of young children, pointed to the care and love older children probably gave to others in the distressing time held hostage. An Orthodox priest spoke of the Liturgy offering solidarity and healing in a unique and special way. The Chief Rabbi spoke movingly of the human heart revealed as the greatest weapon of mass destruction.

None of them, nor I, in the immediate aftermath can begin to make any sense of these appalling events. What can we do?

First, we can enter with sympathy and love into something of the experience of the children, parents, families, communities, and nation. Those of us who remember the shock and pain we felt here at the murder of sixteen primary school children and their teacher, by a gunman in Dunblane in 1996, may begin to grasp the enormity of this grief. We should lament – and our Christian tradition provides in the Bible, and in the Psalms especially, a way for us to express both our revulsion at wickedness and injustice, and also our shame at the depths to which we human beings can stoop.

Secondly, we can (at the Archbishop's prompting) reflect on how no situation is so grim as to be without some trace of love and sign of God. Even amidst terror and cruel violence, and its aftermath, we have learnt of small but significant acts of love, solidarity and heroism. We are right to condemn, of course, but also to give honour and find hope in God-given gentleness and generosity.

Thirdly, we can look at ourselves and resolve to purge from our minds, thoughts and prayers any trace of pride, superiority and prejudice. Like 9/11 the events of Beslan will have consequences far beyond Russia but may skew our vision and distract us from proper reflection on the spiritual, human and political degeneration that led to this unparalleled outrage.

Finally, and most importantly, we must trust in Him who tells us to become like little children. We believe that Jesus shields those whom their parents (and we also) yearn to embrace.

As our words seem so inadequate and our questioning so barren, we might echo in grief and hope the words of the hymn:

There is a place where God will hear our question, suffer our anger, share our speechless grief, gently repair the innocence of loving and of belief.

**MacMillan Coffee Morning** Friday 24 Sept.

Friends at St Mark's & Putnoe Heights are invited to join the World's Biggest Coffee Morning taking place at 15 Harrington Drive, the home of Peter & Valerie Littleford, from 10 to 1 pm. Do come along if only for part of the time.

**Bereavement Support Drop In** started well last week, with lots of friends, old and new, enjoying tea and a chat. From next month we will have an entertainment on the first Wednesday in the month. Wednesday 6 October, well known local singer Linda Bowen will perform for us 2.30—3.15. Wednesday 3 November, Jo Moore from Bedford Tourist Information will speak on Historic Bedford & her fascinating 'Bedford at War Project @ 2.30—3pm. All drop in sessions are open to everyone.

**Advent Course.** Or course will take the theme of 'Pilgrimage,' with four talks on 24 November, 1, 8 and 15 December at Putnoe Heights Church. The evenings will begin with refreshments at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Each evening will finish at 9.00pm. We are delighted that the first two of our talks this year will be given by Professor Paul Crossley. Other speakers will be The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley and the detective novelist Kate Charles.

**Pet Service 7 November.** St Mark's Church will be holding a pet service on 7 November to which you are encouraged to bring your pet(s). The service will thank God for all creation and especially give thanks to God for all creatures great and small.

**Your Favourite Church.** The Daily Telegraph is compiling 100 favourite churches for Sunday worship. Please take time to complete a nomination form for St Mark's or Putnoe Heights by visiting the Telegraph website at [www.telegraph.co.uk/churches](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/churches). Please also encourage others. Computer access is available at St Mark's for those who wish to use it to register a vote. Please vote today!

**A Garden of Remembrance** working party has been arranged for Saturday 25 September 9.30am onwards to help tidy everything before the Winter. We have jobs for all kinds of strengths! Please bring your own tools eg trowels, kneelers, secateurs, buckets. Coffee makers also needed. All help gratefully appreciated.

**St Mark's Church Pre-school** would like help collecting Persil Stars from washing powder boxes to be able to get free art and craft materials. Thank you Helen Harpin Pre-school Co-ordinator

**Hazeldene Heights Pre-school** are also collecting Persil Stars & would also like your support. Thank you. Janet Smith, Head of Pre-school.

**Tickets** for the Harvest Barn Dance are now on sale at St Mark's and Putnoe Height Church Office. The £6.50 ticket includes a Ploughmans Lunch as well as music and dancing to our live band. Children under 12 £4.

**Raffle Prizes for the Barn Dance Evening** will be gratefully received. Please leave in the office or see one of the leadership team.

**Circuit Meeting** At the Circuit meeting last week the Circuit unanimously supported the extension of the invitation to The Reverend Karen Murphy.

**Please note Circuit Plans and Rotas** are available today for collection or checking before print.

**Flowers** We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. Contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights).

**St Mark's Church Music Group.** The music group at St Mark's have asked the Leadership Team to seek the views of the congregation on how they might best contribute to the worship of the church. If you have any views on how the Music Group might serve the church, and on the overall style and presentation of music in the church, please let the Leadership Team know now. Either write down your views on the form below or speak with a member of the Leadership Team.

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*Please continue on a separate piece of paper if necessary and return to Leadership Team*



## Alan Charnock

### Plumbing & Heating Engineer

Alan Charnock has recently upgraded the central heating system at St Mark's Church Centre and is pleased to give quotations for all types of home heating and plumbing.

Telephone Alan on 01234 346385  
(Answering Machine available)

**Diocesan Child Protection Coordinator (17½ hrs) (£27,000 - £32,000 *pro rata*, according to experience)** This is a new post, so the chosen applicant will be a self-motivated person. The role encompasses:

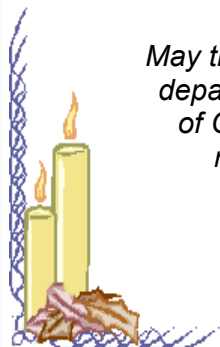
- Overseeing the Diocese's Child Protection Policy
- Advising the Bishops and the parishes on Child Protection issues
- Training procedures within the Diocese
- Responsibility for the proper referral of allegations
- Maintaining good working relationships with other agencies

#### 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.

**Alma Baines  
Winifred Catherine Walker**

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



#### Who will be employed?

We are looking for a person with an appropriate qualification in Social work, Health, or Education, and an up-to-date knowledge of Child Protection legislation and practice. Interviews will be held in St. Albans on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Further information and application details are available from Mrs. Nicki Darwood, PA to the Bishop of Bedford, on (01234) 831432, by email to [bishopbedford@stalbans.anglican.org](mailto:bishopbedford@stalbans.anglican.org) or alternatively can be downloaded from the diocesan website **Applications close on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2004.** *The Diocese of St Albans is an Equal Opportunities employer*

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#### The following funerals have been arranged

**The funeral of Alice Dora Brand** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 20 September at 11.30am

**The funeral of Mark Frank Fortnum** on the 23 September 1.45pm at Bedford Crematorium.