



Partnership News

19 September 2010

Ordinary 25



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

19 September - Ordinary 25

9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

11am Putnoe – Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Kirk
Intercessions – Mrs. Sylvia Cohen

26 September—Ordinary 26

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

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

11 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs. Liz Little
Leadership - Mr. Gordon Evans
Intercessions - Ministers

Readings 1. Amos 6: 1a, 4-7 2. 1 Timothy 6: 6-19
3. Luke 16: 19-31

Midweek Worship

Holy Communion at St Mark's Chapel every Wednesday
at 10.00am and at Sir William Harpur House on first
Monday of every month at 10.00am

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Veta Hudson-Rae to celebrate the birthday of her grandson Samuel and herself.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Geoff and Margaret Appleton in celebration of the marriage of their son, Kevin, to Anita Setterfield.

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for This Week

Grant to me, O Lord,
a humble, lowly and quiet heart.
Give to my waking hours patience,
kindness and tenderness of soul.
Let all my words,
my works and my thoughts
be overshadowed by the gift
of your most Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. Amen.

Thomas More, 1478-1535

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861
vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

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

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

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 Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 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 - Avril Williams 360605
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**
Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am 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 Mrs Berry ☎211955
- 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.
- 3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎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 September-Moorfields. 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

- 9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Sally Banks ☎870357
- 1.15pm Sing and Stomp.** For toddlers & their carers. Run by the Putnoe Children's Centre. 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 21 September– Tea and Chat Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 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 September 21 Harvest. For more details call Janet King 313946
- 8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966
- 10am U3A Card Making.** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet King ☎313946
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next -September 29 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Monthly. First meeting 6 October. Wendy Waters 401834
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

6.15pm 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 September 29 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

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

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. 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 Jaana Swaby ☎363283

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. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins 07919402797

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

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

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎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

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry ☎01462 674792

7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun.

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 8 November
Partnership Council 18 October 7.30pm at St Mark's
St Mark's Leadership Team 18 October
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 18 October
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 27 Sept.
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 noon, 16th November
Putnoe Church Council - 25 October.
Pastoral Group Meeting - 12 October 4.15pm in chapel
Churchyard Committee - 29 September
Putnoe Heights Mission Group
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings
Deanery Meeting - . 18 November at St Peter's
Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting
Circuit Meeting
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Ordinary 24

Opening Sentence from Scripture Psalm 113:4

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

Collect (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. *Methodist Worship*

Old Testament 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. (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. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading Luke 16: 1-13

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



So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches

Jesus

Post Communion Prayer

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

Hymns for Sunday (Please distribute Holy Communion and Mission Praise)

1. Lord of creation 440 (Tune Slane)
2. Safe in the shadow of the Lord 583
3. Broken for me 66
4. We rest on thee 735 (Tune Finlandia)

Commentary

People can be very ingenious when it comes to financial dealings! Some of the financial instruments developed to bet on stock markets and use of hedge funds are quite remarkable. But is Jesus really praising dishonest, unfair business as opposed to just clever stuff which pushes the ethical boundaries? The parable for today appears at first sight to be about praising someone for being ingenious and cheating, for conducting dishonest business practice.

Since some think it is impossible that Jesus would ever encourage his followers to cheat, so fanciful explanations of this parable are imagined to try and make it mean something which is not in the text. However Jesus is not extolling the virtues of dishonest business practice. The parable like many parables has just one central message and it is that which we are supposed to take from it. If we think that every bit of a parable has a meaning we end up in all sorts of problems; they are not allegories.

Jesus often uses stories about bad behaviour or bad people to illustrate what God is like and what we should be like.

- The judge who would only give a poor widow her due after she bothered him over and over again.
- The person who would not budge from his bed to help welcome a stranger until his door was beaten on repeatedly.
- The example of the man who found a treasure in someone's field and went out and bought it so that he could get the profit.

These parables have a central message which the whole story is to convey. So what is the parable today really about?

1. Firstly a master hears that his manager has been misappropriating funds. He doesn't like being robbed, so he resolves to dismiss the employee. This kind of thing goes on all the time in business today. We hear of Directors of companies who employ their wives and even cleaners, on vast salaries for doing nothing, take expensive holidays and charge it to the company, grant themselves ridiculous share options they do not deserve and then want golden handshakes for leaving the companies they have screwed up. Nothing new under the sun.

2. When the manager realises he has been caught out he has a problem, being a manager is the only thing that he knows how to do, but the fact that he now has a reputation for being dishonest means that he will not be able to secure employment anywhere else as a steward. That is perhaps not so obvious from the economy today because we find so many exposed executives continuing to serve on the boards of other companies. (names definitely withheld) ! Anyway he tries to get himself out of trouble by falsely adjusting the amount owed by his master's debtors. We are told he did it for no other reason than to ingratiate himself to these people so that after he was sacked they would welcome him.

3. The master hears what the steward has done and praises him for his actions. Some have supposed he praised him because he had made the master look generous. I am not sure about that but it is clear that the unrighteous manager and his master valued the same thing - shrewdness. Both the unrighteous steward and his master were members of the group which Jesus characterised as "the sons of this age." The expression, "it takes one to know one" fits here. The master could recognise and appreciate "shrewdness" because he valued it and he practised it, and as such he was "one" with his steward. That was most probably the behaviour which made the master wealthy in the first place.

And so the central message of the parable today is about self-preservation.

If we care for nothing else surely we should care for our own lives.

The crafty steward uses his cleverness to make sure that he would be alright, he was looking after number

1. Jesus encourages that single-mindedness and cleverness in spiritual terms. Jesus is commending the

forethought of the manager in looking after himself - in doing good to those who in turn may be expected to do good to him. The issue in today's parable for us is not about honesty or dishonesty - rather the issue is this, just how shrewd, clever, and committed are we Christians when it comes to our faith?

Are we as anxious to ensure our future with God as the dishonest manager was to ensure his future in this world? Indeed, the issue at the very root of the parable of dishonest manager is this, are we, as Christians really committed to Jesus and his way? This is so hard. Are we, who sit together here today, really committed, really full of faith? Really committed to God and God's purpose for our lives and the life of the world? The challenge that Jesus uses at the end of this parable about commitment and single-mindedness is a challenge as to whether we value God or mammon/money. Where do our priorities lie? Perhaps you haven't thought of it before-but did you realise that over one third of Jesus' parables and sayings concern the relationship between faithfulness and money? Jesus talks so much about money because, when push comes to shove, loyalties are revealed by what people do with their money and how they feel about it.

- The rich young ruler - who left Jesus because he was rich?
- Levi - who left everything and followed Jesus?
- The Sermon on the Mount - and the lilies of the field which do not spin or toil?
- The camel and the eye of the needle?
- The Widow who gave everything she had to the Temple Treasury?

These are all stories about loyalty and about what is important to people and what they seek - God or Mammon. And to drive his point home at the end of this parable Jesus uses what is perhaps one of his most famous sayings concerning faithfulness and money-

"No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

If we are seeking to serve only the desire for more and more money then we will be very focused. In serving one master our efforts will not be divided, not confused, not lost in the gap that always exists between two masters. As Christians we will do things badly if we attempt to serve two masters - to serve both God and mammon - God and wealth. Maybe this morning this parable will cause us to question whether or not we are really serving God. Not just doing a bit as a hobby but actually serving God with the all the shrewdness and effort and resources that you put into other things in your life. Charles Royden

Meditation

Nobody makes a bigger mistake
than he who does nothing
because he could only do a little

Edmund Burke 1729-1797

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

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

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. Psalm 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.

Offertory Envelopes (Putnoe Heights). Sets of envelopes for the next twelve months are available for collection from a table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the envelope scheme, or to have more information about it, is invited to contact John Hitt, Tel 404186.

Dance 4 All 2010 Saturday 16 October from 11am to 5.30pm. £2 all day. Bedford Corn Exchange, Civic Theatre, Harpur Suite and Howard Room. To promote dance in a wide range of forms. More information contact Sports Development Unit, Bedford Borough Council 01234 221700 amy.rance@bedford.gov.uk.

A date for the diary. St Mark's Craft Fayre this year is on 20 November 10.30.to 3.30p.m

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch Harvest Lunch. Sunday 3 October Putnoe Heights By popular request, steak or chicken pies are on the menu this year! Tickets now on sale from Putnoe Office or in church on Sunday mornings. £6.00 (£3.00 for children) for two courses and soft drink. Own bottles of wine welcome with glasses provided.

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

The Bandstand Marathon Sunday 26 September 2 -4pm, Mill Meadows, Bedford. It's that time of year again when Bedford takes part in the Cultural Olympiad Event, The Bandstand Marathon. We will be part of a national marathon when 100+ bands will be striking up in bandstands all over the country at the same time on the same date and we are the only bandstand in the whole of the county to be participating. This year we will have tea, coffee, cakes and pancakes available to make the day more enjoyable. So bring friends and family along to Mill Meadows and enjoy the concert performed by our nationally renowned Bedford Town Band. This year our invited guests helping to celebrate the Cultural Olympiad are from Special Schools, Children in Care, Youth Parliament, Foster Carers and Adult Services. The Mayor will be opening the concert saying a little about the services we have in our communities.

Services at Highfield will resume after the summer break, on Sunday 19 September at 2.30pm. If you are free and would like to come the Team will be pleased to have your support in this Pastoral outreach. Vera Pearson

What is Messy Church?

An afternoon of creative fun for children of school age and their carers. This is developed through craft activities, songs and a short talk. The afternoon ends with a freshly prepared meal for everyone !
St Mark's Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford.



Once a month on Wednesday or Thursday afternoons starting October 6, at 3.45pm ends 5.30pm. No need to book just turn up. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information see: www.ThisIsChurch.com or Phone: 01234 342613

'Messy Church' update. We are delighted with the response to our request for help. To date, 12 people have offered their time and varied talents. However, on the day of our first session, 15.45 to 17.30 Wednesday 6 October, a few of them have other commitments and so we are seeking people who could come for about an hour, either to help serve food, supervise simple crafts or for a shorter time to help clear up. Future dates are Wednesdays 10 November and 8 December. If you are able to help please speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters.

House Group September 2010 Wendy Waters will be holding a house group at 13 Farnham Way, Putnoe at 7.45 pm on Mondays: 20th, and 27th September; 4th, 18th and 25th October. We will use a 'York Course' entitled 'In the Wilderness'. These are very popular courses based on a CD which provides thought provoking input from Christians; on this course they include Rob Frost and Elaine Storkey. There is also a booklet which forms the basis of informal exploration and discussion. If you are interested in being part of the group or for more details please contact Wendy Waters on 401834.

Valerie and Peter Littleford will be holding a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support at their home, 1 Bindon Abbey, Riverfield, Bedford from 10.00 to 12.00 on Friday 24th September. As well as coffee there will also be a Bring & Buy stall and a raffle. We hope you will be able to join us!

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The Circus is coming to Brickhill. To celebrate its Golden Anniversary in 2010 we have invited the Big Top along to entertain young and old. Saturday 25th September 2010 at 1.00pm or 4.00pm. Tickets are available now, £7 each or £25 for 4. On sale now at St

Mark's Church Office

Money Advice Centre . Also we warmly invite you to the Service of Prayer on 19th September at 6pm to celebrate the launch of Money Advice at St Andrew's.

Sankey Moody Music Night at Putnoe Heights Church celebrating the work of Ira Sankey and Dwight Moody. Owing to unforeseen circumstances this will now take place a week later on Sunday 31 October at Putnoe Heights Church at 6-30pm. If you would like to join in forming a singing group for this service, please contact Mike Puttock (m.puttock@sky.com) or Eric Royden (ericroyden@gmail.com, 01234 94496)

Volunteering Opportunity – St Mark's Clubhouse
St Marks' Clubhouse is a project which provides social opportunities and training for adults with learning difficulties. The project is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9 am and 3 pm. We want to build up a bank of volunteers who would like to contribute to this valuable and rewarding project. Our volunteering opportunities offer the chance to work with a mixed group of people and we are looking for people of all ages and experience to help us with a range of tasks. This could be your chance to share your skills, make a difference to your community and learn more about life for people living with learning difficulties. If you (or anyone you know) would like to find out more please contact Delia Shephard on 07753 843446.



Come ye thankful people, come !

Harvest Festival
Sunday 3 October

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

Please note that harvest leaflets are available at each church this morning. Please take and use to invite friends and neighbours along to our harvest festival service.

Sunday morning Taxi Service St Mark's provides a taxi service for the 9.30am service. This service is free of charge for those who have difficulty transporting themselves to Church. To book this service all that you have to do is to telephone St Mark's Church Office during the week before 1.00pm on Friday. We will then arrange to have you collected by our driver, it is as simple as that!
Avril Williams 360605

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.

Robert Reid Alexander
Hilda May Ross
Pauline Joan Macey

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

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Mr John Kay will take place at St mark's Chapel on Tuesday 21 September at 11.30am

The funeral of Mr Graham Richard Harland will take place at Bedford Crem on Thursday 30 September at 10.45am