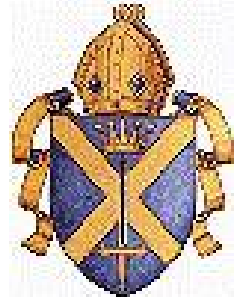


# Partnership News

1st August 2010  
Ordinary 18



## 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 –Family Worship**  
Preacher -Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton  
Intercessions – Mr W Holden

**11.00am Putnoe -Family Worship**  
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mr Lawrence Wyatt  
Intercessions - Ministers

### 8 August — Ordinary 19

**9.30am St. Mark's– Morning Worship**

Preacher– Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing  
Intercessions - Mrs Wendy Waters

**11.00am Putnoe –Morning Worship**  
Preacher – Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

**Readings** 1 Gen 15: 1-6 .2. Heb 11: 1-3, 8-16  
3. Luke 12: 32-40

### 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 St Mark's this week have been given by Mary Stubbs in memory of John on the first anniversary of his death.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Lawrence and Betty Wyatt in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

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

God, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair. In you is calmness, peace and concord. Heal our divisions, draw us into your divine nature, and through the embrace of your love make us one in Spirit. Amen.

*Dionysius of Alexandria (d. 264)*

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

### Deacon Jane Mason

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

### The Reverend Charles Royden

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

### For Data Protection Purposes

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

Partnership News is also archived on our church website [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com  
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Mr 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 19 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

**9.30am 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 August 17 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-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 August 10 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 15 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .

**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

**1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

**2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

**1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823

**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966

**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.

**6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe

Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎ 347073

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting September 1st. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Alan ☎ 345312. 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

### Bedford

**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.

Ordinary riches can be stolen,  
real riches cannot.

In your soul are  
infinitely precious things  
that cannot be taken from you.

*Oscar Wilde, 19th century*



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – 8 November.

**St Mark's Leadership Team** –

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 18 October

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** - 27 Sept.

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting** - 12 noon, 15 September, 16th November

**Putnoe Church Council** - 25 October.

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** - 29 September

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group**

**Partnership Council**—TBA

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings**

**Deanery Meeting** - .

**Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting**

**Circuit Meeting** 13 Sept.

**Woodland Burial Trustees** –

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth** –

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

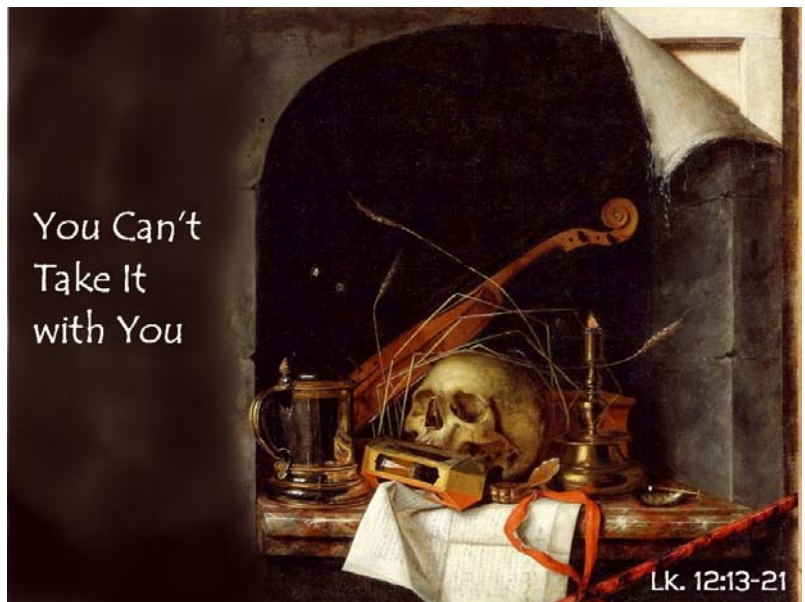
## Ordinary 18

### Opening Sentence from Scripture - Luke 12

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

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

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen



### Old Testament Reading - Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14, 2: 18-23

Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless. I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men! I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the work into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labour under the sun. For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. What does a man get for all the toil and anxious striving with which he labours under the sun? All his days his work is pain and grief; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is meaningless (This is the word of the Lord -- **All: Thanks be to God**)

### Epistle Reading –Col 3: 1-11

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. (Reader This is the Word of the Lord, **All: Thanks be to God**)

### Gospel Reading - Luke 12: 13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and

there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

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

### **Post Communion Prayer**

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. Amen

### **Hymns** (*Please distribute Family Worship and Mission Praise.*)

1. All creatures of our God and King, 7;
2. We really want to thank you Lord, 734;
3. Let us with a gladsome mind, 415;
4. Through all the changing scenes of life, 702;
5. Immortal, Invisible, God only wise, 327

### **Commentary 'Balancing Values'**

In today's gospel reading Jesus is continuing His journey to Jerusalem that he started back in Lk 9 v 51. On this journey Jesus has many interactions with the people he encounters and also continues to teach the disciples as they travel towards Jerusalem. Today, as he was teaching His disciples He appears to be interrupted by someone who wanted Him to resolve a family dispute over inheritance. To be asked to be a mediator in any kind of dispute was an honourable role in the Jewish culture of the time and Jesus responds with dignity, humility and very wise diplomacy to this request by asking who appointed Him as judge or arbiter between the two brothers.

Perhaps the request is based on the Mosaic Law precept that defines that an elder son should receive twice the inheritance of the younger, a concept which is backed up in the Mishnah, a book which expands the Jewish law and was much used by Rabbis in this kind of dispute. Perhaps the requestor just wanted to go 50:50 with his brother on their inheritance and was looking for Jesus to support him in his request. Perhaps he wanted Jesus to overturn the prevailing Jewish law. But there is clearly more to the story than this. Interestingly the man was not really asking for advice. He merely wanted Jesus to stand on his side and "tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." He wanted Jesus to get the money for him. Not surprisingly Jesus sees through this pretence and points out to the man that what is at the heart of his request is not justice or arbitration but greed and a desire to

amass possessions. Jesus then uses the story of the farmer to illustrate the point, probably very fitting as He is almost certainly in a rural environment at the time. Life, Jesus point out, is not just about accumulating wealth and possessions for self satisfaction and enjoyment; it's also about the relationship we have with God. When we die, our wealth and possessions will mean nothing, but our relationship with God, through Christ, will be all important. Our future is always in God's hands and we must trust in Him for that future. It's very easy for us to be critical of the man who comes to Jesus, but it's also very easy for us to begin to fall into the same category as him. It would appear that the man is not a bad man, or even necessarily particularly greedy, he just wants what he believes to be fairly his. But as we've seen, at the centre of today's readings is not so much the theme of wealth and possessions but more our attitude to and pursuit of our material security. In today's materialistic world we can so easily get sidetracked into thinking that wealth and possessions are the ultimate route to security and independence. It's easy to believe that if we had a bit more money in the bank, if the mortgage was paid off, if our pension was a little larger, if we didn't have to pay so much tax that everything would be better as we would be better off. And it's true that wealth does appear to protect some people from the normal everyday vulnerabilities to some extent, and that lack of wealth can cause significant social and economic problems on a personal, local, national and international scale. But the reality is that we are created in God's

image and are therefore not dependent on our individual or national wealth but on each other and most particularly God Himself. It's not so much a question of what we possess, but what possesses us. In terms of the world as a whole, we are all wealthy in relative terms, and few, if any of us, live in real poverty. So it's easy to believe our security is to be found in the things we have worked hard for or inherited, and it's equally easy to be consumed by ensuring we have 'just a little more than' enough to get by. In one sense there is nothing wrong with wanting to have material possessions and security. God wants us to be wise stewards of the wealth and possessions He has given us. But we should not confuse being wise stewards with people who are consumed with the pursuit and protection of our own personal wealth. Ultimately we will answer to God when we die, as the final verse from our reading in Luke points out. Similarly, the writer of Ecclesiastes had experienced all that money can buy and ends up calling it 'vanity of vanities'. 'Meaningless', 'Fragile', 'Symbolic' or more colloquially 'Scotch Mist' are other words that have been used to translate this phrase. For him it brings no real gain, causes hard work, and must all be left behind when he dies. Ancestral inheritance was one of Judaism's central symbols and getting it right was part of obedience to God's will. The nation of Israel had traditionally prided itself on national identity and security, claiming for itself more and more 'ancestral' territory. Perhaps Israel had lost the true focus of their inheritance; an inheritance which was based on a covenant relationship with God, not just in promised lands and possessions. God wants us to enjoy life, but not without a relationship with Him. In the epistle reading Paul exhorts all followers of Christ to 'set your minds on things above, not on earthly things'. And it's as we set our minds on Him that we achieve the balance between current and future needs and using our money, and all that God has given us, wisely. And in so doing we come into our ultimate inheritance, the promise of eternal life. *Sam Cappleman*

### **Meditation**

In one of his books Leo Tolstoy tells the story of a young Russian who inherits his father's small farm. He immediately starts dreaming of how to expand his property when one morning a well-dressed stranger visits him and makes him an offer that is too good to be true - he could have free of charge all the property he could walk around in one day. The only condition was that he returns to the same spot from which he started, the grave of his father, before the sun went down. Seeing the rich fields in the distance, he sets out without taking any food, water or provisions of any sort or even saying goodbye to his family. He thought he



could walk around and cover six square miles in a day. After a short while he decided to make it nine, then twelve and finally fifteen square miles. By noon he makes it to the halfway point. Though hungry with his legs aching he continues. He was near the point of exhaustion but the obsession to own the land drives him on. With only a few minutes left before the sun went down, he gathers all his strength, stumbles across the line, the new owner of fifteen square miles of land, and then collapses on the ground, dead. The stranger smiles and said, "I offered him all the land he could cover. Now you see what that is, six feet long by two feet wide, and I thought he would like to have the land close to his father's grave, rather than to have it anywhere else." Having said that, the stranger whose name is Death vanishes, saying "I have kept my pledge."

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**"There is enough in the world for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed."**  
*Frank Buchman*

## Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

O God, the King of Righteousness, lead us we pray, in the way of justice and of peace. Inspire us to break down all oppression and wrong, to gain for everyone their reward, and from every one their due service; that each may live for all, and all may care for each, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in our asking; have compassion on our weakness, and give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen Lord, Jesus Christ, let me seek you by desiring you, and let me desire you by seeking you. Let me find you by loving you, and love you in finding you. Amen.

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Strengthen us, O God, to relieve the oppressed, to hear the groans of poor prisoners, to reform the abuses of all professions; that many be made not poor to make a few rich. For Jesus Christ's sake. (Oliver Cromwell 1599-1658 adapted from letter after battle of Dunbar)

Father of everlasting goodness, our Creator and Guide, be close to us and hear our prayers. Forgive us when we forget to trust You to provide us with every blessing in this life. Giver of all good gifts, help us not to seek things for ourselves, but to seek ways in which we might be of service to others

Teach us to treasure Christ and His grace above all earthly possessions. Help us to continually cast our lot with life and not with death; with grace and not with judgement, with love and not with hate, with giving and not with receiving, with praising and not being praised., with trusting and not with fear. As we pray for ourselves, we pray also for blessing to be upon others, bring to pass that which they most need in their lives right now:

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### Junior Church at Putnoe Heights and St. Mark's

There is no Junior Church during August. We start again on 5th September. The crèche at St Mark's will be available all the time as normal.

### Storybox and Story Plus at Putnoe Heights

starts back Monday 6th September. Thank you to all volunteers who do a great job every week! Emma

**St Mark's Messy Church—helpers needed.** This will be held monthly from 3.45pm to 5.30pm. First one Wednesday 6 October. Many thanks to those of you who have already responded to Wendy Water's talk on 18 July. As Wendy said on the day 'many hands make light work', so please prayerfully consider if this is something with which God is calling you to be involved. No special skills needed just willingness to be part of this exciting new venture for school age children and their carers. For more details please see the display at the back of the church, or speak to: Janet Day, Jean Bank, Marion Prior, Richard Ledger or Wendy Waters..

**Putnoe Thursday Prayer Group** Prayer Group will not meet on 5 August.

**The Putnoe Heights** Friday afternoon silent prayer group will not be taking place during the summer holidays. We will reconvene on Friday 3rd September. Many thanks. Sam Ware (304058) and Eileen Brown (267909)

**Website Changes.** Some of you will have noticed that the church website has not been refreshed for a couple of weeks. This is due to some technical changes which are taking place at present. we hope that the site will be up to date very soon but with a few major enhancements.



### St Mark's Hog Roast and Mini Quiz

Saturday 4th  
September 2010  
7.30pm Tickets  
£8.00 Please Bring  
your own  
refreshments. There  
will be dietary  
concessions for those who do not love roast pig.

### Come and join us for our Summer Workshop

Daniel and the Lion, for all children aged 5 yrs +, at Putnoe Heights Church. This will take place on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th August 2010, 10.30am -until 3pm with games, singing, drama and crafts. Two fun days! Bring your own lunch, drinks provided. Some help on both days would be gratefully accepted. For further details contact Emma Gordon-Youth Worker 07593266091 or Carolyn Morris 01234 350722 after 12 noon.

**Flowers from St Mark's** For many years Putnoe Heights Church has distributed flowers to friends of the church. The flowers are removed from the displays around the church. These might be delivered on a special occasion, when somebody is poorly or bereaved. St Mark's will implement the same activity and flowers will be removed from displays etc to be taken out into the community. The Leadership Team will be responsible for this and would appreciate being told of anybody who would value this thoughtful gesture.

**Footprints Walk** Join us for a gentle stroll along part of the Bromham heritage trail on Sunday 1 August (about 3 miles). Meet at Bromham Mill car park at 2.30pm. John & Sally

**Our grateful thanks** to all the volunteers who helped with The Great Gappo on Monday 26th July. It was a great success. Emma and Carolyn

**Your Church Needs You!** Putnoe Heights are currently looking for church members who can help with Sunday Intercessions; communion stewards and office volunteers. Please consider becoming

one of our invaluable volunteers and join one of our rotas. Contact Sam Ware 304050 or Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

**Coach Trip to Festival of Quilts** at NEC Birmingham on Thursday 19 August. £23 including entrance, leaving Putnoe Heights at 8.30am and leaving NEC at 4pm. More details Val Morgan Bedford 266963.

**"Gathering on the Green"** Waveney Green, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010 11am to 3pm.

Brickhill Parish Council invites everyone in Brickhill to our outdoor community event next week. Stop off on the Green on Wednesday and enjoy FREE activities for children and young people such as face-painting, bouncy castles, climbing tower, football, magic shows music workshops and lots of other entertainment. For older members of the community there is free information and advice from lots of different agencies working in Brickhill. Come and find out about local health services, community safety, recycling to name just a few of our stalls. This is a great opportunity for our community to get together, celebrate life and learn more about what's going on in Brickhill. (Contact details – Tel: Delia or Alison 01234 271708 or email: clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk)

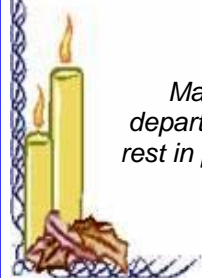
**Putnoe Heights Church Grounds and Interior cleaning day.** Saturday 14th August from 9.30am. Tea, coffee and cold drinks provided. Turn up and leave as available. Plan to end with shared lunch for those interested so please bring something. Jane Mason.



**Visit our online chapel, Light a Candle of Remembrance.** We have now provided the opportunity to visit our online chapel and light a prayer candle. Please visit [www.thischurch.com](http://www.thischurch.com) and click on the candle.

### 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.'*

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### Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Margaret Luff will take place at St Mark's on Thursday 5 August at 11.30am.