



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

23 August 2009

Ordinary 21



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Minister

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr. Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions – Nash Family

Sunday 30th August - Ordinary 22

9.30am St. Mark's - Holy Communion PCH

Preacher - Mr B Owen
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions -

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr B Owen
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Readings 1. 2. Ephesians 6:10-20 3. John 6:

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Clive & Jane Coppenhall and family, and Grace Foster, for the safe return of Jade.

The flowers at St Mark's are given by Jean and Roger Bank, as they celebrate their Wedding Anniversary.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Jennie Cooper 404950(Putnoe Heights) or

Prayer for Sunday

Of your goodness, O God, give yourself to me, for you are sufficient for all my needs. Though I am not worthy to receive you, I cannot ask for anything less. Without you I shall always be in want. In you alone do I have all I require, now and for ever. Amen.

Julian of Norwich, 1342-1420

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
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For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349
youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747 or 07881730747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 30 August Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

- 9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's Mrs Brown☎771676
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461
- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting September 1 Devotional. Details from Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton 346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 8 September Digital switchover. Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 16 September 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎ 365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎ 262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731
- 6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen 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 2 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016
7.45 for 8pm God talk - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. (No meeting on 9th April)
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070
12pm Storybox St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Next meeting 10 September Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St.Mark's ☎267444
1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎272470 Next meeting 24 September
4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094
7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎346505

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397
9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St

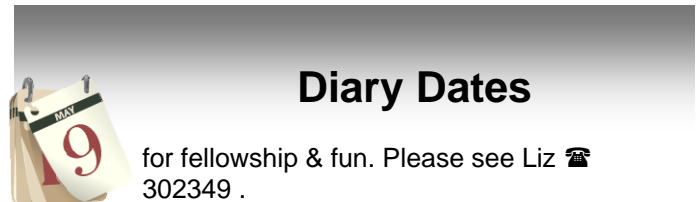
Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086
12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183
5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468
2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994
6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360
7pm Bedford Art Society monthly Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 1st May Mary Rich ☎272470
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

9.45am Bedford Stamp Auction at Putnoe Heights Next Auction 30th May. Contact Stuart or Anne 01327 876438
10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414
Young Embroiders bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 357198
2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792
7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.
1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515
6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us



Diary Dates

for fellowship & fun. Please see Liz ☎302349 .

St Mark's Church Council – 9 Nov
St Mark's Leadership Team –
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 12 Oct, 8 Feb 2010
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 8 Sept , 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010
Putnoe Church Council - 5 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee - 19 August
Putnoe Heights Mission Group—Wed.16th September 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way
Partnership Council - September 6th
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Deanery Meeting 17 Sep, 19 Nov,
Circuit/Treasurers Revue meeting at St. Mark's 15 September 7.30pm
Circuit Meeting at Sharnbrook Methodist Church 16 September at 7.30pm
Woodland Burial Trustees –Sept
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

Ordinary 21

Opening Verses of Scripture -Psalm 34:18,22

The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit, The Lord redeems His servants; no-one who takes refuge in Him will be condemned.

Collect Prayer for the Day *Before we read we pray*
O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity; mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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. *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading– Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Joshua said to all the people, “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our fathers up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we travelled. And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.”

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

Second Reading - Ephesians 6: 10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading—John 6: 56-69

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds



on this bread will live for ever.” He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no-one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.” From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

Hymns (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymns and Psalms*)

1. Let all the world 10 Luckington
2. Teach me my God and king 803 Sandys
3. Blessed assurance 668
4. Be thou my vision 378 Slane
5. Begone unbelief 667 Tune Hoghton

Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Commentary

It would be wrong not to make some mention of the reading from Joshua today, it is one of those really poignant moments which stand out in the Old Testament. Joshua has succeeded Moses and has led the tribes of Israel into the Promise Land. We are at the end of the Book of Joshua, and he has called the tribes together to renew their covenant with God. Joshua stood before the tribes of Israel; reminded them of the wonderful feats of deliverance and miracles God had performed on their way to the Promise Land. Then he asked them to make a choice between the false gods or the God their ancestors served "... who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, out of the state of slavery." For the Israelites it was crunch time!

In the Gospel reading today we are brought to another such time of choice. The last of 5 weeks in church we have read Chapter 6 of the Gospel of John. Beginning with the sign of the feeding of 5,000 men plus an unknown number of women and children, the whole Chapter has used bread as an extended metaphor to describe what it is that Jesus is offering and the relationship which Jesus wants us to have with him. Now Jesus is presenting his followers with a 'Make your mind up time!'

It is now that we discover just how tough the message of Jesus was for some who followed him. They have a real crisis of faith and we can hardly believe it, they walked away! So far following Jesus has been easy and exciting - he has been performing signs and wonders, successfully challenging the authorities, and giving us hopes that "this is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." (John 6:14)

But now the message of Jesus has become much more threatening, he speaks of eating his flesh and drinking his blood. There is going to be more to following this Jesus than simply wandering around the countryside eating free dinners. Jesus is asking for a completely different level of commitment, flesh and blood. It should come as no surprise to us that some were disappointed with Jesus and melted away when they discovered that his kingdom was not of this world.

We read that "From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him"

Simon Peter makes a declaration of his devotion to Jesus, similar to that in Matthew 16:13-20, Mark 8:27-30, and Luke 9:18-21. He tells Jesus

You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

It is important to remind ourselves that we should expect that not everybody is cut out for the business of

following Jesus. Sometimes we are so eager to make the Gospel message understandable and acceptable that we tone down the really difficult stuff. It is understandable that we do not want to put people off, however the Gospel is challenging, demanding and asks difficult questions of us. We need to be very cautious about producing a 'Gospel for all' and reducing Jesus to a very nice man. Following Jesus means that we must be prepared to choose our priorities and Jesus is not satisfied with half measures. Today Jesus is calling for full commitment and we have to consider which side we are on.

The response of Simon Peter was, "Master to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." What is your response? *Charles Royden*

Meditation

In his emotionally volatile poem *The Collar*, the pastor and poet George Herbert (1593–1633) considered quitting faith and the ministry altogether. Born to wealth and privilege, Herbert forsook a faculty post at Cambridge University and public service as a Member of Parliament, and in 1629 became the rector at Bemerton, a small village near Salisbury. There he spent the rest of his short life

The Collar

I struck the board, and cry'd, No more.
I will abroad.
What? shall I ever sigh and pine?
My lines and life are free; free as the rode,
Loose as the winde, as large as store.
Shall I be still in suit?
Have I no harvest but a thorn
To let me bloud, and not restore
What I have lost with cordiall fruit?
Sure there was wine
Before my sighs did drie it: there was corn
Before my tears did drown it.
Is the yeare onely lost to me?
Have I no bayes to crown it?
No flowers, no garlands gay? all blasted?
All wasted?
Not so, my heart: but there is fruit,
And thou hast hands.
Recover all thy sigh-blown age
On double pleasures: leave thy cold dispute
Of what is fit and not. Forsake thy cage,
Thy rope of sands,
Which petty thoughts have made, and made to thee
Good cable, to enforce and draw,
And be thy law,
While thou didst wink and wouldst not see.
Away; take heed:
I will abroad.
Call in thy deaths head there: tie up thy fears.
He that forbears
To suit and serve his need,
Deserves his load.
But as I rav'd and grew more fierce and wilde
At every word,
Me thoughts I heard one calling, Child!
And I reply'd, My Lord.

as a country cleric; a month before his fortieth birthday he died of tuberculosis. The title of Herbert's poem evokes the stiff clerical collar that he wore; he complains that it's choking the life out of him. He begins his tirade by pounding the church altar ("the board") on which he would have served the Eucharist — wham! — and screaming what many a pastor and believer has felt but dared not express: "No more. I quit."

Herbert's poem is full of images of constraint against which he rebels — his clerical collar, cables, a cage, ropes, laws, and his stuffy suit. He chafes at the conformity imposed upon him, and dreams about a life "free as the road, loose as the winde, as large as store." Why not flee? He grouses that his only reward for ministerial service is a harvest of thorns, and wonders whether he has wasted his years. Did he miss out on life and ambition? He regrets the pleasures and privileges that he forfeited. Perhaps he never should have left Cambridge and London for Bemerton?

In the end, Herbert comes full circle. He concludes that the real "ropes," "cage," and "cables" that bind him are not the gospel or ministerial servitude but his own "petty thoughts." In fact, the more "fierce and wilde" he raved, the more in his heart of hearts he "heard one calling, Child!" The poem ends with a robust recommitment of faith to "My Lord."

George Herbert wrote hymns such as 'Let all the world in every corner sing, and teach me my God and king

Youth, children and friends summer diary dates

Monday 24 August under 5's summer workshop 2.00 till 4.00 and Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26 August 5 years plus summer workshop 10.00 till 3.00pm Join us to "Travel God's world." Both these events celebrate the United Nations Year of the Child and will include stories of Children in the Bible, stories from around the world, music, games, crafts and Fun! Small charge. There will be no Junior Church or YPF at Putnoe during August. If you are able to help any of these groups in anyway over the summer or at the new term start in September please speak to Liz or Emma. Thank you for all your support. See Liz for further details on all the above events.

Action for Children -House to House Collection

Action for Children (formally NCH) works with disadvantaged and disabled children and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including the Methodist Church. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. The annual house to house Collection to support the vital work of the NCH will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £950. If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information, then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel: 342507)

Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike on Saturday 12

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

Gathering on the Green Waveney Green, Brickhill Thursday 27 August 11am-3pm. Free activities including climbing tower, 5 a-side football, kick boxing, rave bus and bouncy castles. Plus have your say on the new natural play area at Waveney Avenue. Organised by Brickhill Parish Council.

Welcome to Deacon Jane. This just a reminder to put into your diaries the welcome service for Deacon Jane Mason. The service will be held at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday 9 September at 7.30pm. All are invited to attend.

Do you have any memories of Brickhill in the 60s and 70s? Brickhill Parish Council is planning to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Brickhill over a 12 month period from late 2009 to late 2010 which

coincides with the 50th anniversary of the time when the first houses were occupied and when Brickhill Lower School was first opened as a new infants school. The Council is looking for photographs and press cuttings of Brickhill during the 1960s and 1970s to copy and use to illustrate a display to develop interest in this project. If you can help please contact Delia Shephard, Clerk to the Council on 01234 271703 or email clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk.

House Group September 2009 Wendy Waters will be holding a house group at 13 Farnham Way, Putnoe at 7.45 pm on Tuesday 1; Monday 7 and 28 September; Monday 5 and 12 October. We will use a 'York Course' entitled 'Where is God ...?'. The course comprises of a CD which provides thought provoking input from Christians such as, Archbishop Rowan Williams and Patricia Routledge and 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.

St Mark's Church Bank Holiday Monday Car Boot Sale.

We are once again asking for your help on Monday 31st August Bric-a-brac, tools, china, books etc for the church stall very welcome. Tray bakes welcome. St Marks Church will be open Sunday afternoon, just turn up and leave your unwanted valuables for us to sell.

Bedford NHS Trust run every Friday afternoon a circuit group at Robinson pool in the circuit studio. This is a special group for people who are on low or fixed-incomes, have a disability, or are just unemployed at the present time do to the economic climate. Entrance to the group is just £2.50 and this is a NON-PROFIT making group. Should the circuit group be of interest to anyone at the church then please do get in contact so we can give them more details. Stuart Buchanan 08714 235044



Please consider using Amazon.com for your shopping needs. Free delivery on orders over £5 Please always log on to Amazon through www.Thisischurch.com. Only if you do this do we get usually 5% of the cost donated to thisischurch.com. Please remember that if you go and look at items first without going through our link - we will not get the commission. They know!!

You can now also buy gift vouchers !

Thursford Christmas Spectacular

Priory has some tickets available for their trip on 15 November leaving at 2.30 and stopping for tea with Neil Harper at Kings Lynn Methodist Church.

The producer and director, John Cushing indulges his own belief in creating a magical Christmas of yesteryear – a time of love, hope and giving. And in his opinion, the one element that encapsulates the spirit of Christmas more than any other is music. The ultimate Christmas musical experience is simply one of the most exciting Christmas Spectacular shows ever. It is the most popular Christmas show of all time in England and is a blend of exciting Christmas entertainment, with Christmas songs, carols, dazzling dancers, beautiful costumes, outstanding music and singing from a cast of over one hundred. Each show is a pageant of spectacle and colour – the music a seamless transition from an up-beat dance routine to a choral rendition of a Christmas carol, a show which would not be out of place in any London's west end theatres.

It is a night to remember.

If anyone is interested in joining the trip please speak to Eileen Davis 01234 215057 who can give details of the cost and availability.

Community Police Surgery has restarted at Putnoe Heights. The police will be in attendance [subject to operational requirements] on the following times and dates: 1pm-3pm Wednesday 19th/26th August - 9th/16th September 2009.

Putnoe Community Police Forum The next meeting will be held at Putnoe Heights on Thursday 27 August from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

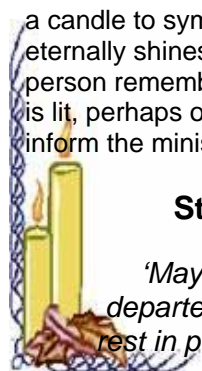
Opening the book of bible stories in lower schools. That is what over 100 people in Kempston and Bedford have been doing for the past ten years through Open the Book Project. Now we need some new story tellers to join existing teams or go into more schools. For more information email Ruth Robbins, rrobbins545@hotmail.com mentioning Open the Book in the subject line

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.

Stanley George Nagus

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



Request from St Mark's Clubhouse

In September, we are starting to operate various 6 weekly courses for our learning disabled service users. These are planned up to next April. We will be welcoming some new people, as well as some of our existing users, to the courses. The response has been excellent but we do need some more equipment and materials and that is where you come in! We would like to ask you to delve into your cupboards and send in any of the following unwanted items – they would be very much appreciated! For our cooking course: weighing scales, mixing bowls, spatulas, sweet moulds, jam tart tins, baking sheets, cooling racks, rolling pins, chopping boards, paper cake and sweet cases, icing equipment – or any other cooking item you think would be useful.

For Christmas crafts course: unwanted decorations, ie baubles, tree decorations, tinsel etc., items from old wreaths, oasis and oasis shapes (ie wreaths) ribbons, material oddments, candles – or again any other items you think we could use.

For soft toy making: any oddments of materials, threads, stuffing, buttons and double knit wool. We are open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to receive any of the above items, they will be put to very good use. Alternatively please drop off items at the Church office. Thank you very much. Karen and Clubhouse staff 01234 315460

Scot's Society of St Andrew, Bedford will be holding their Annual Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale in aid of St. John's Hospice, Moggerhanger at Putnoe Heights on SATURDAY 29th August from 10am to 12.30pm.

Thank you to Judith Stanton and her supporters at Whist Drive, for their donation of £115 to St Mark's Church Funds. Also thank you to one of her members who sold jam and made a donation of £25 to the church.

How diverse is your Church?

The Methodist Church is conducting a web-based survey and Methodists across the country are given the chance to feed back on equality and diversity in their church in order to gain a better insight into what the Church looks like." The survey will help to shape a Methodist Church equalities and diversity policy and theological statement on inclusivity. The Church is particularly concerned with justice issues relating to race, gender, disabilities, homophobia, ageism and class. If you would like to take part visit the website www.methodistchurch.org.uk

Forthcoming Funerals



There are no funerals this week