



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

24 August 2008

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 Eric Royden  
Leadership Team - Mr. Mike Cooper  
Intercessions - Mrs. Mary Stubbs

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev Eric Royden  
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt  
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

### 6.30pm -Valedictory Service

## 31 August- Ordinary 22

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

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger  
Leadership Team - Mrs Laura Farthing  
Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights- Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger  
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley  
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

### Bible Readings

1. Exodus 3: 1-15
2. Romans 12: 9-21
3. Matthew 16: 21-28

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by Hazel Caine in memory of her husband George and son Mark.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Roger and Jean Bank to celebrate their Wedding Anniversary.

The flowers at the back of the church have been given by Vera Tippet to thank her family, especially for help with her move.

*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 Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.*

## Prayer for Sunday

Gracious God, let the light of your face shine upon us. Let your peace rule in our hearts, your strength be our song and your grace be sufficient for our need. Prepare us for the events of each day that we may take up our cross and follow in the steps of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Matthew Henry, 1662-1714

## 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 Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.  
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

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

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

### For Data Protection Purposes

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

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

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

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

## Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417  
**Leadership Team** Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119  
**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** - Mr Mike Cooper 306751  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

**8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school**

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.

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

**10.45am U3A Playreading** St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

**11am - 12. The Right Track** at St Mark's. Signpost information for people with learning difficulties. Gina Barton ☎07999859980

**12.00pm Story box** 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

**1.45pm U3A History Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

**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

**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 every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

**7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** Meets monthly at St Mark's. Contact Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

**7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 18 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

**9.30am 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 on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

**1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

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

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next

meeting 2nd September - AGM. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

**3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

**7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group**

St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

**7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

**7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

**7.30pm Chartered Management Institute** St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 9 September 'A Marathon Run' Jeanette Taylor. More details from Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

**9.15am Paint Tots** St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

**9.30am Childminding Support Group** Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎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

**10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

**Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 1 October 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch** St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

**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** monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

**2pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎400584

**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

**6.30pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

**7pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095

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

**7.00pm U3A Sky at Night** 2nd Wednesday of the month. Mr Farish ☎824984

**7.45pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 3 September 2008. All welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

**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. 26 June will be at 14 Flint Way. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*

**9.40am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

**12pm Storybox** weekly at St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic** St. Mark's 267444

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**5.30pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.

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

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

**6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St. Mark's Mr C Hill ☎772922

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group.** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

**7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc.** at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. Marriot 303834

**7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club** St Mark's Mr P Housden ☎376597

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

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

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

**8.00pm Brickhill Wives** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

#### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group** St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

**9.00am Clubhouse** St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

**1.30pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

**6.30pm -7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm Improvers** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

**7pm Bedford Arts Society** fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

**7.45pm Astrology Group** St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

#### Saturday

**9.00pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

**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. Not in August.

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

**4pm B.A.M.A.A.** at St Mark's. Chinese soft martial arts. Mr Chris Butcher ☎07886894922

**6pm T.N.T.** Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Next meeting Please see Liz ☎302349.

## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – , 18 November  
**St Mark's Leadership Team** – 8 September, 24 November  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** – 1 September  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee**  
**Putnoe Heights Management**

**Meeting-29th September at 7.30pm.**

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting** - .9 September, 12 November all at 12 noon

**Putnoe Church Council** - 6 October.

**Pastoral Group Meeting** - Monday 30th September at 4.30pm

**Churchyard Committee** - November 12 at 11am

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group** – Wednesday 27 August 14 Flint Way 7.30pm

**Partnership Council** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** - 4th September, 2nd October 2008

**Deanery Meeting** - 18 September, 13 November

**Circuit/Deanery Meeting**

**Woodland Burial Trustees** -

**Mission Group Meeting**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth** –8th September 1st December.



# Ordinary 21

## Opening Verses of Scripture - Romans 11

O, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

## Collect Prayer for the Day — Before we read we pray

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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*



I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven Matt 16:19

## First Bible Reading - Exodus 1: 8– 2:10

Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their hard labor the Egyptians used them ruthlessly. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, "When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?" The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive." So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live." Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

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

## **Second Reading - Romans 12: 1-8**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

## **Gospel Reading Matthew 16: 13-20**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ. (This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

## **Post Communion Prayer**

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Hymns** (*Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship*)

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee (On Partnership News)
2. Our eyes have seen the glory 549
3. Master speak thy servant heareth 459
4. The Church's One Foundation 640
5. Guide me O thou great Jehovah 202

## **Commentary**

Today's Gospel reading is one of the outstanding passages in the New Testament where Peter confesses that Jesus is 'The Christ, the Son of God', and so thereby establishes himself as the Apostle who would lead the Church after our Lord ascended to heaven.

When Jesus said 'I will build my Church' He did not mean buildings, such as the one on the corner of Avon Drive/Calder Rise, but a gathering of people who will meet regularly and engage in faithful worships of Him, and follow His teaching in their daily lives. Being a Christian does not merely mean someone who is either not an atheist or a member of another faith, it is someone who has a commitment to Christ Himself, and the Church.

We live in a country which owes so much to the Christian Church. Our hospitals, education system and social services all owe their origin, and were built on a foundation, laid by the Church. It has a highly honourable history of service to the poor and downtrodden in our cities and towns and has so much to be proud of. Yet politicians introduce legislation which offends Christians and forces it upon them by law, then with intellectual influence in our schools, colleges and universities, does all it can to eradicate Christianity from peoples minds.

The massive increase in crime and violence, coupled with the becoming of murder as a daily crime, and

the breakdown of social behaviour, all coincide with the decrease of Christian influence.

When you read of the decrease of numbers attending Christian Churches, first remember it is not all about numbers, but in addition, consider the vast growth in the Church in the Southern Hemisphere, in Asia, Africa, and South America and most significantly in China where a Communist government believes in permitting Christianity as it creates a positive power for a harmonious society and workers will work in a more relaxed and satisfied way. But is not all doom in the United Kingdom either, there are still Churches attracting huge congregations within this country.

In a few weeks time one Sunday is devoted to the theme of 'Back to Church Sunday' right across the nation. We should pray there will be a very good response and that people will use the opportunity to demonstrate their support for the Church, the rejection of the evil and all that is spoiling our society. It is a chance to show that they have a desire to have a Christian nation based on Christian principles. Pray especially for our Churches here at St, Mark's and Putnoe Heights.

If we are not as strong in this country as we would want it to be, perhaps we ought to be listening carefully to the word of our Lord. Jesus said, 'I will build my Church'. Builders invariably make covenants on their property. When Jesus built His Church He laid down covenants in the form of His teaching in the New Testament as to how we are to conduct our lives, with unequivocal precepts and doctrine.

Sadly, there are those, a minority within the Church, (but with an excessive influence,) who want to change teaching and tradition to meet their own ambitions and desires, irrespective of the wider effect it will have on the Church at large. Often within a family sacrifices have to be made for the general unity of keeping the family together, and the same applies to the Church family. The vital issue is to keep the unity of the Church together even at personal sacrifice.

If you should read or hear words coming from the television or press, as is common, (even perhaps within the Church) that you need not take the Bible too seriously as we are now in the 21st century and we have to adopt to the culture of the day, I beg you in the name of Jesus Christ, do not accept them. If people wish to reject the Bible that is for them to decide, but it cannot be watered down to suit or passed off as not applying to today. Listen instead to the words of Jesus Himself, who said, 'the Scriptures cannot be broken'. In other words, they do not have an expiry date. *Rev Eric Royden*

### **Meditation**

Imagine you are sitting on a jury to try a man accused of breaking into a shop. A solicitor represents the prosecution and is there to obtain a conviction. The accused man pleads not guilty and denies the charge completely. A policeman gives evidence that he saw the man coming from the shop where the door had been forced carrying a television set and that the accused had made a full confession.

Surprisingly the prosecutor then addresses the jury and tells them that the case is weak because the policeman might have only imagined that he saw the man leaving the shop and that he finds the confession unconvincing. Would you find the man guilty? Probably not !

Now imagine you are someone who has just been given a Bible to read and decide to go to a Church looking for spiritual guidance. You hear the preacher say, 'You don't have to take all that is written in the Bible too literally, times have changed and we are in the 21st century'. Would you be interested in coming again? *Rev Eric Royden*

### **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

Heavenly Father, may your Holy Spirit lead the rich nations to support the poor, and the strong nations to support the weak; so that every nation may develop in its own way, and work together with other nations in true partnership for the promotion of peace and the good of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Diocese of Melanesia*

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ cared for the welfare of everyone and went about doing good; grant us the imagination and perseverance to create in this country and throughout the world a just and loving society for the human family, and make us agents of your compassion to the suffering, the persecuted and the oppressed, through the Spirit of your Son, who shared the sufferings of men, our pattern and our redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Norwich Cathedral*

God, we know that every person is your beloved child. When anyone suffers, you suffer also. may we have the courage to bring equality among people, so that your life, as well as ours, is free from the pain of injustice. Amen. *John W. Riggs*

O Lord, vouchsafe to look mercifully upon us, and grant that we may ever choose the way of peace. *Sarum Missal*

**Future Dates for your diary.** 'The partnership Summer Musical Workshops !!! - a mixture of story, music, dance, drama, crafts & fun. Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 August 'The 7 Days of Creation' 5 years plus, all abilities. Full details from Liz.

**"Living Fire"** the Methodist prayer manual 2008/9 is due for publication. Please contact Vera Pearson Tel 270737 if you wish to order. Price £2. 75

**Charity Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale**

The Scots' Society of St Andrew, Bedford will be holding this event in the large hall at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday, 30 August 2008 from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. There will be numerous stalls and fun activities with some very worthwhile prizes to be won, donated by local businesses. All Proceeds will go to our annual charity for 2008 – 2009 "Bedford Daycare Hospice" at Gladys Ibbett House in Linden Road. Please come along and help us to support this worthy cause in whatever way you can. All contributions to the cake, produce, plant, book, video, DVD, white elephant or tombola stalls will be gratefully received (delivered to the hall by 9.30am if possible). Admission 50p For further information call Nancy Barr: 01234 268147

**The Valedictory Service** followed by a buffet supper in the large hall, for Rev. Dr. Joan Crossley will be held at Putnoe Heights Church on 24th August at 6.30pm. Contributions of sandwiches or cakes welcome. All Welcome.

**Putnoe Heights will host a Circuit Service** on Sunday evening 9 November at 6.30pm, for Claire Peck's Commissioning as a Local Preacher.

**Kenwood Chef Food Processor** with liquidiser (too big for us now!) with cover. £40. Tel. 268571.

**Putnoe Heights Tuesday Club** is an open club that meets fortnightly and offers a warm welcome to ladies of any age. Each meeting we have a speaker or activity and conclude with a cup of tea or coffee for just a £1. Our next meeting is on 9th September when our speaker will talk about her marathon run. Later meetings include armchair aerobics (great fun), harvest, Christmas crafts and a singalong. We invite you to come along and join us at 7.30pm at Putnoe Heights. Further details from Audrey(365068) or Margaret (309043).

**" 7 days of creation"** The young people of the partnership invite you to their performance of the " 7 days of creation" a mixture of drama, music, poetry and prayer at Putnoe, Sunday 6th September following the All Age service at 12.00 Thank you for your support,

**Footprints Walking Group** All are welcome to join

us on a walk on Sunday 31 August in the Leighton Buzzard area. It is a pleasant and varied walk alongside the river Ouzel and the Grand Union Canal. Distance approximately 4 miles consists of some road/pavement walking, sandy paths, a stretch in grassy fields where there may be some (mainly avoidable) mud after rain, and finishing on a stretch of gravel/surfaced canal tow path. There is only one stile to climb. Meet at 2.30pm in the car park of Tesco's in Leighton Buzzard. Enter the parking area by passing Tesco's petrol station on your right and head for the area marked by a green sign welcoming you to Homebase – we will be in this part of the car park, which is shared by Tesco's and Homebase. Do not use the part of the car park on the left as you enter the complex as this has a barrier which may be closed when we return. We have a mobile phone with us, 07710 520674. *Alison and Warwick Holden, tel 01234 403551*

**Kind friends** We are grateful to Milly Meades and Audrey Anstee who both remembered St Mark's in their wills. It has been proposed that the legacies which they have left will be allocated towards our new church organ fund.

**We pray for the marriage of** Christopher Andrew and Gemma Leanne Clark, of the parish OF St Mary, Goldington and on the electoral roll of this parish. (2nd time of asking) Gordon George Attenborough and Lindsey Jayne Ferguson of this parish but on the electoral roll of All Saints Church, Kempston ( 3rd time of asking)

**Leadership Teams** As meetings start up again after the summer

Please note that the next meeting are as follows Putnoe Heights Leadership team will take place on 1 September. St Mark's Leadership Team will take place on 8 September. If you have any matters for discussion by the teams then please speak with church leaders prior to the meeting.

**Sponsored 'Bike 'n Hike'** Saturday 13 September. There are hundreds of churches open throughout the county that can be visited on your route to raise money for the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust. Sponsor forms can be obtained from Wendy Nash at St Mark's

**Harvest** Sue Allen and her team are planning a harvest lunch for Sunday 5th Oct, worth putting the diary now it should be a good celebration!

***Please remember to buy everything you need through Amazon, by clicking on the link at [thisischurch.com](http://thisischurch.com)***

**NCH House to House Collection.** NCH, the children's charity, 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 two 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)

**Offertory Envelopes** Members of the Envelope Scheme at Putnoe Heights Church are invited to collect their set of envelopes for the next twelve months from the table in the welcome area. Anyone interested in joining the scheme, or in setting up a standing order, can get further details from John Hitt (404186).

**Car Boot Sale** - Monday 25th August Offers of good quality Bric-a-brac gratefully received at the end of the week running up to the Sale and also tray bakes for refreshments. Please see Avril for more details. 360605

**Thank you** to Judith Stanton and her supporters for their generous donation following the last whist drive.

## A Hymn for Sunday

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
 God of glory, Lord of love;  
 Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
 opening to the sun above.  
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
 drive the dark of doubt away;  
 Giver of immortal gladness,  
 fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
 earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
 Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
 center of unbroken praise.  
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
 flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
 Singing bird and flowing fountain  
 call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
 ever blessing, ever blessed,  
 Wellspring of the joy of living,  
 ocean depth of happy rest!  
 Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,  
 all who live in love are Thine;  
 Teach us how to love each other,  
 lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,  
 which the morning stars began;  
 Father love is reigning o'er us,  
 brother love binds man to man.  
 Ever singing, march we onward,  
 victors in the midst of strife,  
 Joyful music leads us Sunward  
 in the triumph song of life.  
*(Tune Ode to Joy(MP600)*

### 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.

**Mary Elizabeth Roberts  
 Mrs Gladys Mary Inskip**

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



### Rest in Peace



**The funeral of Barbara Edith Clorley** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Tuesday 2 September.

**The funeral of Henrietta Elizabeth Hulatt** will take place at St Mark's Chapel at 2.30pm on Wednesday 27 August.