



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

26 August 2007

21st in Ordinary Time



Church of  
England

## Partnership Church Services Today

**8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday** on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights Church. On the 2nd & 4th Sunday in St Mark's Chapel.

### 9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship with baptism of Isabelle Marie Wright

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard  
Intercessions - Mrs. Pat Leusby

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley  
Intercessions - Mr. Eddy Peck

## 22nd in Ordinary - 2 September

### 9.30am St Mark's - Family Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team - Mr Michael Cooper  
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Atewart

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team - Mrs Sam Ware  
Intercessions - Ministers

## Readings

1: Proverbs 25: 6 - 7

2 Hebrews 13: 1 - 8,15 - 26

3: Luke 14: 1,7 - 14

## Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Brian Sallows in memory of his wife Carol.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Calvin George Ayton and Keesha La'Toya Edwards on the occasion of their wedding, and by Dorothy and Arthur Fleet to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on August 30th.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, 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)

## Prayer for Sunday

Be with us Lord, to defend us;  
within us to refresh us;  
around us to protect us;  
before us to guide us  
behind us to encourage us  
and above us to bless us;  
for your own names sake. Amen  
Celtic 10th Century

## 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 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team Mr Alan Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604

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 L Parry 216724

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 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

**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

**2.30pm Bedford Arts Society** Putnoe Heights Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

**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. Miriam Adcock ☎01908 565044

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

**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎364710

**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

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

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

**7.30pm Creative Needles.** Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward ☎307648.

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's each month next meeting 17 September - Judith Stanton. ☎823313

**7.30pm Housegroup** 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 -Bedord Arts Society** starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

**1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights. Andrea ☎210177 or Majella ☎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.** No meetings now until Sept 4th. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Stubbs ☎406784.

**3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 0582468.

**6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

### 7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group

St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

**7pm Creative Card Making** St Mark's 1st & 3rd Week of the month Carol Houghton ☎346718

**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

**7.45pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting August 28th Afternoon Tea Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

**9.00am Paint Tots** St Mark's Jacqui Harrahan ☎824475

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

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787.

**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 5 September 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

**2pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 3rd week of the month (starting 19th Sept) ☎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 Rachell 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 (starting 26th Sept) ☎400584

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

**7.00pm Yoga** St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

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

**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 5 September Graham ☎406359 or Danny ☎401668.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's 1st week Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

### 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.*

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.50 for first child + 50p for each extra child over 2 years. Next meeting 6 September. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

**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. Next meeting 6 September. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Andrea ☎210177 or Magella ☎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 Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

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

**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

**7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible Studies every 2 Thursday— Pastor Tarr ☎360188

**7.45pm Housegroup** meets fortnightly Betty Wyatt ☎350188

**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 Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

**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 ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

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

**6.30pm Line Dancing.** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

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

**7pm Youth Club for age 10-15.** St Mark's Church. Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

### Saturday

**9.00pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

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

**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, games & outings. Liz ☎302349.

**6pm T.X.T** Putnoe. for 13 + fortnightly, join us for fellowship, debate & discussion. Liz ☎302349

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council – 12 November**

**St Mark's Leadership Team – 13 September**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 17 September**

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 4 September 12 noon**

**Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 19 November**

**Putnoe Church Council - 8th October**

**Pastoral Group Meeting –**

**Churchyard Committee - 5 September 11am**

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting.** 12 September. 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way

**Partnership Council -**

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings**

**Deanery Meeting - 13 September St Paul's**

**Circuit Meeting**

**Woodland Burial Trustees - 3 September 7pm**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–**

**Calendar dates appear on our church website**

### Telecare



### Telecare

It is extremely helpful to the Ministers to be able to have feedback, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down on the

Telecare scheme, please do so. Additional members of the Pastoral Team are sharing the task of making telephone calls. Please do not be concerned if a new person calls.

## 21st in Ordinary

### Opening Verse - Psalm 73:3

Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

**Collect Prayer for the Day** - Before we read we pray Merciful God, grant that your Church, being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one, may reveal your glory among all peoples, to the honour of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### First Bible Reading - Isaiah 58. 9b-14

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: 'Here am I. If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always;

he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings. "If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob." The mouth of the LORD has spoken

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

### Second Bible Reading - Hebrews 12: 18-29

You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens. The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken--that is, created things--so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

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

### Third Bible Reading - Luke 13: 10-17

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten



Be to me  
a rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress,  
to save me,  
for you are  
my rock  
and my fortress.

Psalm 71.3



up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."

The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?" When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

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

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gates 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. Amen

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

1. Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the king of creation, **564**;
2. Fear not rejoice and be glad, **144**;
3. Fill thou my life, **146**;
4. Ye holy angels bright, **783**;
5. Now thank we all our God, **486**

### **Commentary– A question of priorities**

The passage from Isaiah talks about the type of service that pleases God; service which is genuine and without hypocrisy. It encourages the returning exiles (from Babylon) to come into a deeper understanding and practice of their covenant faith and what it means to them as a community and as individuals. In placing the woman at the centre of the story in the gospel, Luke does the same to the synagogue ruler and those around him.

The synagogue ruler, who is outraged at the actions of Jesus, was not so much concerned with *what* Jesus had done, that He had healed the woman, but more *when* He had done it. He had done it at the wrong time, on the Sabbath. Not surprisingly his outburst provokes a reaction from Jesus. He points to the hypocrisy of the religious leaders who would routinely sanction "breaking the Sabbath" for the benefit of one of their animals, but seem to take exception to Jesus doing the same for a fellow human being. They would have no problem in freeing their donkeys on the Sabbath and letting them drink, but are resistant to Jesus freeing a woman from years of her own bondage. Their compassion and adherence to the law seems to be selective, self-centred, and hypocritical.

Jesus challenges the synagogue ruler and those around him to think about what their faith was all about. Was it really about observing the plethora of rules and regulations which had grown up around the Torah governing all aspects of Jewish life and worship, or was it about obeying the principles of the Torah itself? The synagogue ruler was likely to have been a devout Jew, someone who had a good understanding of the law and probably rest of the Jewish scriptures too. His problem was not about a lack of knowledge, it was about a lack of understanding of how to apply the knowledge he knew so well. In challenging him, Jesus uses the orthodox form of reasoning which was used to develop many of the precepts guiding the Jewish way of life. He uses an example of something which would be acceptable on the Sabbath and extends and applies the principle in a related manner. It would be inconceivable that something that would be acceptable for an animal, to be set free on a Sabbath, would not be acceptable for a human, of whatever status. His argument is irrefutable.

Some have seen Jesus' response as putting the synagogue ruler in his place, belittling him in front of his peers and regular worshipers. But this is not Jesus' style. He does not want to emphasise how little any of us know, or how badly we understand scripture. He wants to encourage everyone to come into a fuller understanding of His love, care and compassion for

the world. To live out our faith in a way that is meaningful, not only to ourselves, but to others too. Not to spend endless hours debating the meaning of the minutiae of scripture, but to live out its reality.

Understanding the meaning of scripture and living out its reality are two sides of the same coin. To live out the reality of scripture we do need to understand its meaning. Jesus is not saying we should not spend time understanding what scripture has to say to us and how it should guide our lives, but that studying the scripture and applying it in our lives should go hand in hand. Living out our faith is about experiencing the living God in our lives, becoming more Christ like through the power of the Holy Spirit. It's not an academic exercise in biblical or doctrinal knowledge which can occur in isolation from the spiritual dimension of our lives. As the woman in the gospel reading was to find out, it's only when we experience the reality of God's words in action that we are set free from whatever would keep us bound. Ultimately, how we experience God and let Him touch our lives, how we respond to His active word and prompting, is far more important than how much we know about Him and the details of His organisation.

*Sam Cappleman*

### **Meditation**

In Isaiah 58, our Old Testament reading, things are not going as expected for the returned exiles. They are fasting but nothing seems to be happening. Isaiah reminds the Jewish community that although they may be fasting they are still quarreling and fighting amongst themselves and oppressing others around them. All the time they are doing this their supposedly penitential fasting and religious observance is undermined. However, if they do away with their 'pointing fingers and malicious talk', and delight in the Sabbath then they will come to understand the full breadth and depth of God's love and their place and inheritance in that love.

In Luke 13, our New Testament reading, Jesus calls the crippled woman over to Him. He speaks to her and puts His hands on her and she is healed. As a response she praises God. But Jesus' actions on the Sabbath infuriate the synagogue ruler.

In both the Old and New Testament readings the question is not *whether* the Sabbath and our religious observances should be kept but *how* they should be kept. In our daily lives, and perhaps especially in our Sunday worship, our words and actions should be a reflection of God's love in our daily lives and the compassion we have for the world and others around us in response to that love.

### **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. **Amen**

I weave a silence on to my lips, I weave a silence into my mind, I weave a silence within my heart. I close my ears to distractions, I close my eyes to attractions, I close my heart to temptations. Calm me, O Lord as you stilled the storm. Still me, O Lord, keep me from harm. Let all the tumult within me cease. Enfold me, Lord, in your peace. **Amen**

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul; by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel give your church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *Collect for St Luke*

Sovereign God, the defence of those who trust in you and the strength of those who suffer: look with mercy on our affliction and deliver us through our mighty Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**  
Rise up, O Lord, to help us. In the darkness of unknowing, when your love seems absent, draw near to us O God, in Christ forsaken, in Christ risen, our redeemer and our Lord. **Amen**

### *Daily Prayer - response for Psalm 44*

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of His glory; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**



## **St Mark's Coffee Shop**

**Sundays  
2.30pm— 5.00pm**

We are delighted to report that Miss Carla Skyers has been appointed as the new coffee shop manager. Carla will be pleased to welcome you on Sunday afternoons so please do drop into St Mark's for

teas coffee and home made

cakes. This week there are scones, chocolate cake and carrot cake. We will be providing Douwe Egberts filter coffee and speciality teas.

Advance warning—next Sunday **Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat** will be performed at 11.45am at Putnoe after a slightly abbreviated service. Everyone is welcome to come and watch our children's summer workshop.

**Storybox plus** now meets at Putnoe on a Monday afternoon between 3.30 and 5.00. If any children aged between 4 and 9 years old within the Partnership would like to join us as we "Follow the Year" please contact Liz

**YPF/Jnr Church**—There will be no YPF or Jnr Church at Putnoe during August

**Belief Courses** A Day Retreat at Turvey Abbey on Saturday 24th November 2007. The suggested fee will be £30.00. For information contact Stephen Heap 01234 216181. Cheques payable to BELIEF. Getting to grips with Matthew's Gospel. Speaker - Dr Jeffrey John at St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road.. 23rd February, 2008 Forms available from St Mark's Church Office

**Offertory Envelopes** Members of the Envelope Scheme at Putnoe Heights Church are invited to collect a set of offertory envelopes for the next twelve months from the table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the scheme is asked to contact John Hitt, (tel. 404186) for further information.

**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 2 weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £800. 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 342507.

**Mother Teresa Support Group** – Would you like to spend a pleasant afternoon in good company, knitting and chatting with a cup of tea and biscuits to sustain you? If so, you would be very welcome to join us at St Mark's on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30pm. Wool, needles and patterns provided.

**Social Event at St Mark's**—The Caribbean evening planned for 13th October has been changed to "An Evening from the Shows." Put the date in your diary! The Caribbean Evening will be arranged at a later date.

**TXT** is the new youth group for our young teenagers starting in September on alternate Sunday evenings 6.30 - 8.00pm. We shall be doing a little Bible Study followed by some fun activities and prayer. If you could spare the time to be one of our adult helpers please contact Sam Ware on 304058.

**Bric-a-brac** for the Church Stall at the Boot Sale on Monday 27th August will be very welcome. Books, toys, old tools, bicycles, records, videos, CD's and electrical goods are also popular. The catering team would also be very grateful for tray bakes for the refreshments. Avril Williams.

**Methodist Prayer Manual** If you wish to order a copy of the publication due this month, please let Vera Pearson know. 270737

**Special Thanks** To all of those involved in caring for the grounds and gardens at St Mark's. The grass and borders have looked outstanding throughout the summer, thank to our dedicated team of volunteers.

**Plastic wrappings wanted.** It's your plastic sleeving I'm after, from magazines through the post, or newspapers. The contributions gathered before Easter helped to pack 1800 card competition kits, but now we're doing still more, and my stash is nearly exhausted. All contributions gratefully received—flat, and preferable opened with scissors at one end!

**Putnoe Heights 50th Anniversary** - For those who missed the exhibition in the church in June and July, an abridged version will be on show at Putnoe Library from August 13-28.

**Thank you** Roger & Jean Bank would like to thank the church family for all their good wishes on their Ruby Wedding anniversary, following the memorable service of renewal of their marriage vows.

**Footprints** The next date for a Sunday afternoon walk is September 2nd at 2.30 pm. There is no pre-planned walk arranged but please contact Barry Snelson in the Putnoe Office (Tel 365630) if you would be interested in a local walk arranged at short notice.

**More than 171,000 GCSE students are opening envelopes to reveal their grades in Religious Education today, an increase of 7.2 per cent in those taking the full course since last year.**

The course's popularity means that the subject has held its position at the top of the chart of increases in entries (for full courses with over 100,000 entrants). It is also the number one short course option, with 56 per cent of those students taking short courses opting to take Religious Education as one of their subject choices.

Today's results also show that 7.8 per cent more students took the GCSE short course in Religious Education this year than last, representing an extra 21,240 students and taking the total to 292,491. The full course, usually studied over two years, was taken by an extra 11,442 students.

Nick McKemey, Head of School Improvement for the Church of England, comments: "This further increase, building on the 7.5 per cent rise last year, is evidence that more young people are fascinated by what they and others believe and how that affects their day-to-day lives. Ofsted have recently reported

that RE contributes significantly to both academic achievement and personal development. While RE may have in the past been seen as an unusual option, this uptake suggests that students from all kinds of backgrounds are keen to engage with issues of community cohesion, diversity and religious understanding."

Mr McKemey argues that the popularity of the subject adds weight to calls for RE to be fully integrated into the National Curriculum up to the age of 14: "Religious Education should not only be given due prominence in the compulsory element of all students' time in school, as the Government has recognised, but it is becoming increasingly clear that a nationally agreed syllabus would help further improve standards and foster stronger community cohesion."

The Church of England has posted prayers on its website for those receiving exam results this summer and considering their future options.

### **Prayers for those considering their options after receiving exam results**

Heavenly Father,  
At this time when we are standing at a crossroads in our lives,  
We thank you that you love us  
Whatever path we take our identity we assume.  
Help us, wherever we can,  
To follow in the footsteps of your son,  
Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lord Jesus, you made some tough decisions in your life, even giving your life for us. Help us, we pray, when we have to make tough decisions about our future even if they make us unpopular. Be with us, comfort us and liberate us from things that are trivial, so that we may truly make decisions about things that are important. In your name we pray. Amen.

### **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.

**Barbara Josephine Nichol**

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

### **Car Boot Sale**

**Tomorrow at St Mark's.**

Please remember to bring tray bakes and goods to sell from the church stall.



### **Rest in Peace**

The funeral of Madge Ursula Harrison will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 29 August at 12.15pm  
*(Royden)*