

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

26 August 21st in Ordinary



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

Today 26 August –21st in Ordinary

9.30m St. Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership - Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mr Richard Ledger

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership - Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

2 September - 22nd in Ordinary

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Family Worship

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Family Worship

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions –YPG

Readings 1 Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9.

2 James 1: 17-27 3 Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Only James & Mark readings with the exception of Mark v 21-23 to be read in service.

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

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Pam and Bob Burn in celebration of their birthdays.

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

Prayer for Sunday

Lord our God,
all truth is from you,
and you alone bring oneness of heart.
Give your people the joy of hearing your word
amid the din of human noise,
and of longing for your presence
more than for life itself.
May all the attractions of a changing world point
us to the peace of your kingdom,
a peace which this world does not give.
We ask this through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

The Reverend Charles Royden will be away preaching this morning at Kempston East Methodist Church

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mason

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

The Reverend Charles Royden

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

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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.*

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs. Jean Kirk 317699
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Morag Stewart 360103

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com

Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett ☎326685

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

9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955

10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's (see contact details below)

12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thischurch.com 365630

1.30-2.45pm Chat and Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk . Restarts on 10 September

2.00pm U3A History Group St Marks.(see contact details below)

2pm U3A Music Appreciation - (see contact details below)

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 ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

66.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 17 September Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790206016

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)

1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details)

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (see contact details below).

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

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎0789187957

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

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

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

7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 4 September Opening Meeting Details call Janet King 313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly. Contact Marion Sutton ☎217647

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.

9.30am Discovery & Do (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons ☎328380 or 07788824666

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters ☎342613.

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks.(see contact details below)

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 12 September 2012 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)

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

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)

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

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 19 September. Wendy Waters401834

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

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

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

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

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Mrs O Holt ☎266004

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 will be 5 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Jean Ross ☎771870

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624 Restarts 13 September.

12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby ☎363283 Restarts 6 September.

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays St. Mark's ☎267444

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (large hall) Children's Chatty Time 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

1.45 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Mrs. P. Cass ☎294220

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Marks. (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Marks Mary Rich ☎272470

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Carol Plant ☎01832710504

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

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

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass ☎294220

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

Friday

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks (see contact details below)

2.00-4.00 pm Whist St Marks. (see contact details below)

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker ☎07900 232648

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

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd week) Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

6.45pm 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 Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's (not 25 March) Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 9 October, 19 Feb, 11 June

St Mark's Leadership Team - 11 September

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 15 October,

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm

Harvest Festival 30 September

Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - 16 November

Woodland Burial Trustees– 30 September

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -

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

Ordinary 21

Opening Verse 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

Before we read we pray

O God, you declare you 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."

(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

(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.”

(This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever. **Amen**

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

1. How Great Thou Art 506
2. For I'm building a people of power 151
3. Trust and Obey 760
4. Fight the good fight 143
5. Stand up, stand up for Jesus 617

Commentary 'The Armour of God' by Deacon Jane Mason

Who'd have thought that my involvement with a re-enactment group in Colchester would have given me a deeper insight into a very familiar passage of scripture?

I first realised this when I was part of an ecumenical group that were using a well-known Christian basics course in our churches. The course material included some video footage of someone describing the passages the course followed. When it came to 'The armour of God', in Ephesians 6, I was profoundly disappointed and felt the speaker had missed a number of very salient points, which I guess the original recipients in Ephesus would have understood more clearly. I shouldn't have been surprised, because God uses our experiences to illustrate his message, just one of the reasons Christ used parables, using scenarios his 'audience' would be familiar with to get a potentially difficult message across. Below are some of my thoughts on the items included in this passage.

Belt of Truth Belts hold things together but are also the place to hang your sword so that it is always close to hand when you need it. So, then, it is in the act of keeping truth at the centre of our being that gives us ready access to the Spirit, which is always with us.

Breastplate of Righteousness It is perhaps fairly obvious that breastplates protect the heart, so it is living in righteousness that keeps our hearts pure. Another thing to realise, though, is that it does cover the front only! Perhaps the message here is that we should never run away from our fears, we need to face them in order to overcome them. N.B. The people to first receive this message would also have been very familiar with the fact that this was also the name for a Jewish priestly garment, mentioned in the Old Testament. This was an elaborate bag, decorated to commemorate the 12 tribes of Israel, and worn over the heart. It also contained the lots (Urim and Thummim) by which divine answers were sought and given (e.g. Ex 28:30, Leviticus 8:8), so again this could allude to the need of keeping God's guidance in our hearts.

Shoes of the gospel of peace This is perhaps the most obscure or surprising inclusion here, yet we know that scripture gives us guidance and helps us to know which way we should go. Any of you who have nipped out barefoot to catch the milkman/bin men etc... will be very familiar with that fact that seemingly clean pathways can have very sharp stones or thorns on them! Shoes protect our feet and make us more ready to walk through the dangerous paths, as a keen hiker and former climber I am very aware of the need to choose the correct foot-ware. While sandals may be ideal for the beach, formal foot-ware is appropriate for work and heels add height, none of these would be of any use on boggy ground, slippery surfaces or stony ground. From this we can imagine that it is the gospel of peace that gives us the 'readiness' to share what it teaches us, we are more willing to walk the path if we know we are prepared.

Also the use of the word Peace could seem counter intuitive to inclusion in a passage about 'armour', yet many of our own armed forces are currently stationed on 'peace keeping missions'. Perhaps the fact that it is here linked with shoes suggests that peace is to be our goal, the end of every road that we travel?

Shield of faith Faith is the opposite of scepticism, belief without proof you might say, faith and belief are for those things you just know to be true.

Shields on the other hand are primarily thought of as articles of defence, but they are also used in attack. Think of images of rows of riot police using their wall of huge Perspex shields to force back a crowd, or create a path through one, and you would be imagining a similar scene to those people who would have seen the Roman army do very similar things. It is also important to remember that, just as our shield can protect others, so we need to trust that the shields of our neighbours protect us also.

Elsewhere in scripture we are told of the importance of being part of a community, and that we need to meet with others to keep our own faith alive. Indeed in a service of communion we celebrate both our commitment to God, and to each other.

Helmet of salvation Salvation is what God achieved for us through Christ, who gives us assurance. Helmets obviously protect the head, the root of the senses, in order that we can carry out our aim. I like to think of Imagery of the character 'Magneto' from Marvel Comics, and more recently the blockbuster X-men films. This character takes to wearing a helmet he has designed to stop his enemy (Professor Xavier) reading his mind and having influence over him. I find this a helpful image in thinking that it is the knowledge of salvation that protects our minds from the influence and suggestions of evil, who knows our every weakness, and will find a way to work on that, given half a chance when our defences are down

Sword of the Spirit - word of God The Spirit is that part of God which lives within us and gives us the strength to carry out our mission, for me it is the 'experiential' part of the Trinity, or the element of God I am physically aware of. In this reading it is equated with a sword, which tend to be thought of as something designed to kill, yet they can be as much use for defence as for attack, in fact it would be equally so in many an encounter.

The Spirit is not a weapon to wield, rather its aim is to save, just as someone would be less likely to 'pick a fight' with someone noticeably well-armed perhaps the presence of the Spirit protects us from attack?

I do not presume to have all the answers, I have just found this experience helpful in my own exploration of this passage, and I offer it to you, in hope it may shed some light on it for you also. *Jane*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week ahead

Almighty God, whose dear Son went not up to joy before he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; though the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

William Huntington (1838-1902)

Lord, send us prophets in the church today, as in the days of old, to make known your living truth in the power of the Holy Spirit. Give them a clear vision of your purpose for the life of the world; enable them to speak the word with boldness; and through their words and their actions recall your people to simpler discipleship, holier living and to more dedicated service for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Help your servants Lord to be people of God, people of reconciliation, people of truth and people of prayer. Keep them ever humble in your service for your mercy's sake. Amen

Action for Children September House to House

Collection Action for Children 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 Social Services and the Methodist Church. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. The annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark's Church is responsible for covering the Brickhill area and last year our 21 collectors raised £753 (including Gift Aid). If you could spare a few hours during early September to distribute and then 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)

Chat and Make at St Mark's starts again on Monday 10 September at 1.30pm.

Chat and Play at St Mark's starts again on Thursday 13 September at 9.30 am.

Story Box at St Mark's starts again on Thursday 6 September at 12 noon.

Junior Church at St Mark's will resume on 9 September. *Jaana*

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church will start again on Monday 17 September at 12.15 for details of our summer programme please contact Carolyn at youth@thisischurch.com. *Carolyn*

Car Boot Sale The final car boot sale of the year is on Bank Holiday Monday 27 August. Now would be a great time to sort out things which you don't need and get them ready for the church car boot stall. We also would really appreciate things like cakes and tray bakes for refreshments. As always we could not cope without volunteers so if you have any free time please drop in and help out - see Avril who will welcome you with open arms and give you a job .

Support Our Stained Glass Heritage A Garden Party is being held on Sunday 2 September 2.30pm at Biddenham Lodge (behind Three Tuns pub) to raise funds for the Stained Glass Museum. Entrance £5, children £1, all are welcome. There will be stalls and swimming for children. Contact number for tickets 01234 267798.



Praise Service A service of Praise celebrating the Cross will be held at Putnoe Heights Church at 6.30p.m. on Sunday 9th September. This is a service for the Partnership to which all are invited to join together to sing a collection of tuneful hymns relevant to the theme of the Cross. *(Eric Royden)*

Some Christian Approaches to Spirituality

In a bewildering world in which many people struggle to make sense of things, the aim of this course is to raise awareness of some different approaches to Spirituality and how these approaches can help us understand the context in which we live.

We hope that participants will leave the course with new ideas about how to develop a spiritual approach in their own lives. At the conclusion of this course, we will be considering whether to offer a further series of sessions focusing another range of approaches to spirituality in 2013.

19 September: What is Spirituality

Led by Revd. Sarah Burrow, Parish Priest of All Saints, Renhold and a member of the Diocesan Initiatives in Spirituality Steering group

26 September: Benedictine Spirituality

Led by Marie Heath, an Oblate (ie a Lay Member) of the Benedictine Communities at Turvey who has trained as a Spiritual Director at the London Centre for Spirituality

3 October: Quaker Spirituality

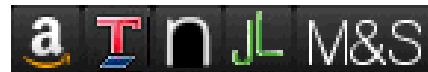
Led by Sheila Holderness, currently Convenor of Elders at Bedford Meeting. A Member of the Religious Society of Friends for fifty years, she has sat on numerous Quaker Committees at national and area levels over the years. She will be joined by Ian Hartwell who was formally accepted into Membership just one year ago.

10 October: Celtic Spirituality

Led by Revd. Elizabeth Inall, Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Milton Ernest, Pavenham and Thurleigh whose MA in Christian Spirituality focused on Celtic Spirituality

17 October: Ignatian Spirituality

Led by Marie Heath, who is also conducting the session on Benedictine Spirituality (see above) All sessions are from 7.45 pm – 9.15 pm and will be held at St Andrew's Church Centre (Holt Room), Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2PF



**Thank you for Shopping at
WWW. ThisChurch.com**

Thank you for shopping using the links on thisischurch.com. Please always use the link on ThisisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases and help raise money.



Messy Church on Wednesday 19 September will have an Olympic theme. We would like items that will help create an 'Olympic' atmosphere e.g Olympic ring flag, bunting of

national flags, posters, pictures. If you can give us any items please phone Wendy Waters 401834 or leave them at St Mark's office.

Future dates: all 3.45 to 5.30pm
 Wednesday 19 September
 Wednesday 17 October
 Wednesday 21 November
 Wednesday 12 December

Offertory Envelopes (Putnoe Heights). Sets of envelopes for the next twelve months are available for collection from a table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the envelope scheme (or contribute to church funds by standing order), is invited to contact John Hitt, tel 404186.

Lodgings for young Salvationist I am currently looking for lodgings in Bedford or the immediate surrounding area to begin a new job in the Town Centre in September 2012 If you can help, please contact me on: 07745081656
 S.E.Couldstone@lycos.com

The Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort are engaged in getting local people interested in the two sites, promoting archaeology, wildlife walks and nature. If you would like to come and join us on a task or an event or if you would like further information, then please see <http://www.putnoemowsburyfriends.org.uk> or email us on contact@mowsburyfriends.org.uk and we can send you our newsletter. We are also on facebook and twitter

Pearl James and family would like to thank all those who attended Vyn's funeral service and gave their love and support in many ways. Special thanks to the Revd. Sam Cappleman for his sincere and uplifting words.

From Deacon Jane

Most of you will be aware that we are getting married at Putnoe Heights next Saturday. Please know that you are all most welcome at the service, and for cake and drinks afterwards, but that there is no expectation that you have to join in with our chosen theme of 'The Lord of the Rings'!

We have not asked for gifts, but if anyone does want to give something we have set up a 'give in celebration' site in aid of Cancer research UK. Donations can be made at <http://www.giveincelebration.org/> using page reference number 0001258, by phone on 0300 123 1863, quoting the same reference number and 'the wedding of Maurice Mills and Jane Mason', or by cheque payable to Cancer Research UK, which can be given in on the day or posted, with the form which we can let you have a copy of.

Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust are holding a Sponsored Bike 'n hike to raise funds for churches.

This will take place on Saturday 8 September at 10am to 6.00pm. It's a great day out - and a chance to visit some of the more than 600 churches specially open to welcome you. Why not put the date in your diary now and see how many of your friends you can get to join you on the day. Remember, half the sponsorship money you raise will be returned to the church of your choice and the other half (plus gift aid) used by the Trust to support restoration or repair work to churches anywhere in Beds and Herts. For more info visit http://www.bedshertshct.org.uk/index_files/Page431.htm

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.

**Vincent Llewelyn
 Julie Elizabeth Underwood**

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



Forthcoming Funerals



Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

The funeral of Joyce Wendy Cochran will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 9.15am on Friday 31 August. This will be followed with a service at St Mark's at 3.00pm.

The funeral of Navin Chandra Misir will take place at St Mark's Church at 11.30am on Friday 7 September

The funeral of Ruth Miriam Newby will take place on 3 September at Bedford Crematorium at 1:45pm