



# Partnership News

26 September 2010

Ordinary 26



## 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

### 9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs. Liz Little

Leadership - Mr. Mike Ovenden

Intercessions - Mr. Richard Ledger

### 11am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs. Liz Little

Leadership - Mr. Gordon Evans

Intercessions – Ministers

### 3 October - Harvest

### 9.30 am St. Mark's - Harvest Festival

Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden

Intercessions – Alison Holden

### 11 am Putnoe - Harvest Festival

Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership - Sam Ware

Intercessions - Claire Peck

**Harvest Readings** Joel 2:21-27, James 5:13-20, Matthew 6:25-33

### Midweek Worship

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

## Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Doreen Smart to say thank you to all my dear friends at St Mark's for the wonderful cards sent for my birthday. God bless you all. Doreen.

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

## Prayer for This Week

Loving and Gracious God, take our minds and think through them, take our lips and speak through them, and set our hearts on fire with a greater love for you and your church, and its mission in the world, that of caring for those who cannot care for themselves. AMEN

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

### Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE

348091 Mobile 07807 146535

jane@thisischurch.com

### The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

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### For Data Protection Purposes

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

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

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

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com

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

### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**

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

**Centre Manager** Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

**Leadership Team** Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

**Treasurer** Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

**Gift Aid Administrator** John Hitt 404186

**Youth Worker** Emma Gordon email - youth@thisischurch.com

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

**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com

**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613

**Leadership Team** - Avril Williams 360605

**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

**Gift Aid Administrator** Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

### 9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

### 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

**9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

**10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

**12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing.

**3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.

**4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747

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

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

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720713738.

**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

**7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—18 October - St. Mark's Judith Stanton. ☎ 823313

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

**8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

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

**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Sally Banks ☎ 870357

**1.15pm Sing and Stomp.** For toddlers & their carers. Run by the Putnoe Children's Centre. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043

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

**2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 28 September– Dave Bone –Prison Officer Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

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

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

**6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

**6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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

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

**7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎ 403497

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

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting October 5 Shoe Box packing. For more details call Janet King 313946

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

## Wednesday

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

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

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

**10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

**10am U3A Card Making.** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet King ☎313946

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next -September 29 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

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

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

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

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

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

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

**3.45- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Monthly. First meeting 6 October. Wendy Waters 401834

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting September 29 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

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

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

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

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

**11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau** at Putnoe Heights.

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

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

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

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

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

**4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

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

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins 07919402797

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

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

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale ☎406094

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

**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 Jean Birks ☎219607

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography** (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

**12.15pm U3A Photography** (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

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

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

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

**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.** St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

### Saturday

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

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

**7.00pm Duplicate Bridge.** St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

### Sunday

**9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School** at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

**11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior** at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

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

**6pm T.N.T.** Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun.

## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – 8 November  
**Partnership Council** 18 October 7.30pm at St Mark's  
**St Mark's Leadership Team** 18 October  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 18 October  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** - 27 Sept.  
**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting** - 12 noon, 16th November  
**Putnoe Church Council** - 25 October.  
**Pastoral Group Meeting** - 12 October 4.15pm in chapel  
**Churchyard Committee** - 29 September  
**Putnoe Heights Mission Group**  
**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings**  
**Deanery Meeting** - . 18 November at St Peter's  
**Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting**  
**Circuit Meeting**  
**Woodland Burial Trustees** –  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth** – 18th October 1.15pm

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

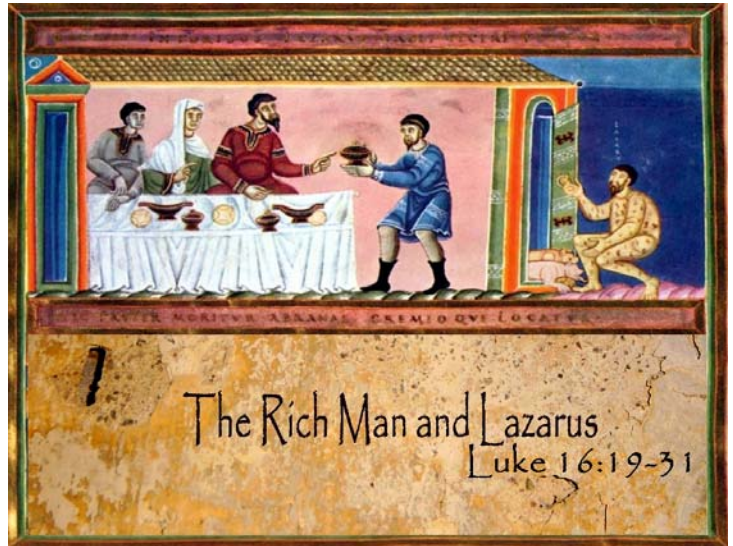
## Ordinary 26

### Opening Sentence from Scripture

If you make the Most High your dwelling-- even the LORD, who is my refuge-- then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

### Collect (Before we read we pray)

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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*



### Old Testament Reading - Amos 6: 1a,4-7

Woe to you who are complacent in Zion. You lie on beds inlaid with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.

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

### Second Reading —1 Timothy 6: 6-19

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time--God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen. Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

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

### Gospel Reading Luke 16: 19-31

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his

side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Hymns for Sunday** (Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymns and Psalms)

19 With gladness we worship (Tune St Denio)

135 Go tell it on the mountain

139 The Kingdom of God (Tune Hanover)

343 God in his love for us

402 For the healing of the nations. (Tune Westminster Abbey Purcell)

### **Commentary**

Through Luke we have been hearing Jesus speak about the dangers of money and once again today Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees, who were rich men about the dangers of wealth. The dangers of wealth are so important that one out of every seven passages in Luke is about money and wealth. We need to remember that 95% of people in Palestine at the time of Jesus were desperately poor. It was a huge social and economic problem and Jesus doesn't dodge the political challenge. The contrast which Jesus makes in Luke is so stark that it seems difficult to imagine these words on his lips

*Blessed are you who are poor, 6:21., Woe to you who are rich 6:24.,  
Blessed are you who are hungry 6:22., Woe to you who are well fed. 6:25*

Today we have the story of Lazarus, which incorporates these blessings and curses. The rich man is dressed in purple and fine linen, both of these things indicate great wealth. Contrast this with poor Lazarus, who is reduced to a life of begging. He is not adorned in fine clothes rather the words used describe his skin covered in ulcerated sores, which would have made him unclean. His only companions are wild dogs. He is left at the gate of the rich man, the gate emphasising the size of the rich man's estate and the separation which exists between them. If Lazarus had received even the scraps from the rich man he would have perhaps survived, the gates allowed the rich man to shut out Lazarus and prevent the needs of Lazarus from becoming his concern. People build gates on their homes not because they want to be kept in, rather because they want to keep others out. They wish to remain protected from the world beyond. The gate is very symbolic and challenges us all to consider whether we are remote and isolated from the needs of our wider society. Every day the rich man would have gone past Lazarus, yet he might never have even noticed that he was there. How many times are we just too preoccupied with our own lives that we fail to notice those with great need?

Remember that we are not told in this parable that the rich man had done anything wrong. He was not necessarily somebody who had stolen, indulged in financial exploitation or whatever, his crime was simply one of indifference. Like us he failed to get angry at the plight of those who suffered and in this he created a wide gulf between himself and those in need. As our country suffers from the belt tightening exercises caused by our debt crisis, there will inevitably be those who suffer

and often the burden falls disproportionately on the poor. Recently I visited Furniture Link in Bedford to learn about the invaluable work which they do in our community. I felt strongly that organisations such as this which provide a lifeline to those who have not got huge wealth will be increasingly important in the coming years.

We are told that Lazarus dies and the angels carry him to the bosom of Abraham. No doubt he would have had little ceremony at his passing, yet despite the manner of his funeral, he goes straight to "the bosom of Abraham." When the rich man dies he would undoubtedly receive a fine burial, but this is ineffective and he goes, to Hades, the place of the dead. Hades is a Greek term, like the Hebrew concept of the "underworld," or sheol. It brings to mind the understanding of the world in very primitive cosmology as the earth in the middle, heaven above and the underworld below.

This should not be read as story of heaven and hell, rather the fulfilment of the blessings and curses which we have read about in the beatitudes. The poor Lazarus goes not to heaven but to Abraham and is fed, the rich has the tables turned and is deprived. Jesus exhorts Lazarus by using his name, (which means 'the one God helps') the rich man is kept anonymous, as he were of less importance.

The rich man understandably pleaded with Abraham and calls him, 'Father Abraham'. We cannot read this without thinking back to Chapter 3:8-11 where John the Baptist berates those who claim to have Abraham as their father but fail to look after the poor. The rich man pleads for mercy but Abraham is unable to help because of the great divide between. The plea for mercy made by the rich man, echoes the lack of mercy which he had shown to poor Lazarus.

The story should not be read a theological exposition of what happens when you die, rather as a warning of how you should live. In scripture there are conflicting ideas represented about what happens when you die. In this story there is a choice of Abraham and Hades, whilst on the cross Jesus gives assurance of paradise on the same day, and in the New Testament there is also described a general resurrection of the dead when bodies are raised from sleep. Nobody knows what to expect, but the teaching is the same, prepare now in this life for what will take place in the next. Those who work to support groups like Furniture Link, Emmaus, Bechar etc. These people are wise, for Jesus himself encourages us to make friends with the poor so that when we die they will make representations on our behalf and allow us to have a heavenly home (16:9). I notice that this week in Partnership News there are requests for volunteers to help with Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with learning Difficulties and Prebend day Centre. The needs are endless. It has been said that if Hitler is saved it will be through the prayers of the people he killed. Who knows, if the rich man had been a better neighbour, would Lazarus have been able to shout out to Abraham to show mercy? *Charles Royden*

## **Meditation**

The psalmist reminds us of the inseparable connection between loving God and caring for the poor. There are many reasons to care for the poor and the vulnerable, but our ultimate motivation is based in the character of God himself. In three short verses Psalm 146:7–9 reveals the tender action of God for people in trouble. Notice the different vulnerable groups of people mentioned:

He upholds the cause of the **oppressed**

and gives food to the **hungry**.

The Lord sets **prisoners** free,

the Lord gives sight to the **blind**,

the Lord lifts up those who are **bowed down**,

the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the **alien**

and sustains the **fatherless** and the **widow**,

but he frustrates the way of the wicked.

## **A Prayer for Sunday and the week ahead**

Anoint my eyes dear Lord Jesus to see those like Lazarus that live by my gate and know few of the blessings which I enjoy. Anoint dear Lord Jesus my hands that they may be used in your service to reach out and help those like Lazarus who call to me for help.

**Dance 4 All 2010** Saturday 16 October from 11am to 5.30pm. £2 all day. Bedford Corn Exchange, Civic Theatre, Harpur Suite and Howard Room. To promote dance in a wide range of forms. More information contact Sports Development Unit, Bedford Borough Council 01234 221700 amy.rance@bedford.gov.uk.

**A date for the diary.** St Mark's Craft Fayre this year is on 20 November 10.30.to 3.30p.m

**Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch** Harvest Lunch. Sunday 3 October Putnoe Heights By popular request, steak or chicken pies are on the menu this year! Tickets now on sale from Putnoe Office or in church on Sunday mornings. £6.00 (£3.00 for children) for two courses and soft drink. Own bottles of wine welcome with glasses provided.

**The Bandstand Marathon** Sunday 26 September 2 -4pm, Mill Meadows, Bedford. It's that time of year again when Bedford takes part in the Cultural Olympiad Event, The Bandstand Marathon. We will be part of a national marathon when 100+ bands will be striking up in bandstands all over the country at the same time on the same date and we are the only bandstand in the whole of the county to be participating. This year we will have tea, coffee, cakes and pancakes available to make the day more enjoyable. So bring friends and family along to Mill Meadows and enjoy the concert performed by our nationally renowned Bedford Town Band. This year our invited guests helping to celebrate the Cultural Olympiad are from Special Schools, Children in Care, Youth Parliament, Foster Carers and Adult Services. The Mayor will be opening the concert saying a little about the services we have in our communities.

**House Group September 2010** Wendy Waters will be holding a house group at 13 Farnham Way, Putnoe at 7.45 pm on Mondays: 27 September; 4, 18 and 25 October. We will use a 'York Course' entitled 'In the Wilderness'. These are very popular courses based on a CD which provides thought provoking input from Christians; on this course they include Rob Frost and Elaine Storkey. There is also a booklet which forms the basis of informal exploration and discussion. If you are interested in being part of the group or for more details please contact Wendy Waters on 401834.

**Sankey Moody Evening at Putnoe Heights Church** 31st October at 6.30pm. On this evening we will be remembering the meetings held by these two great evangelists and it is an opportunity to enjoy singing a collection of some old favourite hymns and songs. The BBC 'Songs of Praise' programme featured the music last year and was popular with

listeners, so making it an attraction for everyone. We would like to form a small choir to lead the singing so as to help make the service more enjoyable, and Mike has kindly stated his willingness to hold a rehearsal beforehand. Please speak to either Mike (Puttock) or contact me, ericroyden@gmail.com, telephone 07722138410 Let us make this an enjoyable and memorable evening.

**Bedford South and Ampthill Circuit Network** invite all to their final Circuit Network AGM and lunch on 11 October at 11am at Wilstead Methodist Church. Please see notices in foyer for more information.

**District Craft Day** will be held on 30 October from 10am to 4.15pm at Priory Methodist Church. For booking forms and further details contact Pam Seymour on 305695 or 01296 485087 or Ann Hitt on 404186. Closing Date 16th October

**Riding Lights Theatre Company** present Origins and Lemons (squeezing the juice out of Genesis) at Christ Church, Denmark Street on Sunday 17th October at 7.30pm. Tickets £11/£8 concession from Christ Church office 327150 or from box office 01904 613000.

**Abbeyfield Bedford 40th Anniversary Celebration Praise** Presented by Pam Rhodes, 3pm Sunday 24 October 2010 at St. Paul's Church Bedford. For invitations please apply to: Abbeyfield Bedford Society, 18 Linden Road Bedford MK40 2DA & return by 1 October 2010.

**Kempston Musical Society** will be performing a concert of light music in aid of Alzheimers Society on Saturday 30 October at Bunyan Meeting Mill Street Bedford at 7-00pm. Admission £6.00. Programmes available at the door. Musical Director Janet Welsh. Accompanist Derrick Robinson. For further information contact Bedford 268101 or e-mail—kempstonmusicalsociety@hotmail.com

**Prebend Daycentre** need volunteers. Can you give up a day or a morning or afternoon? If you are interested and would like to know more. Please ring Mary on 01234 365955

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**Charity Fashion Show** Cancer Research UK Bedford support group is holding a Fashion Show in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. There will be clothes for all occasions, many from High Street chains, together with fashion accessories (no shoes). All will be available for sale, and there will also be a raffle. All profits to Cancer Research UK Breast Cancer research.

The event takes place on Friday, 8 October at Lincroft Middle School, Oakley, Bedford at 7.30pm and all are welcome. Phone 01234 213305 or 01234 354183 for tickets, which are £5 each (includes a glass of Bucks Fizz)

**Christmas Shoebox Appeal** The youth team at Putnoe Church are launching the Christmas Shoebox Appeal again this year. Via the Samaritan's Purse organisation filled shoe boxes will be delivered to some of the worlds poorest children, boys and girls between 2 to 14 years, in time for Christmas. If you could please donate any of the following items soft toys, jigsaws, building blocks, cars, dolls, soft balls, stationary items, stickers, puzzle books, toothbrushes/paste, soap, hairbrushes, hats and caps, necklaces, sweets (long sell by dates), bangles, sunglasses. We will also need empty shoeboxes and Christmas wrapping paper. Please leave at Putnoe Office for the youth team. Any question, contact Emma Gordon. Thank you." Alternatively if you would prefer to donate some money this can be used towards postage. The boxes need to be completed by the beginning of November.

**A Joyful Noise** at Putnoe Heights Church Community Centre on Saturday 16 October 2010. 1.30 - 5pm. This is for all children aged 7-13. There will be an afternoon of music, singing, drama, dance and craft. Cost is £2. Book with Emma by email to youth@thisischurch.com or phone 07593266091 if you wish to be part of the day.

**Sunday morning Taxi Service** St Mark's provides a taxi service to church for the 9.30am service. This service is free of charge for those who have difficulty transporting themselves to Church. To book this service all that you have to do is to telephone St Mark's Church Office during the week before 1.00pm on Friday. We will then arrange to have you collected by our driver, it is as simple as that! Avril Williams 360605

**Brass Band Concert** in aid of 'Release International' Come and listen to the renown South London Fellowship Band of the Salvation Army On Saturday 16 October 2010 at 7.30p.m. Venue The Addison Centre. Kempston. Tickets £10 including light refreshments available from Steve Gadsden 01234 822486. Concert part of The Gadsden Bands Centenary Celebrations

**Volunteering Opportunity – St Mark's Clubhouse** St Marks' Clubhouse is a project which provides social opportunities and training for adults with learning difficulties. The project is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9 am and 3 pm. We want to build up a bank of volunteers who would like to contribute to this valuable and rewarding project. Our volunteering opportunities offer the chance to work with a mixed group of people and we are looking for people of all ages and experience to help us with a range of tasks. This could be your chance to share your skills, make a difference to your community and learn more about life for people living with learning difficulties. If you (or anyone you know) would like to find out more please contact Delia Shephard on 07753 843446

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### Next Week Harvest Festival

Sunday 3 October

St Mark's Church at 9.30am  
Putnoe Heights Church at 11.00am

### 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.

**John Kay**

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

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### Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Mr William Edward Carr** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 29 September at 2.30pm

**The funeral of Mr Graham Richard Harland** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 30 September at 10.45am

**The funeral of Pamela Mary Campbell** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 1 October at 12.15pm

