



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

27 July 2008

Ordinary 17



Church of  
England

## Partnership Church Services Today

### 8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

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

Preacher -Mr Chris Izzard  
Leadership Team -Mrs Delia Shephard  
Intercessions -Mrs Pat Leusby

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard  
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley  
Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck  
Joan is at Sharnbrook today.  
Charlie is on holiday

## 3 August- Ordinary 18

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

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley  
Leadership Team -Mrs Laura Farthing  
Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights- Family Worship

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

### Bible Readings

1. Genesis 29: 15-28
2. Romans 8: 26-39
3. Matthew 14: 13-21

## Thank You

The flowers at St.Mark's have been given by Ada Hill and Dawn Wood in memory of Ada's husband Derek for his birthday.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by Betty & Lawrence Wyatt to mark the anniversary of their wedding in 1953

*Anyone who wishes to donate flowers at Putnoe on a particular Sunday in the next few months is invited to enter their name(s) on the rota on the notice board in the welcome area at Putnoe Heights Church. For St Mark's Church flowers please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254*

## Prayer for Sunday

Jesus, abject and despised, let us not be ashamed to follow you.

Jesus, hated and persecuted, let us not be afraid to walk in your footsteps.

Jesus, blasphemed and condemned, let us be counted your friends. Jesus, mocked and scourged, let us bear all things patiently.

Jesus, crowned and derided, let us not be overwhelmed by our injuries and grief. Amen.

John Wesley, 1703-1791

## 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 Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

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

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper 306751

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

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

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

### 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.

St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎721063

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

**12.00pm Story box** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

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

**4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

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

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

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

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

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

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

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 18 August Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

## Tuesday

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

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

**10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

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

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

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

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

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

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 2nd September - AGM. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

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

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

**7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group** St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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

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

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

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

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting July 29th Afternoon Tea at Christine's at 2.30pm Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 18 June 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 30 July 2008 Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016 7.45 for 8pm God talk—women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. 26 June will be at 14 Flint Way. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Saturday

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

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

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

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

### Sunday

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

**11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior** at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available. Not in August.

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

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

## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council –**, 18 November

**St Mark's Leadership Team –** 8 September, 24 November

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –** 1 September  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee**

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting-29th September at 7.30pm.**

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

**Putnoe Church Council -** 6 October.

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

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

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

**Partnership Council -**

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

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

**Circuit/Deanery Meeting**

**Woodland Burial Trustees -**

**Mission Group Meeting**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth**

# Ordinary 17

## Opening Verse of Scripture - Romans 8:38-39

Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



## Collect Prayer for the Day

God, you have poured the Spirit of your Son into our hearts so that we call you father. Give us grace to devote our freedom to your service that we and all creation may be brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## First Bible Reading - Genesis 29: 15-28

Laban said to him, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be." Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak <sup>[a]</sup> eyes, but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful. Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to lie with her." So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and Jacob lay with her. And Laban gave his servant girl Zilpah to his daughter as her maidservant. When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?" Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work." And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

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

## Second Reading - Romans 8: 26-39

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth,



nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

### **Third Reading - Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43**

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied. He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

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

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

### **Hymns** (*Please distribute Holy Communion and Hymns and Psalms* )

1. Born in song 486
2. He is the Lord, he his Lord 256
3. Happy the man that finds the grace 674 Tune: John Blockley
4. The Lord is King! Lift up thy voice 58 Tune: Church Triumphant
5. Love divine, all loves excelling 267 Tune: Blaenwern

### **Commentary**

#### A Collection of Parables

From Matthew today we have a series of pictures which describe the kingdom of heaven and what our response and attitude should be to it. Matthew uses the term 'Kingdom of heaven', but it means the same as 'Kingdom of God,' it is simply that he does not want to write the word 'God' out of a respect for the holiness of God's name.

The mustard seed and the yeast - parables of growth

These two short parables contrast the small beginning of the kingdom with the greatness of its effects. Our faith came out of the birth of a baby in a manger, failed disciples who ran away and death on a cross. We need to remind ourselves of this fact when we are tempted to feel small and insignificant. God's kingdom has secret power which confounds the wisdom of the world. The parables remind us that in humility God's kingdom is established. Jesus disciples faced daunting odds, you would not have thought it was possible for them to achieve the promises of Jesus. We need to consider why Jesus choose a mustard seed. The mustard seed is tiny, but is not, in fact, the smallest of all seeds. The shrub that grows from the tiny seed is great by comparison with its beginnings, the mustard shrub typically grows to between 8 and 12 feet, but this is hardly comparable to the mighty cedars of Lebanon, with which Israel preferred to liken itself. Why would Jesus not compare the kingdom of heaven to a great tree instead of a shrub that a farmer might consider a weed? Perhaps the lesson of the mustard shrub is that Christians should live expectantly, knowing that God brings great things out of small beginnings, but that we should not

expect the kingdom to be great as the world counts greatness. The parable of the leaven also encourages us to avoid seclusion and to be involved in the world. Leaven works as it is worked into the dough. So as Christians we are encouraged to go into all the world and have an effect for good.

Treasure and Pearls - The Kingdom is worth everything

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Parable of the Pearl are parables which underscore the unique value of the kingdom. The discovery of things of great value produces joy and a willingness to give up everything for that which is best. The merchant is actively looking for pearls, while the other man just stumbles onto treasure in a field. Both, however, recognize the overwhelming value of their discovery, and sell everything so that they might buy it. In neither case is there any hint of sacrifice -- of giving up something precious -- of having to make a difficult decision. Neither man is sad to sell everything, because they are both overwhelmed with the joy of discovery and the prospect of possessing such treasure. They are like the disciples, who left everything to follow Jesus (4:18-22; 19:27-30). It is worth remembering the rich young ruler who "went away grieving," because he could not bear to part with his many possessions (19:16-26). This young man understood how radical the demands of following Jesus were. He begrudged losing what he already had, he had become attached to other things than Jesus and was not overwhelmed by a spontaneous gesture to give it all up and follow..

We have to decide whether the price is worth paying and make the appropriate response of total commitment. We cannot serve two masters (6:24). If we are unwilling to pay the price of commitment then we will not gain the treasure. The men who gain the treasure do not sell everything and buy the treasure because they feel it is something which they should do out of duty. Rather they are prompted by the conviction that it is worth it the sacrifices. They are so overjoyed at the prospect of what will be theirs that they freely give everything.

The parable of the net - Judgement will follow

This parable is very similar to the parable of the weeds which we read last week. The message is that judgment belongs to God and nobody else. In this parable, a dragnet scoops up all sorts of fish, both good and bad. Jews were prohibited (Lev. 11:9-12) from eating certain types of sea life, creatures without scales or fins, so the fishermen would discard unusable fish. The message for the disciples is clear, the net will be sorted but not yet. The timetable for God's judgement is not ours, and be careful, the measure of God's judgement is not ours. God will decide not us. Be careful in judging others, if we really want somebody to judge then we can have a full time job dealing with ourselves. Charles Royden

### **Meditation**

Forgiveness is understanding and holding the pain of another; it is compassion.

Forgiveness is the acceptance of our brokenness, yours and mine.

Forgiveness is letting go of unrealistic expectations of others, and of the desire that they be other than they are.

Forgiveness is liberating others to be themselves, not making them feel guilty for what may have been...

Forgiveness is peace-making:

struggling to create unity, to build one body, to heal the broken body of humanity.

Jean Vanier, 'Forgiveness in Community'

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

God you poured the Spirit of your Son into our hearts so that we call you Father. give us grace to devote our freedom to your service.

Gracious God, you call each one of us to different types of ministry in your service. We pray for Rowan Williams who has been called to a most difficult ministry. We ask that you would strengthen and encourage him in the days ahead. When he reads hurtful things about himself on the radio or in the newspapers, help him to hear instead your voice. Reassure him of the knowledge of your love and commitment, that as he has been called in your service, so you will sustain and empower him with your strength. Give to him wisdom and patience, and a sense of humour. Amen.

**Junior Church & YPF** at Putnoe will not take place during August, but we hope to see you all at our summer workshops. Have a great summer. Liz and Sam.

**The Valedictory Service** for Rev. Dr. Joan Crossley will be held at Putnoe Heights Church on 24th August at 6.30pm. All Welcome.

**Future Dates for your diary.**

'The partnership Summer Musical Workshops !!! - a mixture of story, music, dance, drama, crafts & fun. Tuesday 19 August 2– 4 pm 'Its Raining Cats and Dogs' aimed at the under 5's with carers. Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 August 10am—3pm 'The 7 Days of Creation' 5 years plus, all abilities . Full details to from Liz.'

**Coffee Morning** Sat. 2nd August 10am –12noon at the home of Bob and Pam Burn, 1 Slater Close, Kempston. Cakes, raffle, proceeds to Mission Funds. All welcome. Requests for/offers of transport to Sylvia Cohen 343424.

Has anyone got any old sheets or cotton material, white, coloured or patterned that we can have, for our summer workshop in August, to cut up and use as props. Thank you Liz.

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

**Bobby Van** Brickhill Parish Council is looking for 29 homes in Brickhill that could be helped by the Bedfordshire Police 'Bobby Van'. The Bobby Scheme provides a free service to elderly or vulnerable victims of crime on low incomes. No charges are made for the work carries out under the Bobby Scheme. Now, even if you have not been a victim of crime yourself, you case still get their help. The 'Bobby Men' will visit your home and give advice on how to make it more secure. They will provide practical help in improving home security. The service is for owner-occupiers and is mainly for the over 65's but can also be used for other people in the vulnerable category or those who are just not quite 65. Those who have already been burgled or have reported bogus callers will already have been offered this service. If you or someone you know would like the Bobby Van men to help you, please contact the Parish Council office on 271708.



**Telecare**

I was recently visited by two women deacons from Sweden, Kristina and Päivi. They are returning with a group of 11 others to visit our churches on Wednesday September the 3rd. They want to share some of the work which we are doing, specifically about church and community. It would be lovely for some of the folk engaged in our work were able to come and meet with them.

As we talked about our churches I was astonished when I told them about Telecare, because they also have the same scheme—called Telecare! We both felt very positive about what it did for caring. As we work with only one full time minister in the coming year, please consider enrolling in Telecare, especially if you are **elderly or live alone**. This pastoral support network assists us in finding out when people have not be able to come to church for a while. It is important that we keep in touch and it is so much appreciated by the ministers when members of the congregation help us in this way. A quick telephone call will be made every couple of weeks by a small group of our pastoral support team. They make the calls from St Mark's Church office. As well as making a friendly call from the church, there have been times when they have alerted the ministers to important situations of pastoral need. It might be something they have discovered when talking to somebody, such as a forthcoming visit to hospital. It might just as easily be something which we had forgotten or not noticed, such as a person who has not been able to come to church for a few weeks. Please help us keep in touch—join Telecare. Just ring St Mark's office and give your name, or tell one of the ministers.

**Also, please do call Charlie if you or anybody you know goes into hospital, or is ill at home, such people will always be visited.**

**Grass cutting at St Mark's** I am trying to set up a rota of people who would be willing to help with cutting the grass during the summer months. If you are able to offer your time please would you ring or leave your details at the church office. Thank you. Wendy

**Footprints** - walk on Sunday 3rd August. Meet at Totternhoe Knolls picnic site car park at 2.30pm for a 4 mile circular walk. For further details please contact Alan Bunker. Tel: 213951

**Gardening** Jean Cole and I have nearly finished "springcleaning" the bed round the car park, at the expense of weekly care of other areas, and it would be marvellous if three volunteers could join Audrey in looking after that area now. A fortnightly hoeing would keep everything clean and tidy, at a time to suit the volunteers, though we normally work on a Friday morning if company or advice were needed. Please talk to Marion if you could adopt a quarter, joining the Adopt a bed scheme. Existing volunteers— thanks for steady work. Poppies could now be pulled up, heads shaken for another display next year, and keep up with the weeding, everyone. There is an electric garden vac in the shed if you need to gather up fallen eucalyptus leaves. Thanks again. Marion.

**NCH House to House Collection.** NCH, the children's charity, works with disadvantaged and disabled children, and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other

groups in partnership including the Methodist Church, Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. The annual house-to-house collection to support the vital work of the NCH will take place as usual in the first two weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £950. If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel 324507)

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



**St Albans Woodland.**

During this spell of beautiful weather why not take a ride up to Keysoe and have a walk into the Woodland Glade and

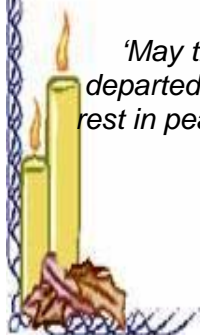
enjoy the peaceful surroundings. If there is an event on at the Equestrian Centre Simon invites you to go along and watch the horses and riders. There's even a coffee shop open on some days. See Linda Parry or the Leadership for further information.

**Baby bouncy chair.** If anyone has a chair which I could borrow for a visiting baby from 8 - 12 August I would be most grateful. Wendy Rider.

**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.

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



**Back to Church Sunday.** Our churches are both joining in with 'Back to Church Sunday.' Last year 2,000 churches joined in and this year the St Albans Diocese is signing up. We will have our Harvest Festival on 'Back to Church Sunday' which is 28 September. we will use this as an opportunity to welcome people to our churches for a special Sunday. How you can help! This special Sunday will soon be upon us and we need to start praying and planning now. Back to Church Sunday is a special time to invite people along to church with a special welcome. Please think of people we can send a personal invitation to and advise the ministers or a member of the Leadership Team.

