



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

28 October – 30th 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 28 October - 30 in Ordinary

8.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Barry Owen
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mr Chris Izzard

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Barry Owen
Leadership – Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Ministers

4th November - All Saints Day

9.30 St Marks's – Family Worship

Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions -Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship

Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Leadership – Mrs. Vita Hudson-Rae
Intercessions - Young People

Readings 1. Isaiah 25: 6-9. 2. Revelations 21: 1-6a.

3. John 11:32-44

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 Christina and Maurice Halsey in loving memory of their daughter Lesley Robinson.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Carolyn Tatman in loving memory of her husband John on his birthday.

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 on the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

Let us worship the Christ who draws near to each of us. Let us praise the Christ who loves the worst among us. Let us bless the Christ who shares with the least among us. Let us glorify the Christ who intercedes for all among us in the presence of God the Father. Amen.

Ann Griffiths (1776-1805)

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 Mills

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 John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
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)

2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (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 Mark's (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

6.30pm Boot Camp - Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

Zumba - Explosion Fitness—Putnoe Heights - Sam Baptista 07402965490

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– 29 October Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

7.45pm Opus Choir at St Mark's Mrs Sutherland ☎269100

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 Skinner ☎07989080389

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 below)

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

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

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

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 **Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting Tuesday 13 November - AGM and Quiz 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.(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)

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition—Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)

11am U3A Keep Fit. - Putnoe Heights

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 7 November 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

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

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan

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 21 November. Wendy Waters /401834

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C 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. Sylvia Woods 365095

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 at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 31 October Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. 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 No meeting on 1 November.

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

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 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.

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

2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's. (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's 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 .**Will meet at St.Mark's on 1November for that week only.** 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 U3A Whist St Marks. (contact details below)

2pm U3A Italian—Putnoe Heights (contact details below)

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights

5-8pmStars 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

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

Diary Dates

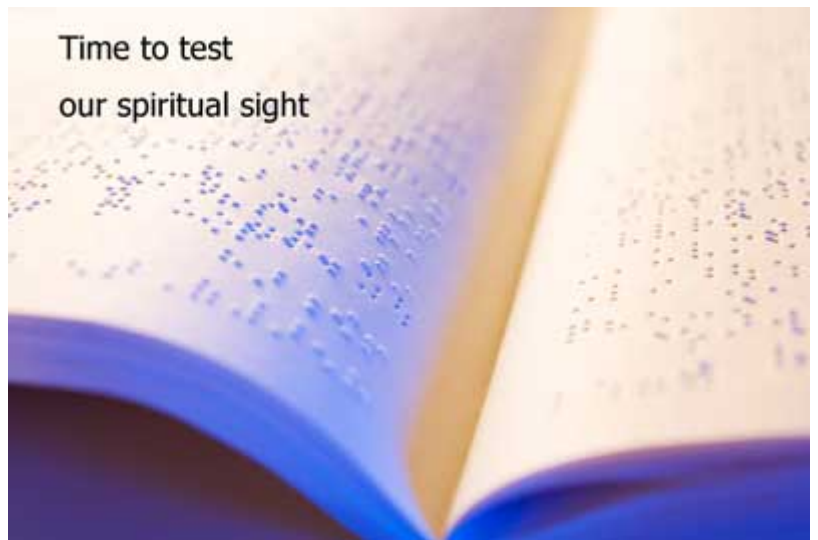
St Mark's Church Council – 19 Feb,11 June
St Mark's Leadership Team - 22 January
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 February
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
Putnoe Church Council -
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Commemoration Service 4 November3.00pm
Circuit meeting -
Deanery Meeting - 16 November
Woodland Burial Trustees—
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -
Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Ordinary 30

Opening Verse of Scripture -

Luke Chapter 4:18

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."



Collect Prayer

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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.

First Bible Reading - Jeremiah Chapter 31:7-9

This is what the LORD says: "Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labour; a great throng will return. They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son. (This is the word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - Hebrews Chapter 7:23-28

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever. (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Mark Chapter 10:46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. (This is the word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you not only with our lips but in our lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns *(Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Morning Worship)*

Hymn HP 333 For the beauty of the earth

Hymn HP 153 Tell me the stories of Jesus

Hymn HP 151 When Jesus the healer passed through Galilee

Hymn HP 675 Have faith in God, my heart

Hymn HP 673 Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Commentary

We have just read in the same chapter two stories which help us to understand this passage

Remember the rich man who refused to leave his wealth to follow Jesus, also the incident in which James and John asked Jesus to give to them positions of power, seated on his left and right hand.

Remember these two stories because Mark has deliberately placed them just before this healing of the blind man. So we come to consider Bartimaeus

He is physically blind we are told, but he displays a spiritual vision which enables him to see who Jesus is much better than the disciples with perfect physical vision.

He wants to have mercy from Jesus and calls Jesus using a messianic title 'Son of David.'. Those around him try to silence him but he will have nothing of it and continues to call to Jesus. Eventually Jesus calls for Bartimaeus and he leaves behind his cloak and he is healed and follows Jesus.

Think then of this man who simply wishes to follow Jesus above all things. The cloak was considered an essential item, but he will leave even this behind for the opportunity to follow Jesus. Contrast this to the rich man who wants to keep all his wealth and puts that before following Jesus.

The story is told to show us a man who got his priorities right. Many people will not do this!

This is a timeless message, faith is the serious stuff in our life, all of that other stuff is a side issue.

It is a strange paradox that the more possessions we have the less we find fulfilment in them.

Bartimaeus knows this, he has his priorities set right, leave all, follow Jesus.

The really important things in life cannot be seen with physical sight.

So Mark asks us to consider a question, what are we prepared to leave behind to follow Jesus. What is it which keeps us back?

There is a cautionary message here. The disciples are in the inner circle of Jesus followers and here is one who is blind who sees more clearly than them. So often it is that we Christians find those beyond the church teaching us the ways of Jesus. We as a church throughout history have been slow to understand the grace and mercy of God. We have been slow to understand the value of human life, equality of people in God's eyes. Support for slavery, the practice of racial discrimination and sexual discrimination these are just some of our wickedness. It is those outside the church who have led us into the light.

Bartimaeus was one who would have been looked down upon by society at the time of Jesus. Religious people would have thought that Bartimaeus was blind because of sin, his blindness was considered a judgement of God. Do you remember John 9:2? The disciples saw a blind man and asked Jesus who committed the sin which caused the man to be blind.

Why do we do this? Why do religious people take satisfaction in looking down their noses and being judgemental?

We do this in spite of being able to see in the life of Jesus somebody who went out of his way to give precedence to those who were judged and who was at his most critical when he was with people who were judgemental and thought themselves better than others.

We spend a great deal of time as a worldwide Christian church arguing and debating about great spiritual truths. We argue about how salvation works, about all manner of complex truths, but we just don't seem to be able to get the very basics right. We still judge others more strongly than we judge ourselves, we forgive our own failings and want those of others to be punished.

The Church and Christians create situations where people like Bartimaeus feel unwanted and unloved
Let me introduce you to a can, it is dented can

I think that once, not long ago, these kinds of tins would have been sold off, cheap. I can remember going into supermarkets and there would be large bins with these tins in for people to buy. And there would be sign on the bin that read, "Damaged Goods". People would buy these things because they were cheap rejects from the shelves. Apparently sometimes at Tesco, if one tin is damaged they chuck the whole tray of tins out. The whole tray is rejected as damaged goods.

It seems to me that a lot of people, more than you might think, feel like this tin. Whatever the reason, things they've done, things life has done to them, things beyond their control, have made them feel like damaged goods...bent out of shape, crushed, of little value to themselves or anyone else

Bartimaeus somehow found the strength to bypass the followers of Jesus, and to shout out direct to

Jesus, it was when he did this that he found Jesus a lot more sympathetic than his disciples. Bartimaeus was a damaged person and yet by the grace of Jesus he found out how much he was valued and loved by God. Other people disregard him but to Jesus he was of utter value.

Desmond Tutu said,

"Christ, when he was lifted up, did not say 'I draw some people to myself.'

He said 'I draw all, all, ALL!' John 12:32

We are not nearly as welcoming as Jesus and we seem to take delight in excluding the very ones Jesus would have draw near. This man met with Jesus and saw in him the presence of God and knew that he was forgiven. From rock bottom he realised that he was of great value to God. In some miraculous way Jesus had shown him that he was not damaged at all.

God wants us to know that we are valuable. No matter how much we think that the beauty of God in us has been disfigured or destroyed—we are precious to him. There are no damaged goods in a bin going cheap in God's creation. We can look at people and see the image of God marred, disfigured and broken, but we have to get past the appearance of the tin and look at the goods inside which are made by God. God wants us to know is that it is not just us who are special to him. We have brothers and sisters, in God's family we are not an only child. Just because people are different, does not mean that they are wrong.

The Pharisees represented a "sick religion" one that excludes people. Jesus' religion is one of grace....it includes everyone. When Jesus looks at us, he does not see damaged goods. He represents a healthy religion that is redemptive and life-changing, not one that labels and condemns. Jesus spent most of his time hanging out with people at the edges of society, people who were considered damaged goods, that should give us a clue. The lesson today is a note of caution, the reject is the one that Jesus is really interested in.

So look at the story and the characters in it and try and see who you are like, how you would treat Bartimaeus? Would you consider him to be one who had brought punishment upon himself through his sinful life? Are you a judgemental person who magnifies the sins of your family, your friends, people at work, people who have different points of view? When we recognise this in ourselves there is held out the chance to change and become different, just like the man in the story. Nobody who comes to Jesus is rejected, everybody is offered the opportunity to go away a changed person.

Meditation

Have you seen any miracles lately? Sometimes you just have to look at things in a slightly different way to see something which you have missed before. With the eyes of faith we can see power which is greater than ourselves. A poor beggar lying at the side of the road had such eyes even though he was blind. What he saw in Jesus made him realise that here was somebody who could change his life. Do we have such sight to see the miracles which surround us day by day and the possibilities which Jesus offers to those who put their trust in him.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week ahead

God, our Shepherd, give to the Church a new vision and a new charity, new wisdom and fresh understanding, the revival of her brightness and the renewal of her unity; that the eternal message of your Son, undefiled by human tradition, may be hailed as the good news of the new age; through him who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

Gracious and all merciful God - we give thanks to you today for your compassion and your love. We proclaim your goodness and your strength and we call upon you in praise and thanksgiving. Bless us and bless your people everywhere this day with your holy presence. Help us to worship you in a manner worthy of our calling and to render to you the tribute due to your name. We ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the silence of the stars, in the quiet of the hills and in the heaving of the sea, you speak O Lord. In the words of the prophets and the message of the apostles, you speak O Lord. Now we pray, speak in this place, in the calming of our minds and the longing of our hearts, by the words of my lips and the meditations of our hearts. Speak, O Lord, for your servants listen.

Lord of creation, you give a new strength to our faith. Grant that we may recognise your presence in all life and history, and face our trials with serenity and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. We will be holding a special service of commemoration of loved ones who have died at St Mark's Church at 3pm on 4 November. All are welcome to attend so please do encourage anybody you know who would appreciate this special service. The preacher will be The Reverend Andrew Hollins Superintendent of the Methodist Church Circuit

Advent Course

This year we will be running a Partnership Advent Course at St Mark's for three weeks. The course will also be great for those considering confirmation in the 2013. Each session will start with refreshments at 7.30pm with the main meeting 8.00pm - 9.00pm More details to follow but put these dates in your diary.

Thursday 29 November

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm

Session in Church from 8pm

Thursday 6 December

In WREN room from 7.30pm

Thursday 13 December

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm

Session in Church from 8pm

Putnoe Heights Refurbishment. Starting at ½ term Friday 26 October The large hall will be given a new floor and new boilers will be fitted. .

Messy Church This year, for the first time, our Messy Church families will be donating items for the Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' Shoe Box Appeal. If you would also like to contribute items for the 'Shoe box' presents there will be a container for them in church from 21st October to 18th November. A leaflet, which you can take as you leave church today, gives more details and most importantly lists what can and cannot be donated. For more information please contact: Wendy Waters 01234 401834, or Margaret Appleton 01234 354708..

Volunteers needed at Putnoe Heights. We need to do some extra cleaning of the Church premises and are looking for volunteers to help with Window Cleaning, Damp dusting of all rooms, Kitchen cleaning and also weeding around outside of the building. Jobs can be done at a time to suit you. Please see Jenny Snelson after the service, or contact on 01234 344417.

Putnoe Art Group are holding an exhibition and sale of New Paintings at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 10th November from 10:30am. Free Entry; Tea and Cake only £1.00 . For details contact Bob on 01234 406094.

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church is flourishing this term. Our catering team would welcome new volunteers to help once a month. For further details please talk to Carolyn Morris or Val Peacock.

Footprints Walk – Sunday 4 November

Our next walk will be centred on the river and surrounding areas. Please meet in Priory Church car park for a 2pm start. The walk will be mainly on good paths and should be no more than about 3 miles. We shall end at Priory for a cuppa and cake. Contact Sue Butler (Priory) if you need any further information.

St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre There are only 4 weeks left to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 24 November 2012. We would be grateful for any help with the following:-**Raffle Tickets** – Are now on sale in the Foyer after church. Please take a few books home to family and friends returning the week before the Fayre (19) or on Saturday 24 November. **Tombola** – Any NEW unwanted gifts\Christmas present etc. for our Tombola Stall. **Cake Stall** Milly is kindly co-ordinating the cake stall again this year. She would be very grateful for any offers of cakes. If you are able to bake a cake for this stall please contact Milly via the Church Office. **Refreshments** – We would very much appreciate donations of traybakes to sell with tea and coffee. Ploughman's lunches will be on sale at lunchtime as usual. Volunteers to help in the kitchen on the day would be very much appreciated. To put your name down please see Avril Williams. Any help gratefully received. **Secondhand Book Stall** – We are again this year having a secondhand bookstall so please have a look in your cupboards for any unwanted books. We do ask that they be in good condition please. **Indoor Plant Stall** – After the success of last year's Indoor Plant Stall we are doing the same again this year. If you have any indoor or outdoor plants or have split any plants and would like to donate them to our stall we would be very grateful. All donated items for the above stalls can be bought up to Church anytime week beginning 19 November. Finally we will need lots of help on the day especially when the Fayre finishes at 3.30p.m. Many hands make light work and it would certainly be appreciated in getting the Church back for the Sunday morning service. This is one of our main fundraising events of the year and we are hoping to make it an even bigger success than last year, with your help I am sure we can achieve this. It all helps in keeping the doors of St Mark's Community Centre open for Brickhill and surrounding areas. Many thanks. Avril

Police Commissioner Hsutings

A Special Meeting of the Brickhill Community Safety Forum will be held at St. Marks Church, Calder Rise on Friday 9 November 2012 at 7.00 for 7.30pm to enable local residents to put questions to the candidates, listen to their replies and ascertain whose policies you would wish to see put in to practice. This will broadly follow the "Any Questions" format.

Thursday Prayer Group there will be no meeting on 1 November due to works at Putnoe Heights.

Tuesday Club on 30 October Cancelled

Chat and Make will not meet on Monday 5 November.

Police Commissioner Hustings - One off volunteers needed. The assistance of up to four able-bodied stewards is requested to help with the moving of the chairs, collection of signatures, and marshalling the meeting of the Community Safety Forum Meeting from 6.30pm on Friday 9 November. Contact Ray Seymour on Bedford 305695

Methodist Church and United Reformed Church draw closer
Representatives of two of the nation's largest free Churches have met to discuss the opportunities and challenges of working more closely together. The groups met in Sutton Coldfield, 17-19 October, for the second joint meeting of the United Reformed Church's Mission Council and the Methodist Council. They engaged in wide-ranging discussions about the relationship between the Churches and the challenges that need to be overcome for greater unity, both locally and nationally.

"It's been wonderful to have a time of learning and fellowship together," added the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church. "We have learnt so much about our similarities and differences. There is clearly a great deal of good will between our two Churches and the desire to explore what closer partnerships in God's mission might mean for us today."



Social Evening

Tickets are now available for an evening of music and entertainment with special guest Vittorio at St Mark's on Saturday 17 November.



St Mark's Messy Church .
Future dates: all 3.45 to 5.30pm
Wednesday 21 November
Wednesday 12 December.

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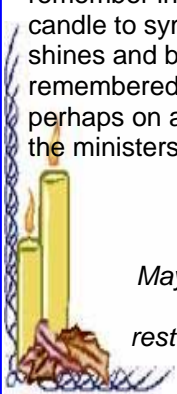


Rest In Peace

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.

Bert Abram

*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.

A Memorial Service for the late Olive Whitlock will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 2.0p.m on Saturday 3rd November

