



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

28 September 2008

Ordinary 26



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

Harvest Festival

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 - Rev Charles Royden

Leadership Team – Mrs Avril Williams

Intercessions – Mr. Richard Ledger

11.00am Putnoe Heights– Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden

Leadership Team – Mr Lawrence Wyatt

Intercessions – Ministers

5 October – Ordinary 27

9.30am St. Mark's– Family Worship

Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions – Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship

Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team -

Intercessions -

Bible Readings

1. Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

2. Phil 3: 4b -14

3. Matthew 21: 33 - 46

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week are to celebrate the marriage of Gemma Clarke and Christopher Andrew.

Mrs Sam Ware [telephone 304058] has taken over the distribution of Sunday flowers from Putnoe Heights. If you know of anyone who would appreciate receiving a bunch of flowers, please let Sam know.



Prayer for Sunday

Blessed are those
who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is in the Lord.
They shall be like a tree
planted by water,
sending out its roots
by a stream.
It shall not fear
when heat comes,
and its leaves
shall stay green;

In the year of drought it is not anxious,
and does not cease to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17:7-7

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 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

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. 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

11am - 12. The Right Track at St Mark's. Signpost information for people with learning difficulties. Gina Barton ☎07999859980

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 29 September 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

9.40 -12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Philips 01582 485333

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 30 September, Harvest Festival. 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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 7 October, Sing along with Debbie. More details from 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 1 October 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 1 October. All welcome. 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. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

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

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 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

4pm B.A.M.A.A. at St Mark's. Chinese soft martial arts. Mr Chris Butcher ☎07886894922

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 – 24 November
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting- 29th September at 7.30pm.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

12 November all at 12 noon

Putnoe Church Council - 6 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Tuesday 30th September at 4.30pm

Churchyard Committee - 12 November at 11am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 2nd October

Deanery Meeting - 13 November

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees -

Mission Group Meeting

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 1st December.

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

Ordinary 26

Opening Verses of Scripture

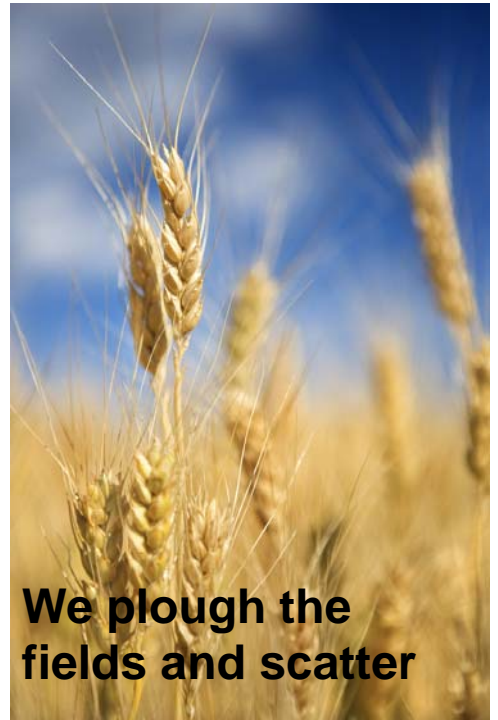
The land has yielded its harvest: God our God has blessed us.
Psalm 67:6

Collect Prayer for the Day *(Before we read we pray)*

Almighty and everlasting God, we offer you our grateful thanks for your fatherly goodness and care in giving us your gifts and the fruits of the earth through the seasons. Give us grace use them rightly, to your glory, for our own well being, and for the relief of those in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Bible Reading - Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.
(Reader: This is the word of the Lord -- Thanks be to God)



**We plough the
fields and scatter**

Second Reading- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!
(Reader: This is the word of the Lord—Thanks be to God)

Gospel Reading Luke 12:16-30

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He

thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." ' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.
(Reader: This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of the Harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (*Please distribute special harvest service sheets*)

Come ye thankful people come, We eat the plants, We plough the fields and scatter, For the fruits of his creation, Praise and thanksgiving

Commentary

Harvest is one of the most wonderful times of celebration in the church year. Nobody gets killed, there is just unbridled joy at the beauty and providence of creation. Well almost that is! There are some lessons of caution as well, and those lessons are perhaps more important for our times than ever before.

There are obvious lessons about caring for the world which has been entrusted to us. At Harvest time we thank God, for all of the gifts which have been given to us, and all of the opportunities made available to us from the world and its resources. Yet this planet is not ours to do what we want with. It is made by God and we are privileged to have a time here to look after and enjoy it. The expectation is that we will pass it on to our children in a better condition than we found it.

There are salutary lessons at harvest about sharing. We cannot help but feel embarrassed that we have so much of the world's resources, whilst others lack even the most basic necessities. No harvest festival service should ever take place without a time of prayer when we think of the shocking conditions prevalent in parts of the world where people die for lack of resources which we routinely throw away.

There are warnings about priorities. Harvest can be seen as an opportunity to glorify increasing consumption and hoarding. However Harvest is not an occasion to thank God that we have managed to acquire masses of things. In our Gospel reading today Jesus tells his disciples that they need to care less about material things. This is a wonderful message but one which we struggle to hear. Jesus wants his disciples to stop worrying and live. The trouble is that most of us spend a lot of time worrying and working.

So whilst we enjoy Harvest and thank God for it, it is also a good time to consider our priorities in life, what really matters. The pace of life is now so fast and the latest products are brought to market so fast that we might feel we have very quickly become out of date and need to replace

everything. Yet even at the time of Jesus he knew that people had the same issues of worry and work.

Jesus knew that toiling for the latest material goods brought no increase in satisfaction to our society. No matter how much we acquire, no matter how many material possessions, no matter how much money we have - enough is always a little bit more than they already have. The pursuit of happiness in the acquisition of things is always a road to dissatisfaction. What a paradox, the more we seek to be happy through such things the less happy we seem to be!

The Christian message is that pursuit of happiness through amassing things will only ever bring ruin. It is a curious fact that contrary to our wealth bringing happiness it brings impoverishment of the soul. Funnily enough the opposite is the case, the more we give to others the more happiness we receive ourselves. Giving to others is something which we learn from our Lord, Jesus. He had no possessions, he gave up everything he had and gave his life for others. It is his model which we seek to copy. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

The following is a quotation from Pelagius, a British monk from the fourth century who lost out in an argument with Augustine and ended up being made a heretic. Sadly some of his ideas were quite good and it has been said that the British are all Pelagians at heart. This reading speaks profoundly about our attitude towards possessions.

If you were besotted with the things of this world, would want to surpass all others in the luxury of your house, in the magnificence of your garments and jewellery, in the abundance of food on your table, in the splendour of the carriage which took you from one place to another. You would never be satisfied with what you possessed, but would always want more. And you would constantly be comparing yourself with others, looking with envy at those even richer than you. Your wealth would be like a spiritual prison; and your limitless desires would be the chains that bound you. Thus in giving up all these things, you have smashed the chains and broken free. You have little; yet you are satisfied with what you have. You are poorer than most; yet you feel no envy towards the riches of others. To you a simple tunic is like a royal robe; a tiny hut is like a palace; a bowl of porridge is like a feast; a pair of sandals is like a golden carriage

God has created all things for our enjoyment; and therefore physical pleasure is good. Yet the person who seeks perfection acquires more and more pleasure from less and less. The perfect person derives the greatest pleasure from the simplest food. The perfect person rejoices in a tiny hut with a few sticks of furniture. The perfect person sees beauty in every human being, so has no need to possess the beauty of a spouse. Contrary to what some religious leaders teach, perfection is not the denial of pleasure, but the enhancement of it. *To Demetrias*

Prayers

Creator God, we thank you for your promise that while the earth endures, seed-time and harvest, summer and winter, day and night, shall not fail. We thank you for the reliability of this good earth, for the variety of the seasons, and for all the unity and contrasts of creation. We thank you for allowing us to share in the work of the harvest. We thank you that we can nourish the miracle of life and praise you for the dignity of sharing in the work of your almighty hands. O God our father, blessed be you for ever.

Bring to fruition, Creator God, the work of your kingdom. make us part of that joyful harvest in which your loving purpose is completed. help us to realize how important the smallest words and deeds are in the context of eternity. At harvest time when we remember your goodness make us grateful also for all we have received from the labour of others who have sown the seeds of faith, hope and love in our lives.

Father, we thank you, out of the seas and from the earth, we receive the provision which you have made for all our needs. We thank you for the skills in harvesting the earth's resources that people have passed on from one generation to another. We thank you for those through whose vision and work products of our harvesting are channelled into areas of need.

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch Sunday 5th October Tickets available for lunch from Putnoe Office, £5.00 per adult (£2.50 children under 10). Ticket still available, get yours today.

BEH District Women's Network .Autumn Craft Day on 18th October, 9.45 to 4.15 at Priory Methodist Church. Contact Pam Seymour, Tel 305695 for booking forms. To be returned by 6th October. Autumn Fellowship Day on 23rd October, 11am to 3.30pm at Biggleswade Methodist Church. The theme is "Sensing God." For further information on the above events, see the posters in the Church Foyer.

Putnoe Heights Church will hold its Methodist Homes for the Aged day on Sunday 5 October. There will an opportunity to give to the work of MHA through envelopes distributed on Sunday 21 & 28 September. Proceeds from the Harvest Lunch on 5 October will also be given to MHA.

Bedford Art Society require models for portraits Thursday afternoon from 2.30 to 4.30pm, at St Mark's. Modest remuneration & plenty of coffee & biscuits. Please contact Bob Wardale 406094.

Church Lunch Club (Alternate Wednesdays) would welcome any members of St Mark's or Putnoe Heights. If you are interested, please give your name to Margaret Standley, Jenny Emsley or Pam Kinselley. We would also welcome additional helpers, regular or irregular. We also need drivers. With the building work in progress at Putnoe, our Autumn session will not start until 1 October but don't leave it until then to let us know.

The Right Track Supporting People with Learning difficulties—do you want to know about Direct Payments? Benefits? Housing? and many more. If so come along to the drop-ins at St Mark's Church between 11am - 12 on 20th October, 17 November and 15 December

Harvest Quiz Night at St Mark's Church 7.30pm Saturday 4 October. Up to 8 members in a team which can be arranged on the night. Tickets are available from the church offices. Cost £5 which includes fish & chip supper. Bring your own drink.

Kisiisi Hospital celebrates its Golden Jubilee in November. Read the latest newsletter in Putnoe welcome area.

Potton Barbershop Chorus An enjoyable Musical feast by the very popular Potton Barbershop Chorus, Shannon Express, will be given at The Addison Centre, Kempston on Wednesday 8 October at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) in aid of Arthritis Research Campaign. They are one of the

U.K's leading Harmony Choruses and twice champions of the British Ass of Barbershop Singers. Tickets £8 available from Tema Music 34 High Street, Kempston Tel 956465, Bedford Tourist Information Tel 221712, Cental Box Office Tel 269519 or from Marion Goddard Tel 344617. Tea and coffee will be available in the interval. Good parking facilities. Do come. Marian Goddard

Coffee morning Saturday 4 October from 10 - 12 noon at 71 Wentworth Drive, the home of Clive & Jennifer Emsley. In aid of Mission Funds. All welcome. Offers of/request for transport contact Sylvie Cohen 343424

"Friends For Life' requires a secretary/co-ordinator to provide IT and Secretarial services and assist the management team with the co-ordination of the North Bedfordshire Anglican/ Methodist ministry to Care Homes in the area. Good communication skills and IT competence [data base/spread sheets etc] are essential with the ability to work from home and be self-motivating. The ownership/use of a PC and telephone are necessary and the use of a car would be helpful. This position is on a self-employed basis with up to 20 hours per month at varying times and periods in the month as convenient, with occasional evening meetings. The position can be fully paid at an agreed hourly rate, or be part or totally on a volunteer basis. Knowledge of local Methodist/ Anglican church structures would be helpful. Some experience of Care Homes and /or the care of the elderly a big advantage. Please contact Chris Izzard if you wish to apply by 29 September. 01234 212164. Chris.izzard@ntlworld .com Garden House, Honiton Way, Bedford. MK 40 3AN

Autumn Mission Project

After evaluating a number of options for projects to support it has been agreed that both churches will support Mission Aviation Fellowship for our Autumn mission project this year.

Goldington Family Centre is holding a Charity Gala Evening on Thursday the 30 October 2008. We will be showing the new Bond movie *Quantum of Solace* at Cineworld, Aspects Leisure Park Bedford. This will be our major fund raising event of the year and we hope it will be a glamorous and successful evening. The evening begins at 7pm with a free glass of champagne and a light bite with a showing of the movie at 7.30. Once the movie ends an auction will be led by one of Peacock's fine auctioneers with lots of great things to bid for. We will be awarding a prize to the best dressed lady and gentleman. Tickets only £20 (over 18s only) If you would like to purchase tickets please contact Luisa at the centre on 01234 341977

Darwin The Church of England has developed a new section of its website at www.cofe.anglican.org/darwin to mark the approaching bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth in 1809, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species* in 1859. As media interest grows in the bicentenary, the pages analyse Darwin's faith and his relationship with the Church of England. A new essay by the Revd Dr Malcolm Brown, Director of Mission and Public Affairs, gives a personal view of Darwin's contribution to science, whilst warning of social misapplications of his theories.

The Bishop of Swindon, Rt Revd Lee Rayfield, himself a former biological scientist, has contributed a welcome page to the section, and commented: "Theology and science each have much to contribute in the assertion of the Psalmist that we are 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. I hope that this new section will not only provide a source of information and knowledge about Charles Darwin and his work, but that it will prove to be a resource for growing in wisdom and understanding."

In the new section, *Darwin and the Church* reveals that Darwin was surrounded by the influence of the Church his entire life. Having attended a Church of England boarding school in Shrewsbury, he trained to be a clergyman in Cambridge; was inspired to follow his calling into science by another clergyman who lived and breathed botany; and married into a staunch Anglican family.

However, *Darwin and Faith* shows, quoting Darwin's own words, how he slowly lost his personal Christian faith, the erosion made complete by a need for evidence, and the sad death of a beloved daughter.

It is this need for humans to think, and love, that forms the centrepiece of the essay by the Revd Dr Malcolm Brown, called *Good Religion Needs Good Science*.

After warning of the social misapplication of

Darwin's discoveries, where natural selection justifies racism and other forms of discrimination - perhaps predicted in the "misguided" over-reaction of the Church in the 1860s - Malcolm Brown writes: "Christians will want to stress, instead, the human capacity for love, for altruism, and for self-sacrifice." He separates biological science and human emotions further by pointing out the naivety of assuming a wholesale evolution of the human race: "Despite our vastly expanding technical knowledge, even a fairly cursory review of human history undermines any idea of constant moral progress."

To give this essay an accurate historical backdrop, *Brief History of Darwin* lists bullet-points that bring to life Darwin's rise to prominence and vast scientific advancements.

This is complemented by *Further Reading*, which points to Darwin's major written works; their location online; and a listing of how various bodies are celebrating Darwin's bicentenary over the coming months on the *Events* page.

The material concludes that a healthy balance between the mystery of faith and the wonders of scientific discovery is essential - as the Revd Dr Malcolm Brown writes: "There is no reason to doubt that Christ still draws people towards truth through the work of scientists as well as others, and many scientists are motivated in their work by a perception of the deep beauty of the created world."

The website section *On the Origin of Darwin* is online at www.cofe.anglican.org/darwin.

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.

Betty Holloway

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



Official Opening of Putnoe
New Hall and Kitchen

This Friday 3 October at Noon
All welcome



Rest in Peace

The funeral of Robert Frederick Howe will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 3.15pm on Wednesday 1 October 2008

The funeral of Mr John Harold Place will take place on Monday 29 September at 3.30pm at St Albans Woodland Burial