

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

29 July 17th 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 29 July –17th in Ordinary

9.30m St. Mark's -Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart
11.00 am Putnoe -Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Sunday 5 August 18th in Ordinary

9.30am St Mark's – Family Worship
Preacher - Mrs Liz Little
Leadership - Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mrs Alison Holden
11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship
Preacher - Mrs Liz Little
Leadership - Mr Barry Southam
Intercessions - **Ministers**

Bible Readings 1.Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 2 Ephesians
4: 1-16 .3.John 6: 24-35

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 Lawrence and Betty Wyatt on
the occasion of their wedding anniversary.

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

A Prayer for Sunday

Grant us your help, O God,
that whatever by the teaching of
your Holy Spirit we know to be our duty,
we may by your grace
be enabled to perform it;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

William Bright (1824-1901)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 145135 jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

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

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

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

St. Mark's Church Centre

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

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett ☎326685

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

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

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 20 August Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.30pm—6pm BIGG Writing Putnoe Heights Natalie John

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

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

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

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting August 21 Strawberry tea at St. Mark's at 2.30pm Details call Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's.

Mr Barnes ☎261811

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

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

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

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

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

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

☎219731

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 5 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

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

Thursday

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

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

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

More details Ron Law 825574.

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

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

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

Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

6.45pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

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

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

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

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

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



Diary Dates



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

St Mark's Leadership Team - 11 September
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
Putnoe Church Council - 15 October,

Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm

Harvest Festival 30 September
Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - 16 November

Woodland Burial Trustees– 30 September
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -

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

Ordinary 17

Opening Verse of Scripture - Ps 145 v 10-12

All you have made will praise you, O Lord, your saints will extol you. They will tell of the glory of your Kingdom and speak of your might, so that all people may know your mighty acts and the glorious splendour of your Kingdom.

Collect Prayer *Before we read we pray*

Gracious God, Your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of life and the word of your Kingdom. Renew Your people with Your heavenly grace and in all our weakness sustain us by Your true and living bread, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Bible Reading - 2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe corn, along with some ears of new corn. "Give it to the people to eat," Elisha said. "How can I set this before a hundred men?" his servant asked. But Elisha answered, "Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the LORD says: 'They will eat and have some left over.'" Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the Lord.

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

Second Reading - Ephesians 3: 14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen

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

Gospel Reading - John 6: 1-21

When the reading is announced —**All—Glory to Christ our Saviour**

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Feast was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming towards him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much



For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

This is the Gospel of Christ **All: Praise to Christ our Lord)**

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven ; let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion with PCH and Mission Praise*)

1. In Christ there is no East or West 329
2. Praise Him on the trumpet, the psaltery and harp 558
3. Jesus calls us. *On Partnership news*
4. Guide me oh thou great Jehovah 201

Meditation

After the feeding Jesus withdraws and the disciples get into a boat to cross the lake. A storm builds up and Jesus comes to them walking on the water. Christ comes to them, but they need to accept Him for who He is, the one who walks on water, the one who is over all creation. They need to accept him not just as observers who are fed but people who are prepared to have their lives changed by Him eternally. Symbolically they invite Him into their boat and into their inner being. The message is beginning to get through. This is the theme that Paul picks up in the Epistle reading. He prays that the Ephesians would not only be strengthened (fed) but that Christ Himself would dwell (personally) in each one of them, and that they would know and experience that life changing and transforming love in their lives - the love that transforms water into wine, the love that transforms a few small loaves and fish into a feast for the crowds, the love that transforms whatever we have to offer into something more that we could have ever have expected. Paul prays that the Ephesians would know the reality of the 'I am' who walks on water in their lives. That's the invitation that Christ offers each one of us day by day. As we let Christ live in our lives so we too are transformed

Commentary

In both the Old and New Testament accounts of feeding the masses the framework seems to be the same: food is brought to the man of God/Jesus; the specific amount of food is mentioned; it's clear that the food brought forward is clearly grossly inadequate; ignoring the obvious, the man of God/Jesus asks for the food to be distributed; not only do the crowds have enough to fill themselves fully, there is a significant amount left over. Those fed by Jesus were hungry for Israel's restoration; they earnestly desired the Passover food of freedom, power and glory. They wanted a king and in Jesus saw the man they thought would fulfil their desires. Jesus will be King, but on His own terms. Jesus will rule, but over His own Kingdom which is far greater than just a restored Israel. This is Paul's prayer for the Ephesians - that they too would know the fullness of the riches of God's abundance, and not just as passive observers enjoying the Kingdom on their terms or according to their human and limited perceptions of it, but through their own lives which should be rooted and established in love.

The feeding of the multitude in John is loaded with meaning. To a people hungry for Israel's restoration Jesus fed them with Passover food and invited them into a life of freedom, power and glory, exactly what

they were seeking. He would be their King and lead them into a new Kingdom, only not in the way they expected.

The story is coupled with John's account of Jesus walking on the water. It is dark and Jesus had 'not yet joined them'. The evil and the cares of the world, in the form of the wind and the waves, threatened to engulf them. Jesus comes to them and speaks them in what can appear to be a very casual manner, almost as if He was saying, 'Don't worry chaps, I've arrived'. But the words are much, much stronger than this. They are the words that run throughout John's gospel. Jesus approaches them and says, 'I am', *ego eimi*. Jesus approaches them and says, 'I am the human being that is also God that walks unhindered over the panic and darkness, the Messiah that is above and over all the confusion that consumes them in their stormy world. He is the Saviour who has come to them and wants to join them in their world so that they can join Him in His.

It is a deeply profound exchange. There is nothing casual about the encounter at all. And it continues. They willed to take Him on board and immediately the boat was on the shore. Their journey was over. As John tells us a few short verses before this story (Jn 5 v 24), Jesus says, 'I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; they have crossed over from death to life.' The ending of our gospel reading is a graphic visual aid to help us understand the deep meaning of what Jesus speaks about to His followers: the passing over into a new life which is filled with the glorious riches of God's grace.

This is far broader and deeper than the Jews could have ever believed in their quest for a new kingdom. The people who have been fed want to respond by making Jesus their king. They have seen the power and now want the glory. Indeed, Jesus does demonstrate both in the feeding of the masses and on walking on water that He is the one who brings the power and presence of God into our world and that all creation obeys Him. But the key is how they (and we) respond to that power and presence of God in everyday life.

The wind and waves respond to the presence of God walking on and through them. As we live out the presence of God that is Jesus through the Holy Spirit in our lives, so we learn more and more that we are created to respond to God too. As we look around we see the power of God in creation and at work in our world continuing to sustain all that has existence. The reading from Ephesians speaks of us as being 'rooted and grounded' in the love of Christ so that we see, experience and understand Him as the very source of our life itself. Being part of the salvation story itself, being part of that salvation for others. Like the boy whose food was offered (we don't even know how willingly!) Jesus took the gifts and used them so that the lives of those around Him would be changed forever.

Sometimes we look at what we have to offer and think the same as the disciples, what difference can my own small and seemingly insignificant and imperfect offering make? Like the disciples, if we are thinking like that we are looking at the situation from our own small perspective. Jesus sees beyond the apparent, immediate and physical to the cosmic, eternal and infinite possibilities that our world, responding to and co-operating with the presence of God, holds for all when it is transformed by his shattering generous love.

Sam Cappleman

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Jesus Christ, you had compassion on the starving and the needy, grant that we would have your mind in us that we may have the will and wisdom to strive so all may be fed and nourished and reflect your glory.

Amen.

You have given so much to us O Lord, give one thing more, a grateful heart, a heart whose pulse may be your praise. **Amen**
George Herbert

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; stuck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may be revealed. We fix our eyes not on what is seen: but what is unseen and eternal. **Amen** 2 Cor 4 v 8 - 10

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us paralysed, but whose presence is overwhelming, breathe on us with your abundant life; that where we cannot see we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you. **Amen**

The God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Flowers at Putnoe Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of flowers at Putnoe on any Sunday during the next six months, is invited to enter their name on the rota on the notice board in the welcome area.

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

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

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

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

St. Mark's Craft Club Appeal - Wanted for projects for the Christmas Fayre - Round wreath bases in either cane, willow or polystyrene. Please if you have any hand them in to the Office. Thank you..

Open House Every Wednesday at St Mark's we welcome the Open House group. We have been fortunate that a committed team of volunteers have continued the work of Club House, the charity helping those with learning disabilities. We are always grateful for new helpers so if you can spare an hour or two please do drop in and introduce yourself to Cheryl and the team.

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2012/2013 "Crossing the Chasm" is now due for publication. The cost, which is the same as last year, will be £3. 50 each. If you wish to purchase a copy, please contact Vera Pearson on 270737 who will be ordering these very soon.

Footprints walk. Sunday 5 August. Woburn village. Meet at 2.30pm at the entrance to the large free car park in Park St (opposite the church). 3.5 mile walk through farmland and woodland. Details from Sue Allen.

Kathleen Stennett wishes to thank everyone who sent flowers, cards and good wishes to her whilst she was in hospital and is hoping to be back with you in the near future.

Action for Children September House to House Collection Action for Children works with disadvantaged and disabled children, and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. The annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark's Church is responsible for covering the Brickhill area and last year our 21 collectors raised £753 (including Gift

Aid). If you could spare a few hours during early September to distribute and then collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me.

Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)

More than Gold Bedfordshire Paralympic Group in partnership with Brickhill Baptist Church host 'Paralympic Opening Ceremony' On Wednesday 29 August, there will be an opportunity for abled and disabled bodies to share together in watching the Paralympic Opening Ceremony live from the Olympic Park in Stratford. The More than Gold Paralympic group in Bedford is keen to encourage churches to come together and share for this important event, rather than hosting their own big screen ceremony. The use of building has been chosen to accommodate a large number of people. The Paralympic Opening Ceremony, which last approximately 3 hours will begin at 7.30pm, so we are suggesting that people come to Brickhill Baptist Church, Bedford for 7.00pm. Snack food and drinks are available, but people are encouraged to also bring their own food to share with others. This event is purely social - and it is hoped that church members will invite their family and friends. There will also be opportunities before the Ceremony to visit stalls by the various disabled groups which make up the Paralympic Group for More than Gold in Bedford. To book your own stall at this event, or for further information please contact the Rev Glayne Worgan Chair of the Paralympic Group on glayne.worgan@methodist.org.uk or 01234 340167

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who have helped with Junior Church and Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church this term. Carolyn

Thank you to everyone who helped with Putnoe Heights Church Great Gappo event on Monday. It was a great success and enjoyed by all. Carolyn

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

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

The Christian Aid Tax Avoidance Bus will be visiting Bedford, parking in Harpur Square during the morning of 20 September. There will be seminars / discussions on tax avoidance on the upstairs level of the bus at 9.00 am, 10.00 am and 11.00 am before the bus departs to another town for the afternoon. The downstairs part of the bus will contain various displays. There is an article in the latest magazine which is now in the Putnoe Heights Church welcome area for you to borrow. More details to follow nearer the time. Carolyn

Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him

Jesus calls us here to meet him
As, through word and song and prayer,
We affirm God's promised presence
Where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
Praise the Son who calls us friends,
Praise the Spirit who, amongst us,
To our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
Sharer of our flesh and frailness
Saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
Tell his tales that all may hear;
Tell the world that Christ in glory
Came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other:
Vastly different though we are;
Race and colour, class and gender
Neither limit nor debar.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
Join the hands of age and youth;
Join the faithful and the doubter
In their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to his table
Rooted firm in time and space,
Where the church in earth and heaven
Finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body;
Share the love of which we sing;
Share the feast for saints and sinners
Hosted by our Lord and King.

(tune: a Lewis Folk Melody)

Thank you

To everybody who gave their email address last week. We are now building up a good number of contacts which we can use to email Partnership news and keep you updated on what is going on at Church.

If you have not yet given us your email then please do, so that we can include you in our contacts.

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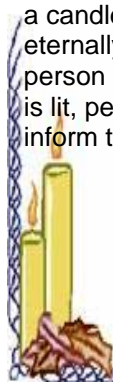
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Rest In Peace

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.

Nicholas Rainbow

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



Forthcoming Funerals



Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

The funeral of Alexander Patrick Douglas will take place at 11.30a.m. on Monday 6th August at the Crematorium.

The funeral of Margaret Reid will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12.15pm on Thursday 2 August