



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

2 August 2009

Ordinary 18



Church of  
England

## Partnership Church Services Today

### 8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

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

Preacher - Rev Ross Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing  
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship

Preacher - Rev Ross Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar  
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

## Sunday 9 August - Ordinary 19

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

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger  
Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank  
Intercessions - Mr Chris Izzard

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger  
Leadership - Mr Lawrence Wyatt  
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

**Readings** 1. 1 Kings 19: 4-8.2 Ephes 4: 25-5:2  
3. John 6:35, 41-51

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Lawrence and Betty Wyatt in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

The flowers at Putnoe last week were given in celebration of the marriage of Mark Glover and Kim Cobley, and also by Pam Crouch in loving memory of her husband Jack on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary and birthday.

*We are always grateful for any donations for 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 Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.*

## Prayer for Sunday

Give to us, Lord, the peace of those who have learnt to serve you, the joy of those who are glad to obey you and the delight of those who rejoice in your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 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

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

### For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

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

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

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

## Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 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 Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
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 - Mrs Delia Shephard 275628  
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com  
Gift Aid Administrator Jim 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 Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634  
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 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 or 07881730747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 17 August Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

- 9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's Mrs Brown☎771676
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in

month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting August 18 Cream Tea Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton 346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Meeting August 11 Afternoon Tea 3pm Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - September 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎ 262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 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
- 6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885
- 7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725
- 7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe

Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

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

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

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

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meet at St Mark's 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting 2 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎ 406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details

**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. (No meeting on 9th April)*

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

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

**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. Next meeting 10 September 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

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎ 272470 Next meeting 24 September

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

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

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎ 07786508351

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

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

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

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎ 301550

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

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

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎ 346505

### Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**6.30pm Line Dancing.** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎ 782360

**7pm Bedford Art Society** monthly Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 1st May Mary Rich ☎ 272470

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

### Saturday

**9.45am Bedford Stamp Auction** at Putnoe Heights Next Auction 30th May. Contact Stuart or Anne 01327 876438

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

**Young Embroiders** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

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

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

### Sunday

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

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

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

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



## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council – 9 Nov**

**St Mark's Leadership Team –**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 12 Oct, 8 Feb 2010**

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting**

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 8 Sept , 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010**

**Putnoe Church Council - 5 Oct**

**Pastoral Group Meeting -**

**Churchyard Committee -**

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group -**

**Partnership Council - September 6th**

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -**

**Deanery Meeting 17 Sep, 19 Nov,**

**Circuit/Deanery Meeting**

**Woodland Burial Trustees –Sept**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –**

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

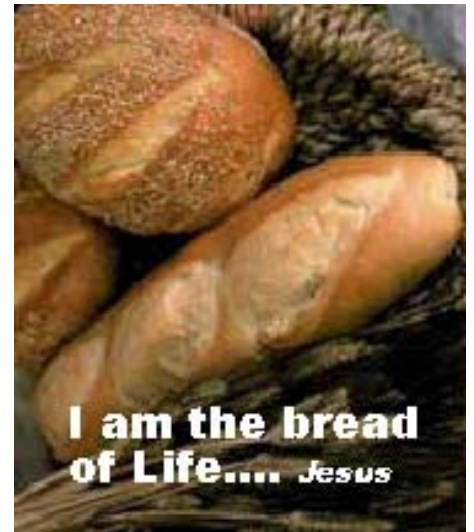
# Ordinary 18

## Opening Verses of Scripture Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

## Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read we pray

Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may see him as he is; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



## First Bible Reading- Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.' " While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. The LORD said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.' " That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

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

## Second Reading - Ephesians 4: 1-16

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men. "(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

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



## **Gospel Reading – John 6: 24-35**

Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

## **Hymns** (*Please distribute Family Worship and Hymns and Psalms*)

1. What shall our greeting be 806 (Tune Moscow)
2. Jesus the Lord said I am the bread 137
3. Guide me O 437 (Tune Cwm Rhondda)
4. Have faith in God my heart 675 (Tune Carlisle)
5. And can it be 216 (Tune Sagina)

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in our faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Commentary**

Last week Jesus multiplied the bread and fish for the vast crowd. After he performed the multiplication, Jesus realized that the people wanted to make him king, so he slipped off by himself. The crowd chased after him and, as we hear today, they found him on the other side of the lake, at Capernaum. It is typical in John's Gospel that after Jesus performs a miracle he enters into a dialogue, either with some Pharisees, or as we see today, with the crowds. This is John's way to draw out the deeper meaning of the "sign" Jesus has performed and its meaning for the Christian community for whom John was writing his gospel.

It is hard for us to understand many of the passages in the Bible which speak about the need for food. Eating is not so important for us anymore, we really do not have to work too hard to have enough to eat, indeed for most of us the danger is eating too much and making ourselves physically unwell by being overweight and straining our bodies. Clearly we would not rush off across a lake in search of somebody who was giving away free bread. In the times of Jesus of course things were different, you never counted calories, you were very fortunate if you were able to have regular food.

After Jesus fed the 5000, the crowd woke to find that he and his disciples had crossed the lake to Capernaum. They did not want to be separated from somebody who had found a way to conjure up food out of thin air and so they set off in boats to try to find Jesus. When they find Jesus on the other side of the lake they ask him when he arrived. Jesus has no time for their small talk and tells them that their reason for being there is purely and simply that they are after another free lunch. Jesus tells them that they haven't even come because they have recognised that a miracle had taken place. He recognizes that what they are after is a meal ticket. This is significant, for one thing we now know is that the feeding of the 5,000 was not just a wonderful lesson in sharing your lunch! From the response of this crowd it is obvious that Jesus has, as if by magic, made real food and in sufficient quantity that the people were prepared to sail off after him for more. The response of the crowd shows something that can happen with us in our own walk with God when we think, "What can you do for me?" Twelfth century mystic Meister Eckhardt warned that "Some people want to see God with their eyes as they see a cow, and to love him as they love their cow. They love their cow for the milk and cheese and profit it makes them. This is how it is with people who love God for their own sake of outward wealth and inward comfort."

Jesus saw the hunger of the crowds and fed them. Certainly he would want us to address the physical hungers of those in our community. But Jesus is not just interested in the body, he is concerned for the soul. Jesus tries to use this wrong motive, their appetite for bread and direct their thoughts instead into a hunger for the imperishable food of eternal life. The bread which Jesus offers is about knowing God at work in human lives. While Jesus addresses people's physical hungers, he also challenges them not to search for physical food alone – for they will be hungry again. Besides physical appetites, we also have spiritual and emotional hungers.

His first effort to get this stubborn crowd to think with their heads instead of their stomachs is a failure. Despite the fact that a scant twenty-four hours has passed since Jesus miraculously fed the whole lot of them with a handful of loaves and fishes, they demand that he give them another sign. Once again people never change and no matter how many times God works miracles around us we always want just one more sign. Isn't that true just as much of people today as ever it was?

We can all be guilty of using God the way a drunk uses a lamp post, not for the light but to lean against. Are we praying to God today because we believe he can get us out of a specific difficulty or a misfortune that has befallen us, or because we want something really badly? There is certainly nothing wrong with praying when we are in need. But Jesus has even more to give us, for isn't our greatest hunger the one we have for God?

God is not some Cosmic Crutch propping us up, making our life easier, lending us a hand when we need it. Neither is God a divine "Mr. Fix-it," waiting around idly until we need someone to extricate us from some crisis we have created in our lives. Those who see God as such a "Fix-it" often have a prayer-life that resembles dialling 999. God is not an emergency service to help us pay those bills, make us well again or help us pass a driving test. The crowd wants tangible, edible, gifts such as God provided in the past in the time of Moses. Instead Jesus tells that what matters is purely and simply their faith in him.

So how can we challenge our own motives? Do we love God and seek to follow Christ? Or are we just seeking our own spiritual or even physical comfort? It might be interesting to ask ourselves the following questions - How often do I think in terms of what God can do for me instead of reflecting on what God has already done for me? Is our love for God a selfish love? Perhaps that is too hard a question to answer? This is a helpful quotation from Teresa of Avila which might help us test our motives "We cannot know whether we love God, although there may be strong reason for thinking so, but there can be no doubt about whether we love our neighbour or not."

Living the life of Jesus in the world is hard. We can get discouraged, want to give up, or even lose our way. Sometimes the world of death seems to be triumphing over the life God wants to give us. The front page of any newspaper is enough to discourage us. The gospel today reminds us however, we are not making our journey alone. We travel with one another, sustained by the bread of life given us by a gracious love of God.

## **Meditation**

The ruin of a nation begins in the homes of its people. ---African Proverb

## **Prayers**

While there is breath within me let me give thanks that there is a God to worship. Let me praise the Christ who loves the worst of us. Let me bless the Christ who shares with the least of us. Let me bless the Christ who intercedes for all of us in the presence of the one true, boundless and living God, for ever and ever. Amen Ann Griffiths, 1776-1805

Lord, save us while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; and Christ, with whom we keep our watch, will guard our souls in peace.

Gracious God, we praise your Name and we thank you for your bountiful and generous love. We call upon you this day and ask that you would help us seek the blessings which endure unto eternal life. Help us open our hearts to your inward presence, our minds to the messages that you write upon the passing hours and days, and our soul's to the refreshing winds of your Spirit. Feed us with the bread of heaven and grant that our prayer and our praise might be acceptable unto you -- and that our words and our actions might glorify you, both now and forevermore. Amen

## **Youth, children and friends summer diary dates**

**Monday 24 August** under 5's summer workshop 2.00 till 4.00 and Tuesday 25th and Wednesday

**26 August** 5 years plus summer workshop 10.00 till 3.00pm Join us to "Travel God's world." Both these events celebrate the United Nations Year of the Child and will include stories of Children in the Bible, stories from around the world, music, games, crafts and Fun! Small charge.

There will be no Junior Church or YPF at Putnoe during August. If you are able to help any of these groups in anyway over the summer or at the new term start in September please speak to Liz or Emma. Thank you for all your support. See Liz for further details on all the above events.

### **Action for Children -House to House Collection**

Action for Children (formally NCH) works with disadvantaged and disabled children and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including the Methodist Church. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. The annual house to house Collection to support the vital work of the NCH will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £950. If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information, then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel: 342507)

**Action for Children** supporters invite you for tea and cakes in the Wren Room at St Mark's Church, 2.30-4.30pm on Sunday 9th August. Debbie Smith Regional Fund Raiser will tell us about the charity with a short talk.

**Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike** on Saturday 12 September 2009 10am—6pm—an opportunity to visit churches all over our region in towns and villages either walking or cycling. Half the money raised will be given to Church Funds and half to Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. For more details and ideas of routes etc. please see Wendy Nash at Putnoe.

**Circuit Archivist** The Methodist Church is seeking to appoint a Circuit Archivist to be responsible for all the, mainly, paper records (e.g. Minute books, Wedding Registers etc.) kept both centrally by the Circuit and in the 7 Circuit churches. Some liaison with the County Records Office may also be required. It is important that such records are preserved not only for Methodism but also for local historical interest. If you think you may be interested

please contact myself or any other member of the Circuit Leadership Team. Mike Elliott.

**Help is required** at the Manse in Hartop Close to tidy up the garden ready for when Deacon Jane Mason arrives. If you are able to spare some time please contact Eddy Peck 267567

**Coffee Morning** Saturday 15 August –10.00am -12 noon, at the home of Gwen Beswick, 6 Repton Close. Cakes, Raffle. Proceeds to Mission Funds. All Welcome. Requests for/offers of transport to Sylvia Cohen 343424.

**Gathering on the Green** Waveney Green, Brickhill Thursday 27 August 11am-3pm. Free activities including climbing tower, 5 a-side football, kick boxing, rave bus and bouncy castles. Plus have your say on the new natural play area at Waveney Avenue. Organised by Brickhill Parish Council.

**Thank you-** Putnoe Heights and St Mark's churches and Thursday Morning Prayer Group Friends. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the beautiful Get Well cards, lovely plants and flowers and phone calls during my recent illness ; but most of all I truly appreciated the numerous prayers said on my behalf ! With Christian Love ,Deborah Wallace

**Each Returning Day** is the title of this year's Methodist Prayer Manual. Please contact Vera Pearson Tel:270737 if you would like a copy at £3 each.

**Sad news.** Members of our churches will be saddened to hear of the death of Ray Armstrong who was a member of Putnoe Heights Church. His funeral was held last week. Our thoughts and prayers are with Janet and the family.

**Welcome to Deacon Jane.** This just a reminder to put into your diaries the welcome service for Deacon Jane Mason. The service will be held at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday 9 September at 7.30pm. All are invited to attend.



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**You can now also buy gift vouchers !**

**Footprints walk** on Sunday 2nd August at 2.30pm for The Triple Triangle Walk at Keysoe.Park at Keysoe Park Wood which is approximately 2 miles along the Riseley Road at Keysoe Brook End (B660). The walk is just over 3 miles in length.Further details from Margaret & Eddy Peck 267567

**Christians urged to pray as Church leaders arrested in Fiji**

The British Methodist Church is calling on Christians to pray for the Methodist Church in Fiji following the arrests of seven Church leaders by Fiji’s military government.

Earlier this week the church leaders, including the general secretary and two former presidents, were arrested and held for questioning in relation to the Church’s annual Conference, scheduled in August. The government has banned the Conference from taking place, concerned that the Church’s discussions will be politically focused. Those arrested include the General Secretary of the Church, Revd Tuikilakila Waqairatu, the Church’s Finance Secretary, Viliame Gonelevu and two former Presidents of the Church, Revd Manasa Lasaro and Revd Tomasi Kanailagi. Revd Tomasi was a senator in the previous government.

Christine Elliott, Secretary for External Relationships for the Methodist Church in Britain, said; “It is clear that Colonel Frank Bainimarama is making a strong statement about who is in power. The Methodist Church is the largest faith group in Fiji, holds a significant amount of power amongst the people and has considerable influence over voters. The leadership of the Church is determined to stand against the government and has lobbied the UN regarding religious freedom and human rights.

“It is important that we hold our brothers and sisters in Fiji, their government and all in the islands in our prayers during these challenging times.”

The government’s action effectively ensures that the Conference will not go ahead even if the Church excludes the two former presidents and agrees to refrain from any political discussions. The Methodist Church is the largest faith group in Fiji and Church leaders have insisted that the Conference will take place regardless of the ban. The ministers were treated well, have now all been released on conditional bail and are required to surrender their travel documents.

**Have you been watching the plinth?**

Methodist minister offers spiritual nourishment from the fourth plinth A Methodist minister will be offering visitors to Trafalgar Square a touch of midweek spirituality as he leads a worship service from the fourth plinth, alongside Nelson’s Column and the imposing facade of the National Gallery.

From 9-10am on Tuesday 28 July, Revd Ken Chalmers, from Castle Cary in Somerset, will offer spiritual reflections and worship to gathering friends, tourists and other visitors to the Square. Visitors will also will hear Bible readings and worship songs and share Holy Communion, administered from the base of the plinth by Revd Martin Turner.

Explaining why he chose to use his hour in this way, Ken said; “Art and symbolism have always been used to express the Christian faith and I want my hour on the plinth to focus on spiritual reflection. Many people have come to Trafalgar square to feed the pigeons, but perhaps we can offer our human visitors a bit of spiritual food for an hour this Tuesday.”

Those who can’t make it to Trafalgar Square needn’t miss out completely – they can join in by visiting <http://www.oneandother.co.uk> , to watch the plinth live.

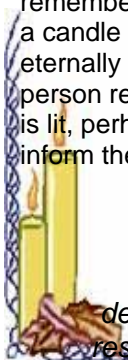
Ken is one of 2,400 people who will appear on the fourth plinth between 6 July and 14 October 2009, picked from more than 28,000 applicants for sculptor Anthony Gormley’s One and Other project. Gormley is asking the people of the UK to occupy

**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.

**Ray Armstrong**

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



**We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Thomas Scott Barton and Hayley Laura Keech, both of this parish. *This is for the 3rd time of asking.***

**Forthcoming Funerals**



The funeral of Mr Malcom Campbell Church will be held at Bedford Crematorium at 12-15pm on Wednesday 5 August