

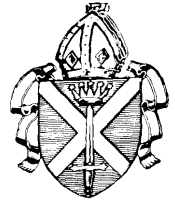


Methodist
Church

The Partnership

2nd November 2003
31st in Ordinary Time

The Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both
Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion - At both churches
9.30am St. Mark's Church - Family Worship with Baptism
Preacher—Rev Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mr Jim Williams
Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing
11.00am Putnoe Heights Church - Family Worship
Preacher – Rev Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen
Intercessions - Ministers

Church Services - 9 November

8.30am Service of Holy Communion - At both churches
9.30am St. Mark's Church - Remembrance Sunday
Preacher – Rev Neil Bramble-Chapman
Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing
Intercessions - Mr Peter Carter
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Remembrance Sunday
Preacher – Rev Neil Bramble-Chapman
Leadership Team - Mr Stephen Clare
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Refreshments Please do feel welcome to stay behind after church for coffee which will be served in the church

Sunday School takes place during morning service a Crèche is available at the back of the church, please feel able to walk in and out during the service.

Parents Please remember that colouring boards and crayons are available for children during the service.

Hard of hearing? Please note that a hearing aid loop is fitted at our churches. Please switch to the 'T' setting.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by

We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. Contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights).

Prayer for Sunday

Holy God
you have called witnesses from every nation
and revealed your glory in their lives.
Grant us the same faith and love that,
following their example,
we may be sustained by their fellowship
and rejoice in their triumph;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 Sam_Cappleman@hotmail.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)
12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE
326643 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

Time for God Volunteer Kasha Piecyk

St Mark's Flat - 315455

Partnership 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.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre (Open 9am - 1.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy @thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mr Stephen Clare 308299

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy @thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mr Jim Williams 360605

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Hymns are printed under CCL Lic No. 1501

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Pre-school (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).

10.00 am at St. Mark's Church G.O.L.D. (Growing to Overcome Learning Difficulties).

Day Care Centre - Contact Mrs. Karen Bywater 269515 **12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church. A new service for parents / carers and children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!

3.45 - 5.15 pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Contact Alison McEwen 358583

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Contact Mrs. Jill Williams 357020

7.15 m Guides -St. Mark's. Contact Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month. Next 17 November—Moorfields Christmas Drive — Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway . The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.

8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Contact Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

9.30am - 12.30pm Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866

10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230

1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

1.45pm - 10.00 pm Slimming World at St. Mark's Contact Val Careless 345213.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next Meeting 4 November-Rev Charles Royden Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 11 November—'Slides of the New Forest' Mr.A. Goldsmith . Members are invited to join The Women's Fellowship meeting on the 4 November. Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs

Marjorie Taylor 305709

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's Church. Please contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607

7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.

7.30 - 9.30pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Pastor Tarr 348438 or 07773354129

7. 30 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly . Next meeting 4 November - Annual General Meeting Contact Mrs C Davies 219130

8.00pm Tuesday Housegroup next fortnightly meeting is at 16 Swindale, Contact Alison 403551 or Brian 305347.

8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

10.00 am Childminding Support Group at Putnoe Heights. Mrs. Simmonds 328380 or Mrs. Sheward 823045

10.00 am G.O.L.D. (Growing to Overcome Learning Difficulties) meets at Putnoe Heights Church. Day Care Centre. Contact Mrs Karen Bywater 269515

10.00 am Holy Communion at St. Mark's Chapel. This is a half hour service followed by coffee - all welcome.

Luncheon Club at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 5 November Contact St. Mark's 342613

1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Contact Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

3.45pm - 5.15 pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Contact

Ms R Mistry 01908 217555

6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mrs James

Mr James 07711 687449 or 07810 234890

6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731

7.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Bunyan Bridge. Contact Brian Sallows 407725

7-10pm Putnoe Guild - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609

7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing Junior classes St. Mark's

Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890

7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights in the side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic at St Mark's with

Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm Contact 267444

10.00am - 11.30am Yoga at Putnoe Heights
Contact 244970

1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.
Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers
Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.
Contact Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Contact Mrs S Lewis
300198

7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000 Putnoe 2nd Thursday of
the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

6.15 - 7.30pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St.
Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at
St Mark's Contact John Harbour 355234.

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's— 3rd
Thursday month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

7.45pm. Housegroup-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little
Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact
Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St
Mark's Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact
Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

10.00 am at St. Mark's - G.O.L.D.
(Growing to Overcome Learning Difficulties). Day
Care Centre - Contact Mrs. Karen Bywater 269515
6 -7.00 pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr
James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7. 30 - 9.30pm Young Peoples meeting Contact
Pastor Tarr 376841

7.30pm Music Group St. Mark's Church
(monthly).

6.30pm –8.30 pm Dog Training Classes at St.
Mark's Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

Saturday

**10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St
Mark's** –dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle
304865

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's
Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe
Heights - Worship. Contact Pastor Tarr 348438
Mob. 07773354129

YPG (Young People's Group) meets every Sunday
at Putnoe 7.30 - 9.00pm 215983

News, Views and Information

Coffee Time Cards. A reminder that Christmas cards are on sale Marion Prior at St Mark's Church. Also a regular stock of other cards for birthdays and other occasions. Also a sample calendar for 2004 can be seen entitled 'a church year in pictures.' This has pictures by Maurice Leusby. Order are being taken for this and it is available now. Proceeds are to be donated to the Christmas Fayre. Price £4. It is an evocative record of our year.

Forthcoming Church Meetings Please check your diaries and inform the church office of any alterations or additions

November

Tuesday 11 St Mark's Leadership Team

Monday 17 Putnoe Leadership Team

Monday 10 Putnoe Management

Thank You. To all of those who helped with the

clearing and organising at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday. We accomplished much thanks to all of those who worked so hard. *Joan Crossley*

Putnoe Heights Jumble Sale/Cake stall/Bring & buy in aid of Mission Funds Saturday 8 November 10 - 12 noon. Church will be open Friday 7 November 7 - 8.30pm to receive sale items and produce (please make a cake). Please contact Tel. Julia Bailey 300367 or Fiona Cooke 312436 if you can help in any way or need goods collecting.

Please remember to invite our Time for God Volunteer Kasha Piecyk to have meals with you. Kasha would love the opportunity to meet with people in our churches.

NSPCC Coffee Morning/ Bring & Buy. at Putnoe Heights Church Friday 31 October from

10— 12 noon. White Elephant, raffle & Tombola. Entrance £1 (inc. refreshments) Enquiries Mary Bull 270329.

Christmas Cards from Cancer Research UK . I have the full range of Christmas Cards available for purchase at my home, by appointment. Tel : 267837. Buy now, *Howard Lawrence*

Kempston Musical Society will give a concert of light music on November 8th at Priory Methodist Church—7.30pm. Programmes at the door.

A Concert organised by Bedford Branch SSAFA / Forces Help by The Concert & Dixie Bands of Bedford School will be held at Elstow Abbey on Thursday 13 November at 7.30 . Tickets £8 from Pam Kinselly - 354480 or at the door (inc. Programme & wine / soft drink)

Placement From 27 October for a period of two weeks Janet Humphries will be joining us in the Partnership as part of her training for ordination. Please welcome Janet as she asks to come to any of the activities taking place in our churches.

Churches Together in Bedfordshire. Church leaders Covenant Service. This will be a service of commitment and support and a joint statement will be signed. Bunyan Meeting Free Church, Mill Street, Bedford. Sunday 9 November 6.30pm.

Service of Commemoration for the Faithful Departed. Our annual remembrance will take place on **9 November** at 3.00pm at St Mark's Church. Over 400 invitations have been sent to those who have had funerals conducted by clergy in our Partnership over the past years. However we would very much invite all members of the congregation and especially those who have suffered bereavement to join with us in this special service. Our preacher this year will be The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley, a minister in our Partnership and also a chaplain at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Craft Fayre Tuesday 18 November 2—4 pm in Raglan Court Lounge, 1 Devizes Avenue, off Dover Crescent. Stalls available Please contact Mary Shopland 01234 340446.

Mission Packing—Warmest thanks to all who have contributed time, money and talents to Mission Packing since 1986 and enabled us to send 1761 boxes of clothing to Tanzania and 255 to Mozambique through Faith in Action. Sylvia Cohen 343424

World Aids Day— a service will be held on the 1st December in St Paul's Church , Bedford at 6.00pm

Autumn Craft Day on Saturday 8 November 9.45am to 3.30pm at Southdown Halls, Harpenden. Choice of 14 craft workshops £3 per session. Early booking before 15 October required. Further details and booking forms from Pam Seymour 305695.

Now is the Time. For pruning your fruit trees, call Andrew's Services 07709 364785. Andrew will be pleased to give advice and free estimates. Call him now for reducing your conifers, topping out, re-shaping - No job too small. Andrew is a member of our Partnership Traders Scheme.

Putnoe Ramblers—Annual Planning Meeting at Putnoe Heights Church Room 3 at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th November. Please come along with ideas for next year's rambles and weekends. Bring and share finger buffet.

Friends of Bedford Child Development Centre are holding a Silent Auction on Friday 14 November at 7.45pm at The Centre, Hill Rise, Kempston. Catalogues £5.00 copies from Alan Doughty 266754

Thank You. Our thanks to Adrian Quarry and all of those involved in the recent concert at St Mark's Church. The concert was greatly enjoyed by those who attended and raised £60. This will be allocated towards our appeal for the new Charities Centre to replace the Portakabin.

Tuesday evening housegroup will meet on Tuesday 4 November at 8.00pm at 16 Swindale to view and discuss the new video 'Restoring Hope.' There is a warm invitation for anyone interested to join the group. Contact Alison 403551

Putnoe Ramblers last walk of the season on Sunday 23 November for a 3 1/2 mile walk along 'A Bit of Bunyan's Trail'

with a last look over Bedford before Christmas. Meet at Kempston Church End Lane for 2 pm prompt start. Further details Graham & Sue Brown 358729.

Putnoe Heights Archive I am now holding (and trying to organise) some archive material, most of which was gathered for the Celebration Weekend in 1993. If you have any photographs, programmes, orders of service, news cuttings, letters, minutes of meetings, newsletters etc. which relate to activities at Putnoe Heights over the years & which you no longer require, I would be pleased to have them to add to the collection. If you have any items of interest which you do not wish to part with, these can be copied & returned to you. Please, see what is lurking in the attic or hiding at the back of the cupboard. Thank you Gerry Allen.

For Sale Wallflower plants 75p for 10, 25p to Church Funds. See Alan Cooper or ring 365302.

Christmas Arts and Crafts Fair at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 15 November from 11.00am to 3.00pm. A wide variety of stalls offers exciting and affordable gifts and cards, please do come. There will be 'make and take' activities for the children. Light refreshments and lunches available. Admission 50p in aid of church development scheme.

Here to stay? The response to our new Partnership magazine has been extremely favourable. Thank you for your comments sent in letters, verbally and in Emails. People appreciate the different typeface which is easier to read. There was also a good response to the integrated style which is more comfortable to use without sheets falling out.

The Partnership - How you can help us

The Partnership is produced at St. Mark's Church Office. Information for inclusion should be handed to Putnoe Heights or St. Mark's Church Offices by 12noon on Friday. You may telephone or fax notices to the 24hr answerphone 342613 (St.Mark's). Please leave your name and telephone number in case we have to contact you. If you are away from home please collect information, notices and leaflets from other churches and leave copies at the church office.

Post and Email Please ask if you would like us to Email or post The Partnership to you each week. Please contact the church office telephone 342613 or Email webmaster @thisischurch.com with the word subscribe in the subject line.

Partnership Traders

Do you want somebody reliable, with reasonable rates? The following companies participate in our trading scheme and offer a professional service whilst contributing (usually 5%) to your church. All participants in the scheme offer free estimates. When the work has been completed simply ask for your voucher which can be placed on the offering plate or given to a minister or Church Treasurer.

Odd Job Dave. Our church cleaner/decorator and handyman will carry out gardening, rubbish clearance, decorating, carpentry and all those other Odd Jobs! No job too small, call for a personal quote. (tel: 01234 401184, 07788 862609)

Alan Charnock - Design, heating, and plumbing contractors 01234 346385

Cording Allen Partnership - Mr.Ian Cording - Architecture, Building, design, planning 01234 214993

Denton Flooring and Carpets A high class professional supply and fitting service. Mr. Denton will visit you in your home with a wide range of samples and can give competitive estimates for any kind of carpet, vinyl or flooring needs. 01234 351615

R. M. MOTORS (CAR REPAIRS) Richard Kennington offers MOT testing and a complete vehicle maintenance service which includes free collection and return of your vehicle to your home or place of work. His work is of a very high standard, honest, and prices are exceptionally good value. Contact Richard on 01234 771013 or Mobile 07831595182

TVF Taymar Video Film Productions Barry Ingram will be pleased to help you with a variety of video services for weddings, baptisms and family occasions. 01234 353704

Neil Ibbott Decorator 18 Wagstaffe Close, Ravensden, Bedford. MK41 8DY 01234 771731. Qualified painter & decorator Free quotations

Electrician Mr Steve Gray . Telephone 823555 Mobile Telephone 07786914377

Tree Surgery—Now is the Time. For pruning your fruit trees, call Andrew's Services 07709 364785. Andrew will be pleased to give advice and free estimates. Call him now for reducing your conifers, topping out, re-shaping - No job too small. Andrew is a member of our Partnership Traders Scheme.



BIBLE NOTES

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Verse of Scripture 'We love, because he first loved us.'
1 John Chapter 4:19

Collect Prayer for the Day—Before we read we pray.

God the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading. Deuteronomy Chapter 6:1-9

These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you. Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (This is the Word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)



Second Reading Hebrews Chapter 9:11-15

When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. (This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

**You shall love the LORD
your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your might.**

Deuteronomy 6.4

**You shall love
your neighbor as yourself.
There is no commandment
greater than these.**

Mark 12.31

Gospel Reading Mark 12: 28-34

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in

saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions. (This is the Word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Commentary

The Ten Commandments given by God to Moses in the Book of the Exodus Chapter 20 starts off by establishing the relationship which must exist between the faithful and God. The Commandments go on to stress the need for filial respect ("honour your father and mother") and only towards the end do the commandments mention relationships with non family members. Even then the Commandments are about not coveting, not stealing from other people. The special message from Jesus in the passage today is that he brings together love for God and love for our neighbour in a single command. Jesus simplifies the commandments to loving God and loving others as much as oneself. What then did people feel? Confusion? Amusement? Of course what appears to be quite a simplification of the rules of co-existence with other people, is actually the most challenging and demanding statement about the way humans must live. It is hard enough to love people we know well but infinitely harder to care passionately about men and women whom we have never met and never will. What is needed is emotional imagination – to be able to imagine the inner life and needs of people who are different from ourselves, people who look, speak, worship, love or behave in different ways from us. Jesus, in this apparently simple commandment, is asking us to do the hardest thing of all, to love without reservation and without barriers. *Joan Crossley*

Post Communion Prayer

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Meditation

One way of reading the Bible is to take a short passage, read it, pray about it, imagine you were seeing the event happen, try and identify with the feelings of the people mentioned, read it again and then pray about it again. This way of reading the Scriptures ("Lectio Divina") was used by the monks of old to bring the Bible alive for them. It is a technique that we can use ourselves. Perhaps this week, we might also try and read a foreign news story with some of the same attention, to try bring the lives of people in remote situations into sharp focus ?

Hymns for Sunday (Hymns and Psalms)

1 Lo he comes with clouds descending 424; 2 The trumpets sound 667; 3 Lord the light of your love 445; 4 For all the saints 148; 5 Now thank we all our God 486

Prayers

Thank you Lord for the gift of the Scriptures. As I reflect on the Bible, make me open to your wisdom, receptive to your will and courageous in my response, in the love of Jesus, Rabbi, Teacher, Friend. Amen

Eternal God, grant to us this day and every day such readiness and delight in following Christ that whether our lives are short or long, we shall have lived abundantly. Amen

O Lord, save us from self-centredness in our prayers, and help us to remember to pray for others. May we be so lovingly absorbed with those for whom we pray that we may feel their needs as keenly as our own, and intercede for them sensitively with understanding and imagination. We ask this in Christ's name, Amen. *(after John Calvin)*

Explaining Halloween, All Saints and All Souls

The last day of October marks the beginning in the church of a period known as Hallowtide 'All Saintside' when Christians remember those who have died. All-Hallows Eve, or Halloween, October 31 has Celtic origins being originally the feast of *Sanhain*, the last night of the Celtic year, when all kinds of spirits were thought to be active. It was a night of danger signifying the change from Autumn to Winter, it was a night when feasts were held for the dead and animals killed for the Winter. On this night fires were lit in the belief that light had power over darkness, hence pumpkin lanterns to frighten away witches and ghosts. Halloween is the eve of the holy day of All Saints (All-Hallows) and All Souls.

All Saints Day, November 1 The word Hallow means 'Holy', and so All-Hallows refers to the Saints—the Holy Ones. Those who died for their faith or who lived extraordinary lives. This day dates back to the 5th century Antioch in Syria when the church dedicated a day to the memory of all those who had been killed for their faith. Until then the church had remembered martyrs on special days of the year, but there became more martyrs than days in the year, and there were some whose names were not known.

St. Martin of Tours is represented by a cloak which he cut in half to give to a shivering beggar **Catherine of Alexandria** is shown with a spiked wheel & **St. Sebastian** usually holds an arrow—as a reminder of the terrible methods of their respective martyrdoms. The saints are our ancestors on earth and precede us in heaven. Many Christians experience a strong sense that the saints are still with us, and that they watch over us and pray to God for us. Although dead they are members of Christ's Church and we use this day to give thanks for the lives of all the saints as they are examples to us. Saints are created as signs of hope, that the gospel really can change lives. Somebody is not made a saint at canonisation, it is rather an acknowledgement that somebody was a saint and is therefore in heaven and not neglectful of the needs of the world, through the communion of saints.

In the New Testament, 'saint' is often used to describe all those who are followers of Christ, the people called to holiness in him. Not just those who were extra-specially good. So does this apply to Christians now? Are all saints? The answer must be Yes! All Saints Day is an occasion to celebrate those who never picked up the title 'saint', but were nevertheless known as holy to God. In other words, All Saints Day is a celebration of ordinary Christians everywhere, at every time, who have tried to live the Gospel life.

All Souls Day, November 2 On this day we pray not just for the Saints but for all of our loved ones. In 1048 Odilo, the Abbot of the Benedictine Monastery at Cluny near Paris instructed his monks to use this day as a day of remembrance and prayer for all the departed, this day was made official in the 14C. In the Christian Church we remember the Church not just as those who are living but also those who have died, they are just as much the church as we are and the Christian Church has two names for this, those who are living are called the church militant, and those who have died are called the church triumphant.

This time of year is an important time to cherish the memory of those who have died and who have gone before us. As we celebrate their memory we can know and be glad that they share with us in Christ's eternal kingdom. People find the whole idea of death difficult and to have a special day to remember those who have died is not an easy thing for some people. At this time in the year of the church we can really think and speak about those who have died and not in hushed tones. We can remember and feel our loss and that is the purpose of the service which we will hold next Sunday. We celebrate the lives of those whom we have known and love and we pray for their peace.

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

James MacConnochie
John Singh
Gwendoline Freeman

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

Funerals Arranged For This Week

The funeral of Mrs Gladys May Parsons will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 5 November 2003 at 2.00pm
The funeral of her sister Annie Catherine Bell will take place at the same time.