



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

2 November 2008

Ordinary 31 - All Saints



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 - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team -Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions-Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Family Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions -Mr Eddy Peck

November 9 Remembrance Sunday

9.30am St. Mark's Church - Morning Worship
Preacher - Rev. Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mr Chris Izzard

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
Preacher - Rev. Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Bible Readings

1. Micah 4: 1 - 5
2. Romans 8: 31 - end
3. Matthew 25: 1 - 13

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Richard Ledger in memory of his mother.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights have been given by Stephen and Pauline Clare in celebration of the Silver Wedding Anniversary.

Mrs Sam Ware [telephone 304058] has taken over the distribution of Sunday flowers from Putnoe Heights.

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 Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

A Prayer for Sunday

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

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)
The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861
vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349
youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper 306751
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)

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

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's
Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

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

12.00pm Story box We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week every month
Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.30pm Cancer Care Society. Meets monthly at St Mark's. Contact Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 19 November Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights.
Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

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

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 4 November Rev. Jeremy Arthern. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group
St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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

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

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 4 November AGM. More details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

9.30am Childminding Support Group Putnoe Heights.
Mrs S Longman ☎313949

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

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

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

10am Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 11 November 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's.
Mr Barnes ☎261811

1.45 Scots Society Whist monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month
Ken Silvester☎400584

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

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

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

6.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

☎407725

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods ☎365095

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month. Mr Farish ☎824984

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 5 November. Everyone welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

7.45 for 8pm God talk—women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

12pm Storybox weekly at St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St. Mark's 267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc. at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. Marriot 303834

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

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

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

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm

Improvers St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

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

Sunday

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

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

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

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

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

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –, 18 November

St Mark's Leadership Team – 24 November - Vicarage, 24 February

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 1 December

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting- 10 November, 19

January, 20 April, 13 July

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

12 November all at 12 noon

Putnoe Church Council - Monday 26 January, Monday 15 June, Monday 5 October

Pastoral Group Meeting - Tuesday 20 January 4.30pm

Annual Congregational Meetings 26 April

Churchyard Committee - 12 November at 11am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

6th November

Deanery Meeting - 13 November

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees

Mission Group Meeting

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 1st December.

Ordinary 31 - All Saints

All Saints Day

Opening Verses of Scripture - Psalm 90:14

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who ear Him, and he delivers them.

Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read we pray

Eternal God, giver of love and peace, you call your children to live together as one family. Give us grace to learn your ways and do your will, that we may bring justice and peace to all people; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

First Bible Reading - Revelation Chapter 7: 9-17

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

Second Reading- 1 John 3: 1-3

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 5: 1-12

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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



*They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from the God of their salvation.
Psalm 24:5*

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Hymns *(Please distribute Mission Praise and Family Worship)*

1. Holy Holy Holy 237
2. The light of Christ 652
3. Blessed assurance Jesus is mine 59
4. I will sing the wondrous story 315
5. To him we come 709

Commentary **‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted’**

This verse is taken from our Gospel reading today which is a part of that collection of Jesus' sayings called 'The Sermon on the Mount'. The early Church used these sayings to teach new believers the essentials of being a Christian. The phrase is a part of the teaching which we know as the beatitudes. The word "blessed" can be understood as 'happy', so in what ways is it a good thing to mourn!

The last day of October marks the beginning in the church of a period known as Hallowtide 'All Saintstide' when Christians remember those who have died. All-Hallows Eve, or Halloween, October 31 has Celtic origins being originally the feast of Sanhain/Samhain, (pronounced 'sow'inn) the last night of the Celtic year, when all kinds of spirits were thought to be active. The Celts believed that this was a time when the boundary between the spirit world and the earthly world is at its thinnest and when spirits are most likely to be seen on earth. 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. When the Romans invaded Britain they included elements of their harvest celebrations in which they honoured the goddess of the fruits of trees, Pomona. Children still play games with apples at this time of year. By the 9th century Christianity had spread into Celtic lands and the celebration became known as the Eve of All Hallows and eventually Halloween.

All Saints Day, (All Hallows) November 1 The word Hallow means 'Holy', (blessed, consecrated or set apart in a special way) and so 'All-Hallows' or 'All Saints' 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. In Rome Boniface IV (608-615) had relics of martyrs moved from the catacombs to the Pantheon. In 835 the 1st of November was given the title 'All Saints.'

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. The prayer from Methodist Worship at the bottom of this page expresses the idea of knowing their fellowship with 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.

All Souls Day, November 2 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 all are saints. So on this day we pray not just for those who have been specially recognised as Saints, but for all of our loved ones.

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 God's comfort and we are glad that they share with us in Christ's eternal kingdom. In our society people find death difficult, not least because many people have no faith in God's promises of life beyond death. However for Christian people it is possible to speak about those who have died, trusting by faith that God loves each of his children and cares for us beyond the grave. We celebrate the lives of those whom we have known and love and we pray for their peace. Next week you may feel it helpful to join us for our service of commemoration in which we remember and give thanks for those who have died. *Charles Royden*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead.

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. *Methodist Worship*

St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Mission Project 2008



MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP UK

The Project

MAF's purpose is to speed physical and spiritual care to people in places of deepest human need. Often these can be very remote places where flying is not a luxury, but a lifeline. For over 50 years, MAF planes have been serving countless thousands of men, women and children, bringing medical care, emergency food, and Christian hope. Today worldwide, the MAF partnership operates over 130 aircraft from bases in 30 countries. Flying across deserts, jungles, mountains and swamps, MAF gives hope and practical support to far-flung communities which might take days or weeks to reach by land, where roads may be non-existent or impassable for half the year. Every three minutes, an MAF plane is taking off or landing somewhere in the world, enabling the work of aid and development agencies, missions, national churches and other local groups, transporting dedicated teams bringing healing and relief for body, mind and spirit and providing communications and logistics services to mission communities.

The Share Out

As you would expect the day to day costs of MAF are considerable. For example, it costs £200 just for the fuel to fly a team of eye specialists 600 miles to remote bush clinics in Southern Sudan, £500 for a medical assessment for a pilot preparing for overseas service, £100 for a 2 hour medical flight saving up to two days travel by road. When we give towards the cost of flying MAF planes, we are helping ensure urgent aid and Christian care reaches those whose need is greatest. As last year, we are breaking down our support into manageable shares to enable as many people as possible to contribute. Please feel free to give as little or as much as you would like.

Your Share in the Project

I/we would like to contribute to a 30 mile mercy flight at £10.00 Total = _____

I/we would like to contribute to a 25 minute emergency medical flight at £20.00 Total = _____

I/we would like to contribute to an urgent oil change and maintenance at £25.00 Total = _____

I/we would like to contribute to a 120 mile flight at £40.00 Total = _____

I/we would like to contribute to 2 hour medical emergency flight at £100.00 Total = _____

I/we would like to contribute to the project Total = _____

Please make cheques payable to St Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church and return this form in the envelope provided, together with your donation, in the offertory plate at St Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church on a Sunday or hand into the church offices during the week

Full Name _____
(or Group)

I am a UK taxpayer intending tax to be reclaimed on the donation detailed above made under the Gift Aid scheme. (Please complete if appropriate)

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Thank you, your contribution to this project is greatly appreciated.

Church Lunch Club (Alternate Wednesdays) would welcome any members of St Mark's or Putnoe Heights. If you are interested, please give your name to Margaret Standley, Jenny Emsley or Pam Kinsley. We would also welcome additional helpers, regular or irregular. We also need drivers.

Putnoe Tuesday Club are holding their annual Charity Concert at Putnoe Heights Church on Tuesday 18 November at 7.30pm. You are invited to join us for this concert by Kempston Musical Society in aid of Bedford Guild House. Admission is £6 (including Refreshments)from Putnoe Church office, Diane or Alan Baylis 268101. Raffle £1.

TNT next meet Sunday 16 November at 4pm at Putnoe invite all to join them for Christmas Musical preparations. Please bring your voices and instruments

1st Putnoe Brownies are having a Christmas fair Monday 17 November at 6.30pm. Proceeds to Asthma UK and Islands Branches

FootPrints The next ramble is on Sunday, 2nd November commencing at 2pm (our winter time). Meet at the main car park in Harrold Country Park for a stroll around the village visiting various locations of historic or special interest. A few parts of this walk may be slippery with fallen leaves if it has been wet. All are welcome – this will not be a strenuous walk. Contact Sue or Richard Butler for further details. Tel 01234 354183.

Putnoe Christmas Competition We invite you to design to the front of the Christmas Service information leaflet that will be posted through doors in the Putnoe area. 50p entry to church funds. Liz.

Mary and Joseph have asked me to let you know they be travelling through Putnoe area during Advent and are looking for overnight stops. If you are able to entertain them for the evening please see Liz Spavins

Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. There will be a special service to remember those who have died at St Mark's Church on November 9 at 3.00pm. Please tell us if you know of anybody who would like a personal invitation. The preacher this year will be Rev Charles Royden

New John Bunyan Museum To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the museum and the formation of the 'Friends', we are having a fabulous concert by Collegium Reagle, a group of choral scholars from Kings College, Cambridge. Their repertoire extends from Thomas Tallis and William Byrd to Cole

Porter. The event takes place in the Bunyan Meeting Free church on Friday 7th November at 8pm. Cost £10.

Weekly Offering Envelopes

New sets of sets of weekly offering envelopes are available in the entrance lobby from today. Regular giving is an essential part of the Church's income, and helps greatly in meeting the costs of running St Mark's. We are very fortunate that so many members of the congregation already give so generously to the Church in this way. You can make regular weekly or monthly gifts, either by standing order or through the weekly envelope scheme. In addition, if you are a UK tax payer, you can Gift Aid your offering - and the Church can claim 20% tax back from the Government. This can also be done through the yellow Gift Aid envelopes on the chairs. If you would like to find out more please speak to Jim Williams after the service or contact him on 01234 360605. As always, thank you for your generosity.

St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre

There are only 3 weeks left to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 22 November 2008 at St Mark's Church.

We are trying to raise money to help pay for our hall and foyer refurbishments. We would be grateful for help with the following:-

Raffle – Raffle books are now available. It would be really appreciated if you could take a few books to sell to family and friends. They will be on the hymn book table after the service.

Tombola – Any NEW unwanted gifts/birthday presents etc. for our Tombola stall. Please bring any items up to the Church Office in the week beginning 17th November 2008.

Cake Stall - Milly is kindly co-ordinating the cake stall again. If you are able to bake a cake for this stall please contact Milly via the Church Office.

How you can help —

We need help delivering leaflets advertising the Craft Fayre. They are the table in the Foyer and we would be grateful if folks would take their road and deliver them in the next three weeks. Also if anyone is interested in helping on the day, please speak to Avril Williams or the Church Office. When the Fayre closes around 3.30 we would be grateful for helping in clearing up and getting the Church ready for Sunday Worship. Your support would be very much appreciated.

Circuit Meeting. Everybody is invited to a gathering at 7.30pm on Thursday 6 November at Kempston East. The chairman will speak to about the proposed merger of circuits and answer questions.

Methodist Homes for the Aged. A total of £377.00 was raised at the Putnoe Heights MHA Sunday on October 5th. The envelope collection raised £187.00 and the Harvest Lunch added a further £190.00. Many thanks to all who contributed to this marvellous result. Sue Allen

Cleaner - If a reliable cleaner is required please contact Penny Puttock who can give information and references.

Need help with housework/shopping? So many people for whatever reason, suddenly feel need for a little help— if you need this help I will be only too pleased to speak with you. Please ring CAROL on 0783406653.

Friends for Life was established earlier this year, as a joint project, of the Anglican Bedford Deanery and the Bedford North Methodist Circuit.

There will be a Meeting on Thursday 20 November 7.30 pm at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue, Bedford, for anyone interested in learning more about the project. Alternately you can contact Margaret-Anne Tibbs (308737), or Chris Izzard (212164) for more information.

The aim is to coordinate, and develop the churches ministry to care homes. It includes the many worship groups and people who already have well established connections with friends and former church members in care homes. In addition we are developing an exciting new form of ministry. Many of you already visiting Care Homes will be aware that some residents seldom, if ever, have visitors and it is these people who we now hope to reach as well.

Earlier this month, Friends for Life organisers and volunteers met together with Care Home Managers at St Mark's Church, to discuss progress and to enjoy a wonderful meal. Future volunteers please note! The representatives of the Homes were very positive about the difference visitors have made to the lives of residents. However we need to recruit more volunteers—hence this article.

It is not easy to go into a Home and talk to a stranger, but the guidance and support given beforehand by the project leaders, and the welcome of the staff makes this an easy and ultimately enjoyable mutual experience. Three Homes agreed to be the pilot for the scheme, Langslade, The Mallards and Henrietta House. The residents were told about the scheme and asked if they would like a "Friend" to visit them. As an example of our success we were told at the meeting of a resident without family or friends, whose life has been transformed by having her own visitor. The area of operation will cover all of North and some of Mid Bedfordshire.

A Personal Befriender will be a member of a Christian church (any denomination), with a letter of recommendation from their vicar, minister or priest. They will also have CRB clearance, which is a legal requirement, paid for by the organisation and is very easy. An authorised ID Badge is then issued. These residents are vulnerable people who are strangers to us - hence, the need. "Friends for Life" management group, is currently discussing with care home management, acceptable ways in which those already visiting a care home to see a relative, friend or church member can also offer to "befriend" another resident.

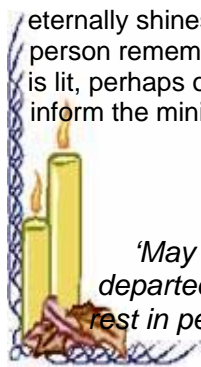
The commitment to visiting a resident can be as frequent or regular as suits the volunteer. There are many stories to be told [some quite emotional and inspiring] of lives being changed and enriched because some one has offered friendship

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.

Jeani Nertney

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



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Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Mr William McAndrew will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 10 November at 1.45pm

The funeral of Mr William Ellis will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 12 November at 12.15pm