



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

## 2nd October 2011 – Harvest



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

### 2 October – Harvest

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

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters  
Leadership – Morag Stewart  
Intercessions - Mr/Mrs Holden

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship

Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters  
Leadership -- Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions – Y P F

### 9 October –

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

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger  
Leadership – Mr Mick Ovenden  
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger  
Leadership -- Mrs Vita Hudson-Rae  
Intercessions – Mrs Claire Peck

**Bible Readings** 1. Isaiah 25 : 1-9  
2. Phillippians 4: 1-9 3. Matthew 22: 1-14.

**Midweek Worship Holy Communion** at St Mark's  
Chapel every Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir William  
Harpur House on first Monday of every month at 10.00am

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Alan and Margaret Massey to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been donated by the flower arrangers.

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

### Welcome

A special welcome to St Mark's this week to Isabelle Ann McCready, her family and friends who have come to celebrate her baptism.

### Prayer for the Week

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for your own well-being; 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

#### 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)

#### Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE  
348091 Mobile 07807 146535  
jane@thisischurch.com

#### 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 and may appear in other local media sources.

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 Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846  
**Leadership Team** Mrs. Linda Hoare 782717  
**Treasurer** Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** John Hitt 404186  
**Youth Worker** Emma Gordon email - 07593266091 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** - Laura Farthing 210892  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 –3.45 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)  
Head teacher 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)  
**.9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430  
**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry  
☎211955  
**10.30am U3A Play reading** (see contact details below)  
**12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Emma Gordon ☎07593266091  
**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** - (see contact details below)  
**3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities. Emma Gordon 07593266091 or 365630  
**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 ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.  
**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859  
6.15 - 8.15pm  
**6.15pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's Sam Thompson ☎07766421000  
**7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571  
**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  
**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 17 October. Judith Stanton. ☎823313  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.  
**8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790206016  
**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507  
**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223  
**10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** (see contact details below)  
**1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp** - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552  
**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** (see contact details below)

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895  
**2.00pm U3A** (see contact details below)  
**2pm U3A Photography** St. Mark's (see contact details below)  
**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 11 October Bernard Hicks 'Gideons International' For more details contact 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-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.  
**6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718  
**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎07891879571  
**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455  
**7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885  
**7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497  
**7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)  
**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting October 4 - Harvest. Details call Janet King 313946  
**8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

## 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 U3A Card Making,** (see contact details below)  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 12 October. 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** (see contact details below)  
**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966  
**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698  
**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden

☎219731

**6.00pm Shooting Stars.** Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

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

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

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

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

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly 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 will be October 5 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

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

### Thursday

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

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

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

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624 Restarts on 8 September.

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

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

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

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

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games** (see contact details below)

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

**2- 4pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎275229

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 857850 or 07919402797 .

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

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

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** (see contact details below)

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

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

**8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers** (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

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

**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th

week Jean Birks ☎219607

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pauline Hooper ☎350079

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography** ((see contact details below)

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

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

**5.50-7.05pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

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

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

### Saturday

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

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

**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

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice [www.bedfotrdtkd.com](http://www.bedfotrdtkd.com) or [bedfordtkd@googlemail.com](mailto:bedfordtkd@googlemail.com).

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



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council – 12 October 7.30pm in chapel**

**St Mark's Leadership Team -**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 October**

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 3 October**

**St Mark's Forum Meeting - Wednesday 9th November**

**Putnoe Church Council - 17 October**

**Pastoral Group Meeting -**

**Churchyard Committee -**

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -**

**Circuit meeting - .**

**Deanery Meeting**

**Woodland Burial Trustees –**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 17 October**

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

## Harvest

**Opening Verse of Scripture** - The land has yielded its harvest: God, our God has blessed us. Psalm 67:6

### **Collect Prayer** (*Before we read we pray*)

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

### **First Bible Reading - Deuteronomy 8: 7-18**

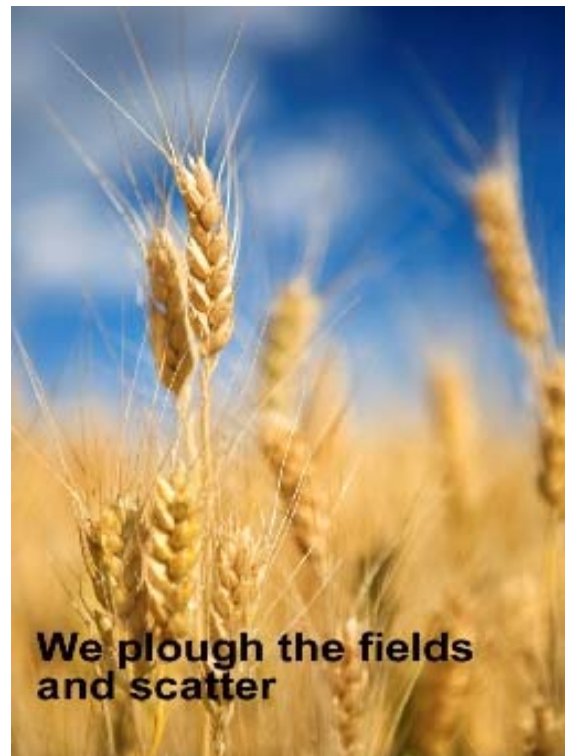
For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where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

### **Second Reading 2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

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

### **Gospel Reading - Luke 12:16-30**

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain



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

**Post Communion Prayer** The earth is filled with the gifts of the Lord: wine, and oil, and bread, to strengthen and cheer our hearts. Psalm 104:13,15

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

**Hymns** (*Please distribute Harvest Service, baptism at St Mark's, no hymn books today*)

1. Come ye thankful people come
2. If I were a butterfly
3. We plough the fields and scatter
4. For the beauty of the earth
5. All creatures of our God and king

### **Commentary**

Deuteronomy 8: 7 -18, which falls after Moses has delivered the Ten Commandments, speaks of God's goodness, generosity and abundant provision in the promised perfect land. A land full of all the Israelites could wish for, a land with plentiful food and water and minerals. Moses also warns them not to become proud and forget who the provider is, God himself. The God who freed them from slavery in Egypt, who brought them through harsh times before they reached this idyllic place. He warns them against attributing the abundance to their own efforts but to remember it was (and is) God.

The danger of forgetting was still there when Jesus told the parable of the 'Rich Fool', as found in Luke 12: 16 – 20, and is still with us today. The parable clearly illustrates that danger when, instead of sharing his bumper crop, he hoarded it away so he could live a life of ease and enjoyment. But he was robbed of that enjoyment by his sudden death. What warning does this hold for those of us who are in, or reaching retirement? Who consider ourselves wise to make good provision for the future by saving and investing? Younger people are also being warned of future poverty in older age if they don't start paying into a pension fund. The need for protecting such future provision is currently proving a priority for many public servants. So in light of Jesus' parable is their struggle right?

Perhaps the answer comes in the second part of the passage, Luke 12: 22 – 30. Here Jesus tells the crowd 'not to worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear'. Why not? Because God will provide for all our needs. God does not advocate that we do nothing, back in verse 19 Jesus implies that to 'Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' is not how God expects us to live. Rather, as we read in the second letter to the Corinthians verse 6', if after careful consideration we share generously and cheerfully our 'wealth' with others God will meet all our needs.

The issues were brilliantly illustrated last week by the writer by the writer Rhidian Brook when he said that: 'In a world where a reported 10% of the world's population earns more than half the income, the other 90% must be hoping that the richest will share it out. But what if the richest people in the world don't want to? He suggested 'That this is where tax comes in. A kind of a check to our disinclination to share, you can't legislate for generosity but you can protect people against the lack of it'. Going on later

to suggest that tax could be looked upon as a "shared sacrifice". An interesting thought. He also reflected on today's parable suggesting that

*'an industrialised urban society still has something to learn from the ploughing of fields, scattering seeds and sharing of crops. In such cultures a harvest was for everyone to receive and enjoy, it was a terrible inequity if it wasn't shared out and it perished if it wasn't'.*

Concluding that the parable 'is about transforming us into the kind of people who are inclined to share. In the end it is not about how much we have but what we do with it'. *Wendy Waters*

## **Meditation**

Harvest celebrations in the UK are traditionally held as Autumn beckons; as the bright sun of summer mellows into a softer gentler light; a light that shines from a pale blue sky; a light that highlights the bright colours of autumn berries and fruits; a light that draws our attention towards the browns, oranges, reds and yellows of the autumn leaves; a light that hopefully draws us to praise God our Creator. To praise Him for the splendour of all that he has created; for people and produce; for the those who labour through long days and nights to ensure we have food in plenty; for the bountiful crops that have been produced this year such as apples; for the growth in the numbers of people working on allotments and the camaraderie that can develop.

We can easily see the past production of crops through rose coloured spectacles, as those of us who enjoyed the TV drama series from Larkrise to Candleford can testify to. A series I was reminded of when Rhidian Brook talked of 'the ploughing of fields, scattering seeds and sharing of crops'. A series, set at the end of 19thC, (an adaptation of Flora Thompson's memoirs of her Oxfordshire childhood), where the local rural community all pulled together in both planting and harvesting of the crops and shared what they had with their less fortunate neighbours. Even the current popular TV series 'Country File' could portray an idyllic picture of life on a farm. The reality is often very different. Today the sharing is probably done through the hiring of huge combine harvesters and other cooperative initiatives. Farmers spend many lonely hours ploughing fields and planting crops; much of our food comes from distant lands where conditions are even more harsh; such distances require many hands to ensure we enjoy the benefits of their labours. So as we praise God, lets us also pray to him for all those involved in the long food chain from which we benefit. *Wendy Waters*

## **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

We thank you generous God for the abundance of food and resources you have provided for your world. Forgive us for our failure to use and distribute these equally across the nations. Forgive us for holding on to more than we need and through your Holy Spirit guide us into a spirit of cheerful generosity. Amen

Most gracious Father, you open your hands and fill all things living with plenteousness. As we your children partake of your bounty, we pray that we too may be open-handed; that we who have so freely received may always freely give, for the sake of him who gave his belief for us, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Frank Colquhoun*

We pray for people so poor that they cannot help themselves; whose subsistence crops have been destroyed by climatic disasters; for people who live in areas where rainfall is unreliable and varies from year to year. We pray for small children who die of malnutrition, and others who suffer from disease. We pray for little children too young to pray for themselves. *Young people Kenya*

Open our eyes and ears Lord to the hidden poverty on our doorsteps. Poverty not just of material wealth, but of mind and spirit. Guide us towards those in need, empower us to be those that will give them hope and help through prayerful and practical support of BECHAR and other charities. Amen

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## **Shopping at WWW. ThisisChurch.com**

**easyfundraising**  
org.uk

**amazon.com**  
and you're done.

We currently have quite a few people who use the link on ThisisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. They are careful to make sure that they never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. However we have noticed that not many people are using the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune of purchases and help raise money which we can use to support the cost of running our website. You can shop at many major stores such as John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, Next etc. Last week one visitor saved £100 off their computer order just by entering the voucher code at the till ! Just use the link on the homepage of ThisisChurch.com

## **Storybox and Storybox Plus at Putnoe Heights**

is a story time with singing and crafts for 0-5's and their parents or carers, is on Mondays at 12.15 – 1.15. Storybox Plus is for 5 – 9's with snacks, a story and games, crafts and activities based on the story. This happens on Mondays at 3.30 – 5. Contact Emma Gordon, 07593266091 or youth@thisischurch.com, for any queries or information.

**Chat and Play** meets at St Mark's Church at 9.30am on Thursdays . This is a great time for parents and carers to meet together with children and babies. Jo Garner 400071

**Storybox at St.Mark's** meets 12 noon until 1pm on Thursdays. Jaana 363283

**Offertory Envelopes** (Putnoe Heights). Sets of envelopes for the next twelve months are available for collection from a table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the envelope scheme (or contribute to church funds by standing order), is invited to contact John Hitt, tel 404186.

## **Open House ! Starts October 5**

St Mark's is offering to the community an open drop in day centre, starting from Wednesday 5 October and then every Wednesday from 10.00am until 2.00pm. Open House will especially welcome people with learning disabilities, their families and friends. This project is offered free of charge to all who wish to attend. If you are able to offer help of any sort then please contact St Mark's Church office on 01234 342613

**House Group** at the home of Wendy Waters will be held on four Mondays beginning on 19 September. We will be using a Riding Lights Theatre Company video entitled 'Origins and Lemons'. This is a light hearted presentation of the key themes of Genesis chapters 1 – 11, aimed to provoke exploration of the issues of science and faith. We begin at 7.45pm at 13 Farnham Way Putnoe. Please contact Wendy Waters on 01234 401834 if you would like to come or for more details.

**Footprints.** The next Footprints walk will take place on Sunday 9 October at 2.30pm. Meet at Renhold Church for an easy circular 2.5 – 3mile walk. For further details contact Ruth and Alan Bunker.

**Bedford Town Band Concert** Saturday 15 October 7.30—9.30pm at Salvation Army Congress Hall, Commercial Road. Tickets £8 and £7 (concessions) from Frescoes Coffee Shop, Mill Street or at the door.

## **Mission Appeal**

**'A time to give thanks,  
for things we take for granted'**

Our Mission Appeal this year will support BeCHaR. (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless) Every year at Harvest our churches gather together to give thanks for the many good things which we are able to enjoy. We thank God for the basics like food and water, and we also remember those who work hard to provide all the things we need. This year we are remembering the most vulnerable and homeless in our own community, those who haven't even got a roof over their heads.

Our chosen charity is BeCHaR (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless) a local Bedford charity based in Prebend Street Day Centre. They desperately need funds and resources. They need things like tins of food to feed the hungry, they also need our financial support. Please come and join us for harvest, give thanks for what we have and remember those who have nothing.

Over the next few weeks please drop off any tins or gifts for BeCHaR at the churches in the foyer. These will then be taken to BeCHaR. For more information about BeCHaR call our church offices or visit the website [www.prebendcentre.org.uk](http://www.prebendcentre.org.uk)

**St. Mark's Church Council** Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 October in the chapel, 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

**Christian Bookshop.** The Word, selling Christian books and cards has opened at 167 Castle Road, Bedford (corner of Denmark Street). Items for our stall at St. Mark's are being purchased from there.

**Dog Walker** wanted for our 1 year old Chocolate Labrador. 2 days during the week for approx 45 mins each time. Must be between 12 and 2pm. Would suit retired person who would like to earn an extra £40 per month. We live just off Dover Crescent. If your interested, please call Laura on 01234 718799 (during office hours) or 07756 248718 at evenings or weekends.

**Concert in aid of Operation Christmas Child** given by the Peregrine Recorder Orchestra at Simple Oak, Potton Road, Biggleswade. On 26th November at 7pm. £7 or £8 on door. Refreshments included. Contact 01767 641501

**St Mark's Rotas** are available this week and online at [WWW.Thisischurch.com](http://WWW.Thisischurch.com)

## Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

Choosing gifts to put in a shoebox is a really fun part of getting involved in Operation Christmas Child. There is something very rewarding about giving to a child you will probably never meet in this world – especially when you know your simple act of kindness will be felt and appreciated in more ways than you can ever imagine. As the 2012 London Olympics are only just around the corner, the Samaritan's Purse has suggested that, to be a part of the Olympic spirit, this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign can have sports-themed shoeboxes. As well as giving us the chance to do something a bit different with our shoeboxes, this is also a chance to send sporty items out to needy children in our world – children who might otherwise not have the chance to experience the joy of sport for themselves. There is a full list of items that we can and cannot accept on the Children's and Youth notice board in the welcome area at Putnoe Heights. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation we do have some gift aid envelopes for your use. Each shoe box costs £2.50 to send. Empty shoeboxes will also be appreciated. We are starting to collect from 3 October until 23 October so please leave any donations in the office by Sunday 23 October 2011 for our Children's and Youth groups to pack. Thank you. Carolyn and Emma.

**Action for Children** A big THANK YOU once again to the 18 volunteers who knocked on 674 doors for the September's House to House Collection on behalf of Action for Children. Also thank you to those householders who have continued to give generously even in the current financial climate. The total raised in our St. Mark's/Brickhill area was a very worthwhile £698. Action for Children will be able to claim a further £55 from HM Revenue & Customs as a result of the 55 door-step donors who kindly filled in their Gift-Aid forms. Individual 'thank-you' cards with amounts collected are being distributed.

*Mike Elliot*

## St Mark's Church Christmas Craft Fayre Saturday 19 November

There are only 7 weeks left to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 19 November 2011.

Amazing how quickly it comes around. We would be grateful for any help with the following:-

**Tombola:** Any new unwanted gifts\Christmas present etc. for our Tombola stall.

**Cake Stall:** Millie is kindly co-ordinating the cake stall again this year. She would be very grateful for any offers of cakes. If you are able to bake a cake for this stall please contact Millie via the Church Office.

**Refreshments:** We would very much appreciate donations of traybakes to sell with tea and coffee. Ploughman's lunches will be on sale at lunchtime as usual. Volunteers to help in the kitchen on the day would be very much appreciated. To put your name down please see Avril Williams. Any help gratefully received.

**Secondhand Book Stall:** Delia has agreed to coordinate the secondhand book stall again this year so please have a look in your cupboards for any unwanted books. We do ask that they be in good condition please

**Indoor Plant Stall:** After the success of last year's plant stall we are doing the same again this year. If you have any indoor plants or have split any plants and would like to donate them to our stall we would be very grateful.

All donated items for the above stalls can be bought up to Church anytime week beginning 15th November.

We will need lots of help on the day especially when the Fayre finishes at 3.30p.m. Many hands make light work and it would certainly be appreciated. This is one of our main fundraising events of the year and we are hoping to make it an even bigger success than last year, with your help I am sure we can achieve this. Many thanks  
Avril Williams

### 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.

**Mary Davina Britton**

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



### Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Madge Walsh** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 2.30pm on Monday 10th October

**The funeral of Mr Jack Thomas Fortnum** will take place at 12.15pm on Monday 10th October

**The funeral of Robert William Dewar** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Thursday 13 October