



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

## 2nd September 22nd in Ordinary



Church of  
England

### Partnership Church Services Today

#### 8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

### Today 26 August –21st in Ordinary

#### 9.30m St. Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters  
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden  
Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters  
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar  
Intercessions-YPG

### 9 September - 23rd in Ordinary

#### 9.30am St Mark's – Morning Family Worship

Preacher Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart  
Intercessions – Mrs Delia Shephard

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Family Worship

Preacher - Rev. Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mr Barry Southam  
Intercessions - Dr. Tim Wilkes

**Readings** 1 Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23 2 James 1: 17-27 3 Mark 7 : 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Maurice and Jjane who were married yesterday at Putnoe Heights in a beautiful ceremony themed around lord of the Rings. Our best wishes to them both as they set out on their married life together.

Dear Lord, be present with them in their married life and bind them together through their love for each other. Give to them joy in one another and bring them by this joy to share in your creative and redeeming love. Protect them from evil, surround them with peace and may they and each one of us draw strength from understanding the deep love which you have for us. Amen.

### Welcome

We welcome you all to our service today, especially the friends and family of Piper Anais Brantford who has been brought for baptism at St Mark's Church

### Prayer for Sunday

Since you know us, O Lord, better than we can ever know ourselves and as you love us more truly than we can ever love ourselves, daily renew us, both in mind and heart, until we are restored in the image and likeness of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen *Francois Fenelon (1651-1715)*

#### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

#### Deacon Jane Mason

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

#### The Reverend Charles Royden

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

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

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

#### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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

#### Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

#### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

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

#### St. Mark's Church Centre

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

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)

Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett ☎326685

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

**.9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

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

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 17 September Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

## Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

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

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

**7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 4 September Opening Meeting Details call Janet King 313946

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

## Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Thursday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Saturday

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

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

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

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

### Sunday

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

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

**1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)

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

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



## Diary Dates



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

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 11 September

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** -

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting**

**Putnoe Church Council** - 15 October,

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -

**Commemoration Service** 4 November 3.00pm

**Harvest Festival** 30 September

**Circuit meeting** -

**Deanery Meeting** - 16 November

**Woodland Burial Trustees**– 30 September

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** -

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



## Ordinary 21

### Opening Verse of Scripture James 1:22

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

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

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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. *Common Worship*

### First Bible Reading - Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9

Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you. Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

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

### Second Bible Reading James 1:17-27

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created. My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does. If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

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

Every good and perfect gift  
is from above,  
coming down from the Father  
of the heavenly lights,  
who does not change  
like shifting shadows.

James 1:17



## **Gospel Reading Mark 7 (1-8, 14-15,)**

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the market place they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.' You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."

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

## **Post Communion Prayer**

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Hymns** (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise*)

1. Angel voices ever singing 34
2. Jesus' love is very wonderful - words to be printed
3. Christ be our light - words from Clive September list
4. God forgave my sin in Jesus' name (after talk) 181
5. Take my life and let it be 624

## **Commentary**

Today's readings pull no punches! They are direct teachings and warnings about what will become of the religious Jews and subsequently those who converted to Christianity if they did not follow God's laws and Jesus' teaching and interpretation of those laws. Mark's account in Chapter 7 records Jesus' teaching on 'Clean and unclean' emphasising it is what 'comes out of us that makes us unclean' and in particular in verse 21 – 23 warns about immoral acts, theft, murder, greed, malice, deceit, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. Accounts of which fill our newspapers and internet today, whether it be by previously unknown men, women or children, stars of stage and screen, sports personalities and even royalty; no one section of society is immune to such behaviours, including ourselves.

In the OT Deuteronomy reading Moses tells the Israelites to hear and follow God's laws, not to add or subtract to them, but to observe them and keep them for they will make them a wise and revered nation. But he also warns them to be careful not to forget them or let them slip from their hearts and to ensure they teach them to all future generations. By the time of Jesus, many hundreds of generations later, it seems the religious elite had added to them by elevating their traditions and rituals to such an extent that the deeper reason for their existence had indeed slipped from their hearts.

The Mark passage today is an account of Jesus' reply to a question the religious leadership asked Jesus about his disciples' failure, from their perspective, to follow cleanliness laws when eating. Living in a hot desert country Jesus would have been well aware, for health reasons, of the need to wash themselves and items used for eating and drinking, but it was the over emphasis on the religious ceremonial practises that the Pharisees observed that Jesus calls into question. Practises which had become an outward show of following God's law but were only superficial signs of their commitment to them.

Over the centuries since Jesus lived on earth there has been and continues to be much debate

about theological doctrines and the value of tradition. But contemporary theologian Tom Wright suggests that in the context of this Mark passage the debate is about two different ways of what it meant to be a good Jew in the first century. Also that 'the charge Jesus levels at the Pharisees and legal experts is that, by teaching as fundamental law what is in fact only custom rather than divine revelation, they are guilty of hypocrisy, play acting. They are claiming to be teachers of the God's truth and law, but in fact they are only teaching human traditions'. The teaching and interpretation of scriptural, cultural, and traditional practises continue to be an issue today, and in some societies appear to be on the increase. In the first century there were famous stories of Jewish people who had been tortured and killed for refusing to eat unclean food, particularly pork. Sadly today people are still tortured and killed for not adhering to traditions laid down by humans but attributed to God. Such attitudes were as dangerous for Jesus to challenge as they are by 21<sup>st</sup> century enlightened leaders and teachers. Jesus did not shirk from the challenge on this and many other occasions nor should we. Jesus teaching was not denying the importance of the material world, but emphasising it is what goes on in the secrecy of our own thoughts, our minds, our inner beings that influences what comes out in our words and actions is what matters. It is this that was vital to Jesus and his followers and is vital for us today. *Wendy Waters*

### **Meditation**

The letter of James is, as always a down to earth practical teaching on how to live as the followers of Jesus. He urges his readers to 'get rid of all moral filth and evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you'. That is put away sin by heeding the Word of God. But not only to listen but do what it says, James wants action not just thoughts and words. Here he touches on the dangers of the tongue, dangers of perhaps one aspect that Jesus' teaching on 'what comes out of us' that we can relate to and all too easily fall into. 'Malice and slander' stem from our inner thoughts and move out via the tongue. For James 'pure and faultless religion' requires his readers, including us, 'to look after the orphans and widows'. Those who have lost their natural means of support, their parents and husbands. In other words the needy in our society, the needy that may be growing, not decreasing, in number, the; vulnerable, the poor, unemployed, homeless, elderly, housebound, sick in mind or body. Jesus challenges us, James challenges us, the question is are we up to the challenge? *Wendy Waters*

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

Lord Jesus your teaching was and is often direct and hard for us to grasp, through the prompting of the Holy Spirit help us to understand the depth and breadth of your teaching. Help us to examine ourselves honestly, present our failings to you and seek forgiveness for them. So freed from all our faults enable us to think, speak and act for you with humility and joy.

Lord, forgive us, for we are fragmented persons. We go in many directions at once. We seek opposite goals; we server contradictory causes. We mouth liberation, we live oppression. We shout peace, we practise violence and anarchy. We shout justice, we walk injustice. We preach love, we practise hate. Through you compassion have mercy on us and make us whole. Enable us to discern your voice among dissonant voices. *Anon from Philipppines*

Lord God we thank you for the example of fortitude, determination and joy that those taking part in the Para Olympics are showing to us. We give thanks for their stories of bravery over adversity. We pray that by their example we may all be more accepting of those with disabilities, seeing them as made in your image, gifted and loved by you. **Amen**

Lord Jesus Christ, by your thorn-crowned head, receive the devotion of my mind. Lord Jesus Christ, by your nail-pierced hands, accept my daily work. Lord Jesus Christ, by your wounded feet, bless my faltering journey. Lord Jesus Christ, by your riven side, accept the adoration of my heart; for your love and your mercy's sake. Amen  
*Father Ignatius, 1799-1864*





**Messy Church** on Wednesday 19 September will have an Olympic theme. We would like items that will help create an 'Olympic' atmosphere e.g Olympic ring flag, bunting of national flags, posters, pictures. If you can give us any items please phone Wendy Waters 401834 or leave them at St Mark's office.

Future dates: all 3.45 to 5.30pm  
Wednesday 19 September  
Wednesday 17 October  
Wednesday 21 November  
Wednesday 12 December

**Action for Children September House to House Collection** Action for Children works with disadvantaged and disabled children, and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. The annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark's Church is responsible for covering the Brickhill area and last year our 21 collectors raised £753 (including Gift Aid). If you could spare a few hours during early September to distribute and then collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)

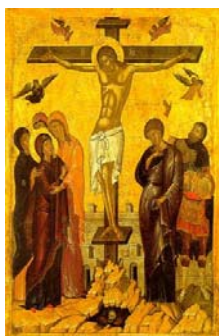
**Chat and Make** at St Mark's starts again on Monday 10 September at 1.30pm.

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

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

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

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



**Praise Service** A service of Praise celebrating the Cross will be held at Putnoe Heights Church at 6.30p.m. on Sunday 9 September. This is a service for the Partnership to which all are invited to join together to sing a collection of tuneful hymns relevant to the theme of the Cross.  
(Eric Royden)

**Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch** Sunday 30th September 2012 at 1.00pm. Tickets now available from Putnoe Office on weekdays or Leadership Team on Sunday. Adults £6.00 Children under 10 £3.00. Two courses inc. drinks.

**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, 404186

**Thank You** to everyone for your prayer support, visits, messages and cards whilst I was in hospital and since I have come home and also for the lovely flower arrangement from St. Marks. I hope to be fit enough to be back worshipping with you very soon. Jean Bank.

**Thank you** to everybody who has worked hard throughout the year to help support the St mark's Church car boot sales. They have been remarkable events, especially given the extraordinary wet weather. Despite adverse conditions we have managed to raise over £4,000 for church funds. Following the loss of income which we have received so far this year from rental of church premises, this is very important for us to help us make ends meet. So thank you to Avril and all the team who have given up their Bank Holiday Monday's to support the church and help us in this very important way. Ian Farthing

**Methodist President** To read the full transcript of the Revd Dr Mark Wakelin's inaugural address as the President of the 2012 Methodist Conference. click here <http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/trusted-needed-and-loved-transcript-of-the-presidents-address-to-the-conference>

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**Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust** are holding a Sponsored Bike 'n hike to raise funds for churches. This will take place on Saturday 8 September at 10am to 6.00pm. It's a great day out - and a chance to visit some of the more than 600 churches specially open to welcome you. Why not put the date in your diary now and see how many of your friends you can get to join you on the day. Remember, half the sponsorship money you raise will be returned to the church of your choice and the other half (plus gift aid) used by the Trust to support restoration or repair work to churches anywhere in Beds and Herts.

For more info visit [http://www.bedshertshct.org.uk/index\\_files/Page431.htm](http://www.bedshertshct.org.uk/index_files/Page431.htm)

**A word of caution** It is good that Christian people are recognised as being kind. However this is sometimes used by unscrupulous criminals and addicts to obtain money by deception. The following letter was received this week but it is typical of many which we receive throughout the year. Please remember never to give anybody money who pleads poverty. Never allow anybody into your home who is selling something or asking for something, even if they seem really nice or really in need. Alarm bells should go off if somebody comes to your doorstep selling something. There are multiple agencies which provide help and support to those who really need it and in Bedford we have really good care which means that nobody needs ever sleep rough, be homeless or hungry. If this makes you feel bad then the safe thing to do is to make a donation to Bechar, then you know the money will not be spent on drink or drugs. If approached for money or under pressure to buy at your home always just call the police on the new non emergency number 101.

Remember the rule to keep you safe

**'Never give in, never let them in'**

#### Publication of Marriage Banns

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Andrew James Lennon and Michelle Louise Butler both single of this parish. (2, 9, 16 Sept)

#### 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.

**Wendy Cochran**

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

From Archdeacon Karen

There has been a series of Frauds committed in the Northampton and Milton Keynes areas over recent weeks using precisely the same method.

The offender targets church members, approaching people at or outside churches or church halls appearing upset and frantic for help. He tells them that his mother has died that morning on the island of Jersey and that he is in desperate need of funds to get out there to identify the body and bring her home. He explains that his mother was a member of their church and lived locally until recently.

He quotes the details of several of the churches local ministers to add validity to his story but these people happen to be on holiday at the time so it appears that he has done some preparatory research.

He is described as follows:

White Male aged 30-35 years, 5'4" to 5'8" tall with a slim build, Fair hair cut about ear length, Last seen wearing a blue hoody with white writing and dark jeans

This male is extremely plausible, cries when recalling memories of his mother, gives his name as 'John Williams and passes a mobile phone number when asked. He will even quote addresses that are local. Please can details of this crime series be circulated among the Church community, encouraging any persons who come across this male to call 999 immediately? Anyone who has any information regarding this man can call the Police non emergency number on 101 Northants Police reference – NP/23988/12 Ed Allington Partnership Crime Prevention & Reduction Advisor Milton Keynes Police Station 302 North Row Witan Gate East Central MK Tel 01908 686294



#### Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

**The funeral of Navin Chandra Misir** will take place at St Mark's Church at 11.30am on Friday 7 September

**The funeral of Ruth Miriam Newby** will take place on 3 September at Bedford Crematorium at 1:45pm

**The funeral of Hilda Marjorie Demkowski** will take place at St. Mark's Church at 3.30pm on Monday 10 September followed by burial at St Albans Woodland Burial Site at 4.15pm

**The funeral of Harold Alexander Lawton** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 12 September at 4.00pm