



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

## 30 September - 26th in Ordinary

### Harvest Festival



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 30 September - Harvest Festival

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

Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart  
Intercessions – Mr. Ian Farthing

##### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd. Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Kirk  
Intercessions - Mrs. Claire Peck

#### 7 October - 27 in Ordinary Time

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

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden  
Intercessions – Ministers

##### 11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions - YPG

**Readings** 1. Genesis 2: 18-24 2. Hebrews 1:1-4 and  
2:5-12 3. Mark 10: 2-16

**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

#### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week  
have been given by Alan and Margaret Massey in  
celebration of their 10th wedding anniversary, and  
by Tim and Janet Wilkes in celebration of their  
40th wedding anniversary.

*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 on the foyers.*

#### Prayer for Sunday

O God,  
the maker and giver of all good things  
we praise you for your creation  
and for our capacity to enjoy it

Enable us to see your hand in all the  
beautiful things around us, and from them  
to learn something more of your greatness  
and glory, your wisdom and love.  
For Jesus' sake. 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 Vice  
President for Hewlett Packard)

#### Deacon Jane Mills

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 John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
**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)

**2.00pm U3A Calligraphy** at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)

**2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation** at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (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 Mark's (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– 16 October Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

**7.45pm Opus Choir** at St Mark's Mrs Sutherland ☎269100

**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 Wiggles 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 below)

**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

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

**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 2 October Shoe box packing 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 10 October 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 Waters 401834

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

**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs C 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** at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 3 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. 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

**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

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

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

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Mark's 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 U3A Whist** St Marks. (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 w.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Adrian Felice 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 -**

**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**

**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.*

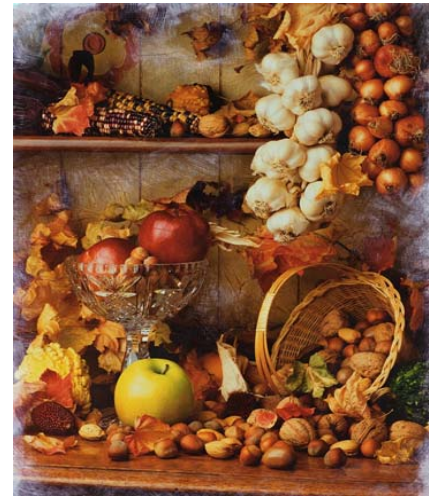
## Ordinary 26

### Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 104:13,15

The earth is filled with the gifts of the Lord: wine, and oil, and bread, to strengthen and cheer our hearts.

### Collect Prayer

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 - Joel 2: 21-27

Be not afraid, O land; be glad and rejoice. Surely the LORD has done great things. Be not afraid, O wild animals, for the open pastures are becoming green. The trees are bearing their fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their riches. Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. 'I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten-- the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm -- my great army that I sent among you. You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed. Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.

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

### Second Bible Reading - 1 Timothy 2: 1-7

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God 'who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles. (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God** )

### Gospel Reading - Matthew Chapter 6:25-33

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life ? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that 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, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

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

### Post Communion Prayer

Keep, O Lord, your church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Hymns (Please distribute Harvest Service Sheets and Hymns and Psalms)

1. Come, ye thankful people, come 355 (*Tune: St George's Windsor*)
2. We eat the plants that grow from the seed (*Tune: Country Garden*)
3. Praise and thanksgiving 350 (*Tune: Bunessan*)
4. Praise God for the harvest 351 (*Tune: Stowey*)
5. We plough the fields, and scatter 352

## Commentary

The words we have today from Matthew's Gospel are taken from the Sermon on the Mount. In this address of Jesus to his followers, he lays out for them a new way of living. Some of the things which Jesus says surprise us, because he teaches that happiness and blessing are found in living in a way which is completely contrary to our natural inclinations. The way of life which we might expect will bring personal gratification and reward will instead lead to deep dissatisfaction. Jesus tells his people that they will be blessed in ways that the world around will fail to understand. Of course this has never changed and the same problems which beset human life then are just the same as ever before, and we can learn much from these words of Jesus about how to live satisfied and fulfilled lives which are pleasing to God.

It is clear that the expected values of society around us must be challenged radically. Jesus teaches that happiness is not to be found in an accumulation of wealth and possessions, or working hard to achieve positions of power. Those who will receive God's blessing and find real happiness will be those who show mercy, who work for peace and care for others. Blessedness is found in poverty rather than possessions. Jesus is telling his followers that he wants them to live by a new way, in which they consider not the accumulation of things for themselves, but rather the well being of others.

Shifting our attention onto the needs and welfare of others is counter intuitive. At the time this involved a radically different kind of religion than the people thought that God was calling them to. Think, through the pages of the Old Testament, we have read that God wanted his people to conquer lands, seize territory, kill anybody who opposed them. Genocide, mass killings of anybody who stood in the way, this was what the people believed God wanted them to do. Now with Jesus comes a completely new way. And Jesus makes the point physically by taking the people up on a mountain, just like Moses and sitting down and handing out this new way of life, just as Moses had previously delivered God's commands.

Now there is a new ways of being God's people. No longer should people murder and kill, neither should they look for retribution. Instead the life of those who follow Jesus should be characterised by kindness and forgiveness. Indeed so radical was this new way of living that the believer must love enemies. In his new way of living, Jesus teaches that piety must be something done in private, just as giving must be something done not to gain attention.

Jesus summarised much of this teaching in The Lord's Prayer which he gave to his disciples. It reminds the follower of Jesus that they must only ask God for 'daily bread', not luxuries or blessings. It commits the follower of Jesus to being forgiving of others, mindful that we all stand in need of forgiveness.

The new way of living has much to say about personal wealth and possessions and in that it is very appropriate for harvest. We all realise that having lots of things does not bring any happiness. The sad and miserable lives of so many rich people is a stark reminder that our lives are just as easily damaged by wealth as enhanced. Jesus knows that looking for fulfilment in earthly things is a waste of time, these things are transitory, and he makes the point that moths and rust can destroy so many things which we imagine to be of value. If we fashion our lives on the standards of the rat race we will miss the holy things of the kingdom which have enduring value.

One of the most important things which Jesus teaches is that heaven cannot wait. We must not put off today the life of the kingdom which we wait for. We must pray, 'thy kingdom come' and as we do we ask God that this way of living would be something which we started living now, not an ideal for what heaven will be like in the future when we die.

In Chapter 25 of this Gospel of Matthew, just before the passion and resurrection of Jesus, there is a passage of warning about the last judgement. Jesus speaks about the separation of the sheep and the goats when the kingdom will be given to those the Father has blessed. Those who inherit the kingdom will be those whose lives have been characterised by acts of kindness and generosity. These people will have used their time on earth to visit the sick, they will have shared their wealth with the hungry and the suffering. Today at harvest time we look for ways in which we can share what we have in a spirit of generosity and kindness. Looking for ways in which we can share from our abundance and help the poor, the suffering and all of those who are opportunities for us to partake of God's kingdom.

### **Meditation** A Celtic Parable St. Comgan (D 8th century) and the Jewels

St Comgan was the son of a prince of Leinster, Ireland, and the brother of St. Kentigern. Wounded by neighbouring chieftains in a battle, Comgan fled with his sister and her children to Scotland. He settled in Lochaise, near Skye. There he built a monastery. He was buried on Iona.

St. Comgan heard about a miser who owned a fabulous collection of jewels. The miser kept the jewels in a safe. Comgan called on the miser, and said: "I hear you have a fabulous collection of jewels. Would you allow me to see them?"

The miser replied: "It would be a pleasure. I haven't looked at them myself for many years, so I too shall enjoy seeing them." He opened the safe, took out a gold box and carefully placed the box on a table. He unlocked the box, and lifted the lid. Both Comgan and the miser stared with open mouths at the diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and sapphires which it contained. The miser dipped his hand in the box, and let the precious stones run through his fingers. Then after a few minutes he closed the box, and returned it to the safe.

"Thank you for giving me those jewels," Comgan said.

The miser replied: "I haven't given them to you; they belong to me."

Comgan said: "I have had as much pleasure as you from looking at them. So there is no difference between us - except that you have the expense and anxiety of buying and looking after them."

That day the miser gave away one jewel to every household in the town. There were just enough with one left over for himself.

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

Almighty and everlasting God, creator of all that is seen and unseen, of all we can understand and all that is yet to be revealed. You have placed us in a universe with breath taking splendour and with an ability to constantly surprise and amaze us; and so hear us as we humbly come before you to seek your help and guidance in our lives. We come to you in simple trust and, as Jesus taught us, in the certain knowledge that you are our heavenly Father and will listen to the prayers of us, your children. At this special thanksgiving time of the year we pray for all who work so that we have food to eat and share. We remember those who work the land and sea often overcoming the extremes of weather to bring produce to market. We also remember those in the transport, distribution and the retail sectors, those involved in commerce for without them our shop and supermarket shelves would be empty. Lord bless all who labour to satisfy our needs and we pray that all trade between peoples may be done openly and fairly and with due regard for the environment and for human dignity.

We pray now for areas of our world where hatred and wars make the efforts of daily life even more difficult, where people pursue armed conflict and innocent lives are lost or disfigured. We pray for peacemakers who will respond to the call of our Lord Jesus for peacemakers. Help us all to learn to treat our neighbours as ourselves.

We pray for the work of all who work for peace, may a longing for peace, truth and justice be the motives of those in government. Give wisdom, strength and courage to our world leaders as they seek to resolve the disputes between nations.

We pray for this, our own, country with its cultural and ethnic diversity, for Queen Elizabeth, our head of state, her ministers and all in authority, that they will govern wisely and with due regard for the needs of all people. We pray for the work of both Houses of Parliament, Party Political Conferences, the meetings of Borough, Town and Parish Councils and for all centres of debate; that men and women will listen to and understand each others views with respect so learning more of the needs of the people they serve.

We pray for all families represented here today. Each one is made up differently and faces the normal ups and downs of family life in different ways. We pray that each family finds a place in it for the love of Jesus Christ and that special peace which it brings.

We pray especially for families known to us who are coping with illness, poverty, racial hatred or tragedy. Show us where we can lend a sympathetic ear, speak a word of comfort or offer practical help and so show your love in action.

We think of our Churches here in the partnership. We pray for all who exercise service guide all who lead, organize and contribute to the Church's vision of service and witness.

We pray for the sick, both at home and in hospital, or hospice. We think of the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes. And we pray for all who minister to their needs. Lord Jesus who responded to the needs of all those who had faith; comfort and sustain those who are in need of your grace at this time. Especially do we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, whether recently or long ago. Let the knowledge of your resurrection in glory be comfort to all those who mourn.

**Social Evening.** There will be a Partnership Church Social event organised at St Mark's on Saturday 17 November, please put this in your diary as we are looking to make it a great event for all the family.

**Resurfacing Work** Avon Drive will be closed to traffic from Kimbolton Road roundabout to Bourneside from 8am –6pm starting on 8 October 2012 for four days.

**St Mark's Service Rota** is available in draft form. Please feel free to either speak with people and agree swaps, or cross your name off if you cannot make a particular commitment. Once changes are made we will publish before the end of September.

### **Service of Commemoration of the Faithful**

**Departed.** We will be holding a special service of commemoration of loved ones who have died at St Mark's Church on 4 November. All are welcome to attend so please do encourage anybody you know who would appreciate this special service.

### **Christmas Craft Fayre – 24 November 2012**

Now that the Car Boots have been put to bed for the winter our big fundraising event is Christmas Craft Fayre. We have a number of Church Stalls that need your support, i.e. plant stall, homemade cake stall, Craft stall and of course tray-bakes for refreshments. So plant up your cuttings (indoor and out), bake your cakes and tray-bakes then come and enjoy the day with a cup of tea and a lovely ploughman's lunch. Help on the day is always needed and is very much appreciated. Any queries about the above just contact Avril via the Church Office. Thank you.

**Coffee Rota** at St. Mark's. Additional volunteers to assist with coffee after church on Sundays would be very welcome. The more volunteers the less frequent the duty! Please see Milly if interested.

**The coffee morning** held at 1 Bindon Abbey in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care raised 120 pounds. Very many thanks to all who were able to support this venture. Valerie and Peter Littleford

**What's it all about?** In the Autumn each church in our circuit will hold a Sunday service focusing on the ministry of both worship leading and preaching followed by a taster evening for local preachers and a training course for worship leaders. See notice board for more information

**A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land.** Anne Brown( Chair of the Beds, Essex & Herts Methodist District ) will lead a Pilgrimage to the Holy land from 19th-29th May 2014. This is a comprehensive 11 day tour including a stay in the Negev desert. Anyone who is interested please see details of schedule and booking form on the notice board.

### **Advent Course**

This year we will be running a Partnership Advent Course at St Mark's for three weeks. The course will also be great for those considering confirmation in the 2013. Each session will start with refreshments at 7.30pm with the main meeting 8.00pm - 9.00pm More details to follow but put these dates in your diary.

#### **Thursday 29 November**

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm

Session in Church from 8pm

#### **Thursday 6 December**

In WREN room from 7.30pm

#### **Thursday 13 December**

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm

Session in Church from 8pm

**Hilda Hicks** has asked me to let everyone know that she is making great progress since being admitted to Shand Ward at Bedford Hospital last week. She would like to thank everyone for all their cards and visits. On Thursday 27th September [last Thursday] she was transferred to a Nursing home that has a 12 bed rehabilitation unit accessed by Bedfordshire Health care trust. It is not known how long she will be staying. The address for this is: The Knolls, Plantation Road, Leighton Buzzard. Beds. LU7 3JE Tel 01525 380600.

**St Albans Woodland Burial Trust.** There will be a meeting of the Trustees Today (30 September) at 12.30pm in the Wren Room

**Church Councils** Just a reminder that our church council are coming up soon in the Partnership.

St Mark's Tuesday 9 October

Putnoe Heights Monday 15 October

Please remember that these are open meeting and everybody is welcome to attend.

If anybody has any issues which they would like considered concerning Putnoe Heights Church them please speak with a member of the Leadership Team as they are meeting this week on Tuesday 2 October. Minutes of St Mark's Leadership Team meeting which was held last week can be found on the church website.

**Concert at St Mark's** we are delighted to announce that there will be another concert held by Clive Simmonds at St Mark's. Clive will once again be supported by his guests Taylor Wilson (mezzo soprano) and Stewart Kempster (bass). The concert will be held on Saturday 9 February at 7.30pm. This year there will also be some music from the musicals and some more 'jazzy' numbers. Clive has obtained a reconditioned piano for St Mark's and whilst entrance will be free the concert will help raise funds towards this.

## A Hymn for Harvest

We eat the plants that grow from the seed,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.  
Cures can be made from herbs and from weeds,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.  
Ev'rything beneath the sun,  
all the things we claim we've done,  
all are part of God's creation:  
we can meet people's needs  
with things we grow from seed,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.

We find the iron and turn it to steel,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.  
We pull the levers, we turn the wheels,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.  
Ev'rything we say we've made,  
plastic bags to metal spades,  
all are part of God's creation:  
we can make lots of things  
from microchips to springs,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.

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**Bill De Boltz** Members at Putnoe Heights will be saddened to hear that Bill de Boltz passed away peacefully on 20th September in Bedford Hospital aged 96. The funeral service will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 4th October at 2.30pm, followed by refreshments at Maydenbury House. Donations through Arnolds.to Cancer Research UK

**An Autumn Craft Day** will be held at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 20 October from 9.45am to 4.30pm. Cost £4 per half day session.. Please book by 11 October. Booking form and details of workshops available from Pam Seymour. Tel 305695; Email –pam@tgis.co.uk

### 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.

**Alison Holden**  
**Nicholas Dawson-Taylor**

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

## New Archbishop

The Crown Nominations Commission (CNC), met last week to choose a new Archbishop of Canterbury. Two names were not agreed to be submitted to the Prime Minister. Dr Williams remains in office until the end of December. Church House had published a special prayer on Wednesday as the Crown Nominations Commission met to decide whom to ask the Crown to nominate as the next Archbishop of Canterbury.



Almighty God,  
you have given your Holy Spirit to the Church  
to lead us into all truth:  
bless with the Spirit's grace and presence  
the members of the Crown Nominations  
Committee.  
Keep them steadfast in faith and united in love,  
that they may seek your will, manifest your glory  
and prepare the way of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.  
Amen.

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### Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families  
and friends in your prayers.

*No funerals this week*

