

Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

## 31 July 2011 – Ordinary 18



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

### 31 July - Ordinary 18

**9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH**  
Preacher – Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton  
Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton  
**11.00 am Putnoe -Holy Communion with PCH**  
Preacher – Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership – Mrs Linda Hoar  
Intercessions – Dr Tim Wilkes

### 7 August— Ordinary 19

**9.30 am St. Mark's - Family Worship with Baptism**  
Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters  
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean  
Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship**  
Preacher– Mrs Wendy Waters  
Leadership - Mrs Veta Hudson Rae  
Intercessions – Ministers

**Bible Readings** 1. Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28 2. Romans  
10:5-15 3. Matthew 14: 22-33

**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 Lawrence and Betty Wyatt on the  
occasion of their wedding anniversary.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given  
by Mary Stubbs in memory of her husband John.

*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.*

### Prayer for the Week

Lord and giver of life,  
you alone nourish  
and sustain your people,  
through Christ,  
the bread of life.  
Feed our hunger  
and quench our thirst,  
that we may no longer work  
for what fails to satisfy,  
but do what you require,  
in obedience and faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen  
*Methodist Worship*

#### 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 Hoar 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

# 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** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

**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** - Putnoe Heights

fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623

**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.

**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 **Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's

Sam Thompson ☎07766421000 Starts 25th July.

**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—15 August 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 ☎07790296016

**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** for the less

mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357

**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.** St Mark's 4th Week in

month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs

Forrest ☎344043

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

**2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation** fortnightly. Contact Mrs Reed ☎216623

**2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week.

Contact John Farish ☎ 824984

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 16 August Cream Tea** 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 August 16 Strawberry Tea and raffle. St Mark's 2.30pm. 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,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly.

Next - 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** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823

**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. Next meeting 26 January.

**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 September 7 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 ,Valmai 219555 or Rosemary 405594 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

**11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau** Putnoe Heights.

**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** 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** St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

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

**4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

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

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

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

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

**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** (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

**12.15pm U3A Photography** (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

**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.bedfordtkd.com](http://www.bedfordtkd.com) or [bedfordtkd@googlemail.com](mailto:bedfordtkd@googlemail.com).

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council -**  
**St Mark's Leadership Team -** 6 September 2011  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -** 5 October  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting -** 3 October  
**St Mark's Forum Meeting -**  
**Putnoe Church Council -** 17 October  
**Pastoral Group Meeting -**  
**Churchyard Committee -**  
**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -**  
**Circuit meeting -** 15 September at Putnoe Heights.  
**Deanery Meeting -**  
**Woodland Burial Trustees -**  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth -** 17 October

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



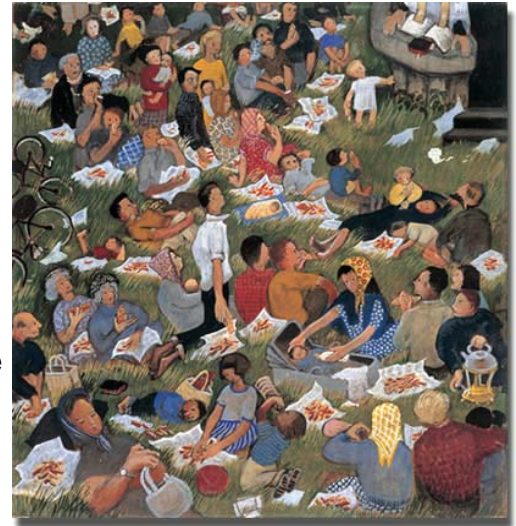
## Ordinary 18

### Opening Verse of Scripture – Psalm 145:3

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

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

Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of life and the word of your Kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



*When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.*

### First Bible Reading – Genesis 32: 22-31

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

### Second Reading - Romans 9: 1-5

I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

### Gospel Reading - Matthew 14: 13-21

**(When the Gospel is announced: All: Glory to God our Saviour)**

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children

(This is the Gospel of Christ –**All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

## Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Hymns *(Please distribute Holy Communion with PCH and Mission Praise)*

- i) Morning has broken 467
- ii) All I once held dear (On Partnership News)
- iii) Break thou the bread of life 64
- iv) Guide me o Thou great Jehovah 201

## Commentary

The reading today begins with the phrase, 'when Jesus heard what had happened.' This is the context for the passage, and it casts a shadow over events. Herod had thrown a feast, it was a truly dreadful meal, for the only thing mentioned as being on a platter was the head of John the Baptist. We do not know who attended, but we can be certain it was the privileged few, the rich and the famous. Consider then this meal of the narrow invitation list, the presence of the powerful and the overwhelming mood of hate and bitterness, eventually bringing an outcome of the death of a righteous man. Then reflect upon the contrasting meal of Jesus which now occurs in the passage today. Unlike Herod, Jesus opens up the invitation list to all. We are told that the meal is held not in a palace but in a 'remote place.' The guests of Jesus do not incline on couches, Jesus invites them to sit on the grass. Now which meal would you have wanted to attend? The feast of Herod surrounded by hatred, or the feast of Jesus filled with compassion? The feast of Jesus is not a sumptuous feast, but "all ate and were filled."

Let's look deeper at this miraculous feeding, we know it is important because it is the only miracle which all four gospels record every Gospel writer tells us about Jesus performing a miraculous feeding. There is a feeding of the Five Thousand in Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:32-44, Luke 9:12-17 and John 6:1-14. There are some variations in details in the accounts, for example in John we read that the food used belonged to a boy. Then there is the Feeding of the Four Thousand in Matthew 15:32-39 and Mark 8:1-10. There are also separate accounts in Matthew and Mark of another feeding miracle. It seems reasonable to assume that there must have been more than one miracle if the same person recorded it twice. Remember though that numbers are not important, indeed in our story we can see that the 5,000 referred only to the men, so there might have been over 10,000 fed!

It is important to note the feeling which Jesus had for the crowd, it was one of compassion. Everybody would have heard of the death of John the Baptist at that dreadful feast. Jesus and those around him were upset and understandably Jesus we read that Jesus in his grief takes time to go to a solitary place to be alone in his grief. Yet when he sees the need of others around he offers his help freely. He thinks of others before himself. Perhaps there is a lesson for how we should expect to respond to adversity ourselves. We too are most blessed when we care for others, perhaps even especially when we place our own woes to one side and concentrate on how we can give rather than receive.

If we were to put ourselves into the position of the crowd themselves, then they would very much have appreciated this compassion. They had lost a leader and they would have felt bereaved, afraid and lacking in hope for the future. We feel the same from time to time, perhaps we are fearful of the future, or grieving over lost opportunities. It may be that we wonder how we can cope with the relationships we have with our families or others, our job, or indeed the Christian witness to which we feel called. Perhaps we are frightened by the challenge of life which God has laid before us? We should do well to remember that this is a feeling which the disciples shared- many times, and Jesus looks with compassion.

Jesus clearly wants to feed the crowd and cares for their physical needs. However a call upon the available resources reveals only five loaves and two fish. Clearly there would need to be much more to feed those present. The action of Jesus is to bless the resources which are brought to him and then to send them out. This is an interesting visual demonstration of how Jesus uses his disciples. We bring our meagre resources and we offer them to him, he blesses what we have, however inadequate for the task and then sends us out to do his work. When we offer our meagre resources to God and he blesses them we can know that God will change the value of them and increase their worth. It doesn't matter how small or insignificant we think our gift is, when Jesus blesses what we offer it becomes a powerful tool in his hands.

The result is miraculous. Now in spite of the old commentaries which suggested that this was a miracle of sharing, or a holy communion in which they were spiritually not physically fed, we cannot escape the fact that the story is presented as a miracle of growth. We know this because we are told clearly that there were twelve baskets left over. We should remember that twelve was an important number. The gospel writer would have wanted to make the point that there were enough baskets to have one for each disciple, one for each tribe of Israel.

The message is clear that when we trust in the mercy of God there is enough and more to go around, there are indeed leftovers. The abundance of God's mercy does not disappoint, he fulfils his promises. We can know that there will always be sufficient for us if we trust in God. God is generous with us. This may be a difficult message for us to grasp. Why does Jesus make more wine than they actually need, did he have to make so many jars of wine? Why did the woman have to lavish perfume on Jesus, and would half a bottle not have been sufficient? The answer is no, Jesus is generous and we are called not to be resentful of such abundance but to do the same. *Charles Royden*

## **Meditation**

Today we learn about the sharing of food. In the midst of their need, Jesus leads the disciples and the people in an unexpected and wonderful sharing of abundance. In this sharing, God is encountered. "Eucharist" is experienced. This spirit of abundance and sharing is a challenge to the greed, selfishness and profit seeking which dominate parts of our culture. The spirit behind the gospel challenges us and challenges the worst parts of our way of doing things. Food and water are more than just products to be bought and sold. The gospel is about more than just giving out food. Jesus does more than just "magically" create food. He calls a community into life. He calls the disciples into reflection and action on their situation in solidarity with everyone who is gathered. On behalf of the community, Jesus expresses gratitude and faith in God. He gets people to sit down and share. Food is passed from person to person. Everyone partakes of the abundance. Everyone has enough to eat. Instead of the hoarding of the leftovers, the people gather up what remains. Our gospel is a gospel of solidarity and empowerment. We are called to put this gospel into practice by creating a community of charity and justice for all. In the last year food prices have gone up all over the world, especially in places where people are the poorest. Not everyone is getting enough to eat. What would Jesus do in that situation? What would Jesus call us to do in our global situation?

At a time of world food shortage, of financial turmoil, of old and new forms of poverty, of disturbing climate change, of violence and deprivation which force many to leave their homelands in search of a less precarious form of existence, of the ever-present threat of terrorism, of growing fears over the future, it is urgent to rediscover grounds for hope. Let no one draw back from this peaceful battle that has been launched by Christ's Resurrection. For as I said earlier, Christ is looking for men and women who will help him to affirm his victory using his own weapons: the weapons of justice and truth, mercy, forgiveness and love. *Pope Benedict XVI said, in Urbi et Orbi, Easter 2009:*

For not only bread, but all things necessary for sustenance in this life are given on loan to us with others and because of others and for others, to others through us. *Meister Eckhart c.1260-c.1327*

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

O God, you came to bring peace, to offer reconciliation, to heal the separation between people, and to show how it is possible for men and women to overcome their differences and to celebrate their unity. You revealed your God as a God of all people, a God without resentments or desires for revenge, a God who cares for each one of his children with an infinite love and mercy and who does not hesitate to invite them into his own house.

But our world today does not look like a world that knows you. Our nations are torn by chaos, hatred, violence, and war. In many places, death rules.

O God, do not forget the world into which you came to save your people; do not turn your back on your children who desire to live in harmony but who are constantly entangled in fear, anger, lust, violence, greed, suspicion, jealousy, and hunger for power. Bring your peace to this world, a peace we cannot make ourselves. Awaken the consciousness of all peoples and their leaders; raise up men and women full of love and generosity who can speak and act for peace, and show us new ways in which hatred can be left behind, wounds can be healed, and unity restored.

O God, come to our assistance. O God, make haste to help us. Amen.

*Adopted from "A Cry for Mercy," by Henri J.M. Nouwen*





## Woodland Burial Tour A Unique Opportunity

On Tuesday 30 August at 11.00am there will be a guided tour of St Albans Woodland Burial Ground. This will be an opportunity to ask any questions which you may have about how funerals take place or what you can do to make a very personal service. Trustees will be accompanied by other professionals who will be available to answer any questions which you may have.

Located via The College Equestrian Centre Church Road, Keysoe, Bedford. MK44 2JP

More details can be obtained from the  
Administrator: Mrs Linda Parry  
Tel/Fax +44 1234 342613  
Email: office@woodlandburialtrust.com

**Summer activity days** at Putnoe Heights Church Running on Monday 1- Tuesday 2 August 2011 are 'Jonah and the Whale' activity days. Two weeks later there will be 'Feeding the 5,000' activity days on Monday 15 – Tuesday 16 August 2011. These days will include crafts, games, puppets, singing, drama and lots of fun! All ages are welcome, under 5's must be accompanied by an adult. Packed lunches will be required, drink and snacks will be provided.

Times are – Monday 1 – 12pm-3pm  
Tuesday 2 – 1pm-3.30pm  
Monday 15 – 12pm-3pm  
Tuesday 16 - 1pm-3pm

Any queries, contact Putnoe Heights Children's and Youth Worker Emma Gordon 07593266091 or email youth@thisischurch.com.

**St. Mark's Junior Church** resumes on Sunday September 4.

**St Mark's Storybox** has finished for the holiday and will meet again Thursday Sept 8. Many thanks to Jaana and all who helped throughout the year

**St. Mark's Chat and Play.** Holiday Chat and Play on 4 and 18 of August. Normal Chat and Play starts again on September 8. Jo Garner 400071

**St Mark's Foyer Improvements.** Work will commence in August on the project to enlarge the foyer at St Mark's and provide new disabled friendly entrance doors. The work is entirely funded from grants and donations which have been received from charities. The finished work may not look entirely beautiful, since it requires the fitting of a new canopy over the finished doors. There are no funds for this at present and we will complete the work when we have raised more

money. Please be patient with the finished appearance in the meantime !

**St Mark's Leadership Team** Please note that the next date is 6 September 2011

**Many thanks** to Judith Stanton and her whist drive members for the generous donation of £160 to St. Mark's Church.

**Helen** would like to say thank you to every one for the lovely flowers she was given for passing her BA Honours in Early Years.

**Invitation** Irene and Eddie McKenzie are celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 3rd August 2011 in the small hall at Putnoe Heights Church, from 1-4pm. Everyone welcome. Transport available - telephone 311569. No gifts please.

**News from Kisiizi Hospital at Putnoe.** Kisiizi was founded in 1958 by the late Dr John Sharp. In 2008 the patients, staff and local people celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The hospital now has 248 beds in 7 wards; has 40,000 patients a year; and the new Out-patient block is nearly complete. If you would like to read more about Kisiizi hospital please look for this week's newsletter in the welcome area or ask me for a copy. Carolyn.

**Action for Children** works with disadvantaged & 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. The annual house-to-house collection takes place in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark's has the responsibility for covering Brickhill. Last year 21 collectors raised £806 (inc. Gift Aid.). If you could spare a few hours early in September to distribute and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area. Please contact me For more information. Mike Elliot Tel: 342507

**Thank you** Putnoe Heights, Jenny and Barry for the gorgeous bouquet of flowers which arrived at our door after a difficult time within our family, which reassured us of your caring prayers, love and compassion. God bless everyone of you. Love Deborah Wallace and family.

**Bedford Deanery Meeting** The next meeting of Bedford Deanery will take place on September 15

**You are invited** to a joint Missions coffee morning and celebration of Dorothy's 80th Birthday on Saturday 27 August at 35 Brecon Way between 10 and 12 am Donations for the raffle may be dropped off at any time the previous week.

Thank you Stephen & Pauline Clare

## A Hymn for Sunday

- 1 All I once held dear,  
Built my life upon,  
All this world reveres,  
And wars to own,  
All I once thought gain  
I have counted loss;  
Spent and worthless now,  
Compared to this.  
*Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,  
there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, You're the best,  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
and I love You, Lord.*
- 2 Now my heart's desire  
Is to know You more,  
To be found in You  
And known as Yours.  
To possess by faith  
What I could not earn,  
All-surpassing gift  
Of righteousness.
- 3 Oh, to know the power  
Of Your risen life,  
And to know You in  
Your sufferings.  
To become like You  
In Your death, my Lord,  
So with You to live  
And never die.

There is no delight in owning  
anything unshared. *Seneca, 1st century*

**Footprints Walk** Our next walk is on Sunday, 7 August in the Little Staughton area (a change to the advertised walk). Please meet in the car park of The Crown Inn, Green End, Little Staughton for a 2.30pm start. The walk of around 3½ miles takes us through arable farmland into Cambridgeshire with good views over the surrounding area. The last part of the walk could be quite muddy if we have much rain in the preceding days. All are welcome. Contact Sue Butler (Priory) if you need any further information.

### Bedford Borough Council Summer Play Scheme

This scheme is for 5-13 year olds and will operate from 1 August to 26 August. The cost will be £1 per session, payable on door. Local venues for the scheme are Putnoe Heights Community Church (Putnoe Heights) 10am – 12pm 2pm – 4pm Brickhill Lower School (Dove Road) 10am – 12pm For more information on any of our summer activities call 01234 221700 or visit [www.bedford.gov.uk/sport](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/sport)

### Do you have room in your life and home ?

Could you offer support to a 16-20 year-old?, so they can learn independent living skills? Bedford Borough Council has joined together with YMCA Bedfordshire to implement a new 'Supported Lodging Scheme' in Bedford Borough. Supported lodgings is where individuals, couples or families become 'Hosts' and provide accommodation and support for a young person in their home. Hosts will be supported by a dedicated Supported Lodgings Coordinator, provided with training and on-going support, an income and a suitably matched young person. Please call Amy Elliott at YMCA Bedfordshire on 01234 307040 or 07508807441 for an information pack or informal discussion.

## 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.



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

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## Forthcoming Funerals

