



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

4 October 2009
Ordinary 27



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's - Harvest Festival

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Avril Williams
Intercessions - Mrs Alison Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Harvest Festival

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr. Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Mr. Eddy Peck

Sunday 11 October - Ordinary 28

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard
Leadership - Mr. Mike Ovenden
Intercessions - Mrs. Wendy Waters

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard
Leadership - Mrs. Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen

Readings

1. Amos 5: 6-7
2. Hebrews 4: 12-16
3. Mark 10: 17-31

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week celebrate Harvest.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Jennie Cooper 404950(Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

Give us, Father,
a vision of your world as love would make it:
a world where the weak are protected and
none go hungry,
a world whose benefits are shared so that
everyone can enjoy them,
a world where peace is built with justice and
justice is built with love,
and give us the courage and strength to
build it. Amen

*Adapted from a West African prayer -
reproduced from MRDF Lent 2009 Study Guide*

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 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.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school
Headteacher 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)

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

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

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

1.30pm U3A History Group St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474

2pm U3A Drama St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059

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

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747 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 ☎ 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

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

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

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

Tuesday

9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299

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

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

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's Mrs Brown☎771676

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Sally Banks ☎ 870357

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

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

2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting October 6 Harvest Festival Details from 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 Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton 346718

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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

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

7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month. Brian Ibberson ☎403497

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting October 6 Harvest Supper, Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

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 Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 14 October 2009 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

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 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 7 October. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details

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

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

Thursday

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

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. (No meeting on 9th April)

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at 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 Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎272470 Next meeting 24 September

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 Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. 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. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550

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. Pat Foulks ☎346505

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

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

5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

6.30 - 7.30pm Ladies Kick Boxing weekly at St. Mark's. Parker Lake ☎07984427854

7pm Bedford Art Society monthly Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 1st May Mary Rich ☎272470

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

Saturday

9.45am Bedford Stamp Auction at Putnoe Heights Next Auction 30th May. Contact Stuart or Anne 01327 876438

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 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

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



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 9 Nov

St Mark's Leadership Team – 19 January

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 12 Oct at Jean's, 8 Feb

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 19 Oct.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010,

Putnoe Church Council - 5 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee - 26 January 2010, 11am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group

Partnership Council—TBA

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting 19 Nov,

Circuit/Treasurers Revue meeting at St. Mark's

Circuit Meeting at Sharnbrook Methodist Church

Woodland Burial Trustees –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –12th October

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

Harvest Festival

Opening Verses of Scripture

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

Collect Prayer for the Day

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 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.

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

Second Reading James 5:13-20

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

(Reader: 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.

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



Hymns (*Please distribute Hymns & Psalms and special Harvest service sheet*)

1. For the fruits of his creation 342 (*Tune: Ar hyd y nos*)
2. We eat the plants that grow from the seed, (*Tune: Country Garden*)
3. Come, ye thankful people, come 355
4. Praise and thanksgiving 350 (*Tune: Bunessan*)
5. We plough the fields, and scatter 352

Post Communion Prayer

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

Commentary

Harvest Festival is a very popular Christian festival, but you will not find it in the Book of Common prayer because it is actually quite a recent addition to the Christian year. In the Old Testament there were feasts to celebrate the first fruits of harvest, Pentecost is an example. However the Christian church does not seem to have celebrated such festivals until relatively recently. There were Ember Days in June September and December, these were probably related to pagan observances of Rome at the time of sowing and the harvests of corn and wine, however these were fasts.

Since Saxon times and throughout the Middle Ages in England there was a tradition of Lammas (Loaf Mass) held on August 1. A loaf of bread made from the first of the wheat to be harvested and milled was brought to the church on the Lammas Day (August 1) each year to be dedicated in the mass.

In the Reformation it was instructed by George Herbert that the communion should be taken 'afore and after harvest.' A special prayer of thanksgiving for an abundant harvest was first officially provided for use after the General Thanksgiving in 1796.

In 1843 the Reverend R. S. Hawker, revived the Lammas custom on the first Sunday in October, creating a special service to celebrate the bringing in of the crops. He used bread made from the first ripe corn for the sacrament. He intended to make a Christian occasion of the traditional pagan festival of Harvest Home. His parishioners in Morwenstow in Cornwall enjoyed it so much that they insisted on having another "Harvest" Festival the following year. The idea soon caught on in rapidly industrialising Victorian Britain where increasing numbers of people were being cut off from the cycle of nature by living in the expanding cities.

Today many of us are still cut off from the cycle of nature and we do not know much about seasons, farming and the agricultural calendar. Much of our food is processed and packaged, we don't get it from the field and the farm, instead we get it from Tesco or Sainsbury's. We can now easily buy imported fruit and vegetables which are not in season in our own country. However, this doesn't mean that we cannot celebrate harvest in a meaningful way.

We should consider Harvest not only in terms of producing food resources from farming, but recognise all of the other harvests which take place. Obviously there should be thanksgiving for the produce of factories and industry. In Bedford we have industrial estates with companies producing everything from pregnancy testing kits to double glazing products. We have traditional farming and we have the products which come from the fields, such as beer from the Charles Wells Brewery. Yet there are other important harvests which we must recognise and celebrate. For example there are all of the other contributions which are made to our lives and our economy from service industries such as banking and commerce. Many people give of their best to offer their gifts in education, child care or care of the elderly. The harvest is a fit and proper time to be thankful to God for all of those people who year after year help us to survive and thrive in our community.

We also could say that harvest is more important now because we need to be reminded of our dependence on God and our responsibility to treat the world properly. We must not become just indiscriminate consumers, unaware and unconcerned about how our food is produced. We now have the potential to do so much damage to our world so this is very important. Harvest is a time to focus upon our environment, to thank God for it, and consider our responsibility for our environment. Issues such as genetics, animal husbandry, pollution—all of these are in sharp focus at Harvest.

Harvest falls in the time of the Christian calendar with a liturgical colour of green - this is a good colour with all of its ecological and environmental connotations. The message of the ecological movement is that we all have an impact upon the natural world. We are all consumers or producers, so we are all links in a long chain of action which can either protect or destroy our natural environment. God put humankind into the Garden of Eden 'to till it and keep it' Genesis 2:15.

With our increasing technology we are able to till the earth more than ever before. With the aid of science we are able to turn waste animal products into food for the same animals, and we are able to change the substance of plants and animals so that they can resist disease or be more productive. The ability to make a crop resist pests might bring food and life to millions. However this same technology also puts us at risk, as never before of being unable to keep the earth and its resources in the condition in which we have inherited it from previous generations.

Harvest festivals, while giving us the chance to thank God for the riches of the natural world, also present us with the more solemn task of contemplating our responsibilities to nature. In more and more Harvest Festival services Christians must give thanks to God but accompany those thanks with promises to keep our environment safe, which is the means of all future harvests. Harvest is about how we use the things which God has given to us. We can use God's gifts wisely for our benefit and share them with others, or we can abuse them. God gives to us resources which we can do many different things with. Some of those things are worthwhile and some of those things are very destructive. I think especially of the passage in the bible which speaks about a day when we will learn to use resources wisely. Instead of using metal to make swords we would use it to make ploughshares, instead of using it to make knives we would make pruning hooks. 'Swords into ploughshares, Knives into pruning hooks' Today this might say 'Bombs into buckets.' Today we each need to ask ourselves how we can use the gifts God has given us wisely, for the benefit of all and not just for ourselves. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

The Rt Revd Alan Smith began his ministry as tenth Bishop of St Albans on Saturday 19th September 2009 in St Albans Cathedral with two thousand people. The service of welcome and inauguration began with a three-quarter mile procession through St Albans and ended with around 100 children from ten Church of England schools releasing 100 bio-degradable balloons each carrying a prayer.

His first sermon, in which he set out his vision for the future of the Diocese, spoke about the power of the Church to transform communities. He said: "Might we become a church known for our overwhelming generosity and practical care? Can we be right there at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals, working for a world where children are not dying through lack of food or medicine? Can we be at the forefront of protecting the environment? Can we, in the name of Christ, make a real difference?"

He also had a message relevant to all people in these difficult economic times and during national anxiety about health scares, climate change and conflicts abroad.

Bishop Alan said: "Happiness is a by-product and not an end in itself." He continued:

"Go into any bookshop on the High Street and you will find shelves of self-help books on how to find happiness. But Jesus Christ taught that happiness is not an end in itself. It is a by-product. He tells us that we find our deepest and our truest humanity in knowing and being known by God.

"We are living in an age which tends to reduce everything to measurable outcomes, so that education is judged solely in terms of exam results and health is measured by how many medical interventions are successful. In contrast the good news reminds us that the most important and the most valuable things in life are relationships. If you are not convinced, think about the frantic phone messages left by passengers in New York on that fateful day that's come to be known as 9/11. They didn't talk about money or their house or their holidays. Instead they spoke passionately of their love."

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

O Lord, give us humility to thank You for the creation of animals, who can show affection which sometimes puts us to shame. Enlarge our respect for these your creatures, of whom we are the guardians. And give us a sense of responsibility towards all your creation, for Jesus Christ's sake, Amen. *A Prayer from Robert Runcie, 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury*

Blessing and honour and thanksgiving and praise, more than we can utter, more than we can conceive, be unto Thee, O holy and glorious Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, by all angels, by all men, and all creatures for ever and ever Amen. *(Thomas Ken 17th Century)*

Thanks be to thee, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which thou hast won for us, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for us. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee nearly, day by day Amen. *(Richard of Chichester, 13th Century)*

Christmas Shoebox Appeal. The youth team at Putnoe would like to launch The Christmas Shoebox appeal again this year, where via the Samaritans Purse organisation filled boxes will be delivered to some of the worlds poorest children, boys and girls between 2 to 14 years, in time for Christmas. If you could please donate any of the following items the children will pack the boxes, alternatively if you would prefer to donate some money this can be used towards postage. The boxes need to be completed by the beginning of November so please start collecting now—soft toys, jigsaws, building blocks, cars, dolls, soft balls, stationery items, stickers, puzzle books, toothbrushes/paste, soap, hairbrushes, hats and caps, necklaces, sweets (long sell by dates), bangles, sunglasses. We will also need empty shoeboxes and Christmas wrapping paper Please leave at Putnoe office. Thank you.

Autumn Craft Day 2009 will be held on 17 October from 9.45 to 4.30 at Priory Methodist Church. £4 per half day session. For booking form please contact Pam Seymour 305695 or 01296 485087

Evening in aid of Local Hospices

Sounds Familiar and other local choirs/groups are presenting a Musical "Allsorts" Evening in aid of Voices for Hospices, a wave of simultaneous concerts around the world. This will be held on Sat. 10th Oct. at 7.30p.m. in the Salvation Army Congress Hall, Commercial Rd. Bedford.

Refreshments will be available. Tickets are £6.50, under 16's £5 and are obtainable from David on 01234 750869 or Becky on 01234 750320. The local hospices that will benefit from this event will be Sue Ryder St. Johns at Moggerhanger, Bedford Day Hospice and Keech Cottage Children's Hospice

Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home.

Astonishment Mapurisa, head of the home & principal of the community childcare arm of the Methodist church in Zimbabwe church will be speaking about his work at Clapham Methodist church on Monday, October 12 at 7.30pm. More details from John or Mary Bromley 326283

Putnoe Heights Autumn Clean. On Saturday 10th October between 10a.m. and 12 noon, we intend to give the Putnoe Heights Church Centre an overall clean, both inside (windows, paintwork etc.) and outside (car park etc.) but we need volunteers to help. If you can come to help please tell Lawrence (350188) or, after 5 October, Linda (782717). Many thanks.

NSPCC Quiz evening at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 17th October at 7.15p.m. £8 to include food but please bring your own drinks and glasses.

Raffle . Please contact Averil on Bedford 267798 or Jenny on Bedford 261811.

Sponsored Swim-a-Long in aid of Action for Children on Saturday 10th October 4-6pm at Dame Alice Harpur School. For information packs contact Debbie Smith 01604 696521 or email debbie.smith@actionforchildren.org.uk

The Macmillan Coffee Morning held at Valerie and Peter Littleford's house on Friday 25th September raised a very healthy £130. Very many thanks to all who were able to support the morning - we hope that you will be able to join us again next year. All will be welcome! Many thanks Valerie and Peter

Bring and Sing Hayden 'Nelson' Mass at St. Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road Saturday 10th October. 2.30pm Rehearsal (Tea for singers £2 after rehearsal. 7pm Pre-concert talk by Roger Wright, Controller of BBC radio 3, Director of BBC Proms. 7.30pm Concert. Concert Tickets £7 (£6 concessions) St. Andrew's Church office 216881 or Classic Music, Lime Street 357221.

Bike and Hike Day. Thank you to everyone who sponsored our Bike and Hike day. We visited 14 churches over 24 miles and through your generosity have raised £160. It was good fun and we would recommend it for next year! Thank you. Rachel, Alex and Rebekah Nash.

Footprints Walk Sunday 11th October. Meet at 2.30pm at Gt. Barford Church for riverside walk to Willington and return. (Proposed walk from Stotfold Mill will take place at a later date.) Details - Sue 407264.

Coffee Morning at Putnoe Heights in small hall Saturday 17 October, 10am - 12. Bring and Buy, raffle. Proceeds to Mission projects. All welcome, tell your friends. The Mission group welcomes new helpers to keep our coffee mornings and fundraising going. If you would like to join us please contact Sylvia Cohen 343424.

Appeal for disaster victims in Samoa, Tonga and Indonesia

An appeal for prayer and funds for victims of the tsunami and earthquake tragedies in Samoa, Tonga and Indonesia has been launched by the Methodist Church in Britain.

The Church's World Mission Fund granted £10,000 to aid the relief work of partner Churches in the region. Steve Pearce, Partnership Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, said: "As ever our partner Churches will feel enormously supported knowing that Methodists in Britain are praying for them. The appeal and grant money will go to partner Churches,

The Rt Revd Alan Smith began his ministry as tenth Bishop of St Albans on Saturday 19th September 2009 in St Albans Cathedral with two thousand people. The service of welcome and inauguration began with a three-quarter mile procession through St Albans and ended with around 100 children from ten Church of England schools releasing 100 biodegradable balloons each carrying a prayer. His first sermon, in which he set out his vision for the future of the Diocese, spoke about the power of the Church to transform communities. He said: "Might we become a church known for our overwhelming generosity and practical care? Can we be right there at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals, working for a world where children are not dying through lack of food or medicine? Can we be at the forefront of protecting the environment? Can we, in the name of Christ, make a real difference? He also had a message relevant to all people in these difficult economic times and during national anxiety about health scares, climate change and conflicts abroad. Bishop Alan said: "Happiness is a by-product and not an end in itself." He continued: "Go into any bookshop on the High Street and you will find shelves of self-help books on how to find happiness. But Jesus Christ taught that happiness is not an end in itself. It is a by-product. He tells us that we find our deepest and our truest humanity in knowing and being known by God. "We are living in an age which tends to reduce everything to measurable outcomes, so that education is judged solely in terms of exam results and health is measured by how many medical interventions are successful. In contrast the good news reminds us that the most important and the most valuable things in life are relationships. If you are not convinced, think about the frantic phone messages left by passengers in New York on that fateful day that's come to be known as 9/11. They didn't talk about money or their house or their holidays. Instead they spoke passionately of their love."

St Mark's sets of weekly offering envelopes are available in the entrance lobby from today. Regular giving is an essential part of the Church's income, and helps greatly in meeting the costs of running St Mark's.

We are very fortunate that so many members of the congregation already give so generously to the Church in this way.

You can make regular weekly or monthly gifts, either by standing order or through the weekly envelope scheme. In addition, if you are a UK tax payer, you can Gift Aid your offering - and the Church can claim 20% tax back from the Government. This can also be done through the yellow Gift Aid envelopes on the chairs.

If you would like to find out more please speak to Jim Williams after the service or contact him on 01234 360605. As always, thank you for your generosity.

Jim Williams



Brickhill Parish Council are supplying Smartwater to residents at cost price £17.50. Smartwater has been effective in deterring criminals and recovering lost property.

The invisible water is brushed onto precious items such as jewellery. This can then be traced by police using the individual forensic quality of each bottle of water. To order Smartwater please contact the Clerk Delia Shephard at St Mark's Email clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk Alternatively you can write to: Brickhill Parish Council, c/o St Mark's Church & Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford MK41 7UY Telephone messages may be left on Bedford (01234) 271708. There is a Public Drop In session at St Mark's every Tuesday from 10 am to 12 noon no appointment necessary. Other meetings can be made by appointment.

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.

Peter Harper

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

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Simon John Llewellyn and Emma Lesley Marks Both of the parish of St Michael's and on the Electoral Roll of St Mark's, Bedford (This is for the third time of asking)



Forthcoming Funerals

No funerals this week