



Partnership News

5 September 2010

Ordinary 23



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 – Family Worship & Baptism

Preacher – Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe – Family Worship & Ba[tism

Preacher - Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr. Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Ministers

12 September - Ordinary 24

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Bank
Intercessions - Mrs. Margaret Appleton

11am Putnoe - Morning

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Kirk
Intercessions – Mr. Eddy Peck

Readings 1. Exodus 32:7-14 2. 1 Timothy 1:12-17
3. Luke 15: 1-10

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 Mollie and Deryck Cutler in celebration of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary and in loving memory of their daughter Jeani.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given Vera Pearson to mark the beginning of the connexional year 2010/2011 and to thank everyone who contributes to the life and work of the church.

Welcome to Church

We welcome to church today the families and friends of Ashleigh Sarah Ann Beddall (Putnoe) and Danielle Kara Baker (St Mark's) who have been brought for baptism

Prayer for This Week

Father, all loving and most tender, we confess the hardness of our hearts and our want of compassion for our neighbour. Grant us the grace of pity, the ministry of compassion and the gift of consoling the broken-hearted. Teach us to love with your own forbearance and never harshly or unlovingly to judge another; for your own mercies' sake. Amen

Johann Arndt, 1555-1621

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

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 Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186

Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 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 - Avril Williams 360605

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

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)

9.00am 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 Mrs Berry ☎211955

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.

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 ☎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 30 August 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

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016

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

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 Sally Banks ☎ 870357

1.15pm Sing and Stomp. For toddlers & their carers. Run by the Putnoe Children's Centre. 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 7 September - -Tea and Chat.. 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

6.30pm 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 in Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. 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 September 7 Opening meeting - Jane Mason. For more 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 Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10am U3A Card Making. St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet King ☎313946

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next -September 15 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 September 15 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 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 in the quiet room. 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. 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 Jaana Swaby ☎ 363283
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. 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 07919402797
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Mark's 2nd & 2th 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) Will meet weekly at Putnoe Heights from 2 September 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. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

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
5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎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
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.

The figure of the Crucified
invalidates all thought
which takes success for its standard.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 8 November
Partnership Council
St Mark's Leadership Team –
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 18 October
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 27 Sept.
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 noon, 15 September, 16th November
Putnoe Church Council - 25 October.
Pastoral Group Meeting - 12 October 4.15pm in chapel
Churchyard Committee - 29 September
Putnoe Heights Mission Group
Partnership Council—TBA
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings
Deanery Meeting - .
Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting
Circuit Meeting 13 Sept.
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

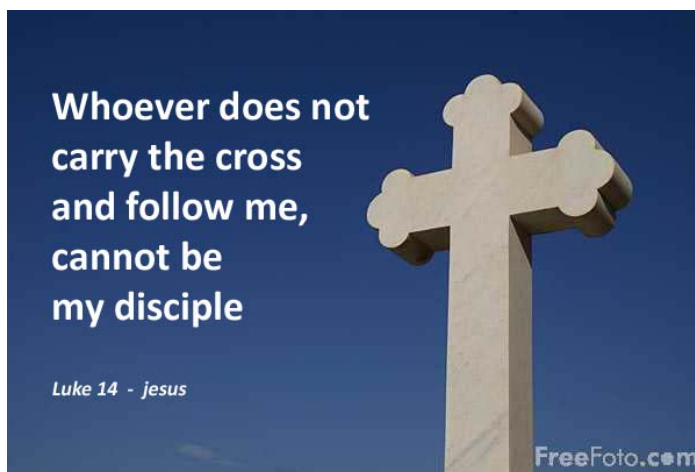
Ordinary 23

Opening Sentence from Scripture Philippians Chapter 1:21

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Collect *(Before we read we pray)*

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ you Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *Common Worship*



Old Testament Reading - Deuteronomy 30:15-20.

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (This is the word of the Lord -- **All: Thanks be to God**)

Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church that meets in your home: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul--an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus-- I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.

Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

I am sending him--who is my very heart--back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favour you do will be spontaneous and not forced. Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good-- no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back--not to mention that you owe me your very self. I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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

Gospel Reading Luke 14: 25.33

Large crowds were travelling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life -- he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of the bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (*Please distribute Hymns and Psalms, Morning Worship and Baptism*)

1. Tell out my soul 631 (Tune Woodlands)
2. This little light of mine
3. Be still for the presence of the Lord 50
4. The Lord is king lift up thy voice 656 (Tune Church Triumphant)
5. And can it be 33 (Tune Sagina)
6. Christ is surely coming 75 (Tune Marching through Georgia)

Commentary

I suppose I have to admit that when looking at the Bible readings Sunday by Sunday and deciding which passage to preach about, I usually go for the Gospel reading. It seems so much more appropriate to go straight for the teachings of Jesus, why bother with somebody like Paul when you can go direct to the words of the one we believe was God's presence here on earth. Surely it is for this reason that we stand for the Gospel reading at our services of Holy Communion, for we are about to hear as directly as possible the authentic words of God to us from the mouth of Jesus. Yet when looking at the passage today it might be easier to avoid the Gospel reading. How can Jesus tell us that we must hate our families if we wish to be real disciples? What does he really mean?

We know that Jesus was a fine preacher, every where he went people followed him, he was a celebrity, and in an age without television and our media, he used the platforms which were available to him to get his message across, particularly public speaking. He would sit in boats and on mountains to address crowds, he would perform miracles to attract attention and get his message across. We know that he also used powerful preaching images and hyperbole or exaggeration ! For example, he said that if parts of our body caused us to sin we should cut them off. Jesus really didn't, I am sure, want people who told lies to cut their tongues out, but the point was made very clearly that he was seeking disciples who took the whole thing seriously. Jesus attracted thousands of people to come and hear him but he wasn't in the numbers game. He wanted a certain quality of disciple, he did not want a huge quantity of hangers on who wanted to be associated with his celebrity, or who were in for what they could get out.

Jesus frequently impressed upon his followers that whilst it might seem exciting to be one of his disciples, making that decision was not an easy choice. Anybody who followed Jesus because they thought that it was a passport to success was in for a shock. If a person chose discipleship it would not mean increased wealth, Jesus made this point by telling some folks to give all they had away. Jesus lived a lifestyle that was meant to make the point, he had no wealth or possessions to speak of, he had no home of his own. Jesus was on a mission, it was a collision course with government, church, all the structures of authority and he had to be sure that those who followed him had deeply considered the consequences and knew it was not going to be an easy ride.

His disciples would be engaged in a revolution of power and a call for an uprising against all of the spiritual values which most people believed had been given directly by God to a chosen people. Jesus knew that this would be a bloody and bitter conflict and he did not want his followers to be so attracted by him that they failed to understand the torment which lay ahead. The path which Jesus had chosen was not

dangerous, if we speak of something being dangerous then there is the expectation that we might survive. Jesus had not chosen to walk a dangerous path, rather he had chosen to walk into death itself. The way ahead led into true life, but this would only take place through encountering the dark forces which opposed him, there would be no way out. How could he make this message to his followers more clear than by telling them that they must take up their cross. The cross was an instrument of death, this was the structure upon which executions took place. Jesus knew that if anybody followed him they were effectively giving up their lives. His words to his followers were therefore carefully chosen, nobody should follow who needed to look after children, family or parents. Once they had signed up to follow Jesus, his followers must look resolutely towards Jerusalem where an almighty battle with the forces of power would lead to imprisonment and crucifixion. This was a suicide mission, not in the cruel sense of giving your life to take the lives of others, rather as a martyr, willing to lay down one's own life in commitment to the cause.

The message today is not about whether we have to hate our mothers, we know for a fact that one of the things which Jesus did on the cross was to demonstrate his love for his own mother. Rather the message is about making sure that we take seriously what discipleship involves. This is the purpose of the parables which Jesus tells. Before he starts to build, a builder must work out how much the finished building will cost, and can it be afforded. Any builder who starts laying bricks without working out the finished building might be severely embarrassed if they don't have the means to get the project finished. The worst thing about it is that the half finished structure will be there as a constant reminder, a monument of his stupidity in starting something which he hadn't thought about properly.

The other parable told is the story of a king who goes to war, but doesn't think about how the war will end. Why would you go to war against an enemy unless you could be sure that there was a way of eventually bringing about a successful conclusion? Today we would say it was stupid to go to war unless you had a realistic expectation of peace and an exit strategy. If we do not have these things then we risk being accused of having other motives, or the suggestion that we just got angry and lashed out without considering the final consequences. The message is clear a sensible leader if they knew that the objectives could not be settled by military means, would embark more sensibly upon a process of negotiation.

So if we want to be followers of Jesus, if we want to start a journey of discipleship, then be realistic about what it entails. It is not about finding peace, it is not about being spiritually fulfilled, it is not about receiving blessings from God. Followers of Jesus will be expected to challenge wrongs, to work for justice and put

the needs of others before themselves. God's way is difficult and costly and following this way of discipleship may lead us on a journey which might be demand much from us. *Charles Royden*



Meditation St. Perpetua and Felicitas

St. Perpetua was a noble woman of Carthage and St. Felicitas her slave in the year 203. The two women were arrested for confessing Christianity and refusing to offer sacrifices to the Roman gods. At the time, the Emperor Severus was persecuting Christians. Felicitas was pregnant at the time of her arrest and gave birth only three days before her executing. Both were beheaded by a gladiator after being gored by a bull in a public arena in the North African city which is today's Tunis. Moments before they were killed, the two pleaded with fellow

Christians to cling to the faith and for others to adopt the faith and accept suffering as the price of salvation. It is said St. Perpetua had to guide the sword of the gladiator to her throat because he was nervous and could not strike in the right place.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Most gracious Redeemer and King, come and dwell within us and reign where you have the right to reign. By your Holy Spirit take possession of our souls and lead us in the ways of righteousness and peace; through Christ our Lord. Amen *John of Kronstadt, 1829-1908*

Lord God you came as a neighbour to humankind in Jesus. Give us eyes to see you in other people and make us instruments of your care to all., that everyone may become true neighbours in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Action for Children –House to House Collection Action for Children works with disadvantaged and disabled children, and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. The annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in the first two weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £972 (includes Gift Aid) If you could spare a few hours during early September to distribute and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)

Offertory Envelopes (Putnoe Heights). Sets of envelopes for the next twelve months are available for collection from a table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the envelope scheme, or to have more information about it, is invited to contact John Hitt, Tel 404186.

Dance 4 All 2010 Saturday 16 October from 11am to 5.30pm. £2 all day. Bedford Corn Exchange, Civic Theatre, Harpur Suite and Howard Room. To promote dance in a wide range of forms. More information contact Sports Development Unit, Bedford Borough Council 01234 221700 amy.rance@bedford.gov.uk

A date for the diary. St Mark's Craft Fayre this year is on 20 November 10.30.to 3.30p.m

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch Harvest Lunch. Sunday 3rd October Putnoe Heights By popular request, steak or chicken pies are on the menu this year! Tickets now on sale from Putnoe Office or in church on Sunday mornings. £6.00 (£3.00 for children) for two courses and soft drink. Own bottles of wine welcome with glasses provided.

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. Sessions re-start on the 9 September Contact Jaana Swaby (363283)

The Bandstand Marathon Sunday 26 September, 2-4pm, Mill Meadows, Bedford. It's that time of year again when Bedford takes part in the Cultural Olympiad Event, The Bandstand Marathon. We will be part of a national marathon when 100+ bands will be striking up in bandstands all over the country at the same time on the same date and we are the only bandstand in the whole of the county to be participating. This year we will have tea, coffee,

cakes and pancakes available to make the day more enjoyable. So bring friends and family along to Mill Meadows and enjoy the concert performed by our nationally renowned Bedford Town Band. This year our invited guests helping to celebrate the Cultural Olympiad are from Special Schools, Children in Care, Youth Parliament, Foster Carers and Adult Services. The Mayor will be opening the concert saying a little about the services we have in our communities.

Services at Highfield will resume after the summer break, on Sunday 19 September at 2.30pm. If you are free and would like to come the Team will be pleased to have your support in this Pastoral outreach. Vera Pearson

The Bedford Borough Older People's Festival 2010 will be taking place at the Corn Exchange, Bedford on Wednesday 15th September 2010, 10am to 3pm. This will be followed by a two week programme of activities.



Looking for Power from on High

St Mark's Church have fitted 16 solar panels on the roof of the Church. Jason Hobbins of Energy My Way who supplied and fitted the photovoltaic panels said, 'The system at St Mark's will generate free electricity for decades to come as well as saving carbon emissions. Energy My Way have even sourced the panels themselves from the UK as part of our commitment to sustainable development.' The Vicar Charles Royden said, 'The cost of the panels will be repaid over eight years and go on to benefit from guaranteed tax free, index linked grants from the government of about £1,500 per year for 25 years. This is in addition to free electricity and obtaining money back for the electricity which we don't use and put back into the national grid.'

Footprints Walk:- Sunday 5 September at 2.30pm. An interesting 3 and a half mile walk from Everton Church. Although mainly good underfoot one part is a bit uneven and muddy. Further details from Margaret and Eddy Peck Tel. 267567

Coffee Morning Saturday 11 September - at the home of Stephen and Pauline Clare, 35 Brecon Way. 10.00am—12 noon. Raffle. Bring and Buy. Proceeds to Mission Projects. All Welcome. Sylvia Cohen 343424

Help us raise money with easyfundraising.com Once you have made a purchase you will usually receive free discounts and codes to enter to reduce your bill. This is a free service where you can shop with your favourite online stores and at no extra cost raise funds for thisischurch.com

You still shop directly with each retailer as you would normally, but simply by using the links from our site first, each purchase you make will generate a cashback donation

For example, spend £25 with WH Smith and 3.5% will be donated. You will have raised £0.88, at no extra cost to your purchase.

You can shop with 2000+ Brand Name retailers and to raise funds you just use the links from our site first - it's that simple!

We receive 100% of the donation. E.g. the donation rate for M&S is 5% of all spend, so we will receive 5p for every £1 spent.

You pay the same prices exactly as if you visited each retailer's website directly. Using our service will not cost you a penny more than you would pay normally. Please click on the links on the front page

Free Advice Surgery for Women at Pine Cones Children's Centre on Thursday 16th September and Thursday 23rd September, 10am -2pm. No appointment necessary. Advice available regarding Immigration & Nationality, Welfare Benefits, Housing, Education, Job Search, Employment and Trading. For more information call 01234 268459.

Email: info@pineconeschildrenscentre.org.uk

Website: www.cfcchildrenscentre.ork.uk

Volunteering Opportunity – St Mark's Clubhouse

St Marks' Clubhouse is a project which provides social opportunities and training for adults with learning difficulties. The project is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9 am and 3 pm. We want to build up a bank of volunteers who would like to contribute to this valuable and rewarding project. Our volunteering opportunities offer the chance to work with a mixed group of people and we are looking for people of all ages and experience to help us with a range of tasks. This could be your chance to share your skills, make a difference to your community and learn more about life for people living with learning difficulties. If you (or anyone you know) would like to find out more please contact Delia Shephard on 07753 843446.

Footprints Walk:- Sunday 5 September at 2.30pm. An interesting 3 and a half mile walk from Everton Church. Although mainly good underfoot one part is a bit uneven and muddy. Further details from Margaret and Eddy Peck Tel. 267567

A Hymn for Sunday

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

Getting Married. We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of

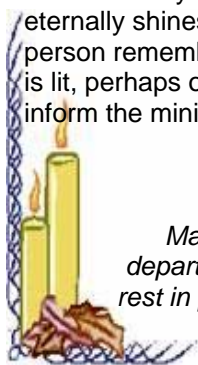
Christopher John Eglinton and Renata Bressan Mazzone both single and of this parish.

Simon Gordon Elphick of this parish and Hannah Ruth Fletcher of St Peter's Woolton

Both for the second time of asking

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.

Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Irene Margaret Barker, will take place at St Mark's Church at 2.00pm on Tuesday 7 September

The funeral of Robert Reid Alexander will take place at 11.30am on Tuesday 14 September at Bedford Crematorium



The funeral of Dorothy Violet Crouch will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 10 September at 12.15pm