



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

7 August 2011 – Ordinary 19



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

7 August - Ordinary 18

9.30 am St. Mark's - Family Worship
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 – Mrs. Wendy Waters

14 August— Ordinary 19

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher– Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions – Mrs Claire Peck

Bible Readings 1. Genesis 45: 1-15 2. Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 3. Matthew 15: 21-28

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 Eddie & Irene McKenzie in celebration of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for the Week

God of all comfort,
we commend to you those who,
because of their lot, are tempted to lose heart;
those who have no security of home or work;
those who have no purpose or meaning in life;
those who find it difficult to believe in you;
those who suffer from incurable illness.
Enable them to trust you,
though your may be hidden from their sight,
give them courage, hope and peace in the
knowledge of your love, for Jesus Christ. Amen

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a 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 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
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
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 2) St Marks 4th week in month Sue Butler ☎354183

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086 (not 4th week in month)

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 or 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 15 September

Woodland Burial Trustees – 4th September 12.30

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 17 October

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

Ordinary 19

Opening Verse of Scripture Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Introduction 'To walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat'

I am reminded of the phrase 'you've got to be in it to win it.' The point is obvious, we will never achieve unless we participate. The flip side is that as well as achievement, we can also fail in our endeavours. Perhaps it is that fear of failure

which prevents so many people from making the effort, and trying to make our dreams become reality. This is true of so many things, not least our willingness to serve God, to allow our talents to be used in his service. The Apostle Peter is a real example to us all, he made mistakes, he had failure in his life, yet he was prepared to have a go, and because of that Jesus called him 'the rock' the one he chose upon which to build his church. In the passage from Matthew today, Peter jumps out of the boat to meet Jesus. Whilst walking on water for a time he soon loses confidence and starts to sink. However we have to pay tribute to Peter because at least he had a go. The words of Theodore Roosevelt.

'It is not the critic who counts; not the one who points out how the strong stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the one who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly who errs and comes us short again and again; who knows great enthusiasm and great devotion; who spends him/herself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who, at worst, if he/she fails, at least fails while daring greatly. So that his/her place shall never be with those timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.'

Collect Prayer (Before we read we pray)

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading – Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. This is the account of Jacob's family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them." "Very well," he replied. So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron. When Joseph arrived at Shechem, a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?" He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?" "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams." When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take



his life," he said. "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing— and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it. As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans 10: 5 –15

.Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 14: 22-33

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

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 Family Worship and Mission Praise*)

1. Jesus, lover of my soul 372
2. God's love is deeper than the deepest ocean (On Partnership News)
3. As a deer pants for the water 37
4. Jesus, the joy of loving hearts 383
5. Go forth and tell! 178

Commentary

Preaching is a privilege and a responsibility, it also has one significant advantage, especially if one does not have to preach every week, which is the time we have to read, investigate and ponder on the Bible passages. I have found the account of Peter putting his trust in Jesus, as is written in Matthew 14: 22- 33, especially pertinent to me over the last six months. Since the reoccurrence of my son's Bipolar Affective Disorder my own ability to trust in Jesus and God has been sorely tested. Without the prayers of others supporting us all, I doubt we would be where we are today, still trusting and thankful that my son is making good progress. So what can this act of Peter's trust and wavering in that trust teach us?

It is interesting to note that although there are very similar accounts of Jesus walking on water, in Mark 6: 45 – 51 and John 6:15 – 21, they do not mention Peter walking on the water. Neither is Peter mentioned in either of them, it is all the disciples who Jesus tells in Mark 6 v 50 to "take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid", and in John 6 v 20 "It is I don't be afraid". So the message of trust can be to us as individuals but also as a group of disciples, as a church. Last year our Messy Church team certainly had to trust that families would respond positively to our publicity and come along, we also had to trust that we would get enough people on the team, then to trust that those who came would come back. Thankfully our trust was fruitful but there were times when, like Peter, some of us wavered.

Why did Peter waver? Why do we waver? At first Peter and the other disciples did not recognise Jesus. Not surprising perhaps after a long night out on the Sea of Galilee and 'buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it'. Recently my husband and I went to the Scilly Isles by ferry, which has reputation for being rather rough, thankfully it wasn't. But I was heartened to be told that, even if the outward journey had been rough, the return would be better as the 'wind would be with us not against us'. Not surprising also, as although the disciples would have been surprised by many of Jesus' miracles, 'walking on water' was probably beyond even their expectations! They needed the reassurance of Jesus' voice to know that it was him. Just as later in the gospels we read that they needed the reassurance of his voice and actions to know he was the resurrected Jesus. Secondly Peter was distracted by the wind, he took his eyes off Jesus, or as we might say he 'took his eye off the ball', his trust began to fail and he could have sunk without Jesus reaching out his hand and catching him. It is very likely that, being a fisherman, Peter could swim but even strong swimmers could struggle to stay afloat in such conditions.

This passage contributes to Peter's reputation of being impetuous, his assumption that he too could walk on water might be seen as foolhardy or full of faith. Jesus it seems viewed it as the latter, he could have told Peter to stay put but he doesn't he says 'Come' (v29). Sometimes when we step out in faith, as individuals or collectively, we may be considered by others as foolhardy, this will not matter as long as we keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus and we are as certain as we can be that it is Jesus' voice we are responding to not our own. Yes along the way we may falter, especially when buffeted by the ups and downs of life, but then we can cling on to scriptural words of hope such as found in Romans 10: 9 – 13 in particular verse 13: 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'. *Wendy Waters*

Meditation

Watch for those who are troubled by the storms of life. Reach out to them in faith. Listen to those whose story is hard to hear. Respond to those who seek comfort. Reach out to Jesus for the strength to respond. As you reach out rely on Jesus' outstretched hand. Confide in Him your fears and frustrations. Do not be afraid of your frailties. Seek support from others. Take comfort in words of Scripture. Hold on to His word. Above all open your heart to Him in prayer. *Wendy Waters*

When the road is rough and steep, fix your eyes upon Jesus,
He alone has power to keep, fix your eyes upon Him;
Jesus is a gracious Friend, one on whom you can depend,
He is faithful to the end, Fix your eyes upon Him. *Norman Clayton*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

We thank you, O Lord, for those good things which are in our world and in our lives through your great love and mercy. Save us from being ungrateful. Save us from magnifying our troubles and forgetting our blessings. Give us strength of spirit to rise into joyfulness of heart; and by your help may we learn to live as those who have trusted in the promises of good which are incarnate in Jesus, and who know that in the end love must conquer all. *A. Herbert Gray*

We commend to your merciful care, O God, those who suffer and those who sorrow as a result of acts of extreme violence. Heal the injured; comfort the bereaved, console the dying. Deliver us from evil, and lead us all in the ways of justice and peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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 '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 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 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 !

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

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

Coffee Morning You are invited to a joint Missions coffee morning and celebration of Dorothy's 80th birthday on Saturday 27th August at 35 Brecon Way between 10am and 12noon. Donations for the raffle may be dropped off at any time the previous week. Thank you. Stephen and Pauline Clare.

Footprints Walk Our next walk is today 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.

The Pilgrim's Progress will be performed at the Bedford Civic Theatre, on Wednesday 28th September. Tickets are available already- please call 01234 269519 or book online at www.bedfordcornexchange.co.uk.

Saltmine Theatre Company remains the only professional theatre company with a Christian ethos performing consistently in mainstream theatres in the UK. The Pilgrim's Progress has already toured to 18 regional venues throughout the country to great acclaim.

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.

North Bedfordshire Circuit Launch Celebration on Saturday September 3rd 2011.

Kings House Complex, 245 Ampthill Road.

- 2.00 p.m. Family Fun
- 3.00 p.m. Barn Dance
- 3.45 p.m. Afternoon Tea
- 4.30 p.m. Informal Worship
- 4.50 p.m. Launch Service
- 6.15 p.m. End of Formal Worship

Please see notice in Welcome area at Putnoe Heights for further details. Everyone Welcome.

Irene & Eddie McKenzie would like to thank Family & friends who came to help them celebrate their Diamond Wedding anniversary on Wednesday 3 August. It was a happy, memorable occasion raising £500 for Putnoe heights Church.

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

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

A Hymn for Sunday

God's love is deeper than the deepest ocean,
God's love is wider than the widest sea,
God's love is higher than the highest mountain,
Deeper, wider, higher is God's love to me.

God's joy is deeper than the deepest ocean,
God's joy is wider than the widest sea,
God's joy is higher than the highest mountain,
Deeper, wider, higher is God's joy to me.

God's peace is deeper than the deepest ocean,
God's peace is wider than the widest sea,
God's peace is higher than the highest mountain,
Deeper, wider, higher is God's peace to me

Deeper, wider, higher,
deeper, wider, higher
deeper, wider, higher
is God's to me.

Fair Trade. The fair trade shop in St Andrews Church Centre, Kimbolton Road is open Sundays 11.15am - 12.15pm and Wednesdays 11.30am - 12 noon. We sell jewellery, textiles, bags and baskets, wood and metal crafts.

There will be a Circuit service this Sunday at 6.30pm at Priory Methodist Church

All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 19th century

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.'

Please remember to shop at Amazon.com by clicking on the link on ThisisChurch.com for just about anything you need. You can also sign up to Easyfundraising. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online at discount prices! Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thisischurch.com, then we obtain 5%

 amazon.com
and you're done.

 easyfundraising
org.uk

Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Meirwen Powlson, will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 3.15pm on Thursday 11 November

