

Partnership News

7 November 2010

Ordinary 32



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

9.30 am St. Mark's – Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mr Chris Izzard

11am Putnoe – Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions – Y.P.F

14 November –Remembrance Sunday

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden
Leadership – Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Readings 1 Micah 4: 1-5 2. Rom 8: 31-end
3. 1 Co 15: 50-end

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 St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Richard Ledger in memory of his mother.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Derrick Wren in memory of the birthday of his wife Betty.

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

Prayer for This Week

Enable us, O God, so to use the talents entrusted to us both for your glory and the needs of others that at the last we may hear that most joyful of voices, saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord"; for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)

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 12.15 and 1.15 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—15 November - Moorfields 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.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 9 November 'Remembrance' 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 November 16 BECHAR 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 Fitch 838689

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next -10 November 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. Monthly. Next meetings 10 November and 8 December. 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

6.15pm 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 17 November 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) 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. 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. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

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



St Mark's Church Council – 8 November
Annual General Meeting 10 April

St Mark's Leadership Team 31 January

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 7 February

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .

St Mark's Forum Meeting -

Putnoe Church Council - 14 February

Pastoral Group Meeting - 8 February 4.15pm

Churchyard Committee - 26 January at 11.00am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings

Deanery Meeting - . 18 November at St Peter's
Circuit Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees – 7 November

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Ordinary 32

Opening Sentence from Scripture -

He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive." *Luke 20:38*

Collect (*Before we read we pray*)

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Reading - Job 19:23-27a

"Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes--I, and not another
(This is the word of the Lord -- **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5,13-17

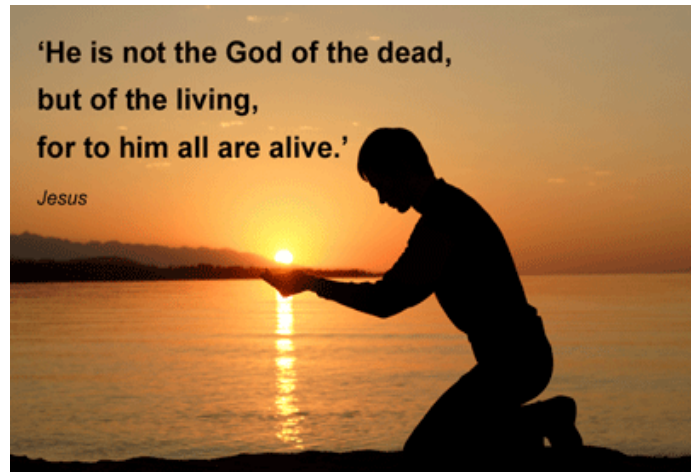
Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word

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

Gospel Reading – Luke 6: 20-31.

Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question. "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and have children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. The second and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. Finally, the woman died too. Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?" Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. But in the account of the bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.'" (This is the Word of the Lord—**All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer Lord of heaven, in this Eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect: as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Hymns for Sunday (Please distribute Mission Praise, All Age Worship and Baptism Service)

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken 173 (Tune Austria)
2. Come on and celebrate 99
3. Revive thy work O Lord 578 (Tune Carlisle)
4. I know that my Redeemer lives 278 (Tune Church Triumphant)

Commentary

The current exhibition in the British Museum 'Journey Through the Afterlife: Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead' which are some 3000 years old indicates that what happens after we die has probably been a puzzle to all human beings since time began. From this material it can be deduced that the ancient Egyptians hoped for a life lived in a world much like their earthly one. The passage set for today, Luke 20: 27 – 40, shows that this question was still vexing the Jews at the time of Jesus.

'The problem of the resurrection' this is the heading at the top of one commentary about Luke 20: 27 – 40, as a title it sums up the issue explored in the verses from Luke's Gospel and the content of the passages of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians set for today. Whilst the Job 19 verse 25 seems to express a belief in the resurrection in the words: 'I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.' The church in Thessalonica needed encouragement to hold on to their belief in the resurrection as it had not come about as soon as Paul had led them to believe it would. It is not surprising then if we puzzle and differ over our understanding of the resurrection and at times need to be encouraged to stand firm and hold on to the teachings of Jesus, Paul and others.

Luke 20: 27 – 28 is part of a series of questions raised by Jewish leaders to bring about Jesus' downfall. This time it is the Sadducees turn to try and catch Jesus out. The Sadducees were members of the priest hood and the wealthy aristocracy who were quite content with their position within Roman rule so would have been anxious not to have that position put in jeopardy by Jesus. They exercised a traditional conservative religion based on the first 5 Books of the OT, known as the Pentateuch which the Jews attributed to Moses. Unlike the Pharisees they accepted only the material world and denied the resurrection, angels and spirits (Acts 23:8). In their challenge to Jesus they quote the Jewish tradition, as laid down in Genesis 38:8 and Deuteronomy 25:36, of a man being required to marry his brother's widow if she was childless. This was practiced in order to maintain the family line, which was a very strong tradition of the time.

Jesus' response is twofold; firstly he states that the resurrected life will not be like life on earth. There will no longer be any death so there will be no need for procreation, so the issue of several earthly husbands is irrelevant. All will become God's children. Secondly Jesus bases his reply on the Book of Exodus 3:6, where from the burning bush God said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." The Hebrew for 'I am' in this sentence is expressed in the present form, so Jesus was saying that God was still the God of Abraham centuries after his death, implying that Abraham was still alive and able to worship him. Concluding with the statement that: 'He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.' In this instance the Pharisee's, who are often regarded as the 'bad guys', would have agreed with Jesus but not the Sadducees. Which is possibly why verse 39 goes on to say 'Some teachers of the law responded 'Well said', teacher!'. Resulting in no one daring to ask him more questions (in v 40), so Jesus was let of the hook a little while longer. But the Sadducees and other doubters were proved wrong on that first Easter day and by the subsequent resurrection appearances that followed. *Wendy Waters*

Meditation What kind of kingdom will this be?

It will be a kingdom where, in accordance with Jesus' prayer, God's name is truly hallowed, his will done on earth, human beings will have everything in abundance, all sin will be forgiven and all evil overcome. It will be a kingdom where, in accordance with Jesus' promises, the poor, the hungry, those who weep and those who are down trodden will finally come into their own, where pain suffering and death will have an end. It will be a kingdom that cannot be described, but only made known in metaphors: as the new covenant, the seed spring up, the ripe harvest, the great banquet, the royal feast.

It will therefore be a kingdom – wholly as the prophets foretold – of absolute righteousness, of unsurpassable freedom, of dauntless love, of universal reconciliation, of everlasting peace. In this sense therefore it will be the time of salvation, of fulfillment, of consummation, of God's presence: the absolute future. *Hans Kung, On Being a Christian.*

Prayers for week ahead

Blessed be God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and into an inheritance which cannot perish or be defiled, nor can it ever fade. So let us rejoice!

God of water, Lord of life, we thank you for the moments in history which have pointed towards the mystery of baptism; your Spirit brooding over the waters of creation, bringing order out of chaos; your people striding out of Egyptian slavery through the wind blown passage in the Red Sea; and Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, with the shock of the voice saying: 'You are my Son'. May we who are baptized already be renewed in our baptismal promises, in a spirit of love and trust; and may your beloved children baptized today be blessed, and stay close to you now and always. *Angela Ashwin*

Weave us, O Christ, into your people, and bless our belonging. Hold us, O Christ, in your love, and bless our pledging. Stay with us, O Christ, in darkness and doubt, and bless our trusting. Fill us, O Christ, with your Holy Spirit, and bless our new beginning. *Angela Ashwin*

2010 Mission Project

Every year we look back at the Mission activities of the churches over the past year and to give thanks to God for His generosity to us and in turn thank all those who have been involved in supporting mission in our churches over the last year through their unselfish giving of money, time and effort. To all those involved, and to all those who gave so generously, either to specific projects or through the weekly offerings or standing orders, to those who organise and participate in coffee mornings and sponsored events, to those who work tirelessly and faithfully in the background for mission in our Partnership; thank you.

Looking forward, we will continue with our regular mission activities at each church. Please let one of the ministers know if you would like to be involved in a more practical way in our mission activities. As mentioned previously this year, in our Autumn Mission project we want to extend our support for the work in Kisiizi, a missionary hospital in Uganda, a mission organisation which Putnoe have supported for many years. Details of how individuals and groups can contribute and 'share' in this project are given on the letters to be found at the back of the church and we look forward to work together to make a significant and positive change to those in Uganda who are struggling because of their lack of good medical facilities and support infrastructure.

This Sunday we look back at the past year with gratefulness and look forward to the challenge ahead with excitement and anticipation. Our God is a generous God and we are called to be stewards of His Kingdom here on earth. And as we do so, we become part of God's ultimate mission, the restoration of His creation, whether in Bedford or Uganda, Europe or Africa, a restoration which includes the whole earth and everyone on it. Now that's a mission challenge! *Sam Cappleman*

Chancellor got his numbers wrong in Spending Review, say Churches

Churches have voiced concern over Chancellor George Osborne's inaccurate use of welfare fraud statistics in his Spending Review speech.

The Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the United Reformed Church have criticised the Chancellor for claiming that welfare fraud is responsible for cheating tax payers out of £5 billion a year. A Department of Work and Pensions report published last week stated that welfare fraud accounts for £1 billion of money lost, with tax credit fraud accounting for an additional £0.6 billion, leading to £1.6 billion lost in total. Church leaders said the exaggerated £5 billion figure depicts the poorest and most vulnerable in society as thieves.

"Exaggerating benefit fraud points the finger of blame at the poor," said Revd Alison Tomlin, President of the Methodist Conference. "Let us be clear this recession was not caused by the poor, those on benefits, or even benefit cheats. The poorest in society only got poorer during the boom years and it's simply not fair to make them pay for the bust.

"Questions also need to be asked about the £7 billion of uncollected tax revenues that the Chancellor claims he is targeting. According to the HMRC, there is approximately £42 billion in uncollected revenues; why does Mr Osborne only speak of £7 billion?" Revd Graham Sparkes, Head of Faith and Unity at the Baptist Union of Great Britain, said: "There is already deep concern that the severe reductions in welfare provision will cause immense hardship to the most vulnerable. This misuse of figures to exaggerate the scale of benefit fraud only adds to the sense of injustice." Mr Simon Loveitt, Public Issues Spokesperson for the United Reformed Church, added: "The coalition government is very keen to talk about fairness and the false notion that 'we are all in this together', but the Chancellor's exaggeration of fraud and last week's Comprehensive Spending Review confirm the grim reality that it is those who are most vulnerable who will pay the price for that which is so clearly not their fault."



St Mark's 'Messy Church' This Week

Our next sessions are at 3.45pm on Wednesday 10 November and 8 December. For more information speak to Jean Bank or Wendy

Waters.

Sylvia Cohen After many years of service to Missions at Putnoe Sylvia Cohen has decided to retire; we are sorry to hear this, but would like to thank not only Sylvia but all of her fellow workers on the Mission Committee. The Leadership Team are looking for a replacement for Sylvia and, although we realise this is a hard act to follow, think this is an opportunity for someone who is interested in the wider world as well as that close to home. This would involve supporting our current venture, including beds at Kisiizi, receiving literature relating to this and also coordinating fund raising for any new projects. This is important work which people at Putnoe have supported for many years and this support is still needed. Anyone interested in this important position please see Jean Kirk or other members of the Leadership team.

Vacancy Putnoe Heights Church have a vacancy for a 'Community Centre Manager'. This is a salaried position of 20 hours per week. Duties include general office management as well as all other aspects of ensuring the smooth operation of a busy church community centre. We are looking for an enthusiastic, organised, computer literate and friendly person able to start in January 2011. This post requires CRB clearance. For further details and a job description please contact the Church office at Putnoe Heights Bedford 01234 365630 or Deacon Jane Mason by email at Jane@thisischurch.com by 12 November 2010.

St Mark's Weekly Offering Envelopes

New sets of 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.

Anjulita Court Coffee Morning on Thurs 11th November from 11am to 12.30pm. In addition to refreshments there will be a Christmas Stall by Arthritis Research UK offering cards, calendars, diaries, etc for sale to residents and visitors. This is a good opportunity to meet residents and perhaps solving Christmas present ideas.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
**DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS**

Advent with St Albans - by text, and email

St Albans Diocese are encouraging people to sign up to receive a daily Advent verse from the Bible by email or text and to download a weekly sheet from www.livinggodslove.org.

In the rush up to Christmas it is guaranteed that people will value time each day in Advent to stop, reflect and pray.

Sign up, on the home page of this website, to take part in the Advent Challenge, Me, You, the World and God. You will receive a daily bible verse by email or text. The verses, which begin in Genesis and go through to the Nativity, offer an opportunity to reflect on our relationship with one another, with the world and with God. The themes of the weeks are Beginnings, Relationships, Visions and Encounters.

You can also download a leaflet for each week listing the verses. The leaflet, like the email, offers brief comments, questions for reflection and pointers for prayer. There will also be a special advent twitter so sign up now. Tell your friends !

Sign up now and also join in the 'design a logo' competition. www.livinggodslove.org

Help us Help Kisiizi. Every year before Christmas our churches help support a project either in the UK or around the world. This year we are supporting Kisiizi Hospital in Uganda. People in Uganda are struggling because of their lack of good medical facilities and support infrastructure. Please help us by saving over the next few weeks and making a donation on or before the gift service on 5 December. Donations can be made at either church office, or by dropping envelopes on a Sunday. You can also take one of the Smartie tubes, eat the Smarties and return the tube with money inside ! *Sam Cappleman*

St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre

Calder Rise, Bedford

Saturday 20th November

10.30am—3.30pm

Ploughmans Lunches

Father Christmas

Many Craft Stalls Raffle

Entrance 50p



Donations for a luxury hamper we are having as a raffle prize at the Christmas Craft Fayre, would be gratefully received. There will be a list on Sunday where you can sign for anything you would care to donate. Thank you. Raffle tickets will be on sale.
Avril Williams

Have a great night out at 'St Mark's Italian Evening' By popular request we have booked the fabulous 'Vittorio' for Saturday November 27 at 7.30 at St Mark's. This is great night of singing and dancing with a Italian food and wine, Italian Quiz and raffle. Please bring your own liquid refreshment. Tickets £8 on sale NOW from St Mark's Church Community Centre Office 342613.or speak with Avril or Janet.

Brickhill In Bloom Congratulations to Brickhill Parish Council who scored 'Outstanding' in the awards announced this week. This is a real achievement on the first year of entry by Brickhill parish Council. The

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 Harry Dandy

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

judges made special mention of St Mark's Church Garden of Remembrance and the Clubhouse kitchen Garden which were considered a credit to all of those involved.

Thank you to all of you who came to our Sankey/Moody service last Sunday braving a cold dark night. Your attendance was very much appreciated. Many who attended asked if there could be a similar night again. It is proposed to have a service of praise in May next year when we will celebrate the minstry of Charles and John Wesley. (Eric Royden)

Commemoration Service for the Departed.

There will be a special service to remember loved ones who have died at 3.00pm on Sunday 14 November at St Mark's Church. There will be an opportunity in the service to light remembrance candles. Speaker our own Deacon Jane Mason Chaplain to Anjulita Court residential care home.

Footprints - The final walk of the season begins at 2.00pm. Sunday 5 December. Meet by the church in Clapham on Green Lane. Short circular walk through Clapham Woods with good views of Anjulita Court. Planning meeting for 2011 - 1 Mitford Close, 7.30pm Tuesday 23 November. Details from Sue Allen.

Congratulations to Bert Abram and Barbara Edwards who are both celebrating their 90th birthdays.

St Mark's Church Council Meets Monday this week - All welcome 7.30pm for 7.45pm start

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Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Mr Peter Tysoe will take place at Putnoe heights Church on Friday 19 November at 10.30am

The funeral of Gwenda Tanfield will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 17 November at 1.45pm

