



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

9 August 2009

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

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger

Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank

Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger

Leadership - Mr Lawrence Wyatt

Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Sunday 16 August - Ordinary 20

9.30am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk

Intercessions - Ministers

Readings 1. Proverbs 9: 1-6 2. Ephesians

5:15-20 3. John 6: 51-58

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Des and Lynda Hoar in celebration of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

The flowers at St Marks celebrate the marriage of Hayley Keech and Thomas Barton.

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

Prayer for Sunday

Above all things,
O Lord, let us rejoice
in your presence.
Let our hearts love you
and let our mouths proclaim you.
Let our souls hunger for you
and let our whole being desire you;
until we are one with you,
for you are God, blessed for ever. Amen.

Anselm of Canterbury, c.1033-1109

Contact Details

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)

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

309175 Mobile 07973 113861

vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@ThisIsChurch.com

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard 275628

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747 or 07881730747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 17 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

- 9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's Mrs Brown☎771676
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in

month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting August 18 Cream Tea Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton 346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month
- 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. Meeting August 11 Afternoon Tea 3pm Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - September 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎ 262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731
- 6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138
- 6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎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 2 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎ 406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details

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

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

Thursday

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

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎ 244970

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

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. Next meeting 10 September Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎ 211070

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎ 325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎ 345991

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎ 07786508351

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎ 825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎ 406094

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎ 301550

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎ 01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎ 219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎ 346505

Friday

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

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

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

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

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎ 356875

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

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

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

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

Saturday

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

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

Young Embroiders bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎ 212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎ 360188 or ☎ 07866775515

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



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 9 Nov

St Mark's Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 12 Oct, 8 Feb 2010

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 8 Sept , 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010

Putnoe Church Council - 5 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee - 19 August

Putnoe Heights Mission Group -

Partnership Council - September 6th

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting 17 Sep, 19 Nov,

Circuit/Treasurers Revue meeting at St. Mark's 15 September 7.30pm

Circuit Meeting at Sharnbrook Methodist Church 16 September at 7.30pm

Woodland Burial Trustees –Sept

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

Ordinary 19

Opening Verses of Scripture John 6:35

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

Collect Prayer for the Day -

Before we read we pray

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through 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. *Common Worship*



First Bible Reading- 1 Kings 19:4-8

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he travelled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Ephesians 4: 25 - 5: 2

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin" : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – John 6: 35, 41-51

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?" "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is

the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

Hymns (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise*)

1. Give to our God immortal praise 171
2. As the deer pants for the water 37
3. Break thou the bread of life 64,
4. Jesus the joy of loving hearts 383
5. To him we come 709.

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in our faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Commentary

As Iranaeus put it when they asked him what new thing has Christ brought that others do not give us, "He brought himself".

When Jesus said "I am the bread of life" and "I am the bread which came down from heaven" the people murmured—after all they knew him and his father and mother. How could he talk about "coming down from heaven?"

But Jesus persists and says that only in and through him can people know life in all its fullness (v47). He claims that he, and what he is and what he teaches is the true food of the soul, sustaining it and enabling it to do and be all that it is meant to be and do. (v48). Other good gifts from God can help us for a little (v49) but the grace of God that we find in him is inexhaustible and will last for ever (v50). This is Good News indeed.

Verse 51 is a crucial metaphor. (A metaphor, the dictionary says, is a figure of speech that is symbolic, a representative of something else. Hence when Jesus said "I am the door, no one thinks of him as a literal door swinging on its hinges!)

So here what he says as a figure of speech is vivid and gives us the plain truth. "Really to receive from Christ what he has to give us, really to have experience of his saving power, we must feed on him, must absorb his teaching, his character, his mind, his ways, till his mind becomes our mind and his ways our ways; till we think somewhat as he would do if he were in our place; and can be and do what without him we could not be or do; and this because his power has passed into us and become our power. As Paul has it "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". (Philippians 4 v 13) (The Interpreters Bible)

And in Ephesians 4 v25—5 v2 this is fleshed out, contrasting conversations that are bitter, angry and malicious with those that are beneficial, fitting and impart grace to the other, marked by sensitivity, thoughtfulness and the forgiveness which they themselves had experienced from God in Christ. The Christian community should be able to pray the section on forgiveness in the Lords Prayer sincerely! - even though it seems that the Church at Ephesus was welcoming former thieves into fellowship. So Church is not a club for the respectable—but a family where all may grow "into Christ". This is food for thought, praying and living for all of us. *Richard Ledger.*

Meditation

"Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore"

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead.

Almighty God and most merciful Father, who has given us a new commandment that we should live one another, give us also grace that we may fulfil it. Make us gentle, courteous and forbearing. Direct our lives so that we may look to the good of the other in word and deed. And hallow all our friendships by the blessing of your Spirit, for his sake who loved us and gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Brooke Foss Westcott, nineteenth century*

O God, it is so hard for us not to be anxious. We worry about work and money, about food and health, about weather and crops, about war and politics, about loving and being loved. Show us how perfect love casts out fear. *Monica Furlong, twentieth Century*

Let nothing disturb you, nothing alarm you: while all things fade away God is unchanging. Be patient and you will gain everything: for with God in your heart nothing is lacking, God meets your every need. *St Teresa of Avila, Sixteenth Century*

Oh God, you have said: Do not be afraid—I will save you. I have called you by name—you are mine. When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you. Help me to hear you say these words to me. *Based on Isaiah, Chapter 43*

The Gospel Readings and bread

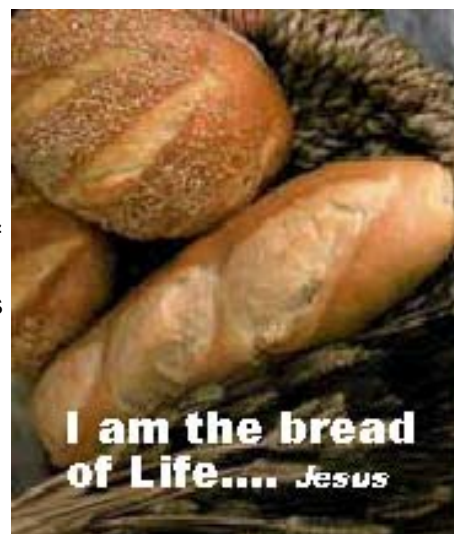
This Sunday we have yet another readings about bread! Even if you are away for a couple of weeks at this time of year you are surely still going to hear about bread. I am not sure why the compilers of the lectionary decided to have this repetition of theme, but fortunately there are things we can say about bread. Bread is used by Jesus to speak of his death and the spiritual nourishment of the disciples, but it is also physically important too. The simple physicality of eating it, prevents us from imagining ourselves out of this world as Christians are always tempted to do, it grounds us in ordinary life. Here are some thoughts about bread

“There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.” - Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948), Spiritual and political leader of India during India’s independence movement

“Bread for myself is a material question. Bread for my neighbour is a spiritual one.” - Nikolai Berdyaev (1874-1948), Russian philosopher in religion and politics

“In the Lord’s Prayer, the first petition is for daily bread. No one can worship God or love his neighbour on an empty stomach.” - Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924), 28th President of the United States

“Love does not just sit there, like a stone; it has to be made, like bread, remade all the time, made new.” - Ursula K. Le Guin (1929-), American novelist



New Flower Vases for Garden of Remembrance.

The Churchyards committee have agreed for the provision of a new home for flowers in the Garden of Remembrance.

Constructed from granite it will house over 30 vases to help accommodate the large number of floral tributes which are now being left in the Garden. Each evening the flowers left in the Garden will be collected and placed in the new vases, near the lych gate.

At a cost of over £2,000 this represents a considerable investment and the churchyards committee would welcome donations. (*Treasurer John Day 295592*)

Bedford Citizen Advice are offering free benefits advice talks to community groups. If you would like a visit the please contact Chantel Southerland 01234 346543 email chantel@bedfordcab.org.uk

Youth, children and friends summer diary dates
Monday 24 August under 5's summer workshop 2.00 till 4.00 and Tuesday 25th and Wednesday

26 August 5 years plus summer workshop 10.00 till 3.00pm Join us to "Travel God's world." Both these events celebrate the United Nations Year of the Child and will include stories of Children in the Bible, stories from around the world, music, games, crafts and Fun! Small charge.

There will be no Junior Church or YPF at Putnoe during August. If you are able to help any of these groups in anyway over the summer or at the new term start in September please speak to Liz or Emma. Thank you for all your support. See Liz for further details on all the above events.

Action for Children -House to House Collection

Action for Children (formally NCH) 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 the Methodist Church. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. The annual house to house Collection to support the vital work of the NCH will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £950. If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out 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)

Action for Children supporters invite you for tea and cakes in the Wren Room at St Mark's Church, 2.30-4.30pm on Sunday 9 August. Debbie Smith Regional Fund Raiser will tell us about the charity with a short talk.

Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike on Saturday 12 September 2009 10am—6pm—an opportunity to visit churches all over our region in towns and villages either walking or cycling. Half the money raised will be given to Church Funds and half to Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. For more details and ideas of routes etc. please see Wendy Nash at Putnoe.

Help is required at the Manse in Hartop Close to tidy up the garden ready for when Deacon Jane Mason arrives. If you are able to spare some time please contact Eddy Peck 267567

Coffee Morning Saturday 15 August –10.00am -12

noon, at the home of Gwen Beswick, 6 Repton Close. Cakes, Raffle. Proceeds to Mission Funds. All Welcome. Requests for/offers of transport to Sylvia Cohen 343424.

Gathering on the Green Waveney Green, Brickhill Thursday 27 August 11am-3pm. Free activities including climbing tower, 5 a-side football, kick boxing, rave bus and bouncy castles. Plus have your say on the new natural play area at Waveney Avenue. Organised by Brickhill Parish Council.

Thank you- Putnoe Heights and St Mark's churches and Thursday Morning Prayer Group Friends. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the beautiful Get Well cards, lovely plants and flowers and phone calls during my recent illness ; but most of all I truly appreciated the numerous prayers said on my behalf ! With Christian Love ,Deborah Wallace

Welcome to Deacon Jane. This just a reminder to put into your diaries the welcome service for Deacon Jane Mason. The service will be held at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday 9 September at 7.30pm. All are invited to attend.

Do you have any memories of Brickhill in the 60s and 70s? Brickhill Parish Council is planning to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Brickhill over a 12 month period from late 2009 to late 2010 which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the time when the first houses were occupied and when Brickhill Lower School was first opened as a new infants school. The Council is looking for photographs and press cuttings of Brickhill during the 1960s and 1970s to copy and use to illustrate a display to develop interest in this project. If you can help please contact Delia Shephard, Clerk to the Council on 01234 271703 or email clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk.

www.thisischurch.com Our new website will hopefully go live this week, log in and tell us what you think. Please consider making thisischurch.com your homepage.



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You can now also buy gift vouchers !

House Group September 2009 Wendy Waters will be holding a house group at 13 Farnham Way, Putnoe at 7.45 pm on Tuesday 1st; Monday 7th and 28th September; Monday 5th and 12th October. We will use a 'York Course' entitled 'Where is God ...?'. The course comprises of a CD which provides thought provoking input from Christians such as, Archbishop Rowan Williams and Patricia Routledge and a booklet which forms the basis of informal exploration and discussion. If you are interested in being part of the group or for more details please contact Wendy Waters on 401834.

Methodist leader 'appalled' at atrocities in Pakistan

Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Britain, has expressed deep concern over violence against Christians in Pakistan.

Over the last week in Pakistan many acts of violence have been committed against Christians, including the burning of 47 homes in the village of Korian and 100 homes in Gojra City. More than 290 families have been made homeless and at least nine people have died in the violence, which has arisen as a result of religious tensions between Christians and Muslims.

Martyn said: "I am appalled at the atrocities that have taken place in recent days in Pakistan. People of all faiths have been deeply troubled by these acts, which represent personal disaster for very many families who have lost relatives, homes and livelihoods. It casts a shadow on all people of faith, both Muslim and Christian, who know that such violence should never be a part of religious life.

"I welcome the care and compassion shown by many Muslims to their Christian neighbours, taking them into their homes for safety and making efforts to rebuild peace in the communities."

The Methodist Church in Britain has made an initial solidarity grant of £10,000 through Church World Service to provide emergency relief supplies such as food and shelter.

Martyn joined with Revd Samuel Kobia, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, in calling on the Pakistani government to take action to stem the violence. He said: "These recent riots are a matter of serious concern and it is the responsibility of the State to provide security to all its citizens and to call on all people of faith - especially local and national leaders - to focus their efforts on building peace rather than seeking reasons for further disunity.

"Our message is clear: acts of violence targeted at a religious minority are always wrong. When they do occur they must be investigated diligently and the perpetrators must be brought to justice."

Martyn also called on Christians to pray for the Church in Pakistan over the coming weeks and commended the following prayer for use in churches and prayer meetings:

Prayer


Merciful God, Whose loving heart yearns for peace and justice to flow freely in all communities, Be with all the people of Korian and Gojra in these difficult times, May those who have lost relatives and friends be comforted, Those who have lost their homes be sheltered, Those who have lost hope find peace. We pray for faith leaders, both Christian and Muslim, and for national leaders in Pakistan and in Europe May they work consistently for peace and keep justice constantly in view. We pray for ourselves, that we may play our part in expressing your love for the whole of creation in all we do and say this day. Amen.

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.

Malcolm Campbell

'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 Anthony Maurice Allen will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 14 August at 4.00pm

The Thanksgiving Service for John Stubbs will take place at St Mark's Church on Friday 14 August at 12 noon