



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

9 October 2011 - Ordinary 28



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 October –

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership – Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions – Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership -Mrs Vita Hudson-Rae-
Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

16 October

9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership -- Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions – Mrs Sam Ware

Bible Readings 1. Exodus 33: 12-23
2.1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 3. Matthew 22:15-22

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 Roger & Anne Platt to celebrate their Wedding anniversary & in memory of their parents & Louise on their birthdays.

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

With the light of your love,
you pierce our loneliness;
With the glow of peace,
you take fear from our worries;
With the warmth of compassion
you comfort our sorrow
With the strength of serenity
you still our anger;
With the flame of hope you lift our souls;
With the flicker of the spirit
you offer new life to all;
With the radiance of joy
you dance new steps for us;
Our God, our truth; forever our friend.
Amen

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as Vice President 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 Hoare 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
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 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ 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 (see contact details below)

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 - (see contact details below)**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. Emma Gordon 07593266091 or 365630

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

6.15pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's Sam Thompson

☎07766421000

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– 17 October. 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 ☎07790206016

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 (see contact details below)

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. (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group. (see contact details below)

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895

2.00pm U3A (see contact details below)

2pm U3A Photography St. Mark's (see contact details below)

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 11 October Bernard Hicks 'Gideons International' 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 October 4 - Harvest. 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.

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters ☎342613.

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am U3A Card Making, (see contact details below)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 12 October. 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 (see contact details below)

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. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

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 October 19 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 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 Restarts on 8 September.

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 1st and 3rd Thursdays 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 (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

2- 4pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎275229

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 857850 or 07919402797 .

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry (see contact details below)

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 ((see contact details below)

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French (see contact details below)

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.

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 12 October 7.30pm in chapel

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting -

St Mark's Forum Meeting - Wednesday 9th November

Putnoe Church Council - 17 October

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting - .

Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees – 27 November

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 17 October

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

Ordinary 28

Opening Verse of Scripture - Philippians Chapter 4
Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Collect Prayer (*Before we read we pray*)

Grant we beseech you merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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. Amen. *Common Worship*



'Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.'

First Bible Reading - Isaiah 25:1-9

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvellous things, things planned long ago. You have made the city a heap of rubble, the fortified town a ruin, the foreigners' stronghold a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will honour you; cities of ruthless nations will revere you. You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall and like the heat of the desert. You silence the uproar of foreigners; as heat is reduced by the shadow of a cloud, so the song of the ruthless is stilled. On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation. (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, loyal yoke fellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you (This is the Word of the Lord — **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' "But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners

and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" "For many are invited, but few are chosen." (This is the Word of the Lord — **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

1. Morning has broken 635
2. Jesus I am resting *(In Partnership News)*
3. Joy to the world 77
4. One more step along the world 746
5. We have a gospel to proclaim 465

Commentary

The reading in Isaiah is one of praise to God, who has done marvellous things. It is about victory and it looks forward to God's ultimate victory, when the reign of God over his re-created world is to be ushered in with a feast, a coronation festival. It is for all men, for the covenant of his mercy is all-inclusive. The feast described will mark his triumph at the end of history, and he will bring to an end the reality of sorrow and suffering which have marked the reproach of his people. We see too the idea that God's ultimate triumph over his enemies will be also a victory over death and pain. So all peoples will say "This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation". And when in REV. 21:4 the words of this passage were quoted, it was in the light of a new certainty which was theirs who knew that Christ was risen.

Our gospel reading today is also about a banquet or feast. This is what Tom Wright has to say: "Of course, when Jesus told the parable it had a particular point and focus. (It's possible that verse 7, the bit in brackets, was added later, perhaps by Matthew himself, so that his readers would make the connection between what Jesus was saying and the terrible events of AD 70. We shall see more about this when we get to chapter 24) The parable follows straight on from the devastating story of the wicked tenant farmers in chapter 21, and rams the point home. Everyone would know what a story about a landowner with a vineyard was referring to; equally everyone in Jesus' day would know the point of a story about a king throwing a wedding party for his son. (Jesus may well have told this kind of story several times; there's quite a different version of it in Luke 14.15-24.) This story is about the coming of God's **kingdom**, and in particular the arrival of the **Messiah**. Israel's leader in Jesus' day, and the many people who followed them, were like guests invited to a wedding—God's wedding party, the party he was throwing for his son. But they had refused, for the most part; think back to Jesus' sad warnings in 11.20-24. Now Jerusalem was refusing the invitation as well. God was planning the great party for which they had waited so long. The Messiah was here, and they didn't want to know. They abused and killed the prophets who had tried to tell them about it, and the result was that their city would be destroyed. But now for the **good news** - though it wasn't good news for the people who were originally invited. God was sending out new messengers, to the wrong parts of town, to tell everyone and anyone to come to the party. And they came in droves. We don't have to look far in Matthew's **gospel** to see who they were. The tax-collectors, the prostitutes, the riff-raff, the nobodies, the blind and lame, the people who thought they'd been forgotten. They were thrilled that God's **message** was for them after all. His love reached them *where* they were, but his love refused to let them stay *as they were*. Love wants the best for the beloved. Their lives were transformed, healed, changed. Actually, nobody really believes that God wants *everyone* to stay exactly as they are. God loves serial killers and child-molesters; God loves ruthless and arrogant business men; God loves manipulative mothers who damage their children's emotions for life. But the point of God's love is that he wants them to change." And this shouldn't be seen as a threat or something unpleasant to be avoided. It is all good. Life can become an adventure in God's love, so we can experience the life in all its fullness promised by Jesus and discover, like the psalmist that "goodness and mercy will follow all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." No wonder Paul tells us to "rejoice". *Richard Ledger*

Meditation

Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name?
Will you go, where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my love be known
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

It is not far to go for you are near, it is not far to go for you are here. And not by travelling, Lord we come to you, but by the way of love, and we love you. Amen (*Amy Carmichael 1868—1951*)

There is no place where God is not, wherever I go, there God is. Now and always he upholds me with his power, and keeps me safe in his love. (*Author unknown*)

O most high Almighty, good Lord God, creator of the universe, watch over us and keep us in the light of your presence. May our praise continually blend with that of all creation, until we come together to the eternal joys which you promise in your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (*F H Joweth 1841/1923*)

Great is, O King, our happiness in thy Kingdom, thou, our King. We dance before thee, our King, by the strength of thy kingdom. May our feet be made strong; Let us dance before thee, eternal. Give you praise, all angels, to him above who is worthy of praise. (*Prayer in sacred dance of the Zulu Nazarite Church*)

I...ask the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, to give you the Spirit, who will make you wise and reveal God to you, so that you will know him. I ask that your minds may be opened to see his light, so that you will know what is the hope to which he has called you, how rich are the wonderful blessings he promises his people, and how very great is his power at work in us who believe. (*From Ephesians 1*)

Lord Jesus, it's a shameful thing when you've set invitations to all who will come and we stand at the door and turn people away. It is shameful how we find ways to justify, in Your Name, the lines we draw between us, the exclusions and suspicions, the greeds and power-plays, that harm the least, and protect our special interests. And so we pray: Lift us above our pettiness and self-protection, and use us as Your agents of justice and mercy; May Your grace open our doors, stretch out our arms and turn our attention to the excluded, rejected and neglected ones. May Your wisdom teach our minds, open our hearts and challenge our apathy to find solutions to the conflicts and self-created threats in our world. May Your love release our energies, ignite our abilities and inspire our action to heal those who carry the scars of abuse, war and disease, to comfort those who grieve the loss of loved ones or opportunities, to restore the ones who have failed or fallen, to nurture the life that breaks out in every person and every part of our planet. And make us heralds of Your kingdom who extend Your invitation to all who will listen. Amen.

Shopping at WWW. ThisChurch.com

easyfundraising
.org.uk

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We currently have quite a few people who use the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. They are careful to make sure that they never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. However we have noticed that not many people are using the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune of purchases and help raise money which we can use to support the cost of running our website. You can shop at many major stores such as John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, Next etc. Last week one visitor saved £100 off their computer order just by entering the voucher code at the till ! Just use the link on the homepage of ThisChurch.com





Open House ! Meets every Wednesday from 10.00am until 2.00pm. Open House will especially welcome people with learning disabilities, their families and friends. This project is offered free of charge to all who wish to

attend, no need to book, just turn up.

If you would like to help with Open House then that would be appreciated please contact St Mark's Church office on 01234 342613

Footprints. The next Footprints walk will take place on Sunday 9 October at 2.30pm. Meet at Renhold Church for an easy circular 2.5 – 3mile walk. For further details contact Ruth and Alan Bunker.

Mission Appeal

*'A time to give thanks,
for things we take for granted'*

Thank you to those who have already given gifts for our Mission Appeal this year BeCHaR. (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless) Please note that you can continue to give over the coming weeks using the envelopes provided and placing them on the offering plates or delivering to the church offices. Cheques may be made out either to St Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church.

St. Mark's Church Council Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 October in the chapel, 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

Dog Walker wanted for our 1 year old Chocolate Labrador. 2 days during the week for approx 45 mins each time. Must be between 12 and 2pm. Would suit retired person who would like to earn an extra £40 per month. We live just off Dover Crescent. If your interested, please call Laura on 01234 718799 (during office hours) or 07756 248718 at evenings or weekends.

Accommodation is urgently needed for a Bedford University student. He is a 43 year old PhD student from Malawi. He would need inexpensive accommodation - preferably including all bills and with wifi/internet access for up to 3 months. It is very difficult to get accommodation with the letting agencies for a short term. He works for a Christian Charity in Malawi that specialises in HIV and Aids work. Accommodation with a couple or with a single male professional or in a shared house would be good. If anyone knows of suitable accommodation or can offer accommodation please contact Cass Howes 079208 49742 *Chaplain*

Wedding. Please pray on the 9 October for Alison Parrin & Adam Hall being married at 2pm in Wrens Chapel at Wroxall Abbey, Warwick. Thank you. Valerie Parrin

Bead & Jewellery Making Workshop at Sandy Methodist Church on 15 October 10am - 3pm. Everything supplied to make Bespoke piece of jewellery. Cost £15 per head. Bring a packed lunch. Contact Bernadette to book 01767682743

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal Choosing gifts to put in a shoebox is a really fun part of getting involved in Operation Christmas Child. There is something very rewarding about giving to a child you will probably never meet in this world – especially when you know your simple act of kindness will be felt and appreciated in more ways than you can ever imagine. As the 2012 London Olympics are only just around the corner, the Samaritan's Purse has suggested that, to be a part of the Olympic spirit, this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign can have sports-themed shoeboxes. As well as giving us the chance to do something a bit different with our shoeboxes, this is also a chance to send sporty items out to needy children in our world – children who might otherwise not have the chance to experience the joy of sport for themselves. There is a full list of items that we can and cannot accept on the Children's and Youth notice board in the welcome area at Putnoe Heights. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation we do have some gift aid envelopes for your use. Each shoe box costs £2.50 to send. Empty shoeboxes will also be appreciated. We are starting to collect from 3 October until 23 October so please leave any donations in the office by Sunday 23 October 2011 for our Children's and Youth groups to pack. Thank you. Carolyn and Emma.

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to provide a lovely Sunday lunch at Putnoe last week

Chat and Play meets at St Mark's Church at 9.30am on Thursdays . This is a great time for parents and carers to meet together with children and babies. Jo Garner 400071

Storybox at St.Mark's meets 12 noon until 1pm on Thursdays. Jaana 363283.

O God, from whom to be turned is to fall, to whom to be turned is to rise, and in whom to stand is to abide for ever: grant us in all our duties your help, in all our perplexities your guidance, in all our dangers your protection, and in all our sorrows your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen *St Augustine, 354-430*

St Mark's Church Christmas Craft Fayre Saturday 19 November

There are only 7 weeks left to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 19 November 2011.

Amazing how quickly it comes around. We would be grateful for any help with the following:-

Tombola: Any new unwanted gifts\Christmas present etc. for our Tombola stall.

Cake Stall: Millie is kindly co-ordinating the cake stall again this year. She would be very grateful for any offers of cakes. If you are able to bake a cake for this stall please contact Millie via the Church Office.

Refreshments: We would very much appreciate donations of traybakes to sell with tea and coffee. Ploughman's lunches will be on sale at lunchtime as usual. Volunteers to help in the kitchen on the day would be very much appreciated. To put your name down please see Avril Williams. Any help gratefully received.

Secondhand Book Stall: Delia has agreed to coordinate the secondhand book stall again this year so please have a look in your cupboards for any unwanted books. We do ask that they be in good condition please

Indoor Plant Stall: After the success of last year's plant stall we are doing the same again this year. If you have any indoor plants or have split any plants and would like to donate them to our stall we would be very grateful. Marion would be pleased to receive gift of either indoor or outdoor plants, also small carrier bags.

All donated items for the above stalls can be bought up to Church anytime week beginning 15 November.

We will need lots of help on the day especially when the Fayre finishes at 3.30p.m. Many hands make light work and it would certainly be appreciated. This is one of our main fundraising events of the year and we are hoping to make it an even bigger success than last year, with your help I am sure we can achieve this. Many thanks

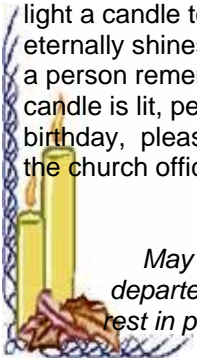
Avril Williams

A Hymn for Sunday

- 1 Jesus, I am resting, resting
In the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart.
Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee,
And Thy beauty fills my soul,
For by Thy transforming power
Thou hast made me whole.
*Jesus, I am resting, resting
In the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart.*
- 2 O how great Thy loving kindness,
Vaster, broader than the sea!
O how marvellous Thy goodness,
Lavished all on me!
Yes, I rest in Thee, Belovèd,
Know what wealth of grace is Thine,
Know Thy certainty of promise,
And have made it mine.
- 3 Simply trust Thee, Lord Jesus,
I behold Thee as Thou art,
And Thy love, so pure, so changeless,
Satisfies my heart;
Satisfies its deepest longings,
Meets, supplies its every need,
Compasseth me round with blessings;
Thine is love indeed!
- 4 Ever lift Thy face upon me,
As I work and wait for Thee;
Resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus,
Earth's dark shadows flee.
Brightness of my Father's glory,
Sunshine of my Father's face,
Keep me ever trusting, resting;
Fill me with Thy grace.

Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.



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

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Madge Walsh will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 2.30pm on Monday 10 October

The funeral of Mr Jack Thomas Fortnum will take place at 12.15pm on Monday 10th October

The funeral of Robert William Dewar will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Thursday 13 October