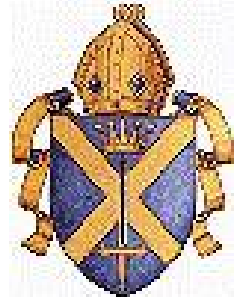


# Partnership News

11 July 2010  
Ordinary 15



## 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 and Baptism

Preacher -Revd. Charles Royden  
Leadership – Mrs. Avril Williams  
Intercessions – Mr. Chris Izzard

### 11.00am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk  
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

## 18th July — Ordinary 16

### 9.30am St. Mark's– Holy Communion

Preacher– Mrs Wendy Waters  
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart  
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

### 11.00am Putnoe –Holy Communion

Preacher– Mrs Wendy Waters  
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions –The Nash Family

**Readings** 1. Gen 18: 1-10a 2. Col 1: 15-28  
3. Luke 10: 38-42

### 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 this week have been given  
by Penny Puttock in memory of her mother Anne  
Leeper.

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 this Week

Guide us  
by your unchangeable Spirit,  
O God, that we may seek peace and pursue it,  
that we may follow in the way of righteousness,  
increase in our knowledge of the one true light  
and seek the goodness and welfare of all,  
until the kingdoms of this world  
become the kingdom of Christ,  
for ever and ever. Amen.  
*George Fox (1624-1691)*

### 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.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.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

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's

**9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

*(See website for more details)*

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

**9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955

**10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

**12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing.

**3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.

**4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747

**4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720713738.

**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518

**7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

**7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 19 July Judith Stanton. ☎823313

**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

**8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

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

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

**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

**10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704

**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Sally Banks ☎ 870357

**1.15pm Sing and Stomp.** For toddlers & their carers. Run by the Putnoe Children's Centre. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043

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

**2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting July 6 Bible Texts. 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 July 13 Visit to Anjulita Court. More details Janet King ☎313946

**8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

## Wednesday

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.

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

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

**10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

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

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - July 7 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .

**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

**1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

**2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

**1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823

**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966

**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.

**6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987  
**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎ 347073

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting 7 July Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Alan ☎ 345312.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

**8.00pm 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.

It took me a long time to learn that  
God is not the enemy of my  
enemies. He is not even the  
enemy of His enemies.

*Martin Niemoller*



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – 8 November.

**St Mark's Leadership Team** – 14th July at vicarage 7.30pm

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 18 October

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** - 27 Sept.

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting** - 12 noon, 13 July, 15 September, 16th November

**Putnoe Church Council** - 25 October.

**Pastoral Group Meeting** - 13 July 4pm

**Churchyard Committee** - 29 September

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group**

**Partnership Council**—TBA

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings**

**Deanery Meeting** - .

**Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting**

**Circuit Meeting** 13 Sept.

**Woodland Burial Trustees** –

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth** – 12 July at 1.15pm

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

## Ordinary 15

### Opening Sentence from Scripture - Luke 10: 27

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' ; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

### Collect *(Before we read we pray)*

Eternal God, giver of love and peace, you call your children to live together as one family. Give us grace to learn your ways and to do your will, that we may bring justice and peace to all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. Methodist Worship

### Old Testament Reading - Deut 30: 9-14

Then the LORD your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The LORD will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your fathers, if you obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it

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

### Epistle Reading –Col 1: 1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse: Grace and peace to you from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints-- the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.

You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins

(Reader This is the Word of the Lord, **All: Thanks be to God**)

### Gospel Reading - Luke 10: 25-37

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' ; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" "You have answered



correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." (Reader –This is the Word of the Lord, **All: Thanks be to God**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Hymns**

O praise ye the Lord 518 (Tune Houghton)

I will enter his gates 307

All the earth was dark 8 (Tune Light to the world)

Healing God, Almighty Father 226 (Tune Hyfrodol)

Come and sing the praise of Jesus 101 (Tune Victory March)

### **Commentary** 'The Good Samaritan'

We are told today that an expert in the law comes to speak to Jesus and poses a question, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life.' It is not usual for a lawyer to cut so quickly to the crux of the matter, but credit where credit is due. This is perhaps the most important question which anyone ever asked of Jesus. The lawyer has put his finger on the single most important source of human angst and hence the answer of Jesus becomes perhaps the most famous of all parables of Jesus.

This is a wonderful passage for anyone who wonders whether they are acceptable to God. The answer which Jesus gives involves him teasing the man with the phrase,

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself'.

But we cannot escape the fact that when asked how we inherit eternal life, Jesus devotes the vast majority of his answer to a story about a Samaritan and how he reacted when faced with a difficult decision. Jesus is asked about eternal life and he answers in a story about human lifestyle. You might have expected Jesus to devote himself to teaching about spectacular spiritual qualities. You could be forgiven for expecting Jesus to go on at length about religious devotion, but he doesn't. He talks about human pity, nursing care, sacrificial giving of your own transport and shelling out cash for someone other than yourself. It is these ordinary human qualities of love and care which are given status by Jesus.

Professional religious people will sometimes try to convince us that certain spiritual activities are what God is really concerned about. Subsequently many people live their lives with spiritual guilt because they think they are missing the spiritual target. If we are not careful, coming to church can be disappointing a little like going to Weightwatchers each week and finding that you haven't lost enough weight.

However if you want to know how to please God, do not be concerned about distractions, look at the Samaritan. These are the qualities which God looks for. How we treat not just one another, but all others, this is the acid test of our love for God, and it is this lifestyle which counts before God.

Love for God has so often been associated with particular expressions of behaviour. If we think of love for

God and we are honest, then we are often tempted to think of particular spiritual behaviour. A common word used these days is 'spirituality', all kinds of books are being written, courses and retreats organised about spirituality. It is in a sense a bit of a mysterious word, and for the uninitiated it is perhaps perceived as something reserved for those who are on a higher spiritual level capable of receiving better signals from the divine stratosphere. Whenever you hear the word 'spirituality' remember that Jesus tells us that when it comes to the crunch, the bottom line is this, what matters is what we would do if we went down from Jerusalem to Jericho.

Spirituality is not about religious exercises, it is about how we live our Christian life and if it isn't about that then it is just self-indulgent rubbish. The techniques and spiritual hoops which we may like to try and jump through are largely of human making. Different spiritualities have stressed prayers, rosaries, meditation, Bible study, sacraments, retreats, pilgrimages, alpha courses, the list is endless. These are just some things which some people have found helpful, to other people they may be an anathema. There are obviously good spiritualities and bad spirituality, but what defines them as such is how well they equip us to be obedient to Christ. We do not have to be the same, the way that you and I relate to God may be very different, the proof of the spiritual pudding is however in how we are changed to follows our Master.

So how can we become the kind of people who will inherit eternal life? How can we change what is dreadful within us and become more like the example of Christ? We must realise that (for want of a better word) our religious activity is not about a journey of self-discovery, it is not about self-satisfaction. We seek after the will of God and we sit at Jesus feet like Mary in order that we may go out and serve him like Martha. It is my firm conviction that if we sit honestly at Jesus feet we instinctively want to go out into his world to serve him. Spirituality is not self-seeking, or self-serving, it is about becoming the kind of people who are committed in their faith, who are prepared to go out and be the good Samaritan.

The parable is a fine example of what prayer is all about. The Good Samaritan could have passed by on the other side of the road like the others and then prayed for the man in need? Quite possibly the priest remembered the man in his prayers that night. Quite possibly the Levite remembered him in his prayers that night also. Those prayers were totally unacceptable, Jesus used those people as examples of people who missed the mark. The 20th century theologian Karl Barth once wrote that "to clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."

Put simply prayer is a beginning, but prayer isn't magic. If we pray for the people who fall among thieves and then walk by on the other side that uprising will never happen through our prayers. It was this action of the Samaritan which was considered worthy by Jesus. Often people feel intensely guilty about their spiritual devotion and imagine that they should be doing something which they are not. Jesus said, 'if you love me you will keep my commandments,' Prayer is not just about saying words but it is about an attitude of life and of the heart. About being prepared to disturb the complacency of our lives and put ourselves at risk. This is real spirituality, real Christianity and it puts us in God's good books. *Charles Royden*

## **Meditation**

For Christians the man who fell among robbers is Christ himself. Jesus taught us that whatsoever we do to the least of these, we do to Jesus himself. So it is that Christians are called to see the face of Jesus in the poor, the needy, the outcast, and the lowly. having compassion.

The love of God is always connected to the love of neighbour. One Desert Father taught his disciples to draw a circle with a compass. God is the centre point, he said, and we are all of us at the circumference making our journey to God. As our line draws closer to God, our line also gets closer to the lines of others. The closer we get to God, the closer we get to one another; and the closer we get to one another, the closer we get to God.

Today we are asked whether there are limits to our compassion. It is easy to speak of our love for humankind and ask God to enhance this love in our lives. It is much harder to love the person who always parks their car outside our house or who has children who make a noise and play in the street. Our neighbours are not those we like, they are those we find difficult, or like the Samaritan those we are told we should hate. As Christians we do not get to choose, whenever somebody is in need, we are to treat them as we would treat Christ himself, nobody should ever get passed by.

The five candidates standing for the leadership of the Labour Party discussed the influence of Christianity on their political beliefs at a hustings held by the Christian Socialist Movement in Westminster on Monday. **David Miliband**, “You can’t do much better than the Sermon on the Mount” for political inspiration. He said that the Christian idea of “righteousness” was important because it taught that “society is about right relationships”. While admitting that he was not himself religious, he affirmed the “dramatic links between Christianity and social democracy in Britain”.

**Ed Miliband**, the Shadow Energy and Climate Change Secretary, who is the younger brother of David Miliband, said that their parents, who were Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany, taught them a simple, though not religious, faith. This meant that “if you saw injustice, you did something about it.” Mr Miliband also called on the Labour Party to draw on its Christian Socialist tradition, and reclaim words such as “love, compassion, and caring”.

**Andy Burnham**, the Shadow Health Secretary, said that his Roman Catholic faith taught him “the innate and immutable quality of every human life”. “The basic tenets of the Labour Party are one and the same as the Christian Church: compassion, decency, kindness.” Mr Burnham, however, criticised the “black-and-white” approach that the RC Church took to “complex moral issues”. He said that he “found the way the Church lobbied Parliament very difficult indeed”.

**Ed Balls**, the Shadow Education Secretary, whose father was a Sunday-school teacher, said: “I learnt my politics from within the Church of England. It was a very ethical socialism based upon biblical stories.” He also said he didn’t understand “the idea that you have to leave your faith outside” when providing voluntary services or campaigning for social justice.

**Diane Abbott**, who was the first black woman to be elected to Parliament, said that more people in her constituency in Hackney attended a faith meeting on a Sunday than any type of political meeting; “so I take issues of church and faith very seriously.” “The lesson for the Labour Party from Christian Socialist history is that we are all human beings,” she said. “We have to stay close to people, and listen and respect people. Politics can’t be about just the next opinion poll, but practice based on values.”

Andy Flanagan, the director of the Christian Socialist Movement, commented: “The audience contained people who are involved in their local church communities — just the people the leadership candidates say they want Labour to reach to. The candidates had to move out of their comfort zones, and talk more about the core values which motivate them.”

### **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

Eternal God, giver of love and peace, you call your children to live together as one family. Give us grace to learn your ways and to do your will, that we may bring justice and peace to all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Ever-faithful God, whose being is perfect righteousness: reconcile us in your Son with the helpless and the needy, with those we would ignore or oppress, and with those we have called enemies, that we may serve all people as your hands of love, and sit at the feet of those who need our compassionate care. Amen.

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**Joyful Noise** Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 16th October 2010 1.30 to 5pm, entry £2 per child. Come and explore the theme of Creation through music and singing, drama, dance and craft. Open to children aged 7 to 13 yrs on or before 1st September 2010. Please can you let Emma know at email Youth@thischurch.com or telephone Julia on Tel: 295964 by 1st July 2010 if you wish to take part.

**Children and Youth group meeting, Putnoe**  
Our next meeting will now be on Monday 12 July 2010, at 1.15 p.m. in the meeting room, instead of Monday 14th June 2010.

**Brickhill Parish Council - Gathering on the Green** The Parish Council needs to borrow gazebos for use at this event on 4 August 2010 on Waveney Green. This aims to provide fun, free activities for the community of Brickhill and raise

awareness of agencies and community groups. We need to borrow gazebos for several of our activities (eg face painting). If you can help please ring Delia or Alison on 01234 271708.

**New Bishop** Ten Downing Street has announced that the Revd Canon Paul Bayes, 56, is to be the next Suffragan Bishop of Hertford in the Diocese of St Albans. Canon Bayes will be one of the two Suffragan Bishops in the diocese, assisting the Bishop of St Albans, and his ministry will mainly focus on the parishes and communities of Hertfordshire. He succeeds The Rt Revd Christopher Foster, now Bishop of Portsmouth.

Fear makes strangers of people who would be friends. <i>Shirley MacLaine, 21st century</i>
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**Junior Church Summer Break St. Mark's.** The last junior church before the holidays will be 11 July and we start again on 5 September. The crèche will be available all the time as normal.

**Storybox and Story Plus at Putnoe Heights**

Last session is Monday 19th July and starts back Monday 6th September. Thank you to all volunteers who do a great job every week! Emma

**Junior Church at Putnoe Heights** Last session is on Sunday 25th July and our first session back is Sunday 5th September for our family service. There is no Junior Church during August! We look forward to seeing you all in September!! Emma

**Great Gappo** Putnoe Heights on Monday 26th July. 11.30-1.15 including lunch. Tickets are £2 in advance, £3 on door. Under 1's are free. Tickets are available from Storybox, Storybox Plus and Putnoe Church office. For further details contact: Emma Gordon - youth@thischurch.com or Carolyn Morris -01234 350722 (after 12 noon)

**Summertime Sunday Lunch.** July 11 at Putnoe Heights. Bridging the gap between New Year lunch and Harvest lunch we invite you to Summertime lunch - three courses of light, fresh summer food and drinks. Come along and invite a few friends! Tickets from Putnoe Office £8.00 each with reduction for children

**Race For Life in Bedford** I am taking part in this On Sunday 25th July I am taking part in Race For Life in aid of Cancer Research U.K. In view of so many charities, churches and other good causes crying out for our money, and the present financial

difficulties for so many, I am looking for folk willing to sponsor me just £1. Those donating £1 will receive a copy of my son's childhood poems. My son is a survivor of testicular cancer, hence my reason for supporting this charity. I will be in the foyer with my sponsorship form and copies of my son's poems after the morning service in St. Mark's church today and next Sunday 18th July. Many thanks, Marian Matthews

**Thursday Prayer Group** Prayer Group will not meet on 22 & 29 July or 5 August..

**Flowers from St Mark's** For many years Putnoe Heights Church has distributed flowers to friends of the church. The flowers are removed from the displays around the church. These might be delivered on a special occasion, when somebody is poorly or bereaved. St Mark's would now like to implement the same activity and from this Sunday flowers will be removed from displays etc to be taken out into the community. The Leadership Team will be responsible for this and would appreciate being told of anybody who would value this thoughtful gesture.

**Storybox at St. Mark's** The last session before the holidays is July 15 and it starts again on 9 September. A big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped us over the past year. Jaana.

**God's Open Word** The Methodist prayer manual will soon be available. Prayers for overseas churches and concerns, as well as those in Britain, with lessons, hymns and other material. Make this an asset to all prayers. Please contact Vera Pearson if you wish 270737



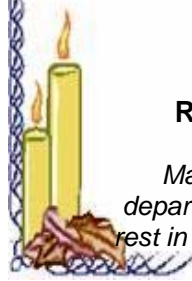
**Visit our online chapel, Light a Candle of Remembrance.** We have now provided the opportunity to visit our online chapel and light a prayer candle. Please visit [www.thischurch.com](http://www.thischurch.com) and click on the candle.

**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.

**John Neville King  
Joseph Bernard  
Audrey Lee  
Raymond William Bean**

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



**Please don't forget** to buy what you need at Amazon. Free delivery . Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at [thischurch.com](http://thischurch.com), then we obtain 5%

**Forthcoming Funerals**



**The funeral of Cilla Williams** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 21 July at 12.15pm

**The funeral of Margaret Minnie Bateman** on Monday 19 July at Bedford Crematorium 12.15pm