



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

11 October 2009
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

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard
Leadership - Mr. Mike Ovenden
Intercessions - Mrs. Wendy Waters

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard
Leadership - Mrs. Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen

Sunday 18 October - Ordinary 29

9.30am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - Ministers

Readings

1. Amos 5: 6-7
2. Hebrews 4: 12-16
3. Mark 10: 17-31

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Iris Perry in loving memory of Cyril Perry.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Kevin and Deborah Wallace in loving memory of their daughter, Julie-Marie, on her birthday; also by Barbara Whittingstall for treasured memories of her loving husband, Peter Whittingstall, who died on 18 October 2006.

Welcome

We especially welcome to Putnoe Heights Church the family and friends of Finley James Stratton - Kent, who has been brought for baptism

Prayer for Sunday

May Almighty God order our days in His peace, and grant us the gift of His Blessing. May He set us free from our anxiety, and firmly establish our minds on the foundation of His peace and tranquility. May He adorn our lives with the jewels of faith, hope, and love; may He keep us from all harm in this present world, and lead us safely into life everlasting. Amen
Archbishop Robert ca 1000 AD

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 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.

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 273628
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school
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 October 19 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 Putnoe Heights 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 October 13 Mr M Whelan "Street Angels" Details from 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. 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 October 20 Shoe Box packing 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 - 14 October 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 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 21 October. 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

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 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

6.30 - 7.30pm Ladies Kick Boxing weekly at St. Mark's. Parker Lake ☎07984427854

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 Embroiderers 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 – 19 January
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 12 Oct at Jean's, 8 Feb
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 19 Oct.
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010,
Putnoe Church Council -
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee - 26 January 2010, 11am
Putnoe Heights Mission Group
Partnership Council—TBA
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Deanery Meeting 19 Nov,
Circuit/Treasurers Revue meeting at St. Mark's
Circuit Meeting at Sharnbrook Methodist Church
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –12th October

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

Ordinary 28

Opening Verses of Scripture

Seek the Lord and live. Amos 5 v 6

Collect Prayer for the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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

First Bible Reading Amos Chapter 5: 6-7

Seek the LORD and live, or he will sweep through the house of Joseph like a fire; it will devour, and Bethel will have no one to quench it. You who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground

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

Second Reading Hebrews 4:12-16

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

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

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:1-12, 17-20

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

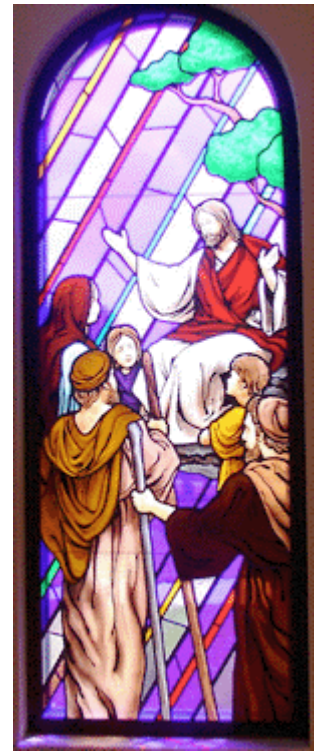
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

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

1. Sing to the Lord a joyful song 17 *Gonfalon Royal*
2. Thine be the glory 212 *Maccabbeus*
3. Forgive our sins 13 Tune *Gerontius*
4. O for a heart 536 H&P *Abridge[st Stephen]*
5. Love divine 267 Hymns & psalms tune *Blaenwern*

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Commentary

In the Beatitudes we have the principles of the Kingdom set out in three parts

- * The need for salvation (the poor)
- * The fruit of salvation meekness, mercy, peacemaking,
- * The results salt, light etc.

The word blessed means approved by God. Since this is God's world there can be no higher thing than to be approved by God. So whose blessing do we seek - that of our friends, colleagues?

The need for salvation (the poor)

Blessed are the poor in spirit. Luke's Gospel says blessed are the poor, to show that they have a special place. Poverty is a confession of our need of God, Jesus came not to call the righteous but sinners. Utter need is the only basis for entering the Kingdom of Heaven. A sense of need is the prerequisite to entering the Kingdom. We do not have any of the resources to carry out the requirements of the Sermon on the Mount. We must come to Him and acknowledge our spiritual bankruptcy.

The fruit of salvation meekness, mercy, peacemaking,

Blessed are those who mourn

Perhaps there are spiritual and natural mourning intended. There is comfort for those who lose loved ones and yet sorrow for sin is vital, the prime cause of all human death and suffering. One who recognises the blackness of their own sin. If we go after purity in our own strength we will not achieve it. It is to be angry with the world, the injustice etc.. We could say blessed are the sorrowful, not those who are having such a splendid time of things now.

Blessed are the meek

This is meekness and not weakness True meekness comes from the end of craving. It seeks nothing for itself because God owns and governs all. Lacking in aggressive self motivation. Those who do not seek for themselves Those who hunger and thirst See God as the source of all life and seeks diligently after Him, conformity to God's will Desire for God's will and God's standards. We ask God to give to us desire for goodness as much as someone who is starving and longs for food. And as much as someone who is thirsty longs for water. Such a state of mind will count nothing as lost which leads us closer to God.

Blessed are the merciful

Those who show mercy will know mercy. If we feel we have no need for forgiveness then we will not respond with forgiveness for others. The self righteous are not blessed, they have never been sorry for what they are and found forgiveness. We need to get to the stage where we can say 'I am a sinner' then we can

A Word from Jane

I've been asked to write a few words about myself, by way of introduction, before joining you. This was done but it turns out it was one of several emails that I am learning went 'astray' over the summer. The joys of 'modern' technology, we often presume that once we have sent an email or left an answer phone message that the person has the information, which is not always the case, as anyone attempting to contact me by phone may well have realised, I promise to get the problem there sorted ASAP! I am not around today as I have taken the opportunity of a workshop in Bristol on Thursday to travel that bit further and visit friends in Devon, I'll be back this afternoon, as we have the Harvest festival at Anjulita court at 3pm which I'm leading!

Anyway, on to the 'potted history of Jane';

I'm from Sheffield, born into a close family with one older sister, Lou, who some of you already know. Our family home overlooked my beloved Hillsborough, though we moved across town when I was five. On leaving school I decided to follow up my interests in the arts, studying consecutively Design, Carpentry and Audio engineering. After a stint touring Europe on the road crew for bands I worked for a company making pine furniture and occasionally assisted with lighting and sound for shows in the Sheffield Crucible and Lyceum theatres. In 1996 I moved to Nottingham in order to take up a full time position with Nottinghamshire county councils schools arts support service, making sets and operating light and sound for schools productions.

Whilst I have always been involved in my local church, as member, youth leader, church council member and conference delegate, I think the move to Nottingham was the first step in my real journey of faith. I had never intended leaving Sheffield; as a keen walker, football fan (the Blue and White half of Sheffield) and enthusiastic climber it has everything a city could offer (I think that sometimes we can be too comfortable to hear God!)

When my contract with the council came to an end I 'fell' into a job as the lay worker at the church I had been attending. The work was primarily a response to the need to bridge the gaps between the 'local' community and a largely transient student population. The work involved, amongst other things, pastoral visiting, running a community café and laundry service during exam times, trying new times and styles of worship and assisting the university chaplaincy. I may never have chosen such a career change, but I can honestly say that I found it very rewarding.

I believed for sometime that this was what I was called to, but over time I began to feel that God was calling me to something else. In my second year as a lay worker I applied for foundation training and was accepted, much to my surprise and a little chagrin! Having deferred for a year I found myself at Queens College in Birmingham, where I trained alongside Anglican, Methodist and URC ministers. In my three years there I had the privilege of doing some great placements, from prison chaplaincy and work at a day centre for people with Cerebral Palsy to a summer working in South Africa!

My first appointment as a Deacon was in Colchester, the circuit invited a deacon to work alongside the churches to explore their response to the vast amount of new build homes in the town. Over my six years there I lived in three different places and helped start a community association, two residents associations and a church community project supported by seven congregations of five different denominations. As there were no facilities on the new estates for my final three years there any activities, from toddler groups to youth clubs, clinics, classes and book groups met in my home which was a real test of my spirit of hospitality at times!

Although I valued working primarily in the community, something churches are not always good at, I am now looking forward to this opportunity to work more closely with congregations. I am excited about the opportunities and challenges offered by the new appointment, I am already enjoying work at Anjulita Court and slowly getting to grips with what God requires of me in the partnership and circuit.

Although I have not (yet) been called to preach, yet I love being involved in worship and I am keen to encourage other people to take part. I am happy to lead worship locally, especially around the subjects of diaconal ministry, mission and MHA, though congregations will have to invite me to do so and put it on the plan as a 'local arrangement'!

It has already proved to be a huge personal bonus living so close to both my sister Lou (Sharnbrook) and my fiancé Maurice (Luton) and I have been pleasantly surprised by the personal welcome I have received in the churches. I would appreciate your continued prayer support as we seek to find where God's hand is leading us at this time.

Yours in Faith, *Jane.*

begin the process of healing. God Our Father help us to be kind and never to thoughtlessly or deliberately hurt anybody. Grant that nobody will ever turn to us for help and not receive it.

Blessed are the pure in heart

In such a world as this, it is important that we keep our hearts and minds pure, so that even our secret and inner thoughts are fit enough even for God to see.

Blessed are the peacemakers

This is between men and God.. The word used is peacemakers not peaceful. It is not primarily the United Nations. It is those who restore relationships with God. We need to ask God that we will never be the cause of others turning away from God, and that we would never be the cause of quarrelling and strife.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake.

The result of those who seek to restore the broken relationship will always be the persecutions of those who object. There will always be those whose self-interest is threatened. It is good when our Christian faith costs us something. There is a saying that the blood of the Martyrs was the seed of the church. When a church is persecuted it grows and it thrives. It is when the church has it easy that the church fails to take seriously its role to challenge and face up to evil.

And these words, *'You will not be overcome, ' were said very insistently and strongly, for certainty and strength against every tribulation which may come. He did not say, 'You will not be laboured, you will not be disquieted; but he said: 'You will not be overcome'. God wants us to pay attention to these words, and always to be strong in faith and trust, in well-being and and in woe, for he loves and delights in us, and so he wishes us to love him and delight in him and trust greatly in him, and all will be well and all manner of things will be well. (Julian of Norwich).*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

God and Father of us all, in Christ you gave us one Lord, one faith, one baptism; look in your love upon the church, the fellowship of the baptized, and renew her life in unity and peace. Amen

May Almighty God order our days in His peace, and grant us the gift of His Blessing. May He set us free from our anxiety, and firmly establish our minds on the foundation of His peace and tranquility. May He adorn our lives with the jewels of faith, hope, and love; may He keep us from all harm in this present world, and lead us safely into life everlasting. Amen Archbishop Robert ca 1000 AD

Christmas Shoebox Appeal. The youth team at Putnoe would like to launch The Christmas Shoebox appeal again this year, where via the Samaritans Purse organisation filled boxes will be delivered to some of the worlds poorest children, boys and girls between 2 to 14 years, in time for Christmas. If you could please donate any of the following items the children will pack the boxes, alternatively if you would prefer to donate some money this can be used towards postage. The boxes need to be completed by the beginning of November so please start collecting now—soft toys, jigsaws, building blocks, cars, dolls, soft balls, stationery items, stickers, puzzle books, toothbrushes/paste, soap, hairbrushes, hats and caps, necklaces, sweets (long sell by dates), bangles, sunglasses. We will also need empty shoeboxes and Christmas wrapping paper Please leave at Putnoe office. Thank you.

Autumn Craft Day 2009 will be held on 17 October from 9.45 to 4.30 at Priory Methodist Church. £4 per half day session. For booking form please contact Pam Seymour 305695 or 01296 485087

Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home. Astonishment Mapurisa, head of the home & principal of the community childcare arm of the Methodist church in Zimbabwe church will be

speaking about his work at Clapham Methodist church on Monday, October 12 at 7.30pm. More details from John or Mary Bromley 326283

NSPCC Quiz evening at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 17th October at 7.15p.m. £8 to include food but please bring your own drinks and glasses. Raffle . Please contact Averil on Bedford 267798 or Jenny on Bedford 261811.

Bike and Hike Day. Thank you to everyone who sponsored our Bike and Hike day. We visited 14 churches over 24 miles and through your generosity have raised £160. It was good fun and we would recommend it for next year! Thank you. Rachel, Alex and Rebekah Nash.

Footprints Walk Sunday 11th October. Meet at 2.30pm at Gt. Barford Church for riverside walk to Willington and return. (Proposed walk from Stotfold Mill will take place at a later date.) Details - Sue 407264.

Bedford fire service are offering free fire detection smoke alarms with ten year batteries etc Give them a call and they will be pleased to come and fit them for you. Call Bedford fire service on 351081

Action for Children A big thank you once again to the 25 volunteers who knocked on over 1100 doors for this September's House to House Collection on behalf of Action for Children. The total raised in our St. Mark's/Brickhill area was a very worthwhile £905 although about 9% down from 2008; no doubt due to the recession. However, Action for Children will be able to claim a further £67 from HM Revenue & Customs as a result of the 76 Door-step donors who kindly filled in their Gift-Aid forms. Individual 'thank-you' cards with amounts collected are being distributed. *Mike Elliott*

Bedford Ecumenical Lay Institute for Education and Faith. God Calling ? Being a Christian in ...A series of 5 sessions to be held in the Holt Room, St. Andrews Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, from 7.45 until 9.30pm. Starting with Education on Wednesday 21 October, Sport on 28 with Mark Pinney, Banking on 4 November with Ed Bloor, Law on 11 with Martin Banham-Hall and Medicine on 18 with Dr. Mary Fenske. Course is free, donations welcome towards the costs and refreshments.

St Mark's sets of weekly offering envelopes are available in the entrance lobby from today. Regular giving is an essential part of the Church's income, and helps greatly in meeting the costs of running St Mark's. We are very fortunate that so many members of the congregation already give so generously to the Church in this way. You can make regular weekly or monthly gifts, either by standing order or through the weekly envelope scheme. In addition, if you are a UK tax payer, you can Gift Aid your offering - and the Church can claim 20% tax back from the Government. This can also be done through the yellow Gift Aid envelopes on the chairs. If you would like to find out more please speak to Jim Williams after the service or contact him on 01234 360605. As always, thank you for your generosity. *Jim Williams*
work at a day centre for people with Cerebral Palsy

to a summer working in South Africa!

Coffee Morning at Putnoe Heights in small hall Saturday 17 October, 10am - 12. Bring and Buy, raffle. Proceeds to Mission projects. All welcome, tell your friends. The Mission group welcomes new helpers to keep our coffee mornings and fundraising going. If you would like to join us please contact Sylvia Cohen 343424.

Appeal for disaster victims in Samoa, Tonga and Indonesia

An appeal for prayer and funds for victims of the tsunami and earthquake tragedies in Samoa, Tonga and Indonesia has been launched by the Methodist Church in Britain.

The Church's World Mission Fund granted £10,000 to aid the relief work of partner Churches in the region. Steve Pearce, Partnership Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, said: "As ever our partner Churches will feel enormously supported knowing that Methodists in Britain are praying for them. The appeal and grant money will go to partner Churches, which are playing an important role in rebuilding communities."

Anyone wishing to donate to the appeal can do so online here or by sending a cheque payable to the World Mission Fund and posting it to Dave Bennett, Fundraising Coordinator, at Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR. Postal donations should be labelled 'Pacific Appeal'

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch Many thanks to all who supported this event last Sunday and all who contributed help with preparing and serving the meal. £250 from the profits has been added to the £400 set aside by the Missions team to be sent the Oxfam East Asia Disaster appeal following the recent earthquake and tsunami. A further £50 profit has been retained to be used for replacing essential kitchen items.

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.

**Julie-Marie Wallace
Peter Whittingstall**

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

Donations in memory of John Stubbs. Mary and family are very grateful for the £704.10 given to YMCA England and £644.10 given to Methodist Relief and Development Fund, with some Gift Aid to be added. Thank you very much for the generosity.

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Mrs Dorothy Mary Tysoe will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday 14 October at 1.00pm