



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

11 September 2011 – Ordinary 24



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

11 September - Ordinary 24

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mr. Warwick Holden

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr. Gordon Evans
Intercessions – YPF

18 September- Ordinary 25

9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions – Deacon Jane Mason

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher –
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions – Dr. Tim Wilkes

Bible Readings 1.Exodus 16: 2-15
2 Philippians 1: 21-30 3. Matthew 20:1-16

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 Deryck Cutler in loving memory of his wife Mollie and their beloved daughter Jeani

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Joyce Bean in memory of Ray on their Wedding Anniversary.

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

Bind us together, Lord,
in Love, Peace and Trust.
Build us together, Lord,
in Spirit, Faith and Truth.
Unite us that,
together in your strength
and following your Holy Spirit,
we may work for your Kingdom
as disciples of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Saviour
Amen.

North Bedfordshire Circuit Prayer

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861
vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in
Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website
and may appear in other local media sources.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr 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-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.

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

Weightwatchers. St. Mark's Sam Thompson ☎07766421000 Starts 25th July.

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—19 September 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 ☎07790296016

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 (see contact details below)

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 13 September - AGM 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 September 20 'Bees & Beekeeping' Mr. Cahpman. Details call Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 14 September. 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. Next meeting 26 January.
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 September 14 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 ,Valmai 219555 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. 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 Restarts 8 September

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. ☎349179

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

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

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

www.bedfordrtdkd.com or bedfordrtdkd@googlemail.com.



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –
St Mark's Leadership Team -
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 October
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 3 October
St Mark's Forum Meeting - Tuesday 13 September
Putnoe Church Council - 17 October
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Circuit meeting - 15 September at Putnoe Heights.
Deanery Meeting 15 September
Woodland Burial Trustees – 4th September 12.30
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 17 October

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

Ordinary 24

Opening Verse of Scripture - Ephesians 4:32

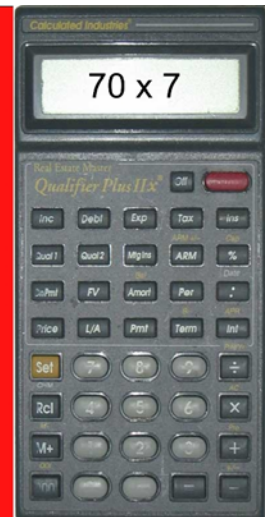
Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Collect Prayer (Before we read we pray)

God our redeemer, who called your church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love that all who hear it may be reconciled to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Keeping Score

Mt. 18:21-35



First Bible Reading - Genesis 50: 15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading Romans 14: 1-12

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written:

"As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'"

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 18: 21-35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand

bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

"(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. **Amen**

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

1. Come let us join our cheerful songs 810 (Nativity)
2. Praise him in the morning 506
3. Through the night of doubt and sorrow 441 (Marching)
4. O for a thousand tongues 744 (Lyngham)
5. From all that dwell below the skies 489 (Lasst uns erfreuen)

Commentary

Today the reading from Matthew is about forgiveness. Many people find this difficult, because it is intensely personal, most of us have people in our past that we would not want to forgive. Usually people struggle with forgiveness because they think that it implies pretending that something in the past didn't happen, or it implies condoning something bad. So this morning we will look at forgiveness and we will also think about some of these issues.

We learn today that forgiveness must be unlimited. Peter comes to Jesus and he asks about forgiveness and he is really sharp. He knows Jesus is big on forgiveness and so instead of suggesting that we should forgive once, or twice, or three times, he really goes for it, he suggests no less than seven times ! It must be said that Jesus appears quite mean, because he takes Peter's seven and doesn't just make it a bit more, he makes it unimaginably more — seventy times seven. Jesus makes Peter's attempt at generosity seem totally lame.

Forgiveness is good for you

Remember forgiveness is about you, not the person you are having to forgive. The Greek word for forgiveness is *apheemei*. It means "letting go." On a purely human level forgiveness is good for you. Forgiveness is much more beneficial to the one who forgives than to the one who is forgiven. Forgiving, letting go of feelings of revenge and retribution, is a potent healing act. Forgiveness boosts your self-esteem and lowers your blood pressure and heart rate. Forgiveness also helps you sleep better at night and boosts a positive change in your attitude. Studies have found that those who forgive no longer had feelings of anxiety and depression and felt better about themselves. Forgiveness "reduces anger, hurt, depression and stress and leads to greater feelings of optimism, hope, compassion and self confidence."

Forgiveness also should not be simply equated with forgetting.

There is quite a lot of contradicting advice about whether we can forgive and forget. Forgiveness doesn't say, "it's like it never happened" -- that's amnesia. I suppose humanly speaking there are sometimes things which we can never put out of our minds, but forgiveness means that if we look back on them then they have no power to hurt us and we give them no power to hurt others. The slogan "forgive and forget" is about denial. There are some hurts and scars from our past that need to be remembered. If we don't remember some of the hurts of the past and refuse to be victim to them again, then we stand to repeat our past mistakes. But, we remember the hurts of our past not to repeatedly play the role of victim or to hold the perpetrators hostage with guilt. Instead we are empowered to make wiser choices in the present

and the future. Remembering the hurts of South African apartheid, Archbishop Desmond Tutu declared that forgiveness draws out "the sting in the memory that threatens to poison our entire existence." Tutu says, "We must forgive if there is to be a future." Forgiveness does not require us to forget. What it does require is "release," the release of the negativity and hostility associated with the past. Letting go. Christ compels us to forgive so the desire for revenge will not poison our souls.

Forgiveness is not condoning wrong.

Forgiveness does not require us to forget, neither does it require us to ignore injustice or injury. Sin must be acknowledged for what it is both by the victims and the perpetrators. Too often, Christians equate forgiveness with passively accepting or ignoring wrong. If we ignore the wrong and do not recognise sin for what it is, then we are dangerous people. So often the church has preached that forgiveness requires persons to be allowed second chances, this has meant that victims have been victimised.

This has been seen where priests have been relocated away from churches where they have abused children. It is seen when women are sent back to marriages with abusive partners. Forgiveness does not condone sin, or ignore wrong. Forgiveness insists that perpetrators confess, repent. Forgiveness should not be equated with reconciliation, it takes two to be reconciled, it only takes one to forgive. Today we are talking about us and what we must do, forgive. The behaviour of the one who is forgiven is quite a different story. If a person accepts forgiveness, then the assumption is that they know they are naughty, want to change. Forgiveness is about you alone. Setting yourself free from the burden of the past. Anger, vengeance these are things which burn us up. It was Gandhi, who said "an eye for an eye" leaves the whole world blind. Forgiveness on the other hand allows us all to let go and move on.

We forgive because we are forgiven

The forgiveness which we are concerned about today is not just about a psychological process which is good for us. For the Christian forgiveness has a completely different and spiritual quality. We have no choice about whether to forgive, because we have been forgiven. As we realise the cost of forgiveness shown by Jesus, so we cannot be other than forgiving. Since we know immeasurable forgiveness, how could we possibly be miserly with forgiveness towards others? There is a direct correspondence between our ability to forgive and our understanding that we too have been forgiven. As our souls are at peace with God, so we are at peace with others. To be a Christian is to be somebody who knows they are forgiven, and to be a person able to forgive. You don't just forgive because it's good for you, You don't just forgive because the Bible tells you to, You forgive because you have been forgiven. As the writer of Ephesians puts it, "Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you"(Ephesians 4:32). *Charles Royden*

Meditation

"May the lives remembered, the deeds recognized, and the spirit reawakened by eternal beacons, which reaffirm respect for life, strengthen our resolve to preserve freedom, and inspire an end to hatred, ignorance and intolerance." *From the memorial to be dedicated at the former World Trade Center*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Faithful God, we need your forgiveness, constantly renewing our lives, freeing us to be a people of faith, hope and love made whole by your grace. We pray for those struggling to forgive others; people who have had great wrongs done to them or to those they love. Loving God, help us to forgive from our hearts. **Amen**

We pray for those who cannot forgive themselves; people who cannot live with the knowledge of what they have said or done. We pray for those in desperate need of forgiveness; people torn apart by guilt or regret, their lives in need of rebuilding. Loving God, help us to forgive from our hearts. **Amen**

We pray for ourselves, learning to offer forgiveness by absorbing hurts and not returning them; learning to offer to all the forgiveness made known in Christ upon the cross. Loving God, help us to forgive from our hearts. We pray for ourselves, learning to accept forgiveness as we give our lives in faith to you our loving Father, learning to accept the forgiveness offered by others as we live in humble love with one another. Loving God, help us to forgive from our hearts. **Amen** *Christine Odell*

May you experience the breadth and length and height and depth of the forgiving love of the trinity, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

"O God, how much we value your mercy! All mankind can gather under your protection." Ps. 36, 8

Storybox and Storybox Plus at Putnoe Heights are starting up again on the 12 September 2011. Storybox, which is a story time with singing and crafts for 0-5's and their parents or carers, is on Mondays at 12.15 – 1.15. Storybox Plus is for 5 – 9's with snacks, a story and games, crafts and activities based on the story. This happens on Mondays at 3.30 – 5. Contact Emma Gordon, 07593266091 or youth@thisischurch.com, for any queries or information.

Chat and Play restarted at St Mark's Church on Thursday 8 September. This is a great time for parents and carers to meet together with children and babies. Jo Garner 400071

Highfield Services of Worship will recommence on Sunday 18th September at 2.30pm. Supporters very welcome. *Vera Pearson*

Offertory Envelopes (Putnoe Heights). Sets of envelopes for the next twelve months are available for collection from a table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the envelope scheme (or contribute to church funds by standing order), is invited to contact John Hitt, tel 404186.

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch tickets are now available from the Putnoe Office. The date is Sunday 2nd October (please note the date given in the new Circuit newsletter is incorrect). Lunch of two courses with drinks, will be served at 1.00pm. Please bring your own wine. £6.00 adults, £3.00 children. The catering team would welcome apples etc from your gardens for the desserts.

Open House ! Start October 5

St Mark's is offering to the community an open drop in day centre, starting from Wednesday 5 October and then 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 and so we will depend on the support of volunteers. If you are able to offer help of any sort then please contact St Mark's Church office on 01234 342613

Club Five - O are holding a coffee evening in aid of MacMillan Nurses from 7.30 - 9.45pm on Friday 30 September at St. Mark's. All welcome. Free entry. Coffee and biscuits, Cake stall, Book stall etc. More details Lena

House Group at the home of Wendy Waters will be held on four Mondays beginning on 19 September. We will be using a Riding Lights Theatre Company video entitled 'Origins and Lemons'. This is a light hearted presentation of the key themes of Genesis chapters 1 – 11, aimed to provoke exploration of the issues of science and

faith. We begin at 7.45pm at 13 Farnham Way Putnoe. Please contact Wendy Waters on 01234 401834 if you would like to come or for more details.

Harvest

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

Our Harvest this year will support BeCHaR. (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless)



Every year at Harvest our churches gather together to give thanks for the many good things which we are able to enjoy. We thank God for the basics like food and water, and we also remember those who work hard to provide all the things we need.

To show our gratitude for how fortunate we are, we always use Harvest as an opportunity to raise funds and give towards a charity. This year we are remembering the most vulnerable and homeless in our own community, those who haven't even got a roof over their heads.

Our chosen charity is BeCHaR (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless) a local Bedford charity based in Prebend Street Day Centre. They desperately need funds and resources. They need things like tins of food to feed the hungry, they also need our financial support. Please come and join us for harvest, give thanks for what we have and remember those who have nothing.

Over the next few weeks please drop off any tins or gifts for BeCHaR at the churches in the foyer. These will then be taken to BeCHaR

For more information about BeCHaR call our church offices or visit the website www.prebendcentre.org.uk



Messy Church starts again on Wednesday 21 September. We are delighted with the response we have had from children and their carers who have joined 'Messy Church' at St Mark's. We began in October 2010 with just 6 children and 4 parents; 31 children and 17 carers came to our last session in June. Between October and June a total of 49 children and 26 carers have come to Messy Church; children have to be accompanied by an adult. Over nine monthly sessions, these have included mums, dads and grandparents. All fully participated in the teaching, worship, activities and the meal with which each meeting finishes. In the sessions we have covered a range of Bible stories: The feeding of the 5000; David and Goliath; The Nativity; Zacchaeus; The Good Shepherd; Saint Patrick; Easter, The Wedding at Cana and the Creation. On the 3 August we had a 'Messy Church' crafts area at the Waveney Green Family Day, 'Gathering on the Green', where making animals out of 'junk' materials proved especially popular. We have built up an excellent Messy Church team who continue to enthusiastically to give, their time and talents, enabling us to deliver fun and high quality 'Church' to children and adults who might otherwise not hear the Good News. We also benefit from the help of two Pre School staff who bring a few of the children to the sessions. You can see a photograph of some of the 'team' on the Messy Church notice board. This was taken in July at a 'Bring and Share Meal' we enjoyed to celebrate the success of the previous 9 months team effort.

However we do need a few more people to help, especially if some of our regular, team members are unable to be at session. Messy Church is held from 3.45 to 5.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next session will be on 21 September. If you are interested in helping please speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters.

Footprints Walking Group We were due to do this walk last Sunday but, sadly, rain stopped play, so we are offering the same walk today, Sunday 11th September, since several people have expressed an interest. All are cordially invited to join us on a 3½ mile walk from Tempsford along delightful paths beside the River Ivel and through the village of Blunham – plus a fascinating, but optional, extra bit at the end on return to Tempsford! Paths may be muddy after rain, so appropriate footwear is advised, as are long trousers as this is a bit of a jungle jaunt in places. Don't let that put you off, because the walk is worth it. We will meet in Tempsford in time for a 2.30pm departure. Park beside the road opposite the Wheatsheaf pub; we will begin our walk along Mill Lane. If you have any queries, please contact Alison and Warwick Holden at St Mark's.

Wild West Bonanza

St Mark's Church
Calder Rise, Bedford
Saturday 17th September
at 7.30pm
Tickets includes Dinner,
entertainment and line dancing

Tickets £7.50
Children 12 and under £5.00
Prize for best dressed
Cowboy and Cowgirl
01234 342613
office@thisischurch.com

Catering by Lingers Butchers, Bedford

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.

Michael Kenneth Eaton

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 **Mima Noble** will **take place** at 3.00pm on Friday 16 September, followed by Burial at the St Albans Woodland Burial Ground, Keysoe.

The funeral of **Mark Powlson** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at, 2.30pm on Thursday 22 September at Bedford Crematorium

