

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

12 October 2008

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– Holy Communion
Preacher - Mr John Bassill
Leadership Team – Mrs L Parry
Intercessions – Mrs A Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights– Holy Communion
Preacher - Mr John Bassill
Leadership Team – Mrs Jenny Emsley
Intercessions – Mrs Sylvia Cohen

19 October – Ordinary 29

9.30am St. Mark's–
Preacher - Rev. Eric Royden
Leadership Team - Mr. Ian Farthing
Intercessions – Mr. Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe Heights -
Preacher - Rev. Eric Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs. Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Ministers

Bible Readings

1. Exodus 33: 12-23
2. 1 Thess. 1: 1-10
3. Matthew 22: 15-22

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Mary & John Stubbs to celebrate their Golden Wedding.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights have been given by Val Peacock in memory of her husband Trevor, and by Eddie & Irene McKenzie, who would like to thank all their friends at Putnoe for their kindness to Eddie after his last illness.

Mrs Sam Ware [telephone 304058] has taken over the distribution of Sunday flowers from Putnoe Heights. If you know of anyone who would appreciate receiving a bunch of flowers, please let Sam know.

Prayer for Sunday

Almighty God, source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience. Indeed we pray you to pour out your Holy Spirit upon us - your Spirit of joy and laughter - of comfort and of strength - that we might celebrate with you and you with us, as we offer our worship and ourselves to you this day; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)
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 Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119
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 - Mr Mike Cooper 306751
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's
Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

11am - 12. The Right Track at St Mark's. Signpost information for people with learning difficulties. Gina Barton
☎07999859980

12.00pm Story box 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

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

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

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 every month
Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.30pm Cancer Care Society. Meets monthly at St Mark's. Contact Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 20 October 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 Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights.
Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

9.40 -12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Philips 01582 485333

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 14 October Tourist Information Office Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group
St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 21 October 'Armchair Aerobics' Harry Hughes. More details from Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

9.30am Childminding Support Group Putnoe Heights.
Mrs S Longman ☎313949

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎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

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 15 October 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

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 monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month
Ken Silvester☎400584

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

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

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

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

6.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows

☎407725

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods ☎365095

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month. Mr Farish ☎824984

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 15 October. Everyone welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

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.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

12pm Storybox weekly at 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

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc. at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. Marriot 303834

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

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

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

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm

Improvers St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

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

4pm B.A.M.A.A. at St Mark's. Chinese soft martial arts. Mr Chris Butcher ☎07886894922

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

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –, 18 November

St Mark's Leadership Team – 24 November - Vicarage, 24 February

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 1 December

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting- 10 November, 19

January, 20 April, 13 July

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

12 November all at 12 noon

Putnoe Church Council - Monday 26 January, Monday 15 June, Monday 5 October

Pastoral Group Meeting - Tuesday 20 January 4.30pm

Annual Congregational Meetings 26 April

Churchyard Committee - 12 November at 11am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

6th November

Deanery Meeting - 13 November

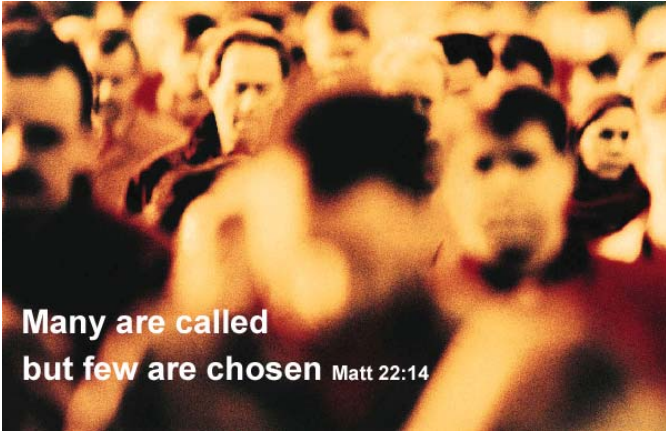
Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees - 12.30, 12 October at Putnoe Heights

Mission Group Meeting

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 1st December.

Ordinary 28



Opening Verses of Scripture

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
Philippians Chapter 4

Collect Prayer for the Day

(Before we read we pray)

Grant we beseech you merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ your Son our lord, who is alive

and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading - Exodus 32: 1-14

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD." So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.' "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation." But Moses sought the favour of the LORD his God. "O LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.' " Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

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

Second Reading- Phil 4 1-9

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

praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you (Reader: This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 22: 1-14

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' "But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "For many are invited, but few are chosen." (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Father of light, in whom is no change or shadow of turning, you give us every good and perfect gift and have brought us to birth by your word of truth: may we be a living sign of that kingdom where your whole creation will be made perfect in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

Tell out my soul 86 The trumpets sound 667 *Mission Praise* Come sinners to the Gospel feast (*Tune Fulda*) 460 To God be the glory 463 Mine eyes have seen 242

Commentary

In the passage from Matthew this week we read about a very special invitation to a banquet. It is not just an ordinary party to which a man invites guests, it is an invitation from a king. When kings threw banquets and invited you along you went, not because you necessarily wanted to, but because it was expected. It's just like the boss inviting you round for a meal, if you want to get on you go, you don't say you have a better offer or make excuses. So, the best food and drink would have been prepared, servants were sent out to "summon the invited guests to the feast." According to the custom of the time, the guests would already received the invitation and were waiting for when things were prepared and they received the announcement to come to the feast. The guests had already accepted the invitation and been catered for!

But the story takes an unexpected twist. At the last minute and for some unexplained reason the cream of society behaves quite rudely. They claim they have more important things to do, important business to conduct and so, cannot come to the feast. What an insult to the royal house! They are utterly unappreciative of the offer which is made. They are so ungrateful that one not only refuses to go but kills the servant who bring the invitation.

So in the story Jesus is clear, the deviant guests were not outsiders. When people heard Jesus speaking about a king inviting people to a banquet they would know exactly what he was speaking about. The King is God and the people who were invited were the Jews. God was planning the great party for which the Jewish people had waited for so long, but now at the last minute they were refusing. The prophets who had proclaimed the coming kingdom had been ridiculed and killed, the Messiah was present and ready and they all rejected the offer.

The hearers would also come to realise exactly what Jesus meant when he spoke of the King sending his soldiers to destroy the city. After the fall of Jerusalem in AD70 the pieces of the story would all fit neatly into place.

So what about those who came? Since the guests who were invited refused, the invitation went out instead to all and sundry. people who would never have imagined being invited to such an event heard the call, the labourers, the down and outs, the criminals and just ordinary folk. Nobody who came would be able to boast of anything they had done to get there. They could claim no privilege or rank. None of them had a special status. They came because they were hungry, not because they could afford it or were posh. So the parable becomes our story too. We are now the recipients of God's gracious hospitality and generosity. We are Christian people because of God's generosity, not because of any good we may have done. We claim no right and we feel privileged to find ourselves in the banquet hall. We are from the highways and byways no longer. We are honoured guests. Just like the guests invited to the

banquet in the story, each one of us is invited as a special guest by God to his celebration. It is a truly remarkable thing that God should bother with us at all and yet he goes so far as to make us honoured guests.

In the midst of a troubled and turbulent world, where the frailty of life is ever before us, the simple message of this parable should come to us as a great reassurance. In spite of the seeming unimportance which attaches to us in the universe, nevertheless our lives are significant. Life might so often seem cheap and unimportant and yet we are individually watched over and cared for by God. The realisation that God is involved with each of us should change the way that we think about things, life is no longer a series of abstract choices, we are not adrift subject the vagaries of life. This message should cause us to have much peace and a sense of purpose for the future which gives real meaning to our lives. Sadly for many people this is simply not the case, offered such a magnificent invitation they choose to ignore the blessings of God and miss out on the generosity of God. The message of the story is clear, if you choose not to go, then somebody else will take your place. For this reason we should not be slow to respond but willingly answer God's call on our lives.

Watch your dress sense. Of course the final part of the passage is a a real challenge in bringing to our minds the clothing of the guests. Clothing is a common New Testament metaphor for spiritual change.

1. Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. Rom 13:14
2. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12
3. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5

When we are invited to a special celebration it is customary to consider the appropriate type of dress, Turning up without doing so is clearly inconsiderate and might be considered insulting to the host. For the Christian, the clothing about which we are concerned is not visible garments but rather character and behaviour. Our lives should not just demonstrate the same old predictable behaviour, rather we should exhibit something of the holiness and goodness of God. We take off those clothes which are unsuitable and change into something appropriate. For those who are called by Christ it is unthinkable that we should not now be spending time getting dressed in the right clothes.

Charles Royden

Prayers

Dear Lord in a week of financial turbulence we pray for our endangered economies around the world. We remember those who will be hardest hit by the fall out from the collapse of stock markets. People who are concerned about job security, those who fear the loss of their homes and savings. We pray for those who have no security and depend upon the giving of charities and aid agencies, who will find it increasingly difficult to raise funds for important causes around the world where life is endangered. Forgive us our greed which causes so many of the world's problems. Those who are truly rich are those who have learned to enjoy life with few possessions and be contented with what they have. May we learn to live simply and place value not on material wealth but upon the really important things, such as the love of our friends and family. Give wisdom and integrity to the world leaders as they seek to develop global strategies to deal with the problems which affect the economies of every country.

We pray for all of those this week who are vulnerable and afraid. We are mindful of people living in circumstances of domestic abuse, fearful each day and not knowing to whom they should turn for help. Give them courage to seek refuge and the strength to walk away from situations which have placed them in danger. We pray especially for women and children who are victims of violence and intimidation. Lord God you promise to walk with us when we are in situation of danger. So be with those who are afraid and give to them the knowledge of your loving presence in whatever difficulties they face.

In our bible readings this week we remember the call to meet with Jesus the invitation to enjoy his celebration. So we pray for all of those engaged in the work of mission, seeking to spread the good news of God's love. We pray for all Christian people called to be living examples of God's great love for humankind. May we live attractive lives which draw people to know the goodness of God in a world where so often there is fear and despair. We remember those who witness to their faith in societies where it is dangerous to openly declare the Christian conviction. We are humbled by the sacrifice and commitment of those prepared to die for their faith, as we consider our own weak efforts. So we ask Lord Jesus that the fire of your gospel would so burn in all our hearts that many would hear the story of your wonderful life and death. May you through us draw all people into your kingdom, that every knee would bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

A prayer for those who are in need in body mind or spirit.

Lord Jesus you cared for the sick and the troubled. You gave time to those who others ignored and you reached out those who considered themselves insignificant. You care for the sparrows, yet we fail to trust in our hearts how deeply you care for us.

When we are tempted to think that somehow the things which trouble us are unimportant to you, forgive us

When we dare to imagine that you have any part in the bad things which affect our lives, or that you would use them to punish us, forgive us

When in the times of darkness we forget that you are our closest friend, forgive us

So dear Lord may the knowledge of your compassion bring healing to the broken places in our lives. Trusting in the power of your love may we live each day in your presence to bring wholeness to our souls, even in the presence of our human weakness and suffering.

BEH District Women's Network .Autumn Craft Day on 18th October, 9.45 to 4.15 at Priory Methodist Church. Contact Pam Seymour, Tel 305695 for booking forms. To be returned by 6th October. Autumn Fellowship Day on 23rd October, 11am to 3.30pm at Biggleswade Methodist Church. The theme is "Sensing God." For further information on the above events, see the posters in the Church Foyer.

Bedford Art Society require models for portraits Thursday afternoon from 2.30 to 4.30pm, at St Mark's. Modest remuneration & plenty of coffee & biscuits. Please contact Bob Wardale 406094.

Church Lunch Club (Alternate Wednesdays) would welcome any members of St Mark's or Putnoe Heights. If you are interested, please give your name to Margaret Standley, Jenny Emsley or Pam Kinselley. We would also welcome additional helpers, regular or irregular. We also need drivers.

The Right Track Supporting People with Learning difficulties—do you want to know about Direct Payments? Benefits? Housing? and many more. If so come along to the drop-ins at St Mark's Church between 11am - 12 on 20th October, 17 November and 15 December.

Kisiii Hospital celebrates its Golden Jubilee in November. Read the latest newsletter in Putnoe welcome area.

Footprints Sunday 12 October. Come and join us for 4 mile circular walk on the second part of the Navigators Way. Meet at 2.30pm at Stanford by the village sign in Old School Lane. (Just past the Green Man pub.) Plenty of parking in Old School Lane. Ray & Pam Seymour 305695.

Autumn Mission Project After evaluating a number of options for projects to support it has been agreed that both churches will support Mission Aviation Fellowship for our Autumn mission project this year.

Goldington Family Centre is holding a Charity Gala Evening on Thursday the 30 October 2008. We will be showing the new Bond movie *Quantum of Solace* at Cineworld, Aspects Leisure Park Bedford. This will be our major fund raising event of the year and we hope it will be a glamorous and successful evening. The evening begins at 7pm with a free glass of champagne and a light bite with a showing of the movie at 7.30. Once the movie ends an auction will be led by one of Peacock's fine auctioneers with lots of great things to bid for. We will be awarding a prize to the best dressed lady and gentleman. Tickets only £20 (over 18s only)

If you would like to purchase tickets please contact Luisa at the centre on 01234 341977

Anjulita Court The new building now in course of construction by The Ibbett Trust for Methodist Homes for the Aged in North Brickhill. It is hoped that this complex will be opened during 2009 and information leaflets will be available in the New Year. If there are any members of our congregations who would like to be put on the mailing list, please let Pam Kinselley 354480 know and she will make sure you get all available details when they are published.

Lunch Club Autumn Outing to Poplars Garden Centre, Toddington on Wednesday 29th October . Pick up points:Avon Drive Community Centre 12 noon, St Mark's 12.05, Putnoe Heights 12.10, Maydenbury 12.15. Cost £6 Afternoon tea at 2.30pm Seats available contact Putnoe or St Mark's church offices or Margaret Standley 305352 by the 26 October. Opportunity for easy Christmas shopping.

NCH House to House. A big thank you once again to all who helped with this September's House to House Collection on behalf of NCH - Action for Children. The total raised in our Brickhill areas was a magnificent £997; an increase again on last year's figure. NCH will be able to claim a further £59 from HM Customs and Revenue as a result of those contributors who kindly filled in their Gift-Aid forms. Individual 'thank you' cards with amounts collected are being distributed. Please note that the new name for NCH is now just 'Action for Children'. Mike Elliott.

Art Encounter Bishop Christopher and Rev Dr Joan Crossley have started a business called Art Encounter offering tours of art galleries in London. They are offering tours of Tate Britain or the National Gallery. 0207 963 1128 or 07906132548

Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed.

There will be a special service to remember those who have died at St Mark's Church on November 9 at 3.00pm. Please tell us if you know of anybody who would like a personal invitation.

A Service of Holy Communion is held on the first Monday every month at Sir William Harpur House, Brickhill at 10.00am. Everybody is welcome to this service from the community.

Circuit Meeting. Everybody is invited to a gathering at 7.30pm on Thursday 6 November at Kempston East. The chairman will speak to about the proposed merger of circuits and answer questions.

Christmas Craft Fayre

There are only 7 weeks left to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 22nd November 2008. We would be grateful for help with the following:-

Raffle – Raffle books are now available as from Sunday 5th October. It would be really appreciated if you could take a few books to sell to family and friends. They will be on the hymn book table after the service.

Tombola – Any **NEW** unwanted gifts/birthday presents etc. for our Tombola stall. Please bring any items up to the Church Office in the week beginning 17th November 2008.

Cake Stall - Milly is kindly co-ordinating the cake stall again. If you are able to bake a cake for this stall please contact Milly via the Church Office.

If anyone is interested in helping on the day, please speak to Avril Williams or the Church Office. When the Fayre closes around 3.30 we would be grateful for helping in clearing up and getting the Church ready for Sunday Worship. Your support would be very much appreciated.

As this is one of our main fundraising events of the year and we are hoping to make it an even bigger success than last year. Your support in helping us achieve this is very much appreciated.
Thank you - Avril

Vision for Giving evening at St Andrew's Bedford on 16 October, 7.45pm for 8.00pm

Bishop Christopher is hoping for each church to be represented by 4-5 people. Do we have any people who would be willing to go and represent our churches and feedback.

A Hymn for Sunday

The trumpets sound, the angels sing,
the feast is ready to begin;
the gates of heaven are open wide,
and Jesus welcomes you inside.
The trumpets sound, the angels sing,
the feast is ready to begin;
the gates of heaven are open wide,
and Jesus welcomes you inside.

*Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight,
come and revel in heaven's love and light;
take your place at the table of the King,
the feast is ready to begin,
the feast is ready to begin.*

Tables are laden with good things,
O taste the peace and joy he brings;
he'll fill you up with love divine,
he'll turn your water into wine.
Sing with thankfulness.....

The hungry heart he satisfies,
offers the poor his paradise;
now hear all heaven and earth applaud,
the amazing goodness of the Lord.
Sing with thankfulness.....

Harvest Festival Quiz night

Thank you to Mike Cooper and everybody who helped to make a night of fun and fellowship at the harvest quiz at St Mark's last week. The event raised £284 for the organ fund.

Grateful Thanks

We were delighted this week at St Mark's to be presented with a cheque for £5,000 as a kind gift left in the will of Rex Gaddesden. Rex was a faithful supporter and worshipper at St Mark's over a number of years.

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.

Marshall Godfrey

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

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust

There will be a meeting today of Trustees at Putnoe Heights Church at 12.30pm

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Mr Tom Nurney will take place at St Albans Woodland Burial Trust on Thursday 16 October at 11.00am