



Partnership News

12 September 2010

Ordinary 24



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 – Revd Charles Royden

Leadership - Mrs. Jean Bank

Intercessions - Mrs. Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar

Intercessions - Young people

19 September - Ordinary 25

9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman

Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing

Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

11am Putnoe –Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman

Leadership -Mrs. Jean Kirk

Intercessions – Mrs. Sylvia Cohen

Readings 1. Amos 8: 4-7 2. 1 Tim 2: 1-7

3. Luke 16: 1-13

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 Madge Walsh in memory of her husband on their wedding anniversary.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given Mike Puttock in fond memory of his mother.

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for This Week

Grant, O God, that we who are one in our need of your forgiveness, may be one in our acts of compassion. May we who are made one in your love become one in our common life. May we who speak many languages dwell together as one race, in unity with our one heavenly Father; and this we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186

Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Avril Williams 360605

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

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

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 20 September-Moorfields. Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Sally Banks ☎870357

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

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

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

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets

monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 14 September-AGM Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs

Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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

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

7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497

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

07866775515

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting September 21 Harvest. For more 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 Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

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

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next -September 15 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 September 15 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070
11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.
12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing . Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby ☎ 363283
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St. Mark's ☎267444
1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741
4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins 07919402797
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Mark's 2nd & 2th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094
7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517
8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Will meet weekly at Putnoe Heights from 2 September 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. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397
9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St

Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086
12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183
5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468
2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton ☎297138 or 07910835994
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414
Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198
2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry ☎ 01462 674792
7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.
1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd.

**You must be the change
you want to see in the world**

*Mahatma Ghandi
1864 - 1948*

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 8 November
Partnership Council 18 October 7.30pm at St Mark's
St Mark's Leadership Team 18 October
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 18 October
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 27 Sept.
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 noon, 15 September, 16th November
Putnoe Church Council - 25 October.
Pastoral Group Meeting - 12 October 4.15pm in chapel
Churchyard Committee - 29 September
Putnoe Heights Mission Group
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings
Deanery Meeting - . 18 November at St Peter's
Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting
Circuit Meeting 13 Sept.
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Ordinary 24

Opening Sentence from Scripture **Psalm 96:3**

Proclaim the glory of the Lord among the nations, His marvellous deeds to all peoples: great is the Lord and worthy of praise.

Collect *(Before we read we pray)*

Gracious God, like a mother you give us new life, and make us your children in Jesus Christ. Look on us in your love, and bring us to the inheritance which you promised. Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Son Amen. *Methodist Worship*

Old Testament Reading - **Exodus 32:7-14**

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

Second Reading - **1 Timothy 1:12-17**

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading **Luke 15: 1-10**

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." Or suppose a woman has ten



silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of the bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns for Sunday (*Morning Worship and Mission Praise*)

1. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness 529 (Tune Was lebet)
2. It is a thing most wonderful 346 (Tune Herongate)
3. One day when heaven (Living he loved me) 540
4. Come and see the shining hope 86 Marching through Georgia

Commentary

Well it is an interesting dilemma this morning presented by Jesus. Does God really rejoice more over one sinner who repents than 99 who are righteous? As I ponder this question my first response is to say, 'I doubt it', Jesus is just making a point, it is a lesson which we all need to hear. We tend to be critical of the lost, and somewhat resentful that they can just walk back and say sorry. However even to be asking this question shows just how misguided we all can be. Let me ask the question, how many righteous people do you actually know? Where are the 99? If we are honest we have to admit that each one of us is a lost sheep, there are now self-righteous people, just people who think that they are.

It is that self-righteousness which makes us resentful of God's forgiveness, even though we desperately need it ourselves. God however is never resentful, he rejoices without any feeling of bitterness. If the lost knew that when they returned they would receive rebuke and criticism, then they might be less likely to come home in the first place. Imagine how the father of the prodigal son must have felt when his son asked him for his inheritance and went off to squander it on the wrong sort of lifestyle. The poor father must have had so many conflicting emotions, sadness at the lack of wisdom shown by the son, perhaps some resentment or even anger. We will never quite know, but we do know that he let the son go. He did not try and make him stay, or change his mind. He knew that the son had to go and find out for himself, so he allowed him to make his mistakes. Sometimes this is the only way that we can really learn, from our own mistakes.

Frequently parents see children make mistakes and they know that these are exactly the kinds of things which they themselves did! Sadly we cannot put old heads on young shoulders. All that we can do is to be there when they come home, perhaps realising the error of their ways, and make sure we don't say I told you so. This is how God is with us. God allows us to make mistakes, even big mistakes, we learn the hard way. God is there for us and welcomes us back without the hint of recrimination, just love and forgiveness. The readings this morning show that God cares deeply for those who are lost and far from him. God isn't resentful when they are found or angry that they strayed, rather God rejoices. Are we able to rejoice in welcoming back the lost or would we be more likely to tell them that it was their own fault.

It is hard for us to be prepared to accept people when they seek forgiveness. It is a human trait to be critical and willing to judge, we naturally think God wants people to be punished. To err is human but to forgive is divine. It's hard for us to forgive, it has to be conditional; and measured and not to be freely given in case it encourages bad behaviour. Perhaps it is because our own ability to forgive is so limited that we want every drop of God's grace metered and paid for, in case there just isn't enough to go around. It's hard for us to forgive and so we think that forgiveness has to be earned in some way, even if it is only by asking for it properly. Forgiveness however is easy for God, it is God's nature.

Jesus tells us about going in search of the lost sheep. Why does the shepherd search for the lost sheep? Is it because it is a favourite sheep? Is it because the sheep is a special sheep? Or because it has a woollier coat than the rest of the sheep? No! The only qualification the sheep has which justifies leaving the other sheep and going off after it, is that it is lost. So too Jesus cares for the lost, because they are lost and seeks them out. We so often get concerned about our qualifications for God, are we good enough for him to bother with us? And perhaps the church has and still does reinforce this, making hurdles over which we have to cross before we are good enough. I think of the teaching that you can't have communion because you're not confirmed yet. Does Jesus, who shares his last meal with the disciples only come after those who have passed the test?

As a priest my task is to reassure people of God's forgiveness and as Christians that is something which we should all do. God calls you to share in that priestly task, it is your job too. Jesus shows us from the cross that he forgives even when people do not ask for it. The Christian faith teaches us that God cares for all of us and especially the lost, we are never beyond redemption, we are never so far from God that he gives up on us. The further we have fallen, the deeper God's grace to rescue us.

Self righteousness and begrudging attitudes are alive and well, they didn't die out in 1st century Palestine. There are those who like the brother of the prodigal son will resent the fact that God is so forgiving. For many people recovery of the lost means that we are only happy when people decide that they want to join us and be like us. For Jesus recovery of the lost meant taking time to befriend and to associate with the lost. Even if it meant getting his own reputation tarnished. Think of the stories and gossip which there must have been about Jesus as a result of the company which he kept.

We can sometimes begrudge the mercy of God being so freely given to the undeserving. We don't like people who threaten us, who appear different, who don't measure up to our standards. So it is that Jesus tells these two stories from our lesson this morning to show that God has time for each one of us. Even when the rest of the world thinks that we are too far gone, Jesus comes after us and carries us home. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

Last week somebody came up to me after the service and wanted to make a comment about Partnership News. I braced myself waiting for the admonition, had they spotted a typo, the odd letter in the wrong place making the whole paragraph unintelligible? No it was a most unexpected tribute, words of encouragement, expressing appreciation for Partnership News and valuing the weekly uplifting and thoughtful publication. How refreshing ! So thanks to all of those who contribute and those who work hard each week to produce what is a unique and astounding eight page weekly church magazine.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

When joy is gone and hearts are sick, O God, you give us Christ as our healing balm. He came in human flesh that he might give himself as a ransom for our salvation and anoint us with the Spirit of consolation and joy. Hear the cry of your people, that we may rejoice in the richness of your love and be faithful stewards of your many gifts. Amen.

Lord, you have consecrated the world by sending your Son into the midst of it and by making all things new in Him. We ask you to give us and all your people the courage and power we need to share fully in His mission to the world and to further His kingdom in the lives of all people to the honour and glory of His name. Amen

O God, you have called men and women from every land to be a holy nation, a royal priesthood, the church of your dear Son: unite us in mutual love and care across the barriers of race and culture, and strengthen us in our common task of being Christ and showing Christ to the world He came to save. Amen

Sankey-Moody Evening

We are holding an evening of Sankey-Moody praise at Putnoe Heights Church . Ira Sankey and Dwight Moody were two American evangelists who dominated the religious scene in the second half of the 19th century. Sankey, was the son of devout Methodist parents in Pennsylvania, and together with other members of the family, would join in singing hymns in the family home. He developed a love for gospel singing and became a celebrated gospel singer in the States.

He came to the notice of Moody, then a prominent pastor in Chicago, and they joined together to hold revival meetings across the States before coming to England, where they toured the major cities drawing large crowds. The combination of Sankey's singing and hymn writing, with Moody's fervent preaching, led many to Christ. Sankey collected 1200 hymns and sacred songs to publish a book collection entitled, 'Sacred Songs and solos'. The effect of these two men has continued right up to the present day, as Churches all over the country have still held evenings of praise (as we intend to do) in the style and tradition of those evangelists. From personal experience of having conducted this kind of service, I know that all who have attended, found them a time of joy and inspiration. We look forward to your presence with us, especially if you enjoy singing, and suggest you bring a friend. If anyone would like to join in a singing group for this service, will you please speak with Mike Puttock (m.puttock@sky.com) or Eric Royden (ericroyden@gmail.com, 01234 294496)

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 to have more information about it, is invited to contact John Hitt, Tel 404186.

Dance 4 All 2010 Saturday 16 October from 11am to 5.30pm. £2 all day. Bedford Corn Exchange, Civic Theatre, Harpur Suite and Howard Room. To promote dance in a wide range of forms. More information contact Sports Development Unit, Bedford Borough Council 01234 221700 amy.rance@bedford.gov.uk.

A date for the diary. St Mark's Craft Fayre this year is on 20 November 10.30.to 3.30p.m

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch Harvest Lunch. Sunday 3 October Putnoe Heights By popular request, steak or chicken pies are on the menu this year! Tickets now on sale from Putnoe Office or in church on Sunday mornings. £6.00 (£3.00 for children) for two courses and soft drink. Own bottles of wine welcome with glasses provided.

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. Sessions re-start on the 9 September Contact Jaana Swaby (363283)

The Bandstand Marathon Sunday 26 September, 2-4pm, Mill Meadows, Bedford. It's that time of year again when Bedford takes part in the Cultural Olympiad Event, The Bandstand Marathon. We will be part of a national marathon when 100+ bands will be striking up in bandstands all over the country at the same time on the same date and we are the only bandstand in the whole of the county to be participating. This year we will have tea, coffee, cakes and pancakes available to make the day more enjoyable. So bring friends and family along to Mill Meadows and enjoy the concert performed by our nationally renowned Bedford Town Band. This year our invited guests helping to celebrate the Cultural Olympiad are from Special Schools, Children in Care, Youth Parliament, Foster Carers and Adult Services. The Mayor will be opening the concert saying a little about the services we have in our communities.

Services at Highfield will resume after the summer break, on Sunday 19 September at 2.30pm. If you are free and would like to come the Team will be pleased to have your support in this Pastoral outreach. Vera Pearson

The Bedford Borough Older People's Festival 2010 will be taking place at the Corn Exchange, Bedford on Wednesday 15th September 2010, 10am to 3pm. This will be followed by a two week programme of activities.

Bedford Town Band Concert at Putnoe Heights September 17th 2010 7.30pm - 9.30pm



What is Messy Church?

An afternoon of creative fun for children of school age and their carers. This is developed through craft activities, songs and a short talk. The afternoon ends with a freshly

prepared meal for everyone!

St Mark's Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford.

Once a month on Wednesday or Thursday afternoons starting October 6, at 3.45pm ends 5.30pm. No need to book just turn up. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information see: www.ThisChurch.com or Phone: 01234 342613

Sankey Moody Music Night at Putnoe Heights Church celebrating the work of Ira Sankey and Dwight Moody. This will take place at Putnoe Heights at 6-30pm on Sunday 24 October. Admission is free so we look forward to welcoming anybody who enjoys community singing. If you would like to join in forming a singing group for this service, please contact Mike Puttock (m.puttock@sky.com) or Eric Royden (ericroyden@gmail.com, 01234 94496)

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Getting Married. We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Christopher John Eglinton and Renata Bressan Mazzone both single and of this parish. Simon Gordon Elphick of this parish and Hannah Ruth Fletcher of St Peter's Woolton
Both for the third time of asking

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Bedford Town Band Concert at Putnoe Heights on 17 September 7.30 - 9.30pm.

You've got one minute with Cameron and Clegg: what would you say?

The Methodist Church, Baptist Union of Great Britain and United Reformed Church have launched a video campaign asking people what they would say if they had just one minute with David Cameron and Nick Clegg.

The My Minute campaign launched today aims to give people a voice in politics and encourage political engagement. Participants can communicate their message to camera however they choose – speaking, rapping, singing, praying, miming, dancing or holding up pictures or signs. The three Churches are asking people to email the link to their video as soon as they have uploaded it to a video sharing site, such as YouTube or Vimeo. Videos will then be featured on the my minute website.

Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church, said: "Politics isn't just for the politicians; it shouldn't become a closed realm accessible only to the few. Like the Church, politics should be open to everyone. My Minute is about enabling people's voices to be heard."

Human rights activist Peter Tatchell and award-winning broadcaster Mark Dowd have already filmed their My Minute videos. "2010 so far is the hottest year on record in terms of planetary temperatures," said Mark, Director of Education and Communications at Operation Noah. "This is not a time to make cuts."

The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, said: "My Minute is a great way for those of us in the Churches to show we're in touch with the major issues facing people in today's world. Jesus always helped powerless people to discover their voice - let's follow his example and speak out - especially on behalf of people whose needs may not otherwise be noticed by our political leaders."

People are being encouraged to tell others about their My Minute video via Facebook, Twitter and blogging sites. People can also check out the latest videos by following @myminute2010 on Twitter or using the #myminute hashtag. The three Churches will be contacting Number 10 Downing Street to let the Prime Minister and his deputy know what people want to say to them.

It is important for us all to contribute to political debate, if you would like to take part and don't have a video or computer, call St Mark's Church Office and we will arrange to record and upload a video for you. Let your voice count !

www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/myminute/



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.

Irene Margaret Barker
Dorothy Violet Crouch

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 Robert Reid Alexander will take place at 11.30am on Tuesday 14 September at Bedford Crematorium

The funeral of Hilda Mary Ross will take place on at 1.45pm on Tuesday 14 September at Bedford Crematorium.



The funeral of Pauline Joan Macey will take place at 2.30pm on Tuesday 14 September at Bedford Crematorium.