



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

13 February 2011

Epiphany 6



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

### St Mark's- Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing

Intercessions – Mr Chris Izzard

### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar

Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

### 20 February – Epiphany 7

### 9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger

Leadership – Mrs Avril Williams

Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger

Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware

Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

**Readings** 1. Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18 2 1 Corinthians  
3: 10-11, 16-23 .3 Matthew 5: 38-48

**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 Peter and Joy Parker to  
celebrate their wedding anniversary, and by the  
family of Derrick Stoneham

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have  
been given by Jean and Roger Bank in memory of  
both their mothers.

## Prayer for This Week

Living God,  
draw us deeper into your love;  
Jesus our Lord,  
send us to care and serve;  
Holy Spirit,  
make us heralds of good news.  
Stir us, strengthen us,  
teach and inspire us  
to live your love  
with generosity and joy,  
imagination and courage;  
for the sake of your world  
and in the name of Jesus,  
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](http://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 Samantha Ware 304058

**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** - 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 –3.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://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)  
**9.00am 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  
**12.15pm 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 Gorden ☎07593266091  
**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623  
**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  
**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—21 February Judith Stanton. ☎823313  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.  
**9.15pm '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  
**9.15 –3.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**365507 ☎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** for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357  
**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.** 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. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984  
**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 15 February 'Knitting over 2000 Years' Joyce Bean. 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  
**6.30pm 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  
**7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)  
**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 8 February Prison Officer at Dartmoor - Dave Bone. 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 U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 16 February 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  
**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 February 16 2011 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. 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

**11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau** 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

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games** St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

**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 **7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale ☎406094

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. 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. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography** (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

**12.15pm U3A Photography** (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

**5-8pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.** St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

### Saturday

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

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

**2.15pm Society of Recorder Players** at Putnoe Heights. G Parry ☎01462 674792

**7.00pm Duplicate Bridge.** St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

### Sunday

**9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School** at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

**11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior** at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

**1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

**6pm T.N.T.** Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun.



## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 16 February  
**Annual General Meeting** 10 April 2011

**St Mark's Leadership Team**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -**

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** - .26 May

**St Mark's Forum Meeting** - 9 March, 10 May, 13 July

**Putnoe Church Council** - 14 February

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -

**Circuit meeting** - 15 March at Clapham

**Deanery Meeting** - .

**Woodland Burial Trustees** – 13 February 2011

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth** –

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

## Epiphany 6

### Opening Sentence from Scripture –

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.

Psalm 119 v 1

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

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature, we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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**



### Old Testament Reading –Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

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

### Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labour. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

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

### Gospel Reading - Matthew 5:21-37

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking

you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

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

**Post Communion Prayer** Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Hymns** (*Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and morning worship*)

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies 457
2. Jehovah Jireh (On Partnership News)
3. Heaven shall not wait (On Partnership News)
4. The Kingdom of God is justice and joy 139
5. The God of Abraham Praise 452

**Commentary** **It’s about choice...**

Jesus just finished the readings last week with saying that the believers’ righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. The prophets in the Old Testament often urged the Jews to see the world through God’s eyes and not ask God to see the world through theirs. They emphasised the fact that faith is about participation in the work of God in our world and making His will and rule known. For the Jews, this participation in the work of God is the ultimate fulfilment of the law. The law was given so that it would enable the building of a people whose life together reflects the nature of God and makes that life and community engaging and attractive to others. Having spoken about the Pharisees and the teachers of the law Jesus now goes on to reference some of their teaching, introducing it with the words, ‘You have heard it said...’. He speaks about murder, adultery, divorce, oaths and later about an eye for an eye and loving ones enemies.

In the small tight knit communities of the first century adultery, divorce and broken oaths could tear the community apart and bring rifts between families that would last for years and ultimately result in bitter feuds and deaths. Matthew was writing for a Jewish audience, who would be familiar with the teaching of the great Rabbi’s of the time, the conservative teaching of Shamai which recognised sexual misconduct on the woman’s part as the only reason for divorce, and the more progressive school of Hillel which allowed other reasons for separation. It may well be that Jesus was commenting on these various schools of thought and religious belief. But we need to read Jesus’ comments on topics such as adultery, divorce and the keeping and breaking of promises and oaths not just in the context of the different schools of rabbinic teaching, but more importantly in the context of His earlier discourse on reconciliation. The focus for Jesus was on living out the lives God intended for us, as individuals and as a community of believers, united

together through our faith and love for each other. It's not surprising then that Jesus speaks out against those things which could divide a community so bitterly and tear individual lives apart.

Implicit in the words of Christ are the words of Moses in Deuteronomy. At the time Deuteronomy is written Israel are camped in the plains of Moab and about to enter the Promised Land and Moses is coming to the end of his life. In his final appeal to Israel he tells how God is ready to forgive and restore all people, even those who have turned their back on Him. But he turns back to a message that he has already introduced to the Israelites earlier. There is a choice to be made; between life and death, between loving God and forsaking Him, between blessings or curses. As the Israelites stand on the brink of taking possession of the land they have been promised in scripture they have to choose between obedience to God's laws or going their own way. Not surprisingly Moses urges them to choose life. It was a choice they had to make. For Moses the focus was on the Israelites living out the life God intended for them as individuals and as a community of believers. That would involve decision and choice.

If we too are to live out the life God intended for us, as individuals and as a community, that too will involve choices and reconciliation. Choices to walk in God's ways as lived out by Jesus in the gospels, step by step, day by day. And reconciliation too, with those people and situations from which we have become divided in the past. Paul urges the Corinthians not to be divided by quarrels and power struggles but to work together to bring about God's Kingdom. To be fellow workers together in participating in the work of God in the world and making His will and rule known to all. This task would constantly require them to make choices about how deeply they engaged with Him in His work and about who they would need to be reconciled with in order to avoid the petty but destructive divisions which could destroy the mission to which they were called and in which they chose and professed to be engaged. Sound familiar? - *Sam Cappelman*

### **Meditation**

The logo of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa has next to it the words, 'Truth, the road to reconciliation'. Sometimes in order to be reconciled with someone we need to face and admit the truth of the situation before we can move on. Jesus asks that we be reconciled to each other and to God through Him. Sometimes that may involve facing truths which we have hidden or denied for many years and which now hold us back in our relationship with God and with each other.

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

As the beautiful, dew covered rose rises from amongst its thorns, so may my heart be so full of love for you my God, that I may rise above the storms and evils that assail me, and stand fast in trust and freedom of spirit. **Amen.** *Hadewijch of Brabant - 13th Century*

Father God we pray that we would have the grace to be reconciled to you, in order that we can be reconciled to your world. **Amen**

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit, that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the broken hearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

God of dawning light, hear our prayers today and give us the strength to put aside all cares and to chose to follow you in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**Putnoe Heights has a new youth group** up and running! TNT has been reformed and renamed as Shooting Stars! It runs fortnightly, on Wednesday night from 6-7.30pm, for ages 9-13. The circuit youth worker, Anna Price, is joining the leaders team. We have a full program up till Easter 2011 (which is up on the youth notice board) all nights include games, activities and Christian content connected to the theme. If you know of any young people that would like to come, please contact Emma Gordon (Putnoe Heights children's and youth worker) at [youth@thisischurch.com](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com), or call on 07593266091.

**Storybox at Putnoe Heights** has a few gaps in our catering and tidying teams. If you, or anybody you know, are interested in helping out for no more than 2 hours a week, joining a friendly team in the kitchen or helping with the setting up and tidying contact:- Emma Gordon [youth@thisischurch.com](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com)

**Flower Donors.** Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of flowers at Putnoe for any Sunday in the first six months of 2011, is invited to enter their name on the rota on the board in the welcome area. Anyone wishing to contribute towards flowers at St Mark's should please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254.

**Bedford Town Band's** next concert is at St Mark's Church Calder Rise Bedford MK41 7UY ; 7.30 - 9.30pm 25 February. In this Entry by programme £7, concessions £6 available from Frescoes coffee shop Mill Street or at the door on concert night. Refreshments available, prize raffle draw.

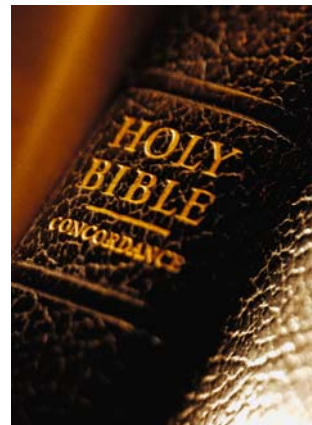
**Thank You** many thanks to all who helped with the unwanted gifts table at Putnoe Heights. £90 was raised.

**Holy Week** – The Bishop of Bedford will be holding meditations at St Paul's Church Bedford on three consecutive nights in April - 18/19/20  
Monday 18 at 7.00pm - Sacrificial love as generosity  
Tuesday 19 - Sacrificial love as selflessness  
Wednesday 20 - Sacrificial love as faithfulness  
The meditations will include a simple communion service - all are welcome to attend.

**Quiz Night:** Many thanks to everybody at St Mark's who helped to organise the quiz night and to those who came and supported the event. It was our best ever attended quiz.

## Partnership Lent Course

The Lent course this year will be held at Putnoe Heights and look at the essential of Christian belief as expressed in the Apostles Creed. I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Refreshments will be served from 7.30pm with each session starting at 8.00pm and lasting one hour. Since the series will look at the foundation of Christian belief it would be particularly helpful for anybody who is considering confirmation. Please speak with one of the ministers if you would like to consider this.



**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,**  
Thursday 17 March  
Charles Royden  
creator of heaven and earth

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord.**  
Thursday 31 March  
Sam Cappleman

**I believe in the Holy Spirit**  
Thursday 7 April  
Jane Mason



Messy Church is held from 3.45 to 5.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in helping please speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters

**Grass Cutting at St Mark's** We are hoping to recruit somebody or a group of people who would be prepared to cut the grass at St Mark's. There is a nice powered mower to use and the full job takes no longer than an hour. Please speak with Wendy if you can help.

**Avril Williams** is handing over her duties as Senior Member of the St Mark's Leadership Team to Laura Farthing for the next five weeks. Please contact Laura if you have any matters relating to St Mark's Tel: 210892

### **Jehovah Jireh**

My provider  
His grace is sufficient  
For me, for me, for me  
Jehovah Jireh  
My provider  
His grace is sufficient for me

My God shall supply all my needs  
According to his riches in glory  
He will give His angels  
Charge over me  
Jehovah Jireh cares  
For me, for me, for me  
Jehovah Jireh cares for me

### **Heaven shall not wait**

for the poor to lose their patience,  
the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend:  
Jesus is Lord;  
he has championed the unwanted;  
in him injustice confronts its timely end.

Heaven shall not wait  
for the rich to share their fortunes,  
the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least:  
Jesus is Lord;  
he has shown the master's privilege -  
to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.

Heaven shall not wait  
for the dawn of great ideas,  
thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain:  
Jesus is Lord;  
he has married word and action;  
his cross and company make his purpose plain.

Heaven shall not wait  
for our legalised obedience,  
defined by statute, to strict conventions bound:  
Jesus is Lord;  
he has hallmarked true allegiance -  
goodness appears where his grace is sought and  
found.

Heaven shall not wait  
for triumphant hallelujahs,  
when earth has passed and we reach another  
shore:  
Jesus is Lord;  
in our present imperfection:  
his power and love are for now and then for  
evermore.



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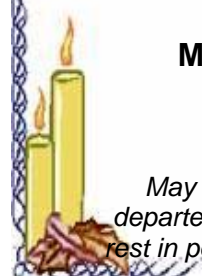
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### **Rest In Peace**

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 Edward Templeton  
Derrick Stoneham**

*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  
Mrs Joyce Burton**  
will be held at  
St Marks Church  
at 2:00pm  
on Tuesday  
22 February 2011  
followed by the cremation.

