



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

16th September 2007

24th in Ordinary Time



Church of  
England

## Partnership Church Services Today

**8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday** on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights Church. On the 2nd & 4th Sunday in St Mark's Chapel.

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

Preacher – Mr Chris Izzard  
Leadership Team - Mrs Morag Stewart  
Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard  
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash  
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen  
Joan is preaching at Clapham this morning

## 25th in Ordinary - 23rd September

### 9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper  
Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team – Mr Alan Cooper  
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

### Readings 23 September

1: Amos 8: 4-7  
2 1 Timothy 2: 1-7  
3: Luke 16: 19-31

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Valerie Parker in memory of her husband, Bill, on his birthday.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

## Prayer for Sunday

Lord, let us be alert to you in the silence of our hearts. Let us be host to you in our homes. Let us discern you in our deeds of compassion. Let us welcome you in the guest at our table. Let us receive you in the intimacy of the upper room and finally let us behold you in the glory of your kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Evelyn Underhill, 1875-1941**

## 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 Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.  
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

### 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](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 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417  
Leadership Team Mr Alan Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604  
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186  
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349  
youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
Leadership Team - Mrs L Parry 216724  
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

# 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

**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

**2.30pm Bedford Arts Society** Putnoe Heights Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

**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. Miriam Adcock ☎01908 565044

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

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

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎364710

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

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

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

**7.30pm Creative Needles.** Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward ☎307648.

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's each month next meeting 17 September - Judith Stanton. ☎823313

**7.30pm Housegroup** 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

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

**1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights. Andrea ☎210177 or Majella ☎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 Sept 18 Mission—Mr T Darlow. Sayings. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Stubbs ☎406784.

**3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 0582468.

**6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

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

**7pm Creative Card Making** St Mark's 1st & 3rd Week of the month Carol Houghton ☎346718

**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

**7.45pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 25 Sept. Harvest Meal. Nicki Attenborough. Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

**9.00am Paint Tots** St Mark's Jacqui Harrahan ☎824475

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

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

**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 19 September Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .

**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

**2pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 3rd week of the month (starting 19th Sept) ☎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 Rachell 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 (starting 26th Sept) ☎400584

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

**7.00pm Yoga** St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

**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 19 September  
Graham ☎406359 or Danny ☎401668.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's 1st  
week Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

### 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.*

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-  
school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** St. Mark's. A group for Mums &  
toddlers. £1.75 for first child Next meeting 13 September.  
More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma  
Strangwick ☎211070

**1.30pm-3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic.** St. Mark's ☎267444

**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. Next meeting 6 September. Contact  
Emma Strangwick ☎211070

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Andrea ☎210177 or  
Magella ☎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

**6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St. Mark's  
Mr C Hill ☎772922

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights  
Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

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

**7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club** St Mark's Mr P  
Housden ☎376597

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

**7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights  
Bible Studies every 2 Thursday– Pastor Tarr ☎360188

**7.45pm Housegroup** meets fortnightly  
Betty Wyatt ☎350188

**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 Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

**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 ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

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

**6.30pm Line Dancing.** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎  
782360

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

**7pm Youth Club for age 10-15.** St Mark's Church.

Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

### Saturday

**9.00pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe  
Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

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

**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, games & outings. Liz ☎302349.

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council – 12 November**

**St Mark's Leadership Team – 28 November 2007**  
27 February 2008, 13 May 2008

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 17 September**

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 15th January**  
2008 12 noon

**Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 19**  
November

**Putnoe Church Council - 8th October**

**Pastoral Group Meeting –**

**Churchyard Committee - 16 January 2008**

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting :**

**Partnership Council -**

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings**

**Deanery Meeting - 8 November**

**Circuit Meeting - 25 September**

**Woodland Burial Trustees -**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth– 24th**  
September at 1pm after Storybox.



### Telecare

### Telecare

It is extremely helpful to the  
Ministers to be able to have feed  
back, especially if somebody is  
poorly or in hospital. If you have  
not yet put your name down on the

Telecare scheme, please do so. Additional  
members of the Pastoral Team are sharing the  
task of making telephone calls. Please do not be  
concerned if a new person calls.



## 24 in Ordinary

### Opening Verse - 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 Prayer for the Day - *Before we read we pray*

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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

### First Bible 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 - **Thanks be to God**)

### Second Bible 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**)

### Third Bible Reading – Luke 15: 1-10

(After the Gospel is announced - **Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

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 Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Saviour**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gates of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Commentary**

Does God really rejoice more over one sinner who repents than 99 who are righteous? It sounds as though Jesus is making a point, but perhaps one which should not be taken literally. Nevertheless it is a lesson which we all need to hear. We all tend to be critical of the lost, and somewhat resentful that they can just walk back and say sorry. 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. There need be no such worry where God is concerned, he always welcomes.

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. Perhaps we should all ask ourselves, '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 freely given in case it encourages bad behaviour. We tend to think like public utility companies and we want every drop of God's grace metered and paid for. It's hard for us to forgive, 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**

A Jewish story tells of the good fortune of a hardworking farmer. The Lord appeared to this farmer and granted him three wishes, but with the condition that whatever the Lord did for the farmer would be given double to his neighbour. The farmer, scarcely believing his good fortune, wished for a hundred cattle. Immediately he received a hundred cattle, and he was overjoyed until he saw that his neighbour had two hundred. So he wished for a hundred acres of land, and again he was filled with joy until he saw that his neighbour had two hundred acres of land. Rather than celebrating God's goodness, the farmer could not escape feeling jealous and slighted because his neighbour had received more than he. Finally, he stated his third wish: that God would strike him blind in one eye. And God wept.

**Hymn** (please distribute Holy Communion Booklets and Hymns and Psalms)

1. Immortal, invisible 9
2. Come let us sing of a wonderful love 691 (Tune Wonderful Love)
3. I will sing the wondrous story. 223 (Tune Hyfrodol)
4. Through all the changing scenes of life 73 (Tune Wiltshire)

### **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

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.

God, who gave us birth, you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray. You know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Give to us now your grace, that as we shrink before the mystery of death, we may see the light of eternity. Speak to us once more your solemn message of life and death. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days here are accomplished, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in you, and that nothing in life or in death will be able to separate us from your great love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

**“An Evening from the Shows.”** Saturday 13th October at St Mark’s 7.30. Keep the date free. Tickets will be on sale very soon!!

**TXT** is the new youth group for our young teenagers starting in September on alternate Sunday evenings 6.30 - 8.00pm. We shall be doing a little Bible Study followed by some fun activities and prayer. If you could spare the time to be one of our adult helpers please contact Sam Ware on 304058.

**Putnoe Harvest Lunch :** Sunday 30 September at 1pm. Tickets are available from Putnoe Office for £5 adults, £2.50 Children under 10. Two courses with soft drink and tea and coffee. (They usually go very quickly).

**‘La Moda’** Fashion Show. In aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Wednesday 19th September 2007 at the Marquee, Bedford Blues Rugby Club, Goldington Road, Bedford. Doors open at 7.00pm and the show will start at 8.00pm. Tickets £5. from Sue Cobley. Tel:01234365871. If anyone would like to donate a raffle prize or a bottle for the tombola, please also contact Sue 01234 365871 9, Arrow Leys Putnoe.



**Fairtrade Display at 22 Mallard Hill.**

Come along and see a wide range of fair traded products.  
7-9.30pm 21st September  
2-5pm 22nd September.  
10am - 1.00pm 23 September

Your fairtrader 01234 268574

**Musical “Allsorts” Evening— Cranfield ecumenical choir,** Sounds Familiar, is organising a Voices for Hospices concert to be held on October 6th at 7.30pm in Stewartby Village Hall. This is an International event biennially to raise much needed money for the hospices. The Sounds Familiar concert will be raising money for Willen, Keech Cottage, St Johns (Sue Ryder) and Bedford Day Hospice. With a variety of choirs and groups taking part, there should be ‘something for everyone.’ Ticket prices:- Adults £5, Concessions and under 16’s £3.50 and family ticket £12.50. Available from Jan on 01234 751085 or on the door.

**Putnoe Heights Church Harvest Festival -** You are invited to donate gifts of fruit and

vegetables or any other food, tin goods etc. Please bring them to the church and leave in office on Thursday 27th or Friday 28th September, or bring to the Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 30th September. All goods will be donated to Prebend Street Day Care.

**Musicians needed** I am looking to set up a music group to perform at the Christingle service at Christmas this year, and possibly subsequent key services during the church calendar. If you would be interested in joining the group (any age and ability welcome) please contact me by email at [si.and.julia@ntlworld.com](mailto:si.and.julia@ntlworld.com) or telephone 01234 295964. Minimum amount of commitment required. Would probably involve just one prior rehearsal. Thanks, Julia Smith.

**The next Putnoe Heights Children and Youth** meeting will be on Monday 24th September 2007 at 1pm after Storybox.

**Ouse Valley Singers** present a concert of light music on Saturday 13th October at 7.30pm in Bromham Baptist Church. Donations to Christian Family Care. Further information from Lyn Sewell 01234 781903

**National Quaker Week** 22nd – 30th September 2007, 10.30 - 4.30 (also on 29th Sept). An open invitation to discover the quaker way. Simple, contemporary, radical. friendly Bedford Quaker Meeting House 5 Lansdowne Road, Bedford, MK40 2BY What do Quakers do in their quiet Worship and in peace, social and other programmes, nationally and locally?

Drop in for tea or coffee, and see the Exhibition: Interactive Installation, pictures, books, ‘Meeting Friends’ video.

More information: Tel: John 01234 261066, or Hazel 215445, or [www.bedfordquakers.org.uk](http://www.bedfordquakers.org.uk)  
E-mail [bedfordquakers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bedfordquakers@yahoo.co.uk)

**Putnoe Heights Church Leadership Team** will meet at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 17 September at 7.30pm

**The Partnership Pastoral Support Team** will meet on Tuesday 18 September at 4.30pm. This session will involve ongoing training.

**Walk the wall and help save innocent lives!**

Feed The Children UK will be abseiling the 140ft tall Bedford Park Inn on Sunday 21st October 07, to raise money to help some of the poorest children around the world. Why not join us and help save a child's life? All you have to do is pay a £10 registration fee (which goes towards the cost of the abseil company) and then pledge to raise £100 in sponsorship. To find out more about this exciting event call Miranda on 0118 932 0095, email [mparker@feedthechildren.org.uk](mailto:mparker@feedthechildren.org.uk) or see the events section at [www.feedthechildren.org.uk](http://www.feedthechildren.org.uk) to download an application form. (The minimum age for participants is 16 years.)

**Coffee Morning** Saturday 6 Oct. from 10 till 12 At the home of Eddie & Irene McKenzie's 16 Chillingham Green. Proceeds for Mission funds. Requests for transport 311569

**Volunteers required** for disability shop (Shopmobility Howard centre) Mornings 9am - 1pm Afternoons 1pm - 4.30pm. Contact Sheila Whittemore Tel 01234 404962.

**'Pearls of Wisdom 'quiz** coming on Sunday 14 October. £1 per entry all proceeds for Mission Funds. Closing date 18 November. Draw on Sunday 25 - First two correct solutions drawn from hat win £10 & £5 respectively. Sylvia Cohen 343424

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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.

**Vera May Mulholland**

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



**St Mark's Coffee Shop**

Every Sunday  
2.30pm— 5.00pm

Don't forget to come along

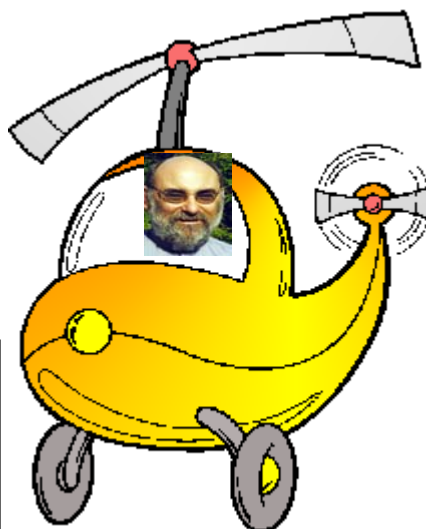
commission. We are more than happy to receive items ordered through Amazon at St Mark's Church Office. The office is open 9.00—5.00pm every weekday.

**Benefits for All.** There is an Advice Fair taking place at the Harpur Suite on 3rd October from 10.00am until 3.00pm. This is a great opportunity to gain information on a wide range of benefit issues. Many people do not claim the benefits to which they are entitled, please do look in.

**The Annual General Meeting of Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless (BECHAR)** will be held at Prebend Day Centre on Tuesday 25 September at 8.00pm. We would like to ensure that somebody attends to represent our churches, please speak with Charlie if you are able to go.

**Up, Up and Away**

**Congratulations to Sam.** At having qualified this week as a pilot ! Not only has Sam found time to minister here in the Partnership for over 10 years, he is also now qualified to fly helicopters. Next time you hear a helicopter flying over give a wave it might be our very own flying Vicar !



**Rest in Peace**

There are no funerals this week

