

Partnership News

17 October 2010

Ordinary 29



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

9.30 am St. Mark's -Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Mrs Wendy Waters

11am Putnoe – Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Ministers
Intercessions – The Ministers

24 October – Ordinary 30

9.30 am St. Mark's- Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership –Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs

11 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher –Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership –Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Readings 1. Jeremiah 14: 7-10, 19-22
2. 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18. 3.Luke 18:9-14.

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 Val Peacock in memory of her husband Trevor, and by Barbara Whittingstall with treasured memories of her loving husband Peter.

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

Almighty God you have created the heavens and the earth and formed us in your own image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving through Jesus Christ our Lord, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit supreme over all creation now and forever, Amen.

Methodist Worship

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

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

12.00pm 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.

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—18 October - St. Mark's 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 19 Tea & Chat. October Harvest Festival. 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 October 26 'God's Acre'. Anne Doody 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 Fitch 838689

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next -27 October 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. Monthly. First meeting 6 October. 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

6.15pm 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 20 October. 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) 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 – 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 - .
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 noon, 16th November
Putnoe Church Council - 25 October.
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee
Putnoe Heights Mission Group
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings
Deanery Meeting - . 18 November at St Peter's
Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting
Circuit Meeting
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 18th October 1.15pm

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

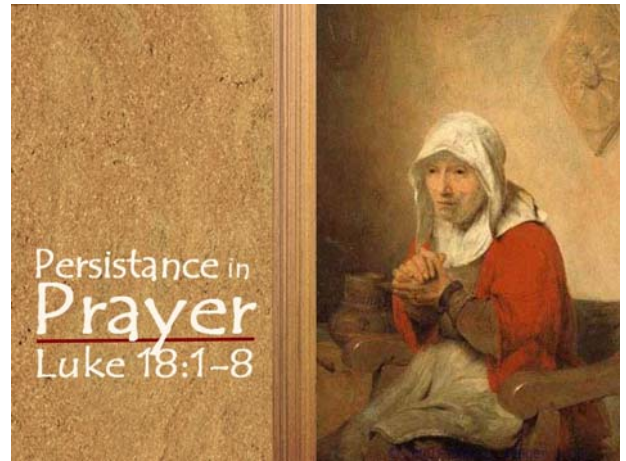
Ordinary 29

Opening Sentence from Scripture - Psalm 119:89

Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.

Collect (Before we read we pray)

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do also for you. Give us the will to be servants of others as you were the servant of all; for you gave up your life and died for us, but live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever Amen



Old Testament Reading – Genesis 32: 22-31

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, 'Let me go, for it is daybreak.' But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. **(This is the word of the Lord -- All: Thanks be to God)**

Second Reading – 2 Timothy 3: 14-4: 5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. **(This is the word of the Lord—All: Thanks be to God)**

Gospel Reading – Luke 18: 1-8

(When the reading is announced - Glory to Christ our Saviour)

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones,

who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"
(This is the Gospel of Christ—**All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns for Sunday (Please distribute Mission Praise and Holy Communion)

1. Ye holy angels bright 783
2. Will you anchor hold in the storms of life 770
3. Lord Jesus Christ 435
4. At the name of Jesus 41

Commentary

The story today of the widow and the unjust judge shows two extremes of power. The judge is a senior male in a male dominated society. The widow is not only female, she is without any sources of power. As a widow she had no means of support, she would be facing financial ruin and the loss of her possessions. The fact that the woman appears by herself in court means that she has no male relative to speak for her. She is totally powerless and poor. Widows are symbols of vulnerability in both Testaments. A widow could not inherit her husband's estate. Widows were dependent on the compassion of the community. These are the ones that you can ignore most easily without fear of them being able to do you any harm, you can get away with it. The judge on the other hand is very powerful, he has the fate of others in his hands. He is at the other end of the power scale to the widow.

We are not told exactly what the circumstances the widow found herself. Whatever her situation she would have some grounds for expecting that the judge would listen to her and act to give her justice. There are many passages in the Bible which give instructions to consider the needs of widows, orphans, and strangers. (Exodus 22:22-24; Deuteronomy 10:18-19; 24:17-21; 27:19; Luke 20:47; Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 5:3-5).

Sadly, the reason why these are repeated so often is probably because nobody ever took much notice of them. It is most often the poor and weak who are exploited and taken advantage of because they can do little about it. It is interesting to note the politicians of all parties who are now stating the importance of ensuring that in a the financial tightening in our own society we must try and protect those who are most vulnerable and weak. The challenge is how to do that when their voice is not the strongest. The temptation is always to listen to those who can shout the loudest.

Jesus as we know sided with the poor and the weak and the oppressed. In Luke chapter 20 he says *'Beware of the teachers of the law, they like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the marketplace and have the important seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets they devour widows houses and for a show make lengthy prayers such men will be punished most severely'* Was this widow facing the same fate? Perhaps following the death of her husband the vultures came by to devour the estate leaving her unjustly deprived. Clearly the widow feels aggrieved with a sense of injustice she cries

'Grant me justice against my adversary'

No doubt the judge was busy, he would have had other things on his mind, there would be more important people calling for their needs to be considered. It was much easier to ignore the widow who was weak and defenceless. So she suffered, having no means to force his attention, no male, no money, no power. However the widow will not take 'no' for an answer. She never gives up, she follows the judge, she pursues him and becomes like a stalker! No doubt she went to his house, followed him to the shops and his friends would have seen what was going on.

Eventually the judge acknowledges that whilst he has no change of heart towards the widow, he will act simply because he has become completely fed up of her making a nuisance of herself. We are told that she bothers him so much that she might wear him out. The word which is used for 'wear him out' is *hupopiaze*, and it comes from the world of boxing and refers to striking someone under the eye. The judge is saying that the widow is making such a nuisance of herself that he realises that she must be listened to before she gives him a black eye.

The judge is worried about his reputation and the expression 'blackeye' means that this is what she is capable of destroying. If he fails to act he will look foolish in the community. The widow has no money or status, she appears weak and yet she has discovered power in perseverance. That is what this parable is about, discovering that those who persevere, who endure all that life throws at them, will win out in the end.

Put this parable into a Christian context and we realise the importance which Jesus attaches to perseverance in the face of adversity. Think of what those early Christians would have thought when they read this parable as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. These were Christians who were persecuted and powerless, awaiting the return of the Lord, disappointed that he had not already appeared. The words of Jesus as recorded by Luke would have given them encouragement to continue to keep the faith and walk in the way of Christ. The message was clear, if the dishonest judge would eventually give justice to the widow who persevered, could not God be relied upon to be faithful to his words. God's reputation would be withheld when he vindicated his faithful people. This explains why the end of this parable is about the return of Jesus. Look at the last sentence it asks,

'Will the Son of Man find faith on earth when he returns.'

The assumption is that Christians must endure or the sorrows and trials of this world. They will not be immune from the tribulations of human life, the very faith which they confess might lead to greater suffering and trials. The Christians must remain faithful, they must not quit and give up, they must have the substance to remain true, whatever adversity might come a long. The widow found justice from an unjust judge who was worried about his reputation. The reputation of God is of far more importance and he will not ignore the plight of his people. It the reassurance of the character of God which is our motivation never to lose heart and continue to press on in prayer for the establishment of God's kingdom of justice on earth.
Charles Royden

Meditation Churches vote to stand with the poor

In the first ever joint meeting of the United Reformed Church Mission Council and the Methodist Council, the Councils voted to work together to challenge the causes of poverty and inequality ingrained in British society.

The joint meeting took place at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire, on 13-15 October and encouraged members of both Councils to explore the areas in which the Churches might be most effective when working together.

Council members voted to confirm their commitment to the living wage, to stand alongside those poorest and most vulnerable, and to campaign for benefit and wage policies that allow people to live and work in dignity. This will involve working with other partners, including the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Church Action on Poverty.

The Revd Dr Kirsty Thorpe, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, reflecting on the council, commented: "The joint sessions have shown that the two denominations share much, perhaps more than they ever imagined. On issues such as poverty and the commitment to the young people and children in our congregations we share a common mind. It has been a positive three days and as a result of our time together we have reaffirmed our shared commitment to Jesus and our desire to serve him."

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Take from me, O Lord, all desire for worldly praise and all uncontrolled anger and remorse. Give to me a humble and lowly heart, and a mind tender with kindness and compassion. Grant to me also, good Lord, fullness of faith, firmness of hope and fervency of love, that my one desire may be conformity to your gracious will; through Christ our Lord. Amen *Thomas More, 1478-1535*

On leaving this place, may the worship not end, nor the presence of God feel taken away. On leaving this place, may we not forget the holiness of worship. On leaving this place, may we always remember that we go to live among people created by God. On leaving this place, may we carry the music of God within us and proclaim His glory as we go. Amen

Father we are concerned about the world and its conflicts and we are fearful of the hatred and bitterness which causes such waste of human life. Bring peace to those who are anxious and may we learn your lessons of peace and forgiveness. We pray for those in other lands and in our own country also who experience injustice and oppression, for those who hunger and cannot find food, for those who thirst and have no drink.

Gracious God, you have richly blessed us and yet so often we fail to thank you for these blessings. Instead we focus on what bothers us, what afflicts us, and we cry out, not in faith, but in doubt. Lord when we become mired in anger and despair and help us to have a faith that perseveres.

Lord Jesus Christ, whose arms of love were stretched wide upon the cross so that all may come within your saving embrace; stretch forth in mercy the hands of your Church today that in its ministry of compassion we may enter again into the Kingdom of your justice and grace. Amen.

Sankey Moody Evening at Putnoe Heights

Church 31st October at 6.30pm. On this evening we will be remembering the meetings held by these two great evangelists and it is an opportunity to enjoy singing a collection of some old favourite hymns and songs. The BBC 'Songs of Praise' programme featured the music last year and was popular with listeners, so making it an attraction for everyone. We would like to form a small choir to lead the singing so as to help make the service more enjoyable, and Mike has kindly stated his willingness to hold a rehearsal beforehand. Please speak to either Mike (Puttock) or contact me, ericroyden@gmail.com, telephone 07722138410 Let us make this an enjoyable and memorable evening.

Abbeyfield Bedford 40th Anniversary Celebration

Praise Presented by Pam Rhodes, 3pm Sunday 24 October 2010 at St. Paul's Church Bedford. For invitations please apply to: Abbeyfield Bedford Society, 18 Linden Road Bedford MK40 2DA & return by 1 October 2010.

Home for Christmas? Would you share your festivities with an international student at a UK university who might otherwise be stuck on an empty campus? HOST is looking for invitations for 2 or 3 days for students from China and many other countries. Hosting makes a worthwhile contribution to international goodwill. Please see www.hostuk.org or call HOST's voluntary regional organiser Paul Ryall on 01692 630710.

Action for Children A big thank you to the 23 volunteers who knocked on nearly 900 doors for this September's House to House Collection on behalf of Action for Children. The total raised in our St. Mark's/Brickhill area was a very worthwhile £761. Action for Children will be able to claim a further £45 from HM Revenue & Customs as a result of the 54 door-step donors who kindly filled in their Gift-Aid forms. Individual 'thank you' cards with amounts collected are being distributed. Mike Elliot

St Mark's 'Messy Church' Update. Six children and their mothers came to our first session last Wednesday. They all enjoyed themselves and joined in well with the singing and during the story time. The pizzas were a great hit with children, mothers and helpers when we shared a meal together after taking part in several messy activities. The team of helpers did a magnificent job and there was a true sense of fellowship between us all. We hope and pray that more children with an adult will come to our next session at 3.45pm on Wednesday 10 November. For more information speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal The youth team at Putnoe Church are launching the Christmas Shoebox Appeal again this year. Via the Samaritan's Purse organisation filled shoe boxes will be delivered to some of the worlds poorest children, boys and girls between 2 to 14 years, in time for Christmas. If you could please donate any of the following items soft toys, jigsaws, building blocks, cars, dolls, soft balls, stationery items, stickers, puzzle books, toothbrushes/paste, soap, hairbrushes, hats and caps, necklaces, sweets (long sell by dates), bangles, sunglasses. We will also need empty shoeboxes and Christmas wrapping paper. Please leave at Putnoe Office for the youth team. Any question, contact Emma Gordon. Thank you." Alternatively if you would prefer to donate some money this can be used towards postage. The boxes need to be completed by the beginning of November.

November is Will Aid Month and the following solicitors in Bedford are taking part: Mrs Martin-Moran of C C Bell & Son, Harpur Street, Bedford tel 363251 Mr Sunil Kambli, Premier Solicitors. Mayfair House, Lurke St, tel. 860991 Mrs Emma Ciampa, Ciampa Solicitors, 26 St Marys Street, tel 341525 Charities, including Christian Aid, benefit from the immediate donations given when people draw up their will and also hope to benefit from pledges contained in the will itself. *Peter Littleford*

Faith in Action. The £100 raised at a recent coffee morning has been allocated to the Lewis Kaire Mosquito Net Fund.

Emergency Relief Fund thank you to everybody who collects small change for us. If you would like to join us simply see the collector at the door before the service. So far we have sent £300 to Haiti and £300 to the Pakistan flood appeal. Sylvia Cohen Tel.343424

Methodist Church launches first ebook

The Methodist Church has launched its first ebook as its renewed emphasis on discipleship continues to gather momentum. The book, Discipleship and the People Called Methodists, will be available to download for free from www.methodist.org.uk in both the epub format that can be used on many ebook readers and the mobi format for the Amazon Kindle. At the same time, the printed version of the book has just been reprinted again and now has over 19,000 copies in circulation. The book's author, the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church, says "Discipleship is about transforming the world as well as ourselves, and I'm delighted that the Methodist people are really taking this emphasis on discipleship to heart.

St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre

Only 5 weeks left to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 20 November. We would be grateful for help with :-

Tombola – Any new unwanted gifts\Christmas present etc. for our Tombola stall.

Raffle – Raffle books will be available shortly We would also be grateful for any new items suitable for the raffle.

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

Refreshments – We would very much appreciate donations of traybakes to sell with tea and coffee. Ploughman's lunches will be on sale at lunchtime as usual. Volunteers to help in the kitchen on the day would be very much appreciated. To put your name down please see Avril Williams.

Secondhand Book Stall - Delia kindly volunteered to co-ordinate the secondhand book stall again this year so please have a look in your cupboards for any unwanted books.

Indoor Plant Stall -We are having an Indoor Plant Stall. If you have any indoor plants or have split any plants and would like to donate them to our stall we would be very grateful. Please contact Wendy Waters or contact the Church Office.

All donated items for the above stalls can be brought up to Church anytime week beginning 16 November. We will need lots of help on the day especially when the Fayre finishes at 3.30pm Many hands make light work and it would certainly be appreciated. This is one of our main fundraising events of the year and we are hoping to make it an even bigger success than last year, with your help I am sure we can.

Brickhill Parish Council Public Meeting
Great Bus Service? Public Open Meeting 7.30pm on Monday 1st November 2010

Organised by Brickhill Parish Council and taking place at St Marks Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford, MK41 7UY

Regarding the Number 10 Stagecoach Bus Service between Woodlands and Bedford Town Centre

- ~ Happy with the new bus service?
- ~ Unhappy with the new bus service?
- ~ Do you like the route?
- ~ How do you feel about the position of the stops?

Please come along to the open meeting which is for residents to share their views, concerns and ideas with representatives from Stagecoach and Bedford Borough Council, both of whom want to hear your opinions.

Partnership Council

The Leadership teams of St Mark's and Putnoe Heights will meet this week on Monday at 7.30pm at St Mark's. Following their separate meetings they will come together to meet as the Partnership Council

As well as using Amazon on thischurch.com please sign up for Easyfundraising. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online! Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thischurch.com, then we obtain 5%



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.

Margaret Saunders
Jeani Nertney

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 Charles Leslie Bruty will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 4.00pm on Tuesday 19 October.

The funeral of Mary Josephine Daniels will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10am on Wednesday 20 October

