



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

21 August 2011 – Ordinary 21



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

21 August - Ordinary 21

9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs. Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mr. Ian Farthing
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion
Preacher – Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Kirk
Intercessions – Mr. Alan Bayliss

28 August - Ordinary 22

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher– Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership - Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions – Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Bible Readings 1. Exodus 3:1-15
2. Romans 12: 9-21 , 3. Matthew 16: 21-28

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 Valerie Parker in memory of her sister on her birthday.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Janet and Brian Ibberson to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

Prayer for the Week

We may not be able to confront queens, or challenge presidents; We may not have the capacity to divert resources, or uplift communities; We may not have the voice to silence the noise of war, or the words to negotiate peace between armies; But, as we follow you, O Christ, we are able to do something.

And so, we pray that you would inspire us to commit to and act on the small difference we can make:

May we bring peace through small acts of gentleness and reconciliation; May we bring wealth through small contributions and collaborations; May we bring safety through small acts of consideration and acceptance; May we bring wholeness through small acts of care and service. And in the small ways, O God, may our small difference make a big contribution to your saving work in our world. Amen

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861
vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website www.ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs. Linda Hoare 782717
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 - Laura Farthing 210892
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 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school. See website for more details 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)

.9.45am - 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 (see contact details below)

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 Gordon ☎07593266091

2pm U3A Music Appreciation - (see contact details below)

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

6.15 - 8.15pm

Weightwatchers. St. Mark's Sam Thompson

☎07766421000 Starts 25th July.

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—15 August Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of

Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

8pm '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

9.30am -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 (see contact details below)

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. (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group. (see contact details below)

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895

2.00pm U3A (see contact details below)

2pm U3A Photography (see contact details below)

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 13 September - AGM 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

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting September 6 - Richard Ledger 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. (see contact details below)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly.

Next - 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 (see contact details below)

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 September 7 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 ,Valmai 219555 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 Restarts on 8September.

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 Restarts 8 September

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

1.45 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

2- 4pm 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 (see contact details below)

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. Pauline Hooper ☎350079

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography ((see contact details below)

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French (see contact details below)

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

5.50-7.05pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

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

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfotrdtkd.com or bedfordtkd@googlemail.com.

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –

St Mark's Leadership Team - 6 September 2011

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 3 October

St Mark's Forum Meeting - Tuesday 13 September

Putnoe Church Council - 17 October

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting - 15 September at Putnoe Heights.

Deanery Meeting 15 September

Woodland Burial Trustees – 4th September 12.30

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 17 October

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

Ordinary 21

Opening Verse of Scripture Romans 11

O, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

Merciful God your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen. *Common Worship Shorter Collect*



First Bible Reading -Exodus 1: 8 - 2:10

Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labour, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with harsh labour in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labour the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?" The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive." So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

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

Second Reading - Romans 12:1-8

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices,

holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 16: 13-20

(When the Gospel is announced: **All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

(This is the Gospel of Christ — **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion and Mission Praise*)

1. There is a redeemer 673
2. Restore O Lord 579
3. My hope is built on nothing less 473
4. To him we come 709

Commentary

Jesus goes to Caesarea Philippi with his disciples. Caesarea Philippi was so named because it was rebuilt by the Tetrarch Herod Philip in honour of the Emperor Tiberius. Lying 25 miles north of Galilee, it was a beautiful place in the foothills of the snow capped Mount Hermon. Springs fed by the melting snow from Mount Hermon formed the headwaters of the Jordan River. The site was beautiful and lush compared to the dryness of much of the surrounding countryside. Jesus may have chosen this as a good place to get away from the crowds because it was a beautiful location for a break. This was as close as Jesus was going to get to a holiday.

Perhaps also importantly, this was formerly the area which had been called Paneas in honour of the Greek god, Pan, the god of music. The inhabitants were largely Gentile, this is Gentile territory. Perhaps the Gentile background of the place was important for Jesus, it is certainly important for us, because it reminds us that the events which follow took place in a time and place in which there were many competing religious voices. Jesus is about to ask the disciples to come to a conclusion and decide who he really is. They were surrounded by other religions and they had to think what was important and make their minds up.

Jesus asks the disciples "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" The disciples report a variety of answers. Then Jesus then asks them the more important question - "Who do you all say that I am?" The question was to all the disciples, but Peter spoke first, "You are the Christ, the son of the living God." At this point, three of the major titles for Jesus are brought together: Son of Man, Messiah (the Christ),

and Son of God. The English word "Christ" is the English form of the Greek word *christos* which was the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for Messiah. Technically, it would be possible to replace the name "Christ" with the title "Messiah" everywhere in the New Testament. This is the first time in Matthew's gospel that the Messiahship of Jesus has been confessed directly. Several times Matthew has himself indicated that Jesus was Messiah (Matthew 1:1, 16, 17; 2:4; 11:2) but this is the first time it appears on the lips of a character in the story. As messiah, Jesus was the fulfilment of Jewish hopes and he was the culmination of God's involvement in human history to bring us salvation. Peter also confessed Jesus to be "the Son of the Living God." This exact phrase is found only in Matthew's account of the episode at Caesarea Philippi. Mark 8:29 has only, "You are the Christ (or the Messiah)" and Luke 9:20 states Peter's confession as, "You are the Christ (or Messiah) of God."

Perhaps it was his Jewish audience that made it important for Matthew to clarify that Jesus was much more than simply the Jewish messiah. The theme of Jesus' divine sonship has been important throughout Matthew. The voice from heaven announced it at Jesus' baptism. Satan tempted Jesus at that point in the temptations. The disciples had all acclaimed Jesus Son of God already in Matthew 14:33 after Jesus (and Peter) had walked on the water. Now it is combined with the titles Messiah and Son of Man to provide the most complete identification of Jesus to yet appear in this gospel.

Israel had waited a long time, old Judaism still waits today for the Messiah. But Peter's confession expresses the fulfilment of the Jewish dream and makes us the real Jews. For we have welcomed the Messiah. This is the root of our identity as Christians. To know who Jesus is, is vital.

It is not enough to believe that he is very important.

It is not enough to believe that he is like the other prophets and messengers of God.

It is not enough to believe he is like the Buddha, a very important religious teacher.

When Peter declares: "You are the Messiah", he is saying what has to be said for us to be called Christian. To be Christian means believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Anything else -- anything less -- might be religious, but it is not Christian.

As we hear Jesus' question to Peter, it is asked of us too. Can we also say, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God...?"

Peter responded with his declaration of faith in Jesus. Peter might have felt proud of himself working out who Jesus really was. His pleasure would have been short lived, because Jesus told him that his response was not because he was a really clever person at all. Jesus says that the only way that he could have worked it out was because of God, 'flesh and blood has not revealed this to you....'

If you and I are able to worship Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, then we represent the power of God at work in our lives. So, are we now willing to make the kind of life changing investment which is required of his disciples? If we mean what we say then we are a part of that holy people called to live a different and challenging Christian life. The building of the church is a work of Christ. It is a godly work, not a human one. It is for this reason that the church will endure and triumph.

Amen *Charles Royden*

Meditation Descend into your heart

You must descend from your head into your heart. At present your thoughts of God are in your head. And God Himself is, as it were, outside you, and so your prayer and other spiritual exercises remain exterior. Whilst you are still in your head, thoughts will not easily be subdued but will always be whirling about, like snow in winter or clouds of mosquitoes in summer. - *Theopan the Recluse 1815-1894 quoted from For Lovers of God Everywhere, Roger Housden*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Who do I say You are, Jesus? Sometimes I think I know, and I eagerly praise You, I confess that I have learned to know God because of You, I celebrate the fact that my life is fuller because of You, I recognise that, at great cost, You have made it possible for me to have a second chance when I mess up my life, and hurt those around me. But, then sometimes I confuse You with others that have helped me or challenged me; Great teachers and writers, prophets and priests, parents and authorities. This can be helpful – sometimes they do point me to You; but sometimes I can't see You through the image they present, and my relationship with You gets blurred. Sometimes I'm not sure if I know You at all; I begin to get a sense of who You are, but then, like Peter, I misunderstand Your mission, or Your message, or what You really want from me. Who do I say You are, Jesus? You are the one I have come to love as God, You are the one I am learning to recognise and will give eternity to know, You are the unfathomable mystery that is always beyond my ability to understand; You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Amen.



Woodland Burial Tour A Unique Opportunity

On Tuesday 30 August at 11.00am there will be a guided tour of St Albans Woodland Burial Ground. This will be an opportunity to ask any questions which you may have about how funerals take place or what you can do to make a very personal service. Trustees will be accompanied by other professionals who will be available to answer any questions which you may have.

Located via The College Equestrian Centre Church Road, Keysoe, Bedford. MK44 2JP

More details can be obtained from the

Administrator: Mrs Linda Parry

Tel/Fax +44 1234 342613

Email: office@woodlandburialtrust.com

St. Mark's Junior Church resumes on Sunday September 4. St Mark's Storybox resumes on Thursday Sept 8. Many thanks to Jaana and all who helped throughout the year

Chat and Play restarts on Thursday 8 September
Jo Garner 400071

Action for Children works with disadvantaged & disabled children and their families through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church. The annual house-to-house collection takes place in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark's has the responsibility for covering Brickhill. Last year 21 collectors raised £806 (inc. Gift Aid.). If you could spare a few hours early in September to distribute and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area please contact me For more information. Mike Elliot Tel: 342507

Coffee Morning You are invited to a joint Missions coffee morning and celebration of Dorothy's 80th birthday on Saturday 27 August at 35 Brecon Way between 10am and 12noon. Donations for the raffle may be dropped off at any time the previous week. Thank you. Stephen and Pauline Clare.

Praise Service. A service of worship inspired by the songs of Moody and Sankey 6.30pm Sunday September 11 at Putnoe Heights Church, conducted by Rev. Eric Royden

Bedfordshire Police Authority is keen to know your views on the new policing changes, future collaboration and your current policing priorities. Like most public sector organisations, Bedfordshire Police Force will be restructuring the police service to not only ensure that financial savings are made but that the service is efficient and effective.

The survey will only take 10-15 minutes to complete. If there are any opportunities to place a link on your websites I would be grateful otherwise please feel free to forward the link onto anyone who you feel would like to have a say in shaping policing in Bedfordshire.

Please follow the link below to complete the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/65XL2Y7>

Support for Older People. there will be a conference on Saturday 24 September from 9.00am - 12.45pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Lane, Goldington. This will look at raising awareness of physical, spiritual and mental needs and consider looking at ways to reach out to those in nursing and residential homes. Speakers will be from Age UK, Friends for Life and local GP's

Offertory Envelopes (Putnoe Heights). Sets of envelopes for the next twelve months are available for collection from a table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the envelope scheme (or contribute to church funds by standing order), is invited to contact John Hitt, tel 404186.

St. Mark's Church Car Boot Sale –29 August.

We would be very grateful for bric-a-brac, books, tools, china, CD's puzzles etc for the Church Stall. Also if you are able to provide cakes and tray bakes for the refreshments they would be very welcome. Your support is really appreciated.

St Mark's Church Council. There will be a special meeting after church this morning to discuss a single item relating to Clubhouse. Please remain behind after church if you are able to do so.

We have received details of new courses offered by St Albans Diocese and BELIEF.

Each module meets at St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford on Monday evenings from 7.00—9.30 pm. The cost is £25.00 per module.

Christian God: Doctrine On 12, 19, 26 Sept, 3, 17, and 31 Oct

Reading the New Testament An introduction to the Gospels and St Paul. On 7, 14, 21, 28 November, 5 & 12 December,

Introduction to Church History This module will focus on the Reformation in western Europe. On 7, 14, 21 and 28 November, 5 & 12 December,

Reading the Old Testament An introduction that will enable students to set old Testament texts in their literary and historical contexts. On 16, 23, 30 January 2012, 6, 13, 27 February,
Contact Ministry Development Office, Holywell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 1HE
Tel: 01727 818151 Email: lhart@stalban.anglican.org

Do you have room in your life and home ?

Could you offer support to a 16-20 year-old?, so they can learn independent living skills? Bedford Borough Council has joined together with YMCA Bedfordshire to implement a new 'Supported Lodging Scheme' in Bedford Borough.

Supported lodgings is where individuals, couples or families become 'Hosts' and provide accommodation and support for a young person in their home. Hosts will be supported by a dedicated Supported Lodgings Coordinator, provided with training and on-going support, an income and a suitably matched young person. Please call Amy Elliott at YMCA Bedfordshire on 01234 307040 or 07508807441 for an information pack or informal discussion.

North Bedfordshire Circuit Launch Celebration on Saturday September 3rd 2011.

Kings House Complex, 245 Ampthill Road.

- 2.00 p.m. Family Fun
- 3.00 p.m. Barn Dance
- 3.45 p.m. Afternoon Tea
- 4.30 p.m. Informal Worship
- 4.50 p.m. Launch Service
- 6.15 p.m. End of Formal Worship

Please see notice in Welcome area at Putnoe Heights for further details. Everyone Welcome.

Putnoe Recording Service –As from 14 August recording of the Sunday morning services at Putnoe has resumed. The tapes are available for 4 weeks before being re-used. Anyone who cannot attend for any reason is welcome to borrow a tape and if necessary a small machine on which to play it. (through headphones). Please return as soon as possible for use by others. PA team

Thank you to Judith Stanton and her supporters at Whist Drives, for their recent donation of £124 to St Mark's Church funds.

Wild West Bonanza

St Mark's Church

Calder Rise, Bedford

Saturday 17th September

at 7.30pm

Tickets includes Dinner, entertainment and line dancing

Tickets £7.50

Children 12 and under £5.00

Prize for best dressed

Cowboy and Cowgirl

01234 342613

office@thischurch.com

Catering by Lingers Butchers, Bedford



Raise a quick 20p by registering with the Green Preference Service! It's a free service where you decide what mail you want to receive through your letterbox and what you'd prefer to see online.

Please remember to shop at Amazon.com by clicking on the link on ThisChurch.com for just about anything you need. You can also sign up to Easyfunding. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online at discount prices! Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thischurch.com, then we obtain 5%

amazon.com
and you're done.

easyfundraising
org.uk

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.

Cedric John Butcher

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 Maurice James Pearson will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 23 August at 10.45am

The funeral of Aphrodite Hubbard will take place on Friday 26 August 2011 at St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, London Road, Stony Stratford at 3.00pm followed by burial at Turvey Cemetery, Carlton Road, Turvey at 5.00pm.