



Partnership News

22 August 2010

Ordinary 21



Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mrs. Claire Peck
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mr. John Tatman
11.00am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mrs. Claire Peck
Leadership - Mrs. Sam Ware
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

29 August - Ordinary 22

9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard
11am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Readings 1. Prov 25: 6-7 2. Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16
3. Luke 14: 1, 7-14

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 with love to everyone at Putnoe from the Nash family.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Janet and Brian Ibberson in memory of various family members and to celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary.

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

Merciful God,
take pity on me and hear my prayer.
I ask not for riches and wealth,
neither for great fame or adoration.
My prayer is not that I will achieve
success in my endeavours
or be free from physical harm.
I seek only to understand the course
which you have plotted for my life,
that I might more closely attain to the things
which you have set before me.

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 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing.

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 30 August 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 7 September - -Tea and Chat.. 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 August 24 Strawberry Tea at St Mark's. For more details call Janet King 313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.

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

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

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

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next -September 15 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎ 347073
7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378
8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting September 1st. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Alan ☎ 345312. Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070
11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.
12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing . Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby ☎ 363283
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St. Mark's ☎267444
1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741
4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins 07919402797
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Mark's 2nd & 2th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094
7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517
8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Will meet weekly at Putnoe Heights from 2 September Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

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

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

**Injustice anywhere
is a threat to justice
everywhere.**

Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963 US black civil rights leader & clergyman (1929 - 1968)

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 8 November
Partnership Council 14 July 7.30pm at St Mark's
St Mark's Leadership Team –
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 18 October
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 27 Sept.
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 noon, 15 September, 16th November
Putnoe Church Council - 25 October.
Pastoral Group Meeting - 12 October 4.15pm in chapel
Churchyard Committee - 29 September
Putnoe Heights Mission Group
Partnership Council—TBA
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings
Deanery Meeting - .
Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting
Circuit Meeting 13 Sept.
Woodland Burial Trustees –22nd August 12.30pm
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Ordinary 21

Opening Sentence from Scripture -Psalm 71:3

Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress

Collect *(Before we read we pray)*

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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. Common Worship



Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 58:9b –14

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: 'Here am I. If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always;

he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings. "If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honourable,

and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob." The mouth of the LORD has spoken

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

Epistle Reading – Hebrews 12:18-29

You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens. The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken--that is, created things--so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

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

Gospel Reading—Luke 13: 10-17

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath." The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?" When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing
(Reader This is the Word of the Lord, **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

1. When morning gilds the skies 276 (Tune Laudes Domini)
2. Beauty for brokenness (On Partnership News, music copies available)
3. It passeth knowledge 526
4. Christ for the world we sing (Tune H&P 29 Moscow) 789
5. To God be the glory 463

Commentary

In Victor Hugo's memorable novel the "Hunchback of Notre Dame," he uses an interesting literary technique. The reader is allowed to see the basic decency and humanity of Quasimodo, the hunchback, while the crowd sees him only as a monstrous freak. In our passage from Luke today we read about a woman, we do not know her name, but we do know that she too was a hunchback. Like 'Quasi' she would have been held in low regard by the crowd around her. Her prolonged illness would be seen by many as a sign of sinfulness and God's punishment, little wonder that it was attributed to an evil spirit. We know that this had been her condition for 18 years, the implication is that she had not been born with it. Perhaps it was a calcium deficiency, a spinal injury, or genetic, or some extreme case of osteoporosis. We don't know. We are simply told that a spirit has crippled her. Life must have been very hard for her, she missed the sky, the birds, and the rainbow. But physical ailments can do far more than bend a back. It can rob us of our livelihood and cause bankruptcy, it can take us away from our families, it can cause depression. Jesus called her and said, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." She suddenly stood erect, and began praising God. Was the woman cured? Notice that Jesus says, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." She is set free. Immediately her talk is of praise and release from the burden. Jesus changed her focus from herself to God.

We are rightly indignant at the response of the synagogue ruler to the woman's condition. However he did have the law on his side, healing was work and it should not be done on the Sabbath. Jesus could have healed six days in any week, that should be sufficient miracles for everyone. Of course Jesus is not just making people well, he is picking a fight and making a point. Compassion trumps rules, even the Sabbath commandment. For this reason Jesus calls those who oppose him hypocrites. They take care of animals on the Sabbath, isn't the woman, a daughter of Abraham, a daughter of the covenant, of more value than they? Jesus is saying that restrictions, laws, rules, and institutions can, if we are not careful, keep us from rising to the heights of charity to which we are called. Jesus came not to throw out tradition, but to show us that it can never replace-and should never be allowed to hinder-the expression of genuine love for one another.

The woman on the surface was attacked by a crippling condition of body and mind, she had been bent physically and no doubt she had suffered years of abuse just like 'Quasi.' Her condition was visible and obvious, but instead of being critical of her Jesus looked through surface, past the illness, and saw a human being. She was not a worthless, sinful, sick woman, she was nothing less than 'a daughter of Abraham!' The synagogue ruler on the surface had the appearance of being well and approved of by God.

He was physically well, he was male and he was of religious standing. However, Jesus looked through the surface of him too and saw that he was rotten to the core. No evil spirit had attacked his body, instead he had been attacked by a spirit, which has crippled his soul. It wasn't wrong for the leader to want to protect the Sabbath day and worship from intrusions of regular work. However in the context of this miracle, the leader appears sick and shrivelled; being indignant at mercy and goodness looks ridiculous. What is missing is a delight in God's mercy, in Jesus' power. In attempting to protect what was holy, the leader misses a transforming encounter with Jesus, the Holy One. And in trying to protect the holy, he sees the broken woman as an intrusion.

Now, do we become indignant when God's moves catch us by surprise? Are we in danger of confusing our interests with God's? Do we see a needy person as one more interruption or as a child of God longing for freedom, restoration or healing? Do we trample the poor by protecting our piety from them or by always being busy with "more important" things? Have our delight and our rest in God been crowded out by other concerns? So we ask ourselves what is our response to the grace and mercy of God, are we like the woman so full of joy that we praise God.? Charles Royden

Meditation

There is a Buddhist story of a young woman whose baby grew sick and died. She was torn apart with grief and sorrow, and asked a Buddhist holy man if her grief and sorrow would ever go away. "You must bring me a bowl of rice," he said, "but it must be from a house where no-one has ever suffered the loss of someone they loved and cared for." So the woman set out, thinking this would be an easy task which would then result, at last, in her grief and sorrow no longer dominating her life. In the first house that she visited she found that a family member had died two years before. They talked, and each felt a little better as they shared their experience and learned from one another and supported each other.

In the next house, someone had lost a close friend. Again, she and the family found support. In the third house she began to appreciate more that love costs. And so it went on, from house to house. Eventually the woman returned to the holy man who asked if she had a bowl of rice for him. She had been told to bring one from a house where nobody had ever suffered the loss of someone they loved and cared for. "No," she said. "Every house I have visited has had people who have suffered the loss of someone they have loved and cared for. What I have discovered is that it is because we love greatly that we experience such pain and sorrow when loved ones die. Our pain and sorrow may get less as time goes by, but they never go away. The medicine I have found in visiting other homes is that peace can come from helping others and sharing their problems." The poet, Alfred Lord Tennyson, wrote:

"Tis better to have loved and lost Than never to have loved at all."

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, you tell us that those who mourn are "blessed", knowing that only those who love greatly can mourn. We know, too, that it is better to have loved and lost someone than never to have loved at all. We ask you today that through our own sufferings of different kinds, we may discover strength and peace through helping and supporting others in their difficulties. Amen.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Lord God, we are so bound by rules and regulations that we fail to see the human need that goes beyond the bounds of structures. We easily relegate compassionate service to those agencies in our society that have that as their mandate, forgetting that you have given us the supreme mandate to care for one another, even as you have cared for us. We turn our backs on those in need, giving the responsibility to someone else. "Let someone else do the work," we proclaim. And in that proclamation we have revealed our selfishness and our inability to be your disciples. Stop us from our selfish ways, and heal our hardened hearts. Forgive us, again, as you have so often before when we have failed to be your witnesses and workers. Help us become involved in ministries of peace and justice right where we are, for there is no where in creation where your love is not needed. Let us bring messages of love and hope to all people. Bring us to an understanding of the partnership of healing and hope that abides in your service. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen

Summer is almost over and we wonder where the time went, Lord. We look at all the plans we had, those that we accomplished and those that are now to be put aside for another time. We look ahead to the busy year of witness and service and wonder if we are ready to truly work for you. The rest that we craved at the beginning of the summer now seems to have slipped rapidly away, leaving us breathlessly facing the upcoming autumn season. Help us, O Lord, feel your strengthening presence with us. Help us place our trust in you, knowing that you will empower and enable us to be in service. Let us be willing to place our needs and concerns before you. Give us a powerful sense of restoration and reconciliation to you, for we ask these things in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Junior Church at Putnoe Heights and St. Mark's
There is no Junior Church during August. We start again on 5th September. The crèche at St Mark's will be available all the time as normal.

Storybox and Story Plus at Putnoe Heights

starts back Monday 6th September. Thank you to all volunteers who do a great job every week! Emma

The Putnoe Heights Friday afternoon silent prayer group will not be taking place during the summer holidays. We will reconvene on Friday 3rd September. Many thanks. Sam Ware (304058) and Eileen Brown (267909)



St Mark's Hog Roast and Mini Quiz

Saturday 4th
September 2010
7.30pm Tickets
£8.00 Please Bring
your own liquid
refreshments. There

will be dietary concessions for those who do not love roast pig.

Your Church Needs You! Putnoe Heights are currently looking for church members who can help with Sunday Intercessions; communion stewards and office volunteers. Please consider becoming one of our invaluable volunteers and join one of our rotas. Contact Sam Ware 304050 or Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

Action for Children –House to House Collection Action for Children works with disadvantaged and 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. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron.

The annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in the first two weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £972 (includes Gift Aid) If you could spare a few hours during early September to distribute and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)

Kempston Musical Society mixed choir who sing for pleasure, are seeking new members. They meet Thursday evenings 7.30 -9.30pm at the Church of

Transfiguration Hall, Bedford Road, Kempston . New term starts on the 9 September, membership fee £25 per annum. Auditions are not required. Enquiries to Janet Welsh Tel: 01234 781010 or email: Kempstonmusicalsociety@hotmail.com

Help Wanted St Mark's is seeking to find a replacement assistant to help Emma Strangwick at Chat and Play for next term. The first session starts on Thursday 9 September. Even if you don't feel able to take on this employed role, we really would appreciate offers of help so that we can start the new term.

Many thanks to everybody who sponsored Claire Peck for The Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research UK. Well over £100 has been raised. If you still owe any money please would you let Claire or Margaret have it as soon as possible. Thank you

Offertory Envelopes (Putnoe Heights). Sets of envelopes for the next twelve months are available for collection from a table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the envelope scheme, or to have more information about it, is invited to contact John Hitt, tel 404186.

Kirchentag Trip Wednesday 1 – Sunday 5 June, in Dresden. A diocesan trip to next year's Kirchentag. We expect to be flying there and back and staying in bed and breakfast type accommodation. Expressions of interest need to be in by Friday 17th September and there will be a preliminary meeting on Wednesday 27th October, in the Boardroom of the Diocesan Office in St Albans Those who have attended the Kirchentag in the past have found it a very rewarding experience, so I hope that many of you will want to take up this opportunity. If you want to know more about the Kirchentag go to the British Committee Website: <http://www.kirchentag.org.uk/>

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

Footprints Ramble: Sunday 5 September - 2.30 pm. 3 and a half mile walk from Everton Church. Although mainly good walk, one part bit uneven and muddy. Further details from Margaret and Eddy Peck Tel. 267567

Recycling of Print Cartridges If you have any print cartridges or toner cartridges for recycling please bring them up to the Church Office by 31st August when the company are coming to collect them. They also take old mobile phones. All proceeds from the recycling to go to Church Funds. Many thanks Avril Williams

Autumn 2010 Courses from Belief

Issues in Religion and Medicine
 Wednesday evenings in Autumn 2010
 13 October End of Life Issues Dr Jenny Wilson
 20 October Anxiety and Stress Dr David Mason
 3 November Abortion Dr Chris Nixon
 10 November Cosmetic Surgery Dr Stephanie Johnson
 17 November To be arranged
 Venue: St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2PF Each session: 7.45 pm to 9.15 pm Cost: £20 for the whole course or £5 per session. Tea and coffee provided.
 c/o Priory Methodist Church
 63 Newnham Avenue Bedford MK41 9QJ
 Tel 01234 293688 email: office@beliefbeds.org.uk
<http://www.beliefbeds.org.uk/>

Money Advice at St. Andrew's

Every Thursday from 10am to 12 noon starting on 16 September. There will be an open church meeting on 25 August at 7.30 in the Holt Room for anyone interested to learn about the service. On September 3 at 6.30 in the hall A 'Brief Introduction to Debt Advice' by Sandra Dawson of Community Money Advice. A general meeting for anyone interested.

New Bus for Brickhill. A new 'Service 10' will run Mondays to Saturdays from just before 6:30am to just before 8:00pm – running half hourly during the day. This new service goes from the railway station, via the bus station, Roff Avenue, Larkway, Dove Road, Avon Drive to the Woodlands Estate.

A Hymn for Sunday

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair
 Lord, in our suff'ring world, this is our prayer.
 Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace
 Sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase.

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
 Work for the craftsman, trade for their skills.
 Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
 Voices to plead the cause, for those who can't speak.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
 give us compassion we pray.
 Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
 Come change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars, Havens from fear
 Cities for sanctuary, freedom to share.
 Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,
 Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams
 Plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.
 Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed,
 Make us content with the things that we need.

Chorus

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,
 Until your justice burns brightly again;
 Until the nations learn of your ways,
 Seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

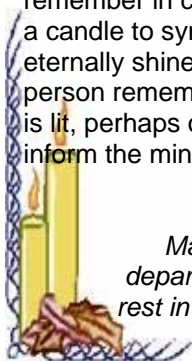
Chorus



Website Changes. Our new church website is now operational, please feed comments back to Charlie so that we can get things up to date and working.

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.



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



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Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Eileen Callow will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45 am on Thursday 26 August