



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

23 October 2011 - Ordinary 30



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

23 October – Ordinary 30

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Ministers
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership -Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions – Mr Alan Bayliss

30 October - Ordinary 31

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher – Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions – Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Bible Readings 1. Revelation 7: 9-17
2.1 John 3: 1-3 3 Luke Chapter 15:11-31
(Please note change to NT reading)

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 St. Mark's Church this week are given
by George Burton in memory of his wife.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week
have been given by Christina and Maurice Halsey in
loving memory of their daughter Lesley Robinson,
and by Rita and Nigel Platt and family in memory of
Justin.

Prayer for the Week

Love has brought us here today.
Not our love for God
but God's steadfast love for us:
The love of the Holy
for that which is full of flaws.
The love of the Seeker
for the that which is lost.
The love of the Healer
for that which is diseased.
The love of the Reconciler
for that which is alienated.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a Vice President 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 and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ 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. Emma Gordon 07593266091 or 365630

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

6.15pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's Sam Thompson

☎07766421000

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– 31 October. 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 ☎07790206016

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 St. Mark's (see contact details below)

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 25 October Marion Goddard 'Arthritis Research UK'. 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 November 1 AGM 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.

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters ☎342613.

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 meeting 26 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 (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. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

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 November 2 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 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 8 September.

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 1st and 3rd Thursdays 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. ☎275229

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 857850 or 07919402797 .

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.bedfordtkd.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 -
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - Wed. 25th Jan 7.30pm at 24 Loring Rd. Sharnbrook.
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - Mon. 23rd Jan. 7.30 Putnoe Meeting Room
St Mark's Forum Meeting - Wednesday 9th November
Putnoe Church Council -
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Circuit meeting - .
Deanery Meeting
Woodland Burial Trustees – 27 November
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Ordinary 30

Opening Verse of Scripture -Psalm 90:1 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days

Collect Prayer (*Before we read we pray*)

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading - Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18

The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

"Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favouritism to the great, but judge your neighbour fairly. "Do not go about spreading slander among your people. "Do not do anything that endangers your neighbour's life. I am the LORD. "Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbour frankly so you will not share in their guilt. "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the LORD.

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

Second Reading -1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 22:34-46

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

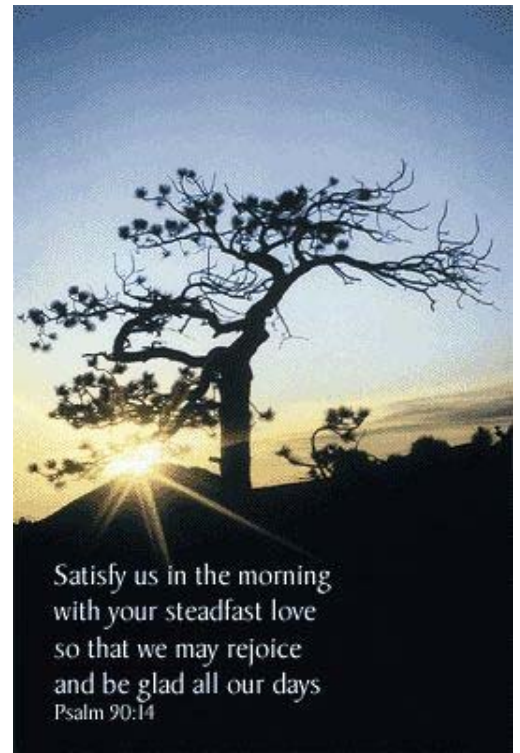
Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" "The son of David," they replied.

He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, "'The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'"

If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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



Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Hymns *(Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymns and Psalms)*

1. When morning gilds the skies 276 (*Laudes Domini*)
2. Lord of creation 699 (*Slade*)
3. Have faith in God my heart 675 (*Carlisle*)
4. May the mind of Christ my Saviour 739 (*St Leonard's*)
5. All hail the power of Jesus name 252 (*Miles Lane*)

Commentary

Last week we saw the Pharisees ask about paying taxes to Caesar, hoping to get Jesus in trouble with the Roman equivalent of our Inland Revenue and Customs. They failed in that attempt. Next the Sadducees came up with a clever question about marriage in heaven. Jesus neatly sidesteps also this trap. So this week the Pharisees' turn again and ask him about the Law of God. "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment?"

It's an innocent-looking question but really it is a stealth attempt to make Jesus look like a theological liberal. If Jesus picked out any of the Bible's commandments and elevated it to the status of number 1, that would imply that he was treating everything else as second-class. If you are the father of five children and one of them asks you who your favourite is, a wise father says, "I love you all the same." No good parent wants any child to feel like he or she plays second fiddle to the other siblings. So also here: if they can trick Jesus into picking a favourite commandment, he'll be guilty of downplaying other commandments. But since every commandment represents the very word of God, picking and choosing among them would be heretical.

Jesus knows what is going on. An easy way to get off this hook would have been for Jesus to say, "Every Word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord is great. Each commandment is great." That would have been an effective way out of this, a theological version of the "I love you all the same" answer a wise parent might give to the question of which child is the parent's favourite. But instead Jesus begins to quote a Bible verse, and at first the Pharisees maybe thought they had him. They didn't. Because Jesus says that love of God is the greatest of all commandments.

After all, if you don't love God, you won't be much inclined to keep any commandment. If, however, you do love God, then the rest follows naturally. And just to make the point, Jesus throws in the second commandment about neighbour-love. Between these two loves, Jesus manages to catch every single commandment you could ever name. Every commandment in the book has something to do with either God or neighbour.

But Jesus' reply was actually more clever than even that. Because in Jewish circles the single most famous verse is the so-called Shema from Deuteronomy 6. "Shema" is the Hebrew word for "hear" or "listen" and it comes from that verse, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord your God is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." The Shema was traditionally recited by every Jewish child and adult at the start of each day and at the conclusion of each day. In other words, there was no single verse from the entire Torah that the average Jew knew better than this one. So when Jesus responds to the Pharisees' tricky question by quoting a portion of the Shema, he was throwing back in their faces something they took to be exceedingly basic, something that was second-nature to even the youngest Jewish child. It reminds you of the time Karl Barth is said to have been asked what he thought was the most profound of all theological truths. But instead of giving some jargon-laden, academic answer that used words like perichoresis, kenosis, or the insuperable transcendence of God's prevenient grace as it comes through the vicarious supererogation of the Son, Barth simply said, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

That answer was charming and disarming. Barth said, "The greatest truth is the one you already know, the one all Christians know, the one a three-year old can sing about." In Jesus' case, he was slyly insulting the Pharisees, demonstrating to everyone there that the Pharisees were not really interested in seeing if Jesus could answer their question since even the youngest person there knew that answer already. This was not a difficult question. It was like asking Albert Einstein, "Do you know what 2+2 is?" This was basic, elementary. And in this case Jesus makes it clear that just asking that question makes the ones posing the question look like the ignorant and foolish ones.

Meditation

Matthew this week describes the trap set by the Pharisees. His answer "Love the Lord your God with all you are and your neighbour as yourself. From this all the law and prophets hang." These are the kinds of commandments that define all others, in law and prophets, and all others provide guidance for fulfilling these.

Christians are, indeed, called "to love and serve the world." We say the prayer at the end of the service, 'Send us out into the world, to live and work to your praise and glory'. We are sent out to put into practice what we have said in worship. Ours are the only hands and feet that Christ has now, as the sixteenth-century mystic and Carmelite reformer Teresa of Avila said.

When we are sent out into the world, when we heed God's command to love our neighbours as ourselves, we need to ask what that relationship between the Church and the world means. Christianity has always had a paradoxical attitude to the world, and the doctrine of the Incarnation bears it out. On the one hand, God so loved the world that God sent his only begotten son, who healed the sick, fed the poor, raised the dead and lived, preached, ate and made friends in the world alongside ordinary human beings, especially those on the margins of society. On the other hand, those actions of Jesus of Nazareth meant that he eventually came into conflict with the world, as he challenged human priorities and institutions.

As a consequence, many Christians have had a negative view of the world. Some, like the Amish, have chosen to stay away from it, building separate, gathered, utopian communities. They would agree with the author of the epistle to Diognetus, in the middle of the second century, that Christians "live in their own countries, but only as resident aliens."

Other Christians have assumed that the world is a very bad place, because it is fallen, but they are committed to making it more 'godly,' chiefly by converting as many people as possible to Christianity. For them, individual sinners must be saved in order to redeem the world.

Yet other Christians still assume that the world is a bad place, but believe that Christians can make it better: we can build the kingdom of heaven on earth. These Christians do not withdraw from the world, nor do they simply try to grow their own ranks. They get their hands dirty to change things. This perspective has provided the impetus for many wonderful projects, but it has, at times, been paternalistic, assuming still that Christianity has all the answers.

But what if loving our neighbour means that we need to listen to the world and engage with it? What if we realize we do not need to bring Christ to the world, because Christ is already in the world? This creates a different model of loving our neighbour, which is much more about Christians being vulnerable, listening, participating.

The gospel stresses the link between love of neighbour and love of God. It's clear in Matthew's gospel that God is in others. Jesus is the divine presence in our midst and, for example, in a later parable (25:31-46) acts of love towards him are done by loving neighbour ("As you did it unto the least of my sisters and brothers....")

Jesus' teaching about love of God and neighbour can cause us to feel all-too-human and inadequate. The love Jesus describes asks everything of us. The first part of the teaching requires, "All your heart, with All your soul, and with All your mind." This is the biblical way of summarizing the whole person. It leaves no wiggle room, and will not allow watering down. Loving God and loving neighbour is a way of giving the full gift of ourselves in service to God. Jesus' teaching isn't about how we feel about God and neighbour, but what we will do. Since the type of love he has in mind is not an emotion, not a "falling in love," it can be commanded. This teaching is woven throughout the gospel of Matthew; it's what Jesus asks his disciples to do if they would follow him. "Deny self, pick up your cross and follow me" (10:38-39). It seems that the only practical sign that we love God is that we love our neighbour.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Unite our hearts, O Lord, in bonds of affection that we may live with one another in humility and peace. Give us patience in the time of trial, and steadfastness in the tasks before us. Refresh our hearts in the hour of anguish and sustain us in the day of our need. Be to us, and to your whole Church, both our everlasting light and our eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *Bernard Albert, 1569-1636*

Strengthen us, O God, to relieve the oppressed, to hear the groans of poor prisoners, to reform the abuses of all professions; that many be made not poor to make a few rich; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen. *Oliver Cromwell.*

Almighty God, maker of all things, thou hast placed thy creatures necessary for our use in diverse lands: grant that all people s and nations, needing one another, may be knit together in one bond of mutual service, to share their diverse riches; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Anon 16th Century*

Mission Appeal

*'A time to give thanks,
for things we take for granted'*

Thank you to those who have already given gifts for our Mission Appeal this year BeCHaR. (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless) Please note that you can continue to give over the coming weeks using the envelopes provided and placing them on the offering plates or delivering to the church offices. Cheques may be made out either to St Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church. Rob Huddart, who is the Chairman of the BeCHaR trustees, will be joining us on 27 November to give us an update on BeCHaR activities and highlight current priorities. We look forward to welcoming Rob in November. Thank you once again for your continued support of our Autumn Mission Project.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal Choosing gifts to put in a shoebox is a really fun part of getting involved in Operation Christmas Child. There is something very rewarding about giving to a child you will probably never meet in this world – especially when you know your simple act of kindness will be felt and appreciated in more ways than you can ever imagine. As the 2012 London Olympics are only just around the corner, the Samaritan's Purse has suggested that, to be a part of the Olympic spirit, this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign can have sports-themed shoeboxes. As well as giving us the chance to do something a bit different with our shoeboxes, this is also a chance to send sporty items out to needy children in our world – children who might otherwise not have the chance to experience the joy of sport for themselves. There is a full list of items that we can and cannot accept on the Children's and Youth notice board in the welcome area at Putnoe Heights. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation we do have some gift aid envelopes for your use. Each shoe box costs £2.50 to send. Empty shoeboxes will also be appreciated. We are starting to collect from 3 October until 23 October so please leave any donations in the office by Sunday 23 October 2011 for our Children's and Youth groups to pack. Thank you. Carolyn and Emma.

"Autumn Craft Day, 29 October at Priory Church, Newnham Avenue. Come and share in fun and fellowship and create some new items or learn a new skill. All are welcome. Please ask Linda Hoar if you would like a booking form and further details."

Autumn Fair At Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue on Saturday 5th November 11am—3pm. Many stalls offering home produce, gifts galore, cards, crafts, paintings, wood

carvings, bric-a-brac, children's side-shows, raffle, tombola, etc. Lunches and light refreshments available. Admission 50p (accompanied children free). Everyone welcome, so please come along and bring your friends.

Footprints. Sunday 6th November 2011 at 2.00pm. Location of the start of walk, drive through Felmersham over bridge towards Sharnbrook. On nearside about 200yds before the T junction with the Odell/Sharnbrook Road there is a Nature Reserve car park. Flat easy route 2 - 3 Miles. One stile. Could be muddy and a few nettles. Boots and trousers suggested attire Any queries Alan or Margaret on 327219

Also footprints planning meeting (for next years programme) Tuesday 22nd November 2011 at 7.30pm at the home of Alison and Warwick Tel 403551.

Chris Hillyard Executive Director for Children's Services, Schools and families visited St Mark's Church Pre-school in Brickhill to present a certificate recognising the award of 'Outstanding' after a recent inspection by Ofsted. He said 'Congratulations to St Mark's for receiving the top award of 'Outstanding by Ofsted. I was so pleased to see the children really learning through play and enjoying themselves engaging in a wide variety of activities – all within an environment where high standards of behaviour are the norm. It was a privilege to visit such a super provision and to be able to recognise the quality of the preschool which makes such a difference to the community'



St Mark's Church Christmas Craft Fayre Saturday 19 November

There are only 4 weeks left to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 19 November 2011.

Amazing how quickly it comes around. We would be grateful for any help with the following:-

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

Cake Stall: Milly is kindly co-ordinating the cake stall again this year. She would be very grateful for any offers of cakes. If you are able to bake a cake for this stall please contact Milly 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. Any help gratefully received.

Secondhand Book Stall: Delia has agreed to co-ordinate the secondhand book stall again this year so please have a look in your cupboards for any unwanted books. We do ask that they be in good condition please

Indoor Plant Stall: After the success of last year's plant stall we are doing the same again this year. 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. Marion would be pleased to receive gift of either indoor or outdoor plants, also small carrier bags.

All donated items for the above stalls can be bought up to Church anytime week beginning 15 November. We will need lots of help on the day especially when the Fayre finishes at 3.30p.m. 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 achieve this. Many thanks Avril Williams

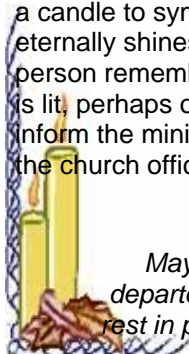
Art Exhibition: Putnoe Art Group host their third annual exhibition and sale of paintings at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday, November 5th from 10:30am to 4:00pm. The exhibition will also include Needlecrafts by Val Morgan. Free entry; refreshments available.

St Albans Cathedral I thought you might like to hear that this week I went with the **Alban Academy choir** to St Albans Cathedral to celebrate 200 years of church schools. There was a play by the Footprints theatre company and dance by a group from Dunstable. Bishop Richard talked to us and gave the blessing. The prayers were led by pupils. The best part was when all the church schools sung together, the music sounded fantastic in the cathedral. We sung One more step along the world we go, Be still for the presence of the Lord and a special church schools hymn of thanksgiving, this is the first verse. "Two hundred years of learning, two hundred years of song Two hundred years of faith in Christ, that faith we carry on, We thank you God for all that's past, we thank you for this day We praise your name most holy, at school, in church, through play so guide us in your wisdom and bless us in our day Two hundred years of our church schools, we celebrate today."

Please remember all our church schools in your prayers this week. *Rachel Spavins*

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.'

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Mrs Denise Coates will take place on Tuesday 25 October at 10.45am

The funeral of Ellen Mary Tyrrell will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.00am on Tuesday 25 October

The funeral of Mary Rogers will take place at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground on Tuesday 25 October at 2.00pm