



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

23 September 25 in Ordinary



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

Today 23 September - 25th in Ordinary

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills

Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank

Intercessions – Ministers

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr Ebo Ofori-Quaah

Leadership - Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae

Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

30 September - Harvest Festival

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher— Revd. Charles Royden

Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart

Intercessions – Mr. Ian Farthing

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden

Leadership – Mrs. Jean Kirk

Intercessions - Mrs. Sam Ware

Readings 1. Joel 2:21-27 2. 1Timothy 2:1-7

3. Matthew 6:25-33

Midweek 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 Veta Hudson-Rae to celebrate
her birthday (today) and the birthday of her grandson
Samuel (next week).

*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 on the foyers.*

Prayer for Sunday

O Lord, our God,
grant us the grace
to desire you with our whole heart;
so that in desiring,
we may seek and find you;
and in so finding you, we may love you;
and in loving you,
we may hate those sins
from which you have redeemed us,
for the sake of Jesus Christ.

—St. Anselm, 1033–1109

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 Mills

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

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday in a
colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please
send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to
vicar@thisischurch.com. 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.ThisChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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.*

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

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. Jean Kirk 317699
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Morag Stewart 360103

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com

Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett ☎326685

8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's

9.-3.45pm 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 St Mark's (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (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 Carolyn Morris youth@thischurch.com 365630

1.30-2.45pm Chat and Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk . Restarts on 10 September

2.00pm U3A History Group St Mark's (see contact details below)

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

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

66.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.00pm 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– 16 October Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

7.45pm Opus Choir at St Mark's Mrs Sutherland ☎269100

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)

1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton

(centre assistant) for more information ☎340552

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details below)

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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (see contact details below).

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.

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎0789187957

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker ☎07900 232648

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

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 2 October Shoe box packing Details call Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly. Contact Marion Sutton ☎217647

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

9.30am Discovery & Do (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons ☎328380 or ☎07788824666

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

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks.(see contact details below)

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

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 12 September 2012 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)

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

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)

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

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for

children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 19 September. Wendy Waters 401834

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C 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 Mrs O Holt ☎266004

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 at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 3 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. 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. Jean Ross ☎771870

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 term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner ☎400071 or ☎07719670624

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

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (large hall) Children's Chatty Time 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

1pm—2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

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

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Mrs. P. Cass ☎294220

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's. (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Mary Rich ☎272470

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's

3rd week in month. Carol Plant ☎01832710504

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 Pat Cass ☎294220

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan ☎01234 309105.

Friday

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)

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

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (contact details below)

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

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker ☎07900 232648

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

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.St Marks(2nd week) 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

6.45pm 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 Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or w.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com ☎07964356355

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 – 9 October, 19 Feb, 11 June

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 15 October,

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm

Harvest Festival 30 September

Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - 16 November

Woodland Burial Trustees– 30 September

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -

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

Ordinary 25

Opening Verse of Scripture

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on his law day and night. Psalm 1

Collect Prayer

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding. Pour into our hearts such love towards you that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Methodist Worship
Before we read we pray



First Bible Reading - .

Jeremiah Chapter 11:18-20

Because the Lord revealed their plot to me, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing. I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realise that they had plotted against me, saying, "Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more." But, O Lord Almighty, you who judge righteously and test the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading James Chapter 3:13-4:3,7-8

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Mark 9 Verses 30-37

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it. They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."
(This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Keep, O Lord, your church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymns and Psalms)

1. Praise to the holiest in the height 231 (*Tune Richmond*)
2. Make me a channel of your peace 776
3. All my hope in God is founded 63 (*Tune Michael*)
4. Brother, sister let me serve you (*Words on Partnership News*)
5. Behold the servant of the Lord (*Words on Partnership News*) *Tune Rockingham*

Commentary

In our Gospel reading today we are told about a time when Jesus was travelling along the road with his disciples. They were on the way to Capernaum but they travel quietly, secretly. The reason for this is clear, Jesus is seen as the leader of a movement, primarily of poor people, which the religious and political leaders correctly saw as a threat to their power. He therefore didn't advertise his presence because he had enemies, such as The Pharisees and the Herodians who have been after him since Chapter 3 Verse 6 and want him dead. These plots circulate to silence him once and for all.

Jesus knows that he will soon be betrayed and die and he wants to get important teaching into the minds of his disciples before it is too late. Three different times in Mark's gospel Jesus warned his disciples about the tragic end that awaited him in Jerusalem — betrayal, condemnation, suffering, rejection, violent death, and then resurrection. All three times the disciples responded to Jesus with objections, disbelief, fear, and ignorance. They repeatedly demonstrated how badly they misunderstood the true nature of his redemptive mission.

After his first "passion prediction," Peter objected: "Lord, this shall never happen to you!" But Jesus rebuked Peter for trying to prevent his sufferings: "You do not have in mind the things of God but the things of man" (Mark 8:33). Jesus even called him Satan! After the third prediction (10:32ff), James and John asked Jesus for positions of glory and the ten other disciples indignantly objected, clearly worried that James and John might gain some advantage over them.

After Jesus's second prediction in the gospel for this week, the disciples argued among themselves about who was the greatest (Mark 9:34).

Jesus responded to his disciples in two ways. First, he gave them a teaching: "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all" (9:35). Second, Jesus dramatized a parable. In a piece of street theatre that illustrated his teaching, he placed a little child before the disciples. He then embraced the child and said, "Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me" (9:37).

To welcome a child is to extend the simplest of acts to an individual whom society dismisses as perhaps cute but ultimately insignificant, someone who lacks any accomplishments, greatness, status, or pretensions. By extension, Jesus invites us to welcome every person in the same manner, without regard for external measures of their worldly importance. The simple act of welcoming another person in that way, Jesus says, is to welcome him, and in turn to welcome God the Father who sent him.

Anyone who wants to be a leader must be "last of all" and, not only that, but "servant of all" as well. The disciples have a hierarchical understanding of leadership. For them, and for most people, the leader is the one who has climbed their way sufficiently up the greasy that they hold power over those below them. They get the bigger office, they are the ones that people want to please.

The challenge for us is to take these words of Jesus to heart and realise that greatness needs to be understood in a radically different way. By receiving one of the least and insignificant people in our culture we are also receiving Jesus and not even him, but God. It is hard for us because we are trained to think that we get on by focussing on how to achieve upward mobility, Jesus tells us that we get on if we treat well people of little public regard.

Perhaps the most depressing this about the teaching of Jesus today is how quickly the disciples put it out of their minds and continued with their old behaviour. We read in the next chapter

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10

Meditation

Today Christians from the Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Church are encouraged to recognise Peace Making Sunday. This is taken from the literature sent to churches. We constantly misunderstand what it truly means to be followers of Jesus, but this is no new phenomenon. This brief excerpt from Mark 9 is the second of three occasions in the gospel when a foretelling by Jesus of his impending crucifixion is followed by an embarrassing misunderstanding on the part of the disciples. Richard Foster has observed that, 'Power profoundly impacts our interpersonal relationships, our social relationships, and our relationship with God. Nothing touches us more profoundly for good or ill than power.'

The desire to acquire power can become intoxicating and all-consuming, and the determination to hold onto power and influence can be equally destructive. Jesus takes this opportunity to explain to his disciples that in his new kingdom honour does not belong to the apparently strong and powerful but to those willing to be 'servant of all.'

If the church is to be a means of blessing to others, the instrument used by God to bring his peace and reconciliation to the world, then its values and practices must be wholly shaped by the example and teaching of Jesus.

Prayers for Peace

Lord, we pray for all those people who in the coming week will try to be the means of bringing peace to situations of conflict and confusion. We pray for politicians and leaders who are working to bring warring countries and factions to the negotiating table. We especially remember the work of the United Nations. We ask for wisdom and insight for deal makers in the corridors of power, we ask for protection for the UN peace operations deployed across the globe. We pray for safe and successful missions in Haiti, the Western Sahara, Liberia, the Ivory Coast, the Congo, Sudan, Kosovo, Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and East Timor.

We pray for countries where democracy is fragile and the rule of law is vulnerable. We pray for ACAS, and their work in the UK to mediate where there are disputes within the workplace. We pray for counsellors, trying to bring reconciliation to families where husbands are divided from wives, and one generation estranged from another. We pray for our own churches. We ask for your forgiveness for our petty fallings out, for our very public disputes about how we interpret Scripture and about how we hold holiness and inclusiveness in tension. Finally, Lord, where there is conflict in our own lives, perhaps even in our own hearts, may we become more submissive to you and the ways in which you call us to live, which are always the best. Amen.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week ahead

O Lord our God, the life of all that look to you, and the help of those who fly to you; cleanse our hearts and our consciences, that we may venture forth with perfect love and pray to you with confidence and hope; through Christ our Lord. Amen. *St Basil (c.330-379)*

Lord Jesus, you calmed the raging storm and tamed the surging sea—calm the tempest of indecision and cure the seasickness within our souls. Forgive our faint-heartedness. Grant us not just the courage to do the right thing, but also the wisdom to figure out just what that right thing is. Reassure us, Lord, that even if the right course of action hurts us in the short run, that you will ultimately reward our faithfulness and keep us safe.

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light, no noise more silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end. Amen (*John Donne*)

Lord, there are those who are good leaders, those with gifts to speak and make decisions; those who are good listeners, and those who quietly care; those whose work is little noticed, but without which our church would be the poorer. Take all our gifts, Lord, and use them for your glory. Amen (*The Martha and Mary prayer, adapted from a prayer by Margaret Wilson, MU Anthology of Public Prayers*)

Thought 'The greatest evils are usually perpetrated by people determined to eradicate an evil by whatever means necessary.' *Walter Wink, Engaging the Powers*



Harvest

Harvest invitation cards are available this morning for delivery.

Our Harvest Services

will take place on Sunday 30 September, Donations of non-perishable foods would be gratefully received. These will go to BeChar and

could include tinned goods (meat, fruit & vegetables); rice or pasta; tea or coffee and biscuits.

BeChar are also collecting clothing, please see poster on the notice board for details of requirements.

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch Harvest services on September 30 will be followed at 1.00pm by a Harvest Lunch at Putnoe Tickets from Putnoe Office weekdays or Leadership Team on Sundays. Adults £6.00 Children under 10 £3.00. Two courses inc.

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church started again on Monday 17 September at 12.15 for details please contact Carolyn at youth@thisischurch.com. *Carolyn*

An Autumn Craft Day will be held at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 20th October from 9.45am to 4.30pm. Cost £4 per half day session.. Please book by 11th October. Booking form and details of workshops available from Pam Seymour. Tel 305695; Email -pam@tgis.co.uk

Valerie and Peter Littleford will be holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning at 1 Bindon Abbey, Riverfield Drive, on Friday 28 September from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm and would very much hope that many church members will be able to come to this event. There will be a raffle and a 'bring and buy' stall.

Social Evening. There will be a Partnership Church Social event organised at St Mark's on Saturday 17 November, please put this in your diary as we are looking to make it a great event for all the family.

St Mark's Leadership Team notes of meeting from last week are on www.thisischurch.com

Putnoe Heights Church Children's and Youth meeting will be held tomorrow Monday 24th September at 1.15pm in the meeting room. *Carolyn*

Resurfacing Work Avon Drive will be closed to traffic from Kimbolton Road roundabout to Bourneside from 8am –6pm starting on 8 October 2012 for four days.

St Mark's Service Rota is available in draft form. Please feel free to either speak with people and agree swaps, or cross your name off if you cannot make a particular commitment. Once changes are made we will publish before the end of September.

Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. We will be holding a special service of commemoration of loved ones who have died at St Mark's Church on 4 November. All are welcome to attend so please do encourage anybody you know who would appreciate this special service.

Contemplative Group meet on the 28 September, 1.45pm in the quiet room at Putnoe Heights. *Eileen Brown*

Christmas Craft Fayre – 24 November 2012

Now that the Car Boots have been put to bed for the winter our next big fundraising event is our Christmas Craft Fayre.

We have a number of Church Stalls that need your support, i.e. plant stall, homemade cake stall, Craft stall and of course tray-bakes for refreshments.

So plant up your cuttings (indoor and out), bake your cakes and tray-bakes then come and enjoy the day with a cup of tea and a lovely ploughman's lunch.

Help on the day is always needed and is very much appreciated. Any queries about the above just contact Avril via the Church Office. Thank you.

Coffee Rota at St. Mark's. Additional volunteers to assist with coffee after church on Sundays would be very welcome. The more volunteers the less frequent the duty! Please see Milly if interested

Advent Course

This year we will be running a Partnership Advent Course at St Mark's for three weeks. The course will also be great for those considering confirmation in the 2013. Each session will start with refreshments at 7.30pm with the main meeting 8.00pm - 9.00pm More details to follow but put these dates in your diary.

Thursday 29 November

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm

Session in Church from 8pm

Thursday 6 December

In WREN room from 7.30pm

Thursday 13 December

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm

Session in Church from 8pm

Partnership Council are warmly invited to the Vicarage for a Christmas Party at 1.00pm on Sunday 23 December. Please RSVP to corinneroyden@gmail.com for catering.

Hymns for Sunday

- 1 **Brother, sister, let me serve you,**
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.
- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
- 3 I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.
- 6 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.

- 1 **Behold the Servant of the Lord,**
the chosen one, his soul's delight,
within whose heart the Spirit dwells
of faith and justice, truth and light.
- 2 He will not raise his voice aloud,
nor do to death the struggling flame,
but bring forth justice on the earth,
and nations all shall own his name.
- 3 The great baptismal act is o'er,
now hear the thunder from above,
and see the co-eternal Son,
resplendent in the Father's love.
- 4 So now to all the world proclaim
the news of universal grace,
and let the name of Christ be known
in every nation, tribe and race.



St Mark's Messy Church .

Future dates: all 3.45 to 5.30pm
Wednesday 17 October
Wednesday 21 November
Wednesday 12 December.



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Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.

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



Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

We heard this week of the sudden and unexpected death of Alison Holden from a heart attack. This news was made all the more shocking in that she died only hours after attending morning



worship where she seemed her usual self. Our thoughts and prayers are with Warwick and the family.

The funeral service will take place at St Mark's Church at 4.00pm on Friday 28 September followed by burial at St Albans Woodland burial Ground Keysoe. If anyone would like to make a donation in Alison's memory to the British Heart Foundation. Please visit

www.JustGiving.co.uk/AlisonHolden

A service of Thanksgiving for the life of Nicholas Dawson-Taylor will be held at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue on Monday 24th September at 3.30pm. No flowers please but if desired a donation to Brain Tumour UK care of Arnolds Funeral Service 48 Roff Avenue Bedford.