



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

24 July 2011 – Ordinary 17



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

24 July - Ordinary 17

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Mrs Sue Plant
Leadership – Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Mrs Sue Plant
Leadership – Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions – Ministers

31 July— Ordinary 18

9.30 am St. Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher– Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions – Dr Tim Wilkes

Bible Readings 1.Genesis 32: 22-31 2.Romans 9: 1-5 3. Matthew 14: 13-21

Midweek Worship Holy Communion at St Mark's Chapel every Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir William Harpur House on first Monday of every month at 10.00am

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Barry and Jenny Snelson to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Linday and Edward Parry in memory of their parents

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 the Week

Lord, we give you thanks for the word that you hide like a treasure in our heart, for the leaven which is able to penetrate to every area of our life - for the seed that is able to grow into a mighty plant...

Help us we pray to value that which you have given us - to make following Christ the most important thing in our daily lives, to concentrate above all upon the doing your will and sharing your love and the good news you have proclaimed through Jesus with one another and with the entire whole world....

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
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The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
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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 Hoar 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

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry
☎211955

10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

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 - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner
☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15 - 8.15pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's
Sam Thompson ☎07766421000 Starts 25th July.

7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

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

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—18 July Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357

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. 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

2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation fortnightly. Contact Mrs Reed ☎216623

2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting July 19 Miss Mercedes ' Age Concern' 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

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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 July 26 Afternoon Tea. Details call Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

10am U3A Card Making. St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - July 20 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

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

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

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

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

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731
6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 26 January.
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.
6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073
7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378
8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be July 20 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 ,Valmai 219555 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624
11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau Putnoe Heights.
12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby ☎363283
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St. Mark's ☎267444
1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293
1.45 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.
2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991
2-4pm U3A Indoor Games St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811
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
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094
7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517
8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments.

More details Ron Law 825574.
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pauline Hooper ☎350079

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397
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
2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875
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.



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –
St Mark's Leadership Team - 6 September 2011
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 October
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 3 October
St Mark's Forum Meeting -
Putnoe Church Council - 17 October
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Circuit meeting - 15 September at Putnoe Heights.
Deanery Meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 17 October

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

Ordinary 17

Opening Verse of Scripture – Romans 8:38-39

Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When he found one of great value,

he went away and sold everything

he had and bought it.

Jesus



Collect Prayer (*Before we read we pray*)

God, you have poured the Spirit of your Son into our hearts so that we call you father. Give us grace to devote our freedom to your service that we and all creation may be brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

First Bible Reading – Genesis 29: 15-28

Laban said to him, “Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be.” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It’s better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.” ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her.” So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant. When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me?” Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. Finish this daughter’s bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work.” And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans 8: 26-39

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 13: 31 –33, 44-52

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied. He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." (This is the word of the Lord –**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Hymns (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise*)

1. Name of all majesty *Tune Majestas* 481
2. Tell out my soul *Tune: Woodlands* 631
3. Lord thy word abideth *Tune: Ravenshaw* 446
4. How shall they hear *Tune Ombersly* 250
5. Crown him with many crowns *Tune Diademata* 109

Commentary A Collection of Parables

From Matthew today we have a series of pictures which describe the kingdom of heaven and what our response and attitude should be to it. Matthew uses the term 'Kingdom of heaven', but it means the same as 'Kingdom of God,' it is simply that he does not want to write the word 'God' out of a respect for the holiness of God's name.

The mustard seed and the yeast - parables of growth

These two short parables contrast the small beginning of the kingdom with the greatness of its effects. Our faith came out of the birth of a baby in a manger, failed disciples who ran away and death on a cross. We need to remind ourselves of this fact when we are tempted to feel small and insignificant. God's kingdom has secret power which confounds the wisdom of the world. The parables remind us that in humility God's kingdom is established. Jesus disciples faced daunting odds, you would not have thought it was possible for them to achieve the promises of Jesus.

We need to consider why Jesus choose a mustard seed. The mustard seed is tiny, but is not, in fact, the smallest of all seeds. The shrub that grows from the tiny seed is great by comparison with its beginnings, the mustard shrub typically grows to between 8 and 12 feet, but this is hardly comparable to the mighty cedars of Lebanon, with which Israel preferred to liken itself. Why would Jesus not compare the kingdom of heaven to a great tree instead of a shrub that a farmer might consider a weed? Perhaps the lesson of the mustard shrub is that Christians should live expectantly, knowing that God brings great things out of small beginnings, but that we should not expect the kingdom to be great as the world counts greatness. The parable of the leaven also encourages us to avoid seclusion and to be involved in the world. Leaven works as

it is worked into the dough. So as Christians we are encouraged to go into all the world and have an effect for good.

Treasure and Pearls - The Kingdom is worth everything

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Parable of the Pearl are parables which underscore the unique value of the kingdom. The discovery of things of great value produces joy and a willingness to give up everything for that which is best. The merchant is actively looking for pearls, while the other man just stumbles onto treasure in a field. Both, however, recognize the overwhelming value of their discovery, and sell everything so that they might buy it. In neither case is there any hint of sacrifice -- of giving up something precious -- of having to make a difficult decision. Neither man is sad to sell everything, because they are both overwhelmed with the joy of discovery and the prospect of possessing such treasure. They are like the disciples, who left everything to follow Jesus (4:18-22; 19:27-30). It is worth remembering the rich young ruler who "went away grieving," because he could not bear to part with his many possessions (19:16-26). This young man understood how radical the demands of following Jesus were. He begrudged losing what he already had, he had become attached to other things than Jesus and was not overwhelmed by a spontaneous gesture to give it all up and follow..

We have to decide whether the price is worth paying and make the appropriate response of total commitment. We cannot serve two masters (6:24). If we are unwilling to pay the price of commitment then we will not gain the treasure. The men who gain the treasure do not sell everything and buy the treasure because they feel it is something which they should do out of duty. Rather they are prompted by the conviction that it is worth it the sacrifices. They are so overjoyed at the prospect of what will be theirs that they freely give everything.

The parable of the net - Judgement will follow

This parable is very similar to the parable of the weeds which we read last week. The message is that judgment belongs to God and nobody else. In this parable, a dragnet scoops up all sorts of fish, both good and bad. Jews were prohibited (Lev. 11:9-12) from eating certain types of sea life, creatures without scales or fins, so the fishermen would discard unusable fish. The message for the disciples is clear, the net will be sorted but not yet. The timetable for God's judgement is not ours, and be careful, the measure of God's judgement is not ours. God will decide not us. Be careful in judging others, if we really want somebody to judge then we can have a full time job dealing with ourselves. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

Love's secret is to be doing things for God, and not to mind because they are such very little ones. *Frederick W. Faber*

And now I had discovered the good pearl. To buy it I had to sell all that I had; and I hesitated.-
Augustine

The world does not say: "blessed are the poor." The world says: "Blessed are the rich. You are worth as much as you have." But Christ says: "Wrong. Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven, because they do not put their trust in what is so transitory." Blessed are the poor, for they know that their riches are in the One who being rich made himself poor in order to enrich us with his poverty, teaching us the Christian's true wisdom.

Oscar Romero 1917-1980 The Violence of Love

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Lord God, Your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Common Worship additional collects

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through 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. Amen

Storybox and Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights is having its last session on 25 July 2011 and to end, we have invited a Magician along to come and entertain! It's for all ages – under 1's are free - and would love to see many there. Lunch will be provided and there will be a raffle with brilliant prizes. You are welcome from 12 – 2, with the Magic Show starting soon after 12 and lunch after. Tickets are £2 child, £1 adult and lunch is included. Tickets are available from Putnoe Heights Church Office (Tel: 01234 365630) or from Storybox, Storybox Plus and Junior Church at Putnoe Heights. Any queries, contact Putnoe Heights Children's and Youth Worker Emma Gordon 07593266091 or email youth@thischurch.com.

Summer activity days at Putnoe Heights Church Running on Monday 1- Tuesday 2 August 2011 are 'Jonah and the Whale' activity days. Two weeks later there will be 'Feeding the 5,000' activity days on Monday 15 – Tuesday 16 August 2011. These days will include crafts, games, puppets, singing, drama and lots of fun! All ages are welcome, under 5's must be accompanied by an adult. Packed lunches will be required, drink and snacks will be provided.

Times are – Monday 1 – 12pm-3pm
Tuesday 2 – 1pm-3.30pm
Monday 15 – 12pm-3pm
Tuesday 16 - 1pm-3pm

Any queries, contact Putnoe Heights Children's and Youth Worker Emma Gordon 07593266091 or email youth@thischurch.com.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help with the smooth running of all our children's groups at Putnoe. We look forward to seeing you all in September. Carolyn and Emma..

Flowers at Putnoe Heights—anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of flowers at Putnoe on any Sunday during the next six months, is invited to enter their name on the rota on the notice board in the welcome area.

'Run the Race' the Methodist annual prayer handbook will be available for August. The cost will be £3.50 plus p.p. (maximum). If you would like a copy please contact Vera Pearson (270737) who will be ordering these during July.

Refresh your Relationship A 6 hour workshop run by Relate at St. Mark's Church centre 30th July 10am-4pm. £150 per couple inc. finger buffet lunch. To book contact training@relatebedsandluton.org.uk or phone 01234 342503.

Prayer Group will not meet on Thursday July 28.

St.Mark's Junior Church resumes on Sunday September 4.

St Mark's Storybox has finished for the holiday and will meet again on Thursday Sept 8. Many thanks to Jaana and all who helped throughout the year

St. Mark's Chat and Play. Holiday Chat and Play on 4 and 18 of August. Jo Garner 400071

Hymn Praise In response to requests, a hymn praise service will be held at Putnoe Heights Church at 6-30p.m. on Sunday 11 September. Anyone who would like a favourite hymn included please email eric.royden@gmail.com or phone 294496.

Putnoe Heights Mission Fund has donated £180 to Kissizi Hospital to sponsor a bed and £200 to Oxfam for famine relief in Africa. Carolyn Morris

St Mark's Foyer Improvements. Work will commence in August on the project to enlarge the foyer at St Mark's and provide new disabled friendly entrance doors. The work is entirely funded from grants and donations which have been received from charities. The finished work may not look entirely beautiful, since it requires the fitting of a new canopy over the finished doors. There are no funds for this at present and we will complete the work when we have raised more money. Please be patient with the finished appearance in the meantime !

St Mark's Leadership Team Please note that the next date is 6 September 2011

Many thanks to Judith Stanton and her whist drive members for the generous donation of £160 to St. Mark's Church.

Invitation Irene and Eddie McKenzie are celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 3rd August 2011 in the small hall at Putnoe Heights Church, from 1-4pm. Everyone welcome. Transport available - telephone 311569. No gifts please.

News from Kisiizi Hospital at Putnoe. Kisiizi was founded in 1958 by the late Dr John Sharp. In 2008 the patients, staff and local people celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The hospital now has 248 beds in 7 wards; has 40,000 patients a year; and the new Out-patient block is nearly complete. If you would like to read more about Kisiizi hospital please look for this week's newsletter in the welcome area or ask me for a copy. Carolyn.

Footprints Walk Our next walk is on Sunday, 7 August in the Little Staughton area (a change to the advertised walk). Please meet in the car park of The Crown Inn, Green End, Little Staughton for a 2.30pm start. The walk of around 3½ miles takes us through arable farmland into Cambridgeshire with good views over the surrounding area. The last part of the walk could be quite muddy if we have much rain in the preceding days. All are welcome. Contact Sue Butler (Priory) if you need any further information.

Bedford Borough Council Summer Play Scheme

This scheme is for 5-13 year olds and will operate from 1 August to 26 August . The cost will be £1 per session, payable on door. Local venues for the scheme are Putnoe Heights Community Church (Putnoe Heights) 10am – 12pm 2pm – 4pm Brickhill Lower School (Dove Road) 10am – 12pm For more information on any of our summer activities call 01234 221700 or visit www.bedford.gov.uk/sport

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

Supported lodgings is where individuals, couples or families become 'Hosts' and provide accommodation and support for a young person in their home. Hosts will be supported by a dedicated Supported Lodgings Coordinator, provided with training and on-going support, an income and a suitably matched

young person.

Cllr Roger Rigby, portfolio for Adult Services, at Bedford Borough Council, said: "When a young person becomes homeless they are often profoundly lonely, isolated and vulnerable. Without support they can easily be excluded, but with the support and comfort of a place they can call 'home', they can learn independent living skills and go on to lead successful adult lives."

Amy Elliott, from YMCA Bedfordshire, commented: "The young people I have met who've been able to access Supported Lodgings overwhelmingly sing its praises! It has given them an opportunity to learn through experience, to feel someone cares, to be respected and to feel more confident about their future."

If you have a spare room in your home to give a young person a better start in life, please call Amy Elliott at YMCA Bedfordshire on 01234 307040 or 07508807441 for an information pack or informal discussion.



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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.

Elizabeth May Hurrell

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



Banns of Marriage

We publish the banns and pray for the Marriages of Ryan Douglas Mullins of this parish and Lorraine Airdrie of this parish and on the electoral roll of Kempston Rural. Also between David Gareth Holland and Suzanne Carpenter both of this parish Both for the Third time of asking

Forthcoming Funerals

