



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

25 October 2009

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

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Eric Royden
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Eric Royden
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Sunday 1 November - All Saints

9.30am St. Mark's - Mission Sunday

Preacher - Ali Inward – Kings Arms Project
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions –Mr Warwick Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Family Worship

Preacher – Ali Inwood
Leadership –Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions –Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Readings

1. Isaiah 25: 6-9 2. Rev 21:1-6a
3. John 11: 32-44

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week celebrate the marriage of David Rollins & Comfort John.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given in celebration of the marriage of Simon Llewellyn and Emma Marks, and also by Christine and Maurice Halsey in loving memory of their daughter Lesley Robinson.

We are always grateful for any donations for 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 Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

Lord Jesus, we give you our hands to do your work. We give you our feet to walk in your way. We give you our tongues to speak your word. We give you our hearts to love you, now and for ever. Amen.

Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

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 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.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349 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 - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

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

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063

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

12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

1.30pm U3A History Group St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474

2pm U3A Drama St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎ 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting October 19 Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's Mrs Brown☎771676

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Sally Banks ☎ 870357

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043

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

2pm U3A Photography (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting October 20 Word Search A to Z. Details from 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 Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton 346718

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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

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

7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month. Brian Ibberson ☎403497

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting October 20 Shoe Box packing Details from Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 28 October 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall

Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.

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

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting 4 November. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

7.45 for 8pm God talk - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. (No meeting on 9th April)

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.

12pm Storybox St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing . Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎272470 Next meeting 24 September

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 Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. 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. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550

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. Pat Foulks ☎346505

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

6.30 - 7.30pm Ladies Kick Boxing weekly at St. Mark's. Parker Lake ☎07984427854

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 Tel 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

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun. Please see Liz ☎302349 .



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 9 Nov

St Mark's Leadership Team – 19 January

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – , 8 Feb

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 18 Jan 7.45pm

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010,

Putnoe Church Council - 15 February

Pastoral Group Meeting - 19 January

Churchyard Committee - 26 January 2010, 11am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group—Weds 6th Jan at 14 Flint Way at 7.30pm

Partnership Council—TBA

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting 19 Nov,

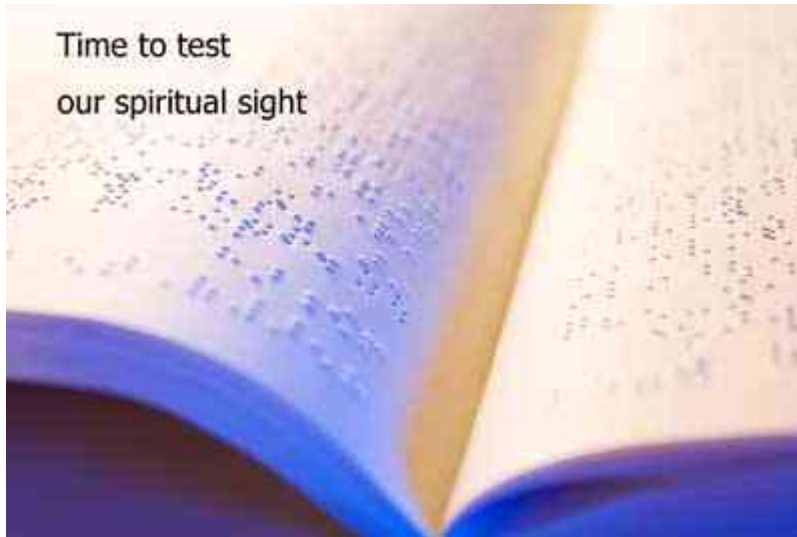
Circuit/Treasurers Revue meeting at St. Mark's

Circuit Meeting 8 March at Oakley

Woodland Burial Trustees –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 18th Jan

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



Ordinary 29

Opening Verses of Scripture Luke Chapter 4:18

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Collect Prayer for the Day

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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.

First Bible Reading Jeremiah 31: 7-9

This is what the LORD says: "Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labour; a great throng will return. They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

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

Second Reading Hebrews 7: 23-28

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

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

Gospel Reading Mark 10: 46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

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

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

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing (496) Tune Lyngham
2. I the Lord of sea and sky
3. Tell me the stories of Jesus (629)
4. Break Thou the bread of life (64)
5. Master speak Thy servant heareth (459) Tune All Saints.

Post Communion Prayer

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Mediation

In the closing verses of to-day's Epistle, Paul tells Timothy, and by inference all Christian preachers, to preach the true gospel, but warns that people will rather prefer to listen to those who will say what they want to hear. There is so much false teaching you need to be able to differentiate between what is true and false, and what is right from wrong. The Bible is the Book which points us to the way of God and guides us in a high standard of living, and sets moral values in which communities can live more worthily together.

In view of current legislation which seeks to prevent expression of traditional Christian teaching, it is however likely to lead to arrest if one faithfully preached the Bible in a public place, as we have seen. Consequently this has led to a diluting of the message generally. Everyone must decide for him/herself whether they prefer to hear what God has decreed or to prefer a more relaxed message. It is particularly noticeable that since the decline in Christian teaching the standard of behaviour has declined also. (Eric Royden)

Commentary

Today is designated as 'Bible Sunday' the day the Church sets for us to thank God for the great gift of His Holy Word. When a monarch of this country is crowned, at the Coronation Service he/she is handed a copy of the Bible and told it is the greatest gift that can be given to him/her. It is in effect saying, whilst you are above the law of the land here is a law which is above you. Today we have the opportunity of reflecting on what the Bible means to each one of us. How often do you open its pages and read from them? I fear that most people in this country, and indeed many Church members, open it very rarely if at all. Certainly the response from people on radio and television quiz programmes, reveals that they have not the slightest knowledge about even the main stories of the Bible. Even so called intellectuals have displayed an ignorance that is bewildering, one not knowing if Adam or Jesus was the first man placed on earth. Whilst it has been the best selling book of all time and the one translated into more languages than any other book, it is invariably left in a book case. We in this country are so fortunate that we can go into any bookshop and freely buy a copy, something which many others in the world cannot do. In many (non Christian) countries, even possessing a Bible is an offence which could cause you to be imprisoned, and to quote from it, make you liable to a death sentence.

The great purpose of the Bible is to reveal the purpose of Jesus Christ. In the pages of the Old Testament, we find the prophets foretelling of His coming, and in the New, a summary of His life, works and teaching.

In the Epistles we have further teaching from those men our Lord chose as His Apostles which deal with almost every aspect of life. Through the ages people have turned to this book when faced with problems, sorrow, questions which torment them. Children have been told the stories of Jesus and leading characters by parents, teachers and at Sunday Schools. Sadly many parents do not have the time, inclination, or knowledge themselves, to look at the Bible with their children. Where schools would have daily Christian assemblies, it appears (state) schools no longer in most cases have them. Religious teaching has to include a balance of teaching about other faiths, and the Education Secretary seems more concerned with children having sex education than religious, the latter I suspect would have a greater effect on young lives.

What a difference within Muslim families, where children are taught of their Holy Book, the Koran, from an early age. Nor would they let that book be abused and mocked in the way the Bible is treated. Similarly, Jewish children are taught the beliefs and history of Israel and Judaism from the Old Testament.

The central message of the Bible is the grace of God in sending Jesus Christ to be our Saviour, that is, to die on the Cross so our sins can be forgiven and we can be granted salvation. The message is quite clear, there is no vagueness, it is all about what God has done for us and requires a response.

There is an attitude that God accepts everybody as they are without need to change anything in life. Whilst it is true that God is willing to accept everyone, the gospel also teaches that there has to be a response on our part. We may like to think we are good living people, but our standards may not be the same as that which God requires.

The parable of the rich young man and Jesus told how when Jesus said to the man he should sell all he had and give to the poor, the man turned away. Jesus was in fact testing him; what Jesus wanted was the man's heart and was not interested in his money. Jesus knew the value of money, He had rich women supporting His ministry. That requirement still holds, but there is a reluctance for people to give financially, as it means sacrificing something in their life which is too much for them to do. In an age when morals have largely been abandoned, peoples' hearts are not right with God; we don't love the Lord with all our heart otherwise there wouldn't be the problems so many people have in their lives. (Eric Royden)

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

God, our Shepherd, give to the Church a new vision and a new charity, new wisdom and fresh understanding, the revival of her brightness and the renewal of her unity; that the eternal message of your Son, undefiled by human tradition, may be hailed as the good news of the new age; through him who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Lord. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

Gracious and all merciful God - we give thanks to you today for your compassion and your love. We proclaim your goodness and your strength and we call upon you in praise and thanksgiving. Bless us and bless your people everywhere this day with your holy presence. Help us to worship you in a manner worthy of our calling and to render to you the tribute due to your name. We ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the silence of the stars, in the quiet of the hills and in the heaving of the sea, you speak O Lord. In the words of the prophets and the message of the apostles, you speak O Lord. Now we pray, speak in this place, in the calming of our minds and the longing of our hearts, by the words of my lips and the meditations of our hearts. Speak, O Lord, for your servants listen.

Eternal God, you have been our resting-place through the ages. Generations come and pass away, but you abide forever. We praise you for your presence among us. You bring us comfort amid our trials - clarity where confusion persists - peace in the midst of conflict - and hope of eternal life. Hear us now as we pray for your Church and the needs of the world, for you are the God of our lives. We pray for the Church of Jesus Christ; that, begun, maintained and promoted by the Holy Spirit, it may be true, engaging, glad, and active, doing your will. Let your church be always faithful, O God, and ready to promote the cause of compassionate love and peace

Eternal God, giver of love and peace, you call your children to live together as one family. Give us grace to learn your ways and to do your will, that we may bring justice and peace to all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lord of creation, you give a new strength to our faith. Grant that we may recognise your presence in all life and history, and face our trials with serenity and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Turvey Abbey A Christian East/West Exploration
'New Visions of Monasticism for Lay and Monastics'
14 November 2009 10.30am to 4.30pm Cost £12
Please bring a packed lunch - coffee and tea
provided To book, please contact Sister Esther at the
address below.

Autumn Fair at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham
Avenue on Saturday 31 October from 10am—3pm.
Many stalls offering home produce, gifts galore,
cards, crafts, paintings, wood carvings, ceramics,
bric-a-brac, Raffle and tombola. Lunches and light
refreshments available. Admission 50p
(accompanied children free). Everyone welcome, so
please come and bring your friends.

Dreaming of a Holy Night An evening with Graham
Kendrick In Concert with Ban plus guest Philippa
Hannah 7.30pm Monday 21 December 2009 At
Bedford Corn Exchange. Tickets from: Mrs Carolyn
Smith Tel: 01234 344 544 1 Abbey Road Bedford,
MK41 9LG Cheques should be made payable to
'Hope Bedfordshire' and the tickets will be sent by
post. Tickets purchased in advance are £12.50 but
will be £15 on the night.

**Bedford Ecumenical Lay Institute for Education
and Faith.** God Calling ? Being a Christian in ...A
series of 5 sessions to be held in the Holt Room, St.
Andrews Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, from
7.45 until 9.30pm. Starting with Education on
Wednesday 21 October, Sport on 28 with Mark
Pinney, Banking on 4 November with Ed Bloor, Law
on 11 with Martin Banham-Hall and Medicine on 18
with Dr. Mary Fenske. Course is free, donations
welcome towards the costs and refreshments.

Kempston Musical Society Saturday 31st October
7.30pm Bromham Baptist Church Kempston Musical
Society present the first of our light concerts in aid of
their project to build a school in India. Tickets may
be obtained from Bromham Church office, or will be
available at the door. Further information 01234
822681

Advent Retreat Weekend 11 - 13 December 2009
And the desert shall blossom: A *silent* weekend
sharing the peace and beauty of Advent with the
Turvey communities. Cost £90 including £30 non
returnable deposit. To book a place, please contact
Sister Judith at the address below. Turvey Abbey,
Turvey, Bedfordshire MK43 8DE

The Gospel of John with The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey
John Dean of St Albans. Saturday 20 February 2010
10.00am to 1.00pm Venue: St Andrews Church,
Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2PF £15.00 (waged)
£12.00 (unwaged) To book a place on this course,
please contact the **BELIEF** office c/o Priory

Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue, Bedford
MK41 9QJ Tel: 01234293688 E-mail:
office@beliefbeds.org.uk www.beliefbeds.org.uk

Coffee/tea afternoon at Anjulita Court 2.30pm on
Thursday November 5th includes the sale of
Christmas cards/gifts, all proceeds to Arthritis
Research Campaign (ARC).

Churches call for an end to 'credit slavery'

This week, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union
of Great Britain and the United Reformed Church
have called for transparency in money-lending and
greater protection for borrowers.

In a submission to the Office of Fair Trading, the
Churches assert that money-lenders must give
borrowers all the information necessary to make a
sensible decision about borrowing.

The submission also criticises the practice of credit
dependency, also known as 'credit slavery'. The
Churches assert that lenders should only lend

money if a borrower can pay
both the interest and the loan
amount within a reasonable
timescale.



Paul Morrison, Public Issues

Policy Adviser, said, "This is an issue that Methodists
have been concerned about since before we knew
we were Methodists." The first Methodist building run
by the Wesleys was called the Foundry, as it was the
old military cannon works in Woolwich. The upstairs
was used for meetings and worship, the downstairs
was a loan dispensary to help people to escape
exploitative and violent moneylenders.

"Debt and exploitative lending are just as much a
problem today as they were in the early days of
Methodism. Poverty often means that people come
to loans companies in a situation of urgent need and
are willing to accept exploitative rates of interest.
Borrowers should be treated with dignity and
respect, and their lives must not be crippled by the
need to service unpayable debts."

St Mark's sets of weekly offering envelopes are
available in the foyer from today. Regular giving is
an essential part of the Church's income, and helps
greatly in meeting the costs of running St Mark's.
We are very fortunate that so many members of the
congregation already give so generously to the
Church in this way. You can make regular weekly or
monthly gifts, either by standing order or through the
weekly envelope scheme. In addition, if you are a
UK tax payer, you can Gift Aid your offering - and the
Church can claim 20% tax back from the
Government. This can also be done through the
yellow Gift Aid envelopes on the chairs. If you would
like to find out more please speak to Jim Williams
after the service or contact him on 01234 360605.
As always, thank you for your generosity. *Jim W*

A Hymn for Sunday

I, the Lord of sea and sky. I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you send me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them, whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied,
I will give my life to them, whom shall I send?

St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre

There are only 4 weeks left to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 21st November 2009. We would be grateful for help with the following:-

Tombola – Any NEW unwanted gifts\Christmas present etc. for our Tombola stall.

Raffle – Raffle books are now available as for Sunday 25th October. It would be appreciated if you could take a few books to sell to family and friends. We would also be grateful for any new items suitable for the raffle.

Cake Stall

Millie is kindly co-ordinating the cake stall again. If you are able to bake a cake for this stall please contact Millie via the Church Office.

Refreshments – We would very much appreciate donations of tray bakes 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 or Trudy Bunday. Any help gratefully received.

Secondhand Book Stall - Delia has very kindly volunteered to co-ordinate the secondhand book stall again this year so please have a look in your cupboards for any unwanted books.

Indoor Plant Stall -This year we are planning to have an Indoor Plant Stall. 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. Also if anyone is willing and able to run the stall for us please contact Avril Williams or contact the Church Office.

All donated items for the above stalls can be bought up to Church anytime week beginning 16th 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.

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

There are no funeral this week