



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

## 25 September 2011 – Ordinary 26



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

### 25 September- Ordinary 26

#### 9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship & Baptism

Preacher - Mrs Liz Little  
Leadership – Mr Mike Ovenden  
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Mrs Liz Little  
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoare  
Intercessions – Ministers

### 2 October- Ordinary 27

#### 9.30 am St. Mark's - Family Worship & Baptism

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden  
Leadership – Morag Stewart  
Intercessions - Mr/Mrs Holden

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship

Preacher – Rev Charles Royden  
Leadership -- Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions – Y P F

**Bible Readings** 1. Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 3. Luke 12: 16-30.

**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 Veta Hudson-Rae to celebrate her birthday and the birthday of her grandson Samuel.

*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.*

### Welcome

A special welcome to St Mark's this week to Lily Ann Stewart , her family and friends who have come to celebrate her baptism.

### Prayer for the Week

God of our salvation,  
we falter before the demands of your word  
and turn away from your call to life.  
Pour out your mercy on us  
as you showed mercy to your people of old,  
that we may turn from our sinfulness  
and walk the path of self-emptying love  
make known in Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

#### Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE  
348091 Mobile 07807 146535  
jane@thisischurch.com

#### The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY  
309175 Mobile 07973 113861  
vicar@thisischurch.com

#### For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in  
Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website  
and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our  
church website [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

#### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

#### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846  
**Leadership Team** Mrs. Linda Hoare 782717  
**Treasurer** Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** John Hitt 404186  
**Youth Worker** Emma Gordon email - 07593266091  
youth@thisischurch.com

#### St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Laura Farthing 210892  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 –3.45 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)  
Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685  
**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634  
(See website for more details)  
**.9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430  
**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry  
☎211955  
**10.30am U3A Play reading** (see contact details below)  
**12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Emma Gordon ☎07593266091  
**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** - (see contact details below)  
**3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities. Emma Gordon 07593266091 or 365630  
**4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698  
**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190  
**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.  
**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859  
6.15 - 8.15pm  
**6.15pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's Sam Thompson ☎07766421000  
**7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571  
**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518  
**7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020  
**7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091  
**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 17 October. Judith Stanton. ☎823313  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.  
**8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790206016  
**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507  
**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223  
**10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** (see contact details below)  
**1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp** - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552  
**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** (see contact details below)

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895  
**2.00pm U3A** (see contact details below)  
**2pm U3A Photography** St. Mark's (see contact details below)  
**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 27 September –Harvest Festival For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.  
**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225  
**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.  
**3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.  
**6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718  
**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎07891879571  
**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455  
**7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885  
**7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497  
**7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)  
**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting October 4 - Harvest. 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,** (see contact details below)  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 28 September. Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630  
**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .  
**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811  
**1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147  
**2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179  
**1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** (see contact details below)  
**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966  
**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698  
**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden

☎219731

**6.00pm Shooting Stars.** Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

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

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

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

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

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073

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

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

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be October 5 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

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

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624 Restarts on 8 September.

**12pm Storybox .** St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby ☎363283 Restarts 8 September

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays** St. Mark's ☎267444

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

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

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games** (see contact details below)

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

**2- 4pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎275229

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

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** (see contact details below)

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale ☎406094

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

**8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers** (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

**8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle.** St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pauline Hooper ☎350079

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography** ((see contact details below)

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

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

**5.50-7.05pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

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

**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.** St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

### Saturday

**10.00am Theatretrain** St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

**2.15pm Society of Recorder Players** at Putnoe Heights. G Parry ☎01462 674792

**7.00pm Duplicate Bridge.** St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

### Sunday

**9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School** at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

**11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior** at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

**1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice

**U3A** For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119

[www.bedfordtkd.com](http://www.bedfordtkd.com) or [bedfordtkd@googlemail.com](mailto:bedfordtkd@googlemail.com).



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council – 12 October 7.30pm in chapel**  
**St Mark's Leadership Team -**  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 October**  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 3 October**  
**St Mark's Forum Meeting - Wednesday 9th November**  
**Putnoe Church Council - 17 October**  
**Pastoral Group Meeting -**  
**Churchyard Committee -**  
**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -**  
**Circuit meeting - .**  
**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 26

### Opening Verse of Scripture - Philippians 2

Value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.

### Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

Father of all, you gave your only Son, to take upon himself the form of a servant and to be obedient even to death on a cross. Give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus that, sharing in his humility, we may come to be with him in his glory; for he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Methodist Worship



Value others  
above yourselves,  
not looking to your own  
interests but each of you  
to the interests of the others. Phil 2:4

### First Bible Reading - Exodus 17: 1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarrelled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?” But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?” Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The LORD answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?” (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

### Second Reading Philippians 2: 1-13

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed— not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose. (This is the Word of the Lord — **All: Thanks be to God**)

### Gospel Reading - Matthew 21: 23-32

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?” Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we

say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' "I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him. (This is the Word of the Lord — **All: Thanks be to God**)

**Post Communion Prayer** Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Hymns** (*Please distribute Morning Worship, Baptism booklet and Hymns and Praise*)

1. Lord God your love 500
2. At the name of Jesus 74
3. O for a heart 536
4. Lord I come to you (On Partnership News.)
5. Crown him with many crowns 255

### **Commentary**

The reading from Matthew today describes the discussion between the Jewish leaders and Jesus following the incident which we often call the "Cleansing of the Temple." This is the only violent act which is attributed to Jesus in the whole of his ministry and it occurs in all four gospels. Matthew, Mark and Luke place the story at the end of Jesus's ministry, after his triumphal entry and before the parable of the tenants. John places the story at the very beginning of his gospel. Clearly, chronology is not as important to the Gospel writers as the fact that Jesus actually did this disturbing thing.

Jesus makes this violent and extreme response towards the scene of seeing people selling cattle, sheep and doves to the pilgrims who needed them to make their obligatory sacrifices. You will remember that Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple and made a sacrifice following his birth (Luke 2:22). I would like to think that Jesus was affronted by the very concept of killing animals in order to assuage human guilt. Indeed Jesus does speak of the destruction of the temple and it being rebuilt in three days, an allusion perhaps to the end of temple worship and his death and resurrection. However there is clearly more going on here as Jesus has described the temple as a 'den of robbers'.

We need to appreciate the temple economy, pilgrims visiting the temple from far and wide were obliged to exchange their Roman currency into Jewish money in order to pay the temple tax in the proper coinage. The money-changers changed Roman money into Temple money since Roman coins, with their idolatrous images of the Emperor, could not be carried into the Temple. The money-changers charged an exchange fee of roughly 50%, two Roman coins earned one of Temple money in return. Surely this was an abuse of power an exploitation which would have upset Jesus. The sacrifices themselves were also a way of abstracting more money from the poor worshipper. Doves were a suitable sacrifice for those who could not afford to offer sheep, however even these low-cost options carried a significant mark-up in price. Later in the first century, the son of Rabbi Gamaliel would lead a successful protest against the exorbitant mark-up on sacrificial doves.

We should expect Jesus to react with anger on behalf of the poor who were being ripped off by the Temple which had a complete monopoly on God's forgiveness. We should not be surprised that he would have to do something dramatic to gain attention in the midst of the Temple, full of noises, human crowds and animals. To make an impression Jesus uses a whip, he chases the animals from the temple, scattered the coffers of the money changers, and overturned their tables: "How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"

Jesus rejects the fraud, exploitation and avarice of the religious authorities who control the means of ritual purity. However the passage today does give us an insight into some more of Jesus thoughts. Jesus is asked by the Jewish authorities to justify his actions and explain what authority he had to show such an extreme reaction against the temple trade. In good rabbinical style Jesus answers a question

with another question 'Was John's baptism divine or merely human? This trapped the temple teachers. If they said it was merely human, they feared reprisals from the crowds. And if they admitted that John's baptism was from God, then they had no excuse for not accepting it and repenting. They were caught between fear and disobedience. Jesus is excused answering their question as they refuse to answer his. Then Jesus tells a story. A lazy son refused to work but then changed his mind and obeyed his father's request. His brother did the opposite: he promised to work but then didn't. Jesus asks, 'which is worse?'. The answer is simple, since breach of a promise was worse than never having promised in the first place. The son had violated his word.

In this illustration Jesus is comparing the temple authorities to the latter son, for they had made bold claims but showed no obedience. Tax collectors and prostitutes on the other hand had never made bold religious promises, yet they nevertheless believed John's message of invitation and indictment and they would therefore enter the kingdom of God. Jesus is really very abusive towards the chief priests and elders who have come to talk to him. He chooses to make them subordinate even to prostitutes and tax collectors, the people that the religious leaders looked down on, people they hated and persecuted. Jesus chooses these groups to make the strongest point.

There is a message for us, Jesus wants us to live out our faith in words and deed, saying the right words matters for nothing. We need to stop judging others and instead make it our goal to do God's will here and now, to live out lives of peace and justice. We have only to look to Jesus to find out how we should behave. His was a life of forgiving people who hurt him, caring for others in need - like the hungry and homeless. As St Paul says in the letter to the Philippians, we have to put on the mind of Christ and have the attitude of Christ, and love humanity as much as Christ does. We are to be a people who love our enemies, because that is what Jesus did and that is the will of God for us.

Jesus was constantly confronted by the pious who were demonstrative in claiming to serve God by their strict observance of religious rules. Yet, Jesus criticized them for their lack of compassion for those they oppressed by their strict interpretation of their religion. He accused them of putting burdens on the shoulders of others while being unwilling to lift a finger to help them. So Jesus reserved the strongest criticism of all for the religious leaders and called them hypocrites. These were people who has lost touch with what religion was really all about. Jesus has launched an attack on the Temple's financial base and the ruling families who ran it. Jesus has again aligned himself in the popular mind with John the Baptist. He reminds the crowd that he and the Baptist had much in common. Jesus presents himself on the side of the popular martyred hero, and in opposition to the ruling circles which killed him, inevitably Jesus was now set to meet the same fate. *Charles Royden*

## **Meditation**

We all know that actions speak louder than words. The gospel passage today warns us not to tamper with religion unless we are prepared to try and honestly live the things we speak and pray about. If we claim to be followers of Jesus then we are expected to prove it with actions, not pious words. Just because we say we are Christians does not entitle us to appreciation by God. Those who have no religious motivation are often more compassionate, forgiving and less judgemental. In his beautiful letter today, Paul prays that the Christian community will be loving and filled with compassionate people determined to serve one another's needs. We are all called to make that prayer a reality in the loving ways we care for others. Actions speak louder than words, because words do not cost anything. Actions demand that we give a part of ourselves, our time, energy, resources. *Charles Royden*

## **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

Lord, you know our hearts.

No matter what act we put on in public, you know what we are really like.

No matter how hard we try to appear perfect to the outside world, you know the truth about us – for you made us and you love us.

And Lord, if we are honest, we know the truth about ourselves too. We know that we are selfish, proud, stubborn. We say things without thinking. We turn away when others need our help. Lord, in the things we do and in the things we fail to do, we fall short of your ways so often.

Forgive us, Lord, when we feel self-righteous, when we think we are better than others, when we are full of our own importance. Forgive us when we get complacent and ignore our own faults, yet are quick to see the faults in those around us.

Lord, you made us out of love, you made us to be free to choose your way of love. Time and time again you offer us the chance to start anew. Your love for us is unconditional and you long for us to share that love in our lives.

We know that in our own strength we can't really change, so we come to you. Lord, grant us the humility to accept our weaknesses and the courage to let you change us. Amen

### **Storybox and Storybox Plus at Putnoe Heights**

is a story time with singing and crafts for 0-5's and their parents or carers, is on Mondays at 12.15 – 1.15. Storybox Plus is for 5 – 9's with snacks, a story and games, crafts and activities based on the story. This happens on Mondays at 3.30 – 5. Contact Emma Gordon, 07593266091 or youth@thisischurch.com, for any queries or information.

**Chat and Play** meets at St Mark's Church at 9.30am on Thursdays . This is a great time for parents and carers to meet together with children and babies. Jo Garner 400071

**Offertory Envelopes** (Putnoe Heights). Sets of envelopes for the next twelve months are available for collection from a table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the envelope scheme (or contribute to church funds by standing order), is invited to contact John Hitt, tel 404186.

**Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch** tickets are now available from the Putnoe Office. The date is Sunday 2nd October (please note the date given in the new Circuit newsletter is incorrect). Lunch of two courses with drinks, will be served at 1.00pm. Please bring your own wine. £6.00 adults, £3.00 children. The catering team would welcome apples etc from your gardens for the desserts.

### **Open House ! Start October 5**

St Mark's is offering to the community an open drop in day centre, starting from Wednesday 5 October and then every Wednesday from 10.00am until 2.00pm. Open House will especially welcome people with learning disabilities, their families and friends. This project is offered free of charge and so we will depend on the support of volunteers. If you are able to offer help of any sort then please contact St Mark's Church office on 01234 342613

**Club Five - O** are holding a coffee evening in aid of MacMillan Nurses from 7.30 - 9.45pm on Friday 30 September at St. Mark's. All welcome. Free entry. Coffee and biscuits, Cake stall, Book stall etc. More details Lena Tel.01234 271664

**House Group** at the home of Wendy Waters will be held on four Mondays beginning on 19 September. We will be using a Riding Lights Theatre Company video entitled 'Origins and Lemons'. This is a light hearted presentation of the key themes of Genesis chapters 1 – 11, aimed to provoke exploration of the issues of science and faith. We begin at 7.45pm at 13 Farnham Way Putnoe. Please contact Wendy Waters on 01234 401834 if you would like to come or for more details.

## **Harvest**

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

Our Harvest this year will support BeCHaR.  
(Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless)



Every year at Harvest our churches gather together to give thanks for the many good things which we are able to enjoy. We thank God for the basics like food and water, and we also remember those who work hard to provide all the things we need.

To show our gratitude for how fortunate we are, we always use Harvest as an opportunity to raise funds and give towards a charity. This year we are remembering the most vulnerable and homeless in our own community, those who haven't even got a roof over their heads,.

Our chosen charity is BeCHaR (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless) a local Bedford charity based in Prebend Street Day Centre. They desperately need funds and resources. They need things like tins of food to feed the hungry, they also need our financial support. Please come and join us for harvest, give thanks for what we have and remember those who have nothing.

Over the next few weeks please drop off any tins or gifts for BeCHaR at the churches in the foyer. These will then be taken to BeCHaR. For more information about BeCHaR call our church offices or visit the website [www.prebendcentre.org.uk](http://www.prebendcentre.org.uk)

**St. Mark's Church Council** Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 October in the chapel, 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

**Christian Bookshop.** The Word, selling Christian books and cards has opened at 167 Castle Road, Bedford (corner of Denmark Street). Items for our stall at St. Mark's are being purchased from there.

**Thank you** to everyone who supported the coffee morning in aid of Mission funds on 27th August. We celebrated Dorothy's 80th birthday and would like to say a big thank you for making this day such a happy time. Donations were given to Mission funds instead of gifts. A total of £131.00 was donated.  
*Pauline and Stephen Clare*

**A sincere thank you** to all our friends who have sent letters, cards and flowers, and visited both before and following the death of Mima. Your condolences are much appreciated. Special thanks also go to the lunch club ladies who worked in the kitchen throughout the afternoon of Mima's funeral. God bless you all -Trevor Noble.

**Concert** in aid of Operation Christmas Child given by the Peregrine Recorder Orchestra at Simple Oak, Potton Road, Biggleswade. £7 or £8 on door. Refreshments included. Contact 01767 641501

**Fashion Show ladies and children's clothing** ...from M & Co. on Thursday 20th Oct at 7pm at Shefford Methodist Church, Amphill road, Shefford, SG175BD £5 on the door - includes refreshments. Shirley Course Steward Shefford Methodist

**Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal** Choosing gifts to put in a shoebox is a really fun part of getting involved in Operation Christmas Child. There is something very rewarding about giving to a child you will probably never meet in this world – especially when you know your simple act of kindness will be felt and appreciated in more ways than you can ever imagine. As the 2012 London Olympics are only just around the corner, the Samaritan's Purse has suggested that, to be a part of the Olympic spirit, this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign can have sports-themed shoeboxes. As well as giving us the chance to do something a bit different with our shoeboxes, this is also a chance to send sporty items out to needy children in our world – children who might otherwise not have the chance to experience the joy of sport

for themselves. There is a full list of items that we can and cannot accept on the Children's and Youth notice board in the welcome area at Putnoe Heights. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation we do have some gift aid envelopes for your use. Each shoe box costs £2.50 to send. Empty shoeboxes will also be appreciated. We are starting to collect from 3<sup>rd</sup> October until 23<sup>rd</sup> October so please leave any donations in the office by **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2011** for our Children's and Youth groups to pack. Thank you. Carolyn and Emma.

### **A Hymn for Sunday** *(Mission Praise 880)*

**Lord, I come to you,**  
Let my heart be changed, renewed,  
Flowing from the grace  
That I found in You.  
And Lord, I've come to know  
The weaknesses I see in me  
Will be stripped away  
By the power of Your love.

Hold me close,  
Let Your love surround me.  
Bring me near, draw me to Your side.  
And as I wait  
I'll rise up like the eagle,  
And I will soar with You,  
Your Spirit leads me on  
In the power of Your love.

Lord, unveil my eyes,  
Let me see You face to face,  
The knowledge of Your love  
As You live in me.  
Lord, renew my mind  
As Your will unfolds in my life,  
In living every day  
By the power of Your love.

### **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.

**Mark Powlson**  
**Arthur Fleet**

*May the souls of all the faithful  
departed through the mercy of God,*



### **Forthcoming Funerals**

**The funeral of Mary Davina Britton**, will take place at 12 noon on Thursday 29 September at Putnoe Heights Church, followed by burial at Foster Hill Road Cemetery