

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

26 July 2009
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

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

Sunday 2nd August - Ordinary 18

9.30am St. Mark's - Family Worship

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Readings 1. Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15 2. Ephesians
4:1-16 3. John 6: 24-35

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Midge & Colin Hall in loving memory of Derek and Ada Hill..

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

Jesus Christ, you had compassion on the starving and the needy, grant that we would have your mind in us that we may have the will and wisdom to strive so all may be fed and nourished and reflect your glory.

Amen.

Contact Details

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)

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 275628
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30-12.00pm 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 17 August 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** 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 August 18 Cream Tea 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
- 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. Meeting July 28 Coffee Evening 7pmDetails 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
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - September 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
- 6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎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 29 July 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

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

7pm Bedford Art Society monthly Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 1st May Mary Rich ☎ 272470

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

Saturday

9.45am Bedford Stamp Auction at Putnoe Heights Next Auction 30th May. Contact Stuart or Anne 01327 876438

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

Young Embroiders 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 –

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 12 Oct, 8 Feb 2010

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 8 Sept , 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010

Putnoe Church Council - 5 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group -

Partnership Council - September 6th

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting 17 Sep, 19 Nov,

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees –Sept

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Ordinary 17

Opening Verses of Scripture Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen

Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read we pray

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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. *Common Worship*



First Bible Reading- 2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe corn, along with some ears of new corn. “Give it to the people to eat,” Elisha said. “How can I set this before a hundred men?” his servant asked. But Elisha answered, “Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the LORD says: ‘They will eat and have some left over.’” Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the Lord. (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Ephesians 3: 14-21

. For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

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

Gospel Reading – John 6:1-21

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Feast was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming towards him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into

the world.” Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified. But he said to them, “It is I; don’t be afraid.” Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading. This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

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

Come down O love divine, **281**;
He’s got the whole world in His hands, **25**;
In Christ there is no East or West, **758**;
Take my life and let it be, **705**;
Great is thy faithfulness, **66**

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in our faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Commentary

This short Old Testament lesson detailing how Elisha feeds the crowds is often overlooked but it seems to have all the elements of the miraculous feedings in the gospel stories. The Old Testament account is therefore sometimes called a literary prototype for the gospel feedings. In both the Old and New Testament accounts the framework seems to be the same: food is brought to the man of God/Jesus; the specific amount of food is mentioned; its clear that the food brought forward is inadequate; ignoring the obvious, the man of God/Jesus asks for the food to be distributed; not only do the crowds have enough to fill themselves fully, there is a significant amount left over. Those fed by Jesus were hungry for Israel’s restoration; they earnestly desired the Passover food of freedom, power and glory. They wanted a king and in Jesus saw the man they thought would fulfil their desires, the feeding miracle to them, in the context of the Passover season confirmed it they thought. Jesus would bring freedom from captivity, reflecting and mirroring the journey remembered and celebrated at the Passover. But John sees the true significance of who the Messiah is and what He must undergo to bring true freedom to the world. To emphasise this John uses the words of the Eucharistic action in His story. John reports that, ‘...Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted...’. The imagery is clear. John reminds us that Jesus, the Messiah, will break Himself in order that the whole world can be nourished forever. The breaking of the Bread of Life will take place on the cross and His sustaining nourishment distributed to the world. Even when the hungry are fed in the gospel stories there is food left over from God’s abundance. Twelve baskets, perhaps symbolising the twelve tribes of Israel remain. They are not consumed by the world but are an integral part of the whole. Jesus’ freedom is open to all. The exodus from Egypt remembered in the Passover is an important part of the Jewish journey, but it’s not the ultimate destination. Those who are fed by Jesus in the gospel story seem to be overcome by events. They wish to seize the momentum of the moment and make Jesus king by force. They catch a glimpse of what might be on offer and want to make sure they don’t miss out. Sadly they only see a small fraction of the picture. Jesus will be King, but on His own terms. Jesus will rule, but over His own Kingdom which is far greater than just a restored Israel. The people are captivated by the miracles of Jesus, the healings, the casting out of demons from the possessed, His authority over nature itself. But what they see is only a small sliver of the true magnificence and authority of God, the abundance of His riches which He wants to shower down on His people. This is Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians - that they too would know the fullness of the riches of God’s abundance, not just as observers but through their own lives which should be rooted and

established in love. Paul prays that they would be filled to overflowing with the Power of God, the power that feeds thousands, the power that heals the sick and raises the dead, the power that brings new life from old. Prays that the Bread of Life would live in them and their hearts through faith. This is no Passover remembrance, this is new life. It's perhaps because Jesus know that the crown wanted to make Him King by force He moves off with His disciples to another place, demonstrating His authority over creation as they go. And as if to emphasise who He is simply says to the disciples, 'I am, do not be afraid'. The 'I am' who created the world is with you. The 'I am' who existed before the world itself was created is with you. The 'I am' who holds all of the earths resources in His hand is here. The 'I am' who takes the small and seemingly insignificant and wholly inadequate offering of barley loaves and fish and shares it among thousands is here. The 'I am' who takes what is offered and uses it in abundance is here. Through the gospel of John and Paul's letter to the Ephesians we see that our lives and sustenance are inextricably linked to the freedom and sustenance that Jesus offers to all. We are part of His creation and are nourished and redeemed through Him. We are also part of that nourishment and redemption. Jesus takes what we have and what we are prepared to offer him, however seemingly inadequate and insignificant and can use it in abundance. Perhaps if the boy had not offered the bread and fish the story would be different and those who were hungry may not have been fed. Being part of salvation's story also means being part of that salvation for others, offering the gifts that we have so that the world can be changed and transformed by the Bread of Life Himself who takes what we offer and uses it as He will to the glory of His Father. *Sam Cappleman*

Meditation

The story of the feeding of the multitudes occurs multiple times and in all the gospels but it is only John who mentions that this particular event happened close to the Feast of the Passover. During the Passover the story of God feeding His people with manna and quail will be recited as part of the celebrations. It would seem that for John, Jesus feeding the crowds echoes this Passover event. Indeed, a few verses later (Jn 6 v 32) John records Jesus as saying that it is not Moses that has given bread from heaven but His Father. Barley was a common cereal and had the benefit that it could survive harsher climates than wheat and ripen in a shorter time. The fact that John mentions the barley loaves and that the barley harvest coincided with Passover indicates too that John, as always, is conveying a deeper meaning than just the immediate miraculous provision of food for several thousand people when Jesus feeds the crowds in this story. For Jews and Gentiles alike, Jesus is the true bread of life, the longed for Messiah, the one who comes down from heaven and gives life, freedom and salvation to the world. His care and provision for us is eternal.

Prayers

You have given so much to us O Lord, give one thing more, a grateful heart, a heart whose pulse may be your praise. **Amen** *George Herbert*

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; stuck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may be revealed. We fix our eyes not on what is seen: but what is unseen and eternal. **Amen** 2 Cor 4 v 8 - 10

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us paralysed, but whose presence is overwhelming, breathe on us with your abundant life; that where we cannot see we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you. **Amen**

The God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Youth, children and friends summer diary dates

Monday 27 July at Putnoe The Cheeky Dog Children's Entertainer and sandwich lunch 12.00 till 2.00. Tickets £2.50 from Liz or £3.00 on the door/office, accompanying adults £1.00, under 1 year free. This will be the last Storybox and Storybox plus until Monday 7th September

Monday 24 August under 5's summer workshop 2.00 till 4.00 and Tuesday 25th and Wednesday

26 August 5 years plus summer workshop 10.00 till 3.00pm Join us to "Travel God's world." Both these events celebrate the United Nations Year of the Child and will include stories of Children in the Bible, stories from around the world, music, games, crafts and Fun! Small charge.

There will be no Junior Church or YPF at Putnoe during August. If you are able to help any of these groups in anyway over the summer or at the new term start in September please speak to Liz or Emma. Thank you for all your support. See Liz for further details on all the above events..

Thursday 10 September St. Mark's Chat and Play and Storybox restarts.

Seeking The Way A course how and where to serve God and his Church. The course is being provided by the St Albans Diocesan Board for Christian Development. Cost £40 Venue The Transept, St Mary's Church, Redbourn. Dates October 17th, November 7th & 21st, 10am - 4pm. Application form and full details about the course available from St Mark's Church Office.

New Website - After many months of work we are now close to being able to launch our new church website, www.thischurch.com. The change has been made necessary due to a need to convert our existing site away from old technology to the new standard for websites. This has been a complex procedure given the size of our website and we are grateful to the Methodist Circuit who have helped us by providing funding for the work by professionals. The site will go live in August and we would appreciate comments from church members. You can see the new site by visiting the web address <http://tic.srv26.haisoft.net> Comments please to Charlie by Email. Our website has now been changed to include minutes of meetings. These can be accessed by visiting each church homepage.

Dreaming of a Holy Night' An evening with Graham Kendrick at the Corn Exchange, Bedford at 7.30pm on Monday 21 December 2009. Tickets: £12.50 in advance (on sale now) or £15 on

the night. Help is needed for stewarding and selling CDs. You can also volunteer to join the choir being formed locally. For tickets and more details contact: Brian Addington Tel: 01234 216 080 E-mail: b.addington@btinternet.com

Action for Children -House to House Collection Action for Children (formally NCH) works with disadvantaged and disabled children and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including the Methodist Church. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron.

The annual house to house Collection to support the vital work of the NCH will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £950.

If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information, then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel: 342507)

Putnoe Prayer Group will not meet on July 23 & 30

Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike on Saturday 12

September 2009 10am—6pm—an opportunity to visit churches all over our region in towns and villages either walking or cycling. Half the money raised will be given to Church Funds and half to Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. For more details and ideas of routes etc. please see Wendy Nash at Putnoe.

Action for Children supporters invite you for tea and cakes in the Wren Room at St Mark's Church, 2.30-4.30pm on Sunday 9th August. Debbie Smith Regional Fund Raiser will tell us about the charity with a short talk.

Circuit Archivist The Methodist Church is seeking to appoint a Circuit Archivist to be responsible for all the, mainly, paper records (e.g. Minute books, Wedding Registers etc.) kept both centrally by the Circuit and in the 7 Circuit churches. Some liaison with the County Records Office may also be required.

It is important that such records are preserved not only for Methodism but also for local historical interest. If you think you may be interested please contact myself or any other member of the Circuit Leadership Team. Mike Elliott.

Help is required at the Manse in Hartop Close to tidy up the garden ready for when Deacon Jane Mason arrives. If you are able to spare some time please contact Eddy Peck 267567

Footprints walk on Sunday 2nd August at 2.30pm for The Triple Triangle Walk at Keysoe.Park at Keysoe Park Wood which is approximately 2 miles along the Riseley Road at Keysoe Brook End (B660). The walk is just over 3 miles in length.Further details from Margaret & Eddy Peck 267567

Swine ‘Flu

Leadership Teams please to note and implement with all communion stewards etc.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have today recommended that the use of the Chalice is suspended during this phase of the Swine ‘Flu pandemic. Read their letter here. Diocesan Advice appears below.

The following letter has been sent by Bishop Alan of St Albans concerning the administration of Holy Communion during the Swine Flu epidemic. The preferred alternative to the Chalice is to take Holy Communion in one kind only, without wine. Clergy should emphasize that while communion in both kinds is the norm in the Church of England, in faithfulness to Christ’s institution, when it is received only in one kind the fullness of the Sacrament is received none the less. Those who still wish to offer bread and wine should do so only by means of “personal intinction by presiding minister,” allowing the priest to dip communion wafers in the chalice before handing them out to communicants. The presiding minister’s hands should previously have been washed with an alcohol-based rub before handling the elements and the vessels. Individual cups are not permitted and do not resolve the hygiene issues in the present pandemic where infection is transmitted via droplet. Intinction by communicants is not recommended. It runs the risk that droplets, the means of transmission of Swine ‘Flu, on the ends of fingers could come into contact with the wine. Likewise, any practice where a common cup containing bread or wafers is passed between communicants runs the same risk. This practice should not be followed.

General Hygiene –Observe Best Practice. The impact of the Swine Flu virus can be reduced through following the Government’s ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ campaign and their other advice here. Clergy and those administering Holy Communion may wish to adopt the practice of taking time to wash hands thoroughly before a service, maybe through making the lavabo a more than symbolic hand-washing. Other worthwhile precautions include ensuring that surfaces such as handrails, door knobs etc, commonly touched by many hands, are cleaned frequently. Holy Water Stoups should also be suspended. There is no recommendation about The Peace, but some parishioners might prefer a verbal exchange to a handshake.

If you catch flu, the Government’s newly set up National Pandemic Flu Service is the first port of call. It operates telephone help lines to diagnose cases of Swine Flu and issue anti-viral drugs if necessary. Clergy who have been diagnosed with Swine Flu either by a physician or the National Pandemic Flu Service are encouraged to stay indoors until they are well. Please bear in mind that alternative backup arrangements may be needed. In all other circumstances, clergy should maintain normal activity as far as possible. As the situation develops it is being watched closely and there is a comprehensive plan in place should it deteriorate or should Government advice ask for this to be deployed. +Alan St Albans

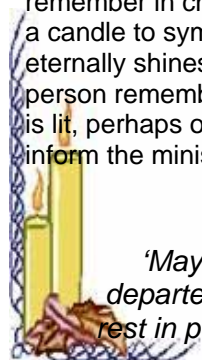
In keeping with these instructions we will suspend the use of the chalice in our churches. Whilst the use of the chalice is suspended we are still considering the use of individual cups, which are liturgically permitted in our Ecumenical setting. The Leadership Team will provide instructions concerning this practice in the coming week. However at present communion will be by intinction by the minister only who will give the wafer to each communicant having dipped it in the wine

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.

**John Gregory
Sam Hall**

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



We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Thomas Scott Barton and Hayley Laura Keech, both of this parish. *This is for the 2nd time of asking.*

Forthcoming Funerals

There are no funerals this week.

