



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

26 June 2011 – Ordinary 13



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

19 June - Ordinary 13

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher – Mr John Bassill
Leadership – Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Deacon Jane Mason
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher – Mr John Bassill
Leadership – Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions – Mrs. Sylvia Cohen

3rd July- Ordinary 14

9.30 am St. Mark's - Family Worship
Preacher -Revd Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions –
11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship
Preacher– Revd Charles Royden
Leadership – TBA
Intercessions – Ministers

Bible Readings 1.Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-end
2. Romans 7:15-25a 3. Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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 Doreen Denny in loving memory of her husband Len on his birthday.

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for the Week

Into your hands, O God,
we commend our souls and our bodies,
our families and our friends, all our neighbours
and all who have blessed us with their
goodness, those who have confessed their faith
in Christ and those who stand in need of your
protection.
Enfold us in your love and grant us never to be
parted from you in time or in eternity; for your
own mercies' sake. Amen

Edmund of Abingdon (c.1175-1240)

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

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

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager - Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Laura Farthing 210892

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

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

9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)

9.00am 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 Mrs Berry ☎211955

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

12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Emma Gordon ☎07593266091

2pm U3A Music Appreciation - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623

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

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

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

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

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

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552

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

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

Forrest ☎344043

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

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting July 5 Dr. Jane Preston 'Environmental Issues'
For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

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

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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

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

7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497

7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting June 28 'Bring and Share' For more details call Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - July 6 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 26 January.

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

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

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

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073

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

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be June 29 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 ,Valmai 219555 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

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

Thursday

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

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

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

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau Putnoe Heights.

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

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

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

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

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

4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

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

More details Ron Law 825574.

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

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

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

Friday

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

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

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

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

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

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

Sunday

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

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

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



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –

St Mark's Leadership Team

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5th October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .3rd

October St Mark's Forum Meeting - 13 July

Putnoe Church Council - 17th October

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting - 15 September

Deanery Meeting - .

Woodland Burial Trustees –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 4th July

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

Ordinary 13

Introduction

Churches across the world are now entering a time in the religious calendar called ' Ordinary Time'. There is nothing special going on like Easter or Christmas and in our own churches here in Bedford the next things of any excitement are Harvest (October 4) and Remembrance Sunday (13 November). Sunday Bible readings from now on will focus on the teachings of Jesus about living our ordinary Christian lives. Whilst there might not be anything special going on, perhaps for the next few weeks this is the really important stuff, getting on with being disciples, living out the teachings of Jesus day by day. I suppose this is the time which really matters, where we show we mean what we say, by doing the things Jesus commanded.

Our image this week is that of a cross. It has been made for an altar frontal by Jean Kirk and is entitled, 'The Cross is the Way.' It is a reminder to each of us when our daily life gets tough, that we should fix our eyes upon Jesus and his living example. He loves us so much that he gave us everything, even his life on the cross. We walk in his way to find life and peace.



Opening Verse of Scripture - Romans 12:11

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Collect Prayer (*Before we read we pray*)

Lord of heaven and earth, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and power of your Church. Sow in our hearts the seeds of your grace that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit, in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *Methodist Worship*

First Bible Reading – Jeremiah 28:5-9

Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah before the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD. He said, "Amen! May the LORD do so! May the LORD fulfill the words you have prophesied by bringing the articles of the Lord's house and all the exiles back to this place from Babylon. Nevertheless, listen to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people: From early times the prophets who preceded you and me have prophesied war, disaster and plague against many countries and great kingdoms. But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as one truly sent by the LORD only if his prediction comes true."

(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans 6: 12-23

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed

of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord
(This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 10:40-42

He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."
(This is the word of the Lord –**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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

1. All my hope on God is founded 63 (Tune Michael)
2. O for a heart to praise my God (Tune Abridge)
3. Lord of creation 699 (Tune Slane)
4. Seek ye first 138
5. God has spoken by his prophets 64 (Tune Ode to Joy)

Commentary Background

Matthew wrote his Gospel perhaps somewhere around AD 85. It is worth remembering that this was after the devastation of the Roman-Jewish War of AD 66-70 when blood ran in the streets of Jerusalem and the Temple was destroyed. It is believed that Mark wrote his Gospel earlier, probably around 60AD, before the destruction of the Temple, and he was a source which Matthew used. It comes across in Matthew that the church at that time saw themselves as more fragile, vulnerable, and under threat. Matthew Chapter 10 begins the second of five books which Matthew is divided into, recalling the five books of Moses. It begins with Jesus calling the Twelve, giving them authority, and naming them. They are sent to do the same things Jesus had been doing--"Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons" (10:8)--everything, that is, with the exception of teaching.

More than any other gospel, Matthew values Jesus as Teacher. Eighteen chapters yet remain in Matthew's gospel. Jesus has much more to teach. The disciples have begun their period of instruction under Jesus, but they're just getting started. They don't know near enough yet to teach. Only in chapter 28, when the entire gospel is completed, do the disciples finally get the go-ahead to teach others. Only then are they enjoined to "teach all that I have commanded." (28:16) Then follows frank acknowledgement of the trials and difficulties of their mission. They may be handed over to councils, flogged, and turned in to the secular authorities (10:17-18). There may be family disruptions, persecution, hatred, even death. (10:19-23). They may expect, in short, the very same treatment meted out to Jesus. (10:24). Nevertheless, they are repeatedly enjoined not to be afraid--three times in the section from 10:26-31. They are assured that nothing will happen that is not known to the Father, who is, Jesus pointedly states, also "your Father" (10:29). He assures the disciples that God cares even about small animals and surely cares about them as well.

Then, the mood darkens once again. Jesus disciples will inspire opposition--not peace, but a sword! Again, families will be disrupted. Jesus quotes from Micah 7:6--"for the son treats the father with contempt, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; your enemies are members of your own household." Jesus is not advocating violence, of course. He is a bringer of peace, and his disciples are to be "peacemakers" (5:9). It was also true, however, that, especially in the period in which Matthew was writing, there was considerable division within families due to the Christian faith. Then, for the first time in Matthew's gospel, the cross is mentioned. "Whoever does not take hold of his cross and follow after me is not worthy."

Jesus has set an example of suffering for the cause. Disciples are not greater than their master and such a fate may come to any follower. Followers should continue to expound the Way of Jesus, and follow it. If they do not, then they are not at the level of their master.

The Message today The passage from Matthew this morning is a simple one, but it has a powerful message. Jesus sends out his disciples, he calls for commitment from them, he is honest about the dangers they will face, including rejection by their own families. Now Jesus reassures the disciples that he will reward those who receive them and treat them kindly. "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." The disciples are to go out in the name of Jesus. They are to speak his words, they are his representatives, not their own. For this reason the response which people make to the disciples will be a direct reflection upon Jesus whose job they are doing. It is similar to the way in which we treat ambassadors from other countries. If we insult them, then it is not just a personal insult, we insult the country which they represent. Jesus is clear, kindness shown to his disciples is kindness to him, because they are acting on his behalf. And of course if they act on behalf of Jesus they act for God himself. This is a serious warning to those who might offer hospitality, it is also a reminder to the disciples that they are not out campaigning for themselves, they are nothing short of the visible presence of God himself.

It seems that everybody will be judged by the way in which they treat the disciples. Jesus does not just consider how kings will change government policy. Rather he uses the example of how an ordinary person might respond by offering a drink. It is only a small thing, it does not require great affluence, and so the point is made, we do not have to be rich to help, and poverty is no excuse because we all have something to offer. To provide a cup of cold water to a thirsty person is not costly, but it might be extremely welcome, indeed it might be the gift of life itself. We do not know what reward Jesus has in store for those who help and offer support, but we do know that the reward is guaranteed. In Acts 20:35 we read the following words of Paul 'In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Paul quotes Jesus and speaks of the importance of helping those less fortunate. He states what has been discovered by those who give, that we gain blessing in helping others. Perhaps that is sufficient reward in itself. It is important to remember that Jesus is not commending general hospitality, but rather hospitality to his disciples. Providing hospitality to the disciples shows support for their message. But we fail to do justice to the ministry of Jesus if we fail to recognise the importance of showing kindness to any vulnerable person. Jesus healed freely, he fed freely, he cared for all without distinction. This was a message and pattern of behaviour which Jesus would have known from the Scriptures. Proverbs tells, Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31: 9 As the Christian church across the world we must go and preach as those early disciples preached. As we go we must recognise that things have changed since those first disciples went out. The church is no longer in the position of needing to ask for water. Rather we know of all too many people in countries where there is no water and the church now represents many who have power and wealth. In this the church has a prophetic voice to raise. We want to make the proclamation of the Good News to the poor, but the good news which the poor are waiting to hear is that they are poor no more.

If we are to take the commission by Jesus to all his disciples that we should go out and reveal who he is, then we need to consider how we might best do this. If we copy the example of Jesus then we will show the love of God in acts of kindness and speak words of compassion indiscriminately. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

It is not from your own possessions that you are bestowing alms on the poor, you are but restoring to them what is theirs by right. For what was given to everyone for the use of all, you have taken for your exclusive use. The earth belongs not to the rich, but to everyone. Thus, far from giving lavishly, you are but paying part of your debt. (*St Ambrose, 340-397*)

Prayers

Give us, O Lord, churches that will be more courageous than cautious; that will not merely "comfort the afflicted" but "afflict the comfortable"; that will not only love the world but also demand justice; that will not remain silent when people are calling for a voice; that will not pass by on the other side when wounded humanity is waiting to be healed; that will not only call us to worship but also send us out to witness; that will follow Christ even when the way points to a Cross. To this end we offer ourselves in the name of him who loved us and gave himself for us. (*Christian Conference of Asia*)

O God, you give us life, you call each of us into faithful service, discipleship in Jesus Christ. Open our hearts in ways that we might reach out to those-especially those who are so different from ourselves-and in so doing, may the world be transformed through your love, enlivened through our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

Summer activity days

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

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

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

There will be a Putnoe Children and Youth meeting on Monday 4 July

Circuit 'Farewell' for Martin Hounsfeld 3pm Service and lunch Sunday 17 July at Priory Methodist Church. **Circuit Service** - celebration of Bedford North circuit 6.30pm Sunday 7 August at Priory Methodist Church.

Flower Festival and Bedford Town Concert Brass at Priory Methodist Church .

Brass Band concert Friday 1st July, 7.30pm Admission £5

Flower Festival open Friday & Saturday 11-5pm, Sunday 2-5.30pm. Refreshments throughout. Proceeds to Karibuni Trust. Penny & Marion from St Mark's flower team are participating.

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

Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra performing at Putnoe Heights on Saturday, 9 July from 7.30pm. Featuring a diverse programme including the overture from Romeo and Juliet by Tchaikovsky, this is the second of three concerts that the BCCO will be performing this year. The final concert of the year will be in early December and will be focussed on children. The BCCO continues to be extremely grateful for the support received from the Putnoe Heights and surrounding community and look forward to seeing you on the 9. Tickets £7 (£5 conc) available on the door. or contact : www.boco.org.uk or 07895266389

Putnoe Heights 'Spring Clean' will be on Saturday 23 July.

Coffee Rota -St. Mark's Many thanks to Pat Gregory who has stepped down from the coffee rota after many years service. New volunteers always welcome - see Milly for more information. Please see amended rota on notice board as some dates were incorrect on the copies distributed. Sorry for any inconvenience Milly.

Friday Prayer Group The next meeting will take place on Friday 8 July at 1.45pm Eileen Brown

Brickhill Scout Group Charity Golf day in aid of Brickhill Scout Group, kindly hosted by Colmworth Golf club on 23 July. Contact Gemma 01234 783490 or gpledger82@hotmail.co.uk for full details and tickets

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

North Bedfordshire Methodist District Circuit Finance Officer Vacancy. Can you help us look after our pennies (and our thousands of pounds)? The new North Bedfordshire Circuit is still seeking a Part-time Circuit Finance Officer who will be essential in helping to advance the circuit's future mission. Working from home based on 10 hours per week @ £9.00 per hour. We are looking for someone with experience in finance in business or charity work with an understanding of accruals accounting. Do YOU have the skills to undertake this key role, or do you know someone who has? If so, please contact Peter Fletcher 01525 713243, email pfletcher@ormail.co.uk for an application form and further details. Closing date for applications 29th July 2011. Interviews scheduled for 10th August. Appointment starts 1 September 2011. People with a non-Methodist background are also welcome to apply and appropriate support will be given.

St Mark's Clubhouse has been providing day care services for people with learning difficulties for the last six years. We took over the service when funding issues caused the closure of the Gold Charity. Following complete withdrawal of funding from Central Beds, transitional funding only has been put in from Bedford Borough Council. As a result Clubhouse will **only** operate one day a week on Wednesdays after our last session on Friday 15 July 2011. After this date access to Clubhouse will only be possible by those who have arranged their own funding with their local authority. This is part of the move to personalised budgets. It is hoped that keeping Clubhouse operational every Wednesday will allow us a period of time for transition for people to sort out their funding, but only until 1 October 2011.

3-Circuit Walk On Saturday July 9th from Shefford to Langford to Shefford. Meet at Shefford Methodist Church at about 10.15am. Meet new friends from the circuit. For more information see poster on notice board.

Irene and John Harrison would like to express our grateful thanks for the beautiful flowers received this week.

Sweeper uppers needed at St Mark's. Come with own broom, if possible, and help get our church gardens ready for a visit from Brickhill in Bloom during the afternoon on the 11th July. Sweeping on the morning, all round, would be much appreciated. Marion & Jean.

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.



Samantha Jane Newnham (Sam)

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

Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of John Johnston will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12-15p.m. Wednesday 29 June



St Mark's Church and Putnoe Heights Church Membership Form

It is helpful and important for us to have accurate membership information for our church. Our financial contributions to the Church of England or the Methodist Church are based upon membership. It is therefore important to have an accurate records to enable us to pay our share. It is also helpful to have up to date details if we need to make contact with you, perhaps when a pastoral situation arises. If you consider yourself to be a member of this church, please would you kindly complete this form and return it to the church office, a minister or a member of the Leadership Team. You can also Email your details direct to Avril Williams aj56@btinternet.com. Please be assured we do not release your details to other organisations.

Name and Title <i>(Please use the name by which you would like to be known, i.e. Fred, Betty etc.)</i>	
Address	
Telephone	Email
Denomination <i>(Which denomination if any you have an attachment to, this might be the church in which you were baptised or grew up.)</i>	
If you have children under 16, or a partner who does not wish to complete a membership form, please enter their details below, as a church friend.	