



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

27 September 2009

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

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden

Leadership - Mrs. Avril Williams

Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden

Leadership - Mrs Wendy Nash

Intercessions - Ministers

Sunday 4 October - Ordinary 26

9.30am St. Mark's - Harvest Festival

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden

Leadership - Ovenden

Intercessions - Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Harvest Festival

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden

Leadership - Mr. Lawrence Wyatt

Intercessions - Mr. Eddy Peck

Readings

1. Joel 2:21-27 2. James 5:13-20

3. Matthew Chapter 6:25-33

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Alan & Margaret Massey to celebrate their 7th wedding anniversary and by Julia Furness in memory of her dear husband on their wedding anniversary.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by June Page in memory of her husband George to celebrate their 55 th wedding anniversary

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Jennie Cooper 404950(Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

Lord God, we thank you for making us a part of your family.

Help us open our hearts to all the other parts of your wonderful family;

to those we don't know,

to those who do things differently,

to those who live in far off places.

Help us all to work together

and do what Jesus asks us

we ask it in his name *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 jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

309175 Mobile 07973 113861

vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@ThisIsChurch.com

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎ 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

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

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Sally Banks ☎ 870357

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

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

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

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting September 29 Advocacy Service for Older People. Details from Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

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

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.

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

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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

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

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting October 6 Harvest Supper, Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 30 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 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 30 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016
7.45 for 8pm God talk - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. (No meeting on 9th April)
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070
 11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.
12pm Storybox St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing . Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St.Mark's ☎267444
1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎272470 Next meeting 24 September
4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden☎825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094
7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎346505

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397
9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St

Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086
12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183
5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468
2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994
6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360
 6.30 - 7.30pm Ladies Kick Boxing weekly at St. Mark's. Parker Lake ☎07984427854
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 Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 357198
2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792
7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.
1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515
6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun. Please see Liz ☎302349 .



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 9 Nov
St Mark's Leadership Team – 19 January
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 12 Oct at Jean's, 8 Feb
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 19 Oct.
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010,
Putnoe Church Council - 5 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee - 26 January 2010, 11am
Putnoe Heights Mission Group
Partnership Council—TBA
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Deanery Meeting 19 Nov,
Circuit/Treasurers Revue meeting at St. Mark's
Circuit Meeting at Sharnbrook Methodist Church
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –12th October

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

Ordinary 26

Opening Verses of Scripture

1 Corinthians Chapter 12:4-6

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.
There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.
There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

Collect Prayer for the Day *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

First Bible Reading - *Number 11:4-6, 10-16*

The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost--also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!" Moses heard the people of every family wailing, each at the entrance to his tent. The LORD became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled. He asked the LORD, "Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their forefathers? Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, 'Give us meat to eat!' I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. If this is how you are going to treat me, put me to death right now--if I have found favour in your eyes--and do not let me face my own ruin." The LORD said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you.

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

Second Reading - James 5:13-20

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

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

Gospel Reading - Mark 9:38-50

"Teacher," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us." "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "No one who does a miracle in my



Everytime you smile at someone,
it is an action of love,
a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.

name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us. I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward. "And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where "their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched." Everyone will be salted with fire. "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."
(Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**)

Hymns (*Please distribute Mission Praise*)

- 1 Jesus shall reign 379
- 2 Alleluia, Alleluia 30
- 3 Come now with awe (Tune Finlandia) 96
- 4 Help us O God (On Partnership News)
5. Lord for the years 428

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Commentary

This week I was asked to participate in a radio programme which was exploring the issue of a nurse who had been forced out of her job because she insisted on wearing a 1" silver cross. Her bosses had said that it was a health and safety issue, although they were prepared to allow nurses to wear a ring on their finger, which I would have thought was more of a serious problem.

Anyway I agreed to go on the radio and discuss this. Whilst I was waiting to speak the host of the show was really rather rude towards one elderly who rang in. The lady had made the effort and gathered her courage and was defending the sacked nurse, much to the annoyance of the host. He felt that nobody should display any symbols of faith at all, there was no need. He also enjoyed the now familiar rant about how religion is guilty of causing every war that has ever occurred.

Of course this is very much wide of the mark, not least because it is not religion which has caused the wars, but people who use religion as an excuse for hating others. The same can be true of anything of course, it might be nationality, even something as insignificant as the game of football can become an excuse to start a fight.

The cause of war is invariably people who are lacking in tolerance and respect for other people who are different. Sometimes we are afraid of things which are different, because we do not understand them. Sometimes we resent their success and look for reasons to criticise.

In the passage from the Gospel reading today we find such an instance. In this passage from the Gospel according to St Mark, we find the disciples in a cross mood, they are a bit miffed! Someone who hardly knows Jesus has been achieving spectacular success as an exorcist, using their master's name. It is in this situation that Jesus says that "he who not against us is for us". It looks a bit odd, because we tend to turn the phrase around to mean that anyone who is not actively on our side, in politics, business or war, is helping the enemy. This deceptive throw away comment by Jesus holds the key towards how people should cope with religious difference.

Like so many of Jesus' sayings it is hard for us humans to understand and cope with. We are like

the disciples, we want to crush rivals whether in secular or religious life. How often have humans used the excuse that they are serving Jesus by putting to death women and men who do not understand the Bible in the same way, feel called to worship in different styles, believe different things from themselves? Here Jesus is saying that difference, unless it is actively dangerous, cannot hurt the new Jesus movement. Jesus was brave enough to allow a stranger, who recognised the saving power of Jesus' name to use it, unsupervised, for good purposes. What a message to all control freaks! God does not allow us a limited amount of freedom and then reign us back. In his love for us, He grants us the freedom to love, to create and to serve in His name. But we must allow others to have this freedom too.

Jesus' rebuke most likely surprised the disciples. The Twelve saw themselves as a uniquely-endowed, specially-selected group privy to Jesus' individual attentions and tutorials. They believed that because of their close relationship with the Master they had been "rewarded" with the power to cast out demons, as well as to preach and teach in Jesus' name. They considered this uninitiated outsider to be like we perceive an unlicensed doctor -- one who should immediately be reported to the authorities and whose illegitimate activities should be stopped.

The disciples thought Jesus would be angry - but he wasn't. Instead he said - "it doesn't matter to me if those people are a part of your group or not. All that matters is that they are doing the things that God wants. They are a part of God's family.

These words of Jesus, then, are a rebuke to all our blind exclusiveness, our arrogant assumptions, that God's action in the world is limited to the forms which we are familiar. The church has suffered terribly, and the world has suffered terribly, from this fence-building frenzy. If one tenth of the time which Christians have devoted to building fences had gone into building roads as a highway for God, the world would be a far better place today.

Jesus throws open wide the doors of the Christian community by proclaiming that "whoever is not against us is for us" (verse 40). Jesus' point is clear. In verse 41 he goes on to stress that anyone who performs a service, no matter how small, because of Christ's name becomes a member of the community and shares in its "rewards." *Charles Royden*

Meditation

Jesus tells us to cut off a hand or foot or pluck out an eye if they cause us to sin. We get the point – don't we? Sin is serious, not just for us, but for the community. One person might sin; but the whole community suffers – especially "the little ones" – those whose faith is vulnerable. He's calling us to make whatever changes we must to live his life, He knows making serious change can be as painful as cutting off a limb. So he is here to encourage and enable us.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen. *A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

O Lord, guard us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes: and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and your blessed peace at the last. Amen. *(John Henry Newman)*

Take my body, O Christ, to do your work, for here on earth you have no body now but mine. Take my hands to be your hands and my feet to walk in the ways of your feet. Take my eyes to be the eyes of your own compassion shining forth upon a troubled world; for your own mercy's sake. Amen *Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582*

Christmas Shoebox Appeal. The youth team at Putnoe would like to launch The Christmas Shoebox appeal again this year, where via the Samaritans Purse organisation filled boxes will be delivered to some of the worlds poorest children, boys and girls between 2 to 14 years, in time for Christmas. If you could please donate any of the following items the children will pack the boxes, alternatively if you would prefer to donate some money this can be used towards postage. The boxes need to be completed by the beginning of November so please start collecting now—soft toys, jigsaws, building blocks, cars, dolls, soft balls, stationery items, stickers, puzzle books, toothbrushes/paste, soap, hairbrushes, hats and caps, necklaces, sweets (long sell by dates), bangles, sunglasses. We will also need empty shoeboxes and Christmas wrapping paper Please leave at Putnoe office. Thank you.

Autumn Craft Day 2009 will be held on 17 October from 9.45 to 4.30 at Priory Methodist Church. £4 per half day session. For booking form please contact Pam Seymour 305695 or 01296 485087

Evening in aid of Local Hospices

Sounds Familiar and other local choirs/groups are presenting a Musical "Allsorts" Evening in aid of Voices for Hospices, a wave of simultaneous concerts around the world. This will be held on Sat. 10th Oct. at 7.30p.m. in the Salvation Army Congress Hall, Commercial Rd. Bedford.

Refreshments will be available. Tickets are £6.50, under 16's £5 and are obtainable from David on 01234 750869 or Becky on 01234 750320. The local hospices that will benefit from this event will be Sue Ryder St. Johns at Moggerhanger, Bedford Day Hospice and Keech Cottage Children's Hospice

Mother Teresa Group Do you have any knitting wool to spare? Mother Teresa Group can always use your spare wool. Please leave it in the church office. You are welcome to join us on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30pm. Next meeting 29th September.

Friends of Matthew Rusike Children's Home.

Astonishment Mapurisa, head of the home & principal of the community childcare arm of the Methodist church in Zimbabwe church will be speaking about his work at Clapham Methodist church on Monday, October 12 at 7.30pm. More details from John or Mary Bromley 326283

Trident plans 'feeble and ineffective'

Three national Church leaders have criticised Gordon Brown over his 'feeble and ineffective' pledge to reduce the UK's nuclear submarine fleet from four to three.

The leaders have made their statement following reports that Gordon Brown will pledge to cut the

number of Trident missile-carrying submarines at a meeting at the UN. However, the Government has made it clear that retaining the UK's nuclear missiles is 'non negotiable'.

The full statement follows:

Reducing Britain's fleet of nuclear-armed Vanguard submarines from four to three is a feeble and ineffective gesture. It does nothing to support moves towards global nuclear disarmament and very little to alleviate pressure on public finances.

At a time when the Ministry of Defence are calling for improved helicopter and other logistical support for frontline troops, the white elephant Trident project makes little sense. The enormous £20 billion cost of replacing this system will not be much reduced by the decision to build only three Vanguard submarines. With health and education expenditure under great pressure public support for Trident is evaporating fast.

Peace and security in the 21st century necessitate the building of fairer global systems in which the benefits of freedom and development are more equally shared.

It is becoming ever clearer that our future security cannot rely on the outmoded concept of nuclear deterrence. As Christians, we believe that a world free of nuclear weapons is not only desirable but realistic. We welcome the Government's stated commitment to the cause of global nuclear disarmament but urge the Government to combine words and action.

The Revd Dr Martyn Atkins
General Secretary of the Methodist Church
The Revd Roberta Rominger
General Secretary of the United Reformed Church
The Revd Jonathan Edwards
General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

Putnoe Heights Autumn Clean. On Saturday 10th October between 10a.m. and 12 noon, we intend to give the Putnoe Heights Church Centre an overall clean, both inside (windows, paintwork etc.) and outside (car park etc.) but we need volunteers to help. If you can come to help please tell Lawrence (350188) or, after 5th October, Linda (782717). Many thanks.

NSPCC Quiz evening at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 17th October at 7.15p.m. £8 to include food but please bring your own drinks and glasses. Raffle. Please contact Averil on Bedford 267798 or Jenny on Bedford 261811.

Sponsored Swim-a-Long in aid of Action for Children on Saturday 10th October 4-6pm at Dame Alice Harpur School. For information packs contact Debbie Smith 01604 696521 or email debbie.smith@actionforchildren.org.uk



**For the fruits
of his creation**

Harvest Festival

Harvest festival this year is on October 4 and the theme will be 'Sharing our gifts'. We will be asking three people from each of our congregations to share with us what they do in their lives and asking them to bring an item which illustrates their work which we will celebrate at Harvest.

*Who sweeps a room as by God's laws,
makes that and the action fine*

Harvest Gifts at Putnoe. At the Family Service on Sunday 4th October, we will be happy to receive gifts to be donated to the BECHAR Day Centre in Prebend Street. Tinned foods are of most use to the Centre; fresh fruit and vegetables are also welcome.

Harvest Gifts at St Mark's At St Mark's Harvest family service we will be pleased to receive gifts to be donated to Clubhouse. Tinned and dried goods are always helpful as they can be stored.

Harvest cards are available this morning for delivery to friends etc (Putnoe Roads). Also some laminated posters

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch Sunday 4 October at 1pm. Tickets now available from Putnoe Office or Sue Allen. Two courses, soft drinks & coffee. Bring your own wine. Adults £6, children under 10 £3.

A Hymn for Sunday

- 1 Help us, O God, to hear your word,
your promises believe,
as in the unexpected voice
your challenge we receive.
- 2 Through voices we have never known,
of unfamiliar name,
in faith and culture far apart,
your purpose you proclaim.
- 3 So save us from religious pride,
and narrowness of mind,
that we may recognise your love
in all of humankind.
- 4 Call us, with openness, to hear
the voices of the poor,
then let us of our greed repent
and righteousness restore.

Tune: (Horsley)



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Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.

George Edward Page

*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 Simon John Llewellyn and Emma Lesley Marks Both of the parish of St Michael's and on the Electoral Roll of St Mark's, Bedford (This is for the second time of asking)



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Mr Peter Harper will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 29 September 2009 at 11.30am