



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church 27 September 2015 Harvest Service



Sunday Services

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

27 September - Harvest

9.30am St Mark's - Harvest Service
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Intercessions - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds
11.00 am Putnoe - Harvest Service
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

4 October

9.30am St Mark's - Family Worship & Baptism
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mr. Richard Ledger/Young People
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds
11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mrs. Sue Allen
Intercessions - Young People
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Job 1:1, 2:1-10 **2.** Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
3. Mark 10:2-16
Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's
Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur
House on first Monday of every month.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Alan and Margaret Massey in celebration of their wedding anniversary and by John and Sheila Whittemore in celebration of their wedding anniversary.



The Harvest flowers at St Mark's this week include a tribute to Lena Cooper given by her husband Alan

Prayer for Sunday

O most gracious and sovereign Redeemer, come and dwell within us and reign where you have the right to reign. By your Holy Spirit take possession of our souls and lead us in the ways of righteousness and peace; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

John of Kronstadt (1829-1908)

Banns of Marriage

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Lisa-Marie Ellis and Shaun Colin Brennan to be married at St. Mark's Church on 24 October.
(First time of asking)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
Assistant Rural Dean of Bedford
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

Deacon Jane Mills
c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
itsjanemills@gmail.com

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

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to vicar@thisischurch.com. 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
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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator
Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@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.

Churchyards Administrator
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Open Mon-Thur 9-5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Geoff Gypps 365630
Leadership Team Mr Barry Southam 219714
barrysoutham@aol.com
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre Charity No 1160981.
Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Margaret Appleton 354708
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - **3.45pm** For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com
8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
(See website for more details)
9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955
10.00am-12 U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
9.45am - 10.45am & 11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's Liz Mason 07816522200
12.00 noon Storybox 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. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630
1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts on 14 September
2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights– fortnightly
4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Zoe Wilcox 07767311424
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 07928483418 email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk
6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571
6.30pm-8pm Cubs at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
6.30pm Fit For All Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Mary Daly 217127
7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.
7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399
7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting–21 September Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567
7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's.

9.30, 11.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30. Lorrie Pearson 340473

11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946
1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895
2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (Alternate Tuesdays) Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.00-3.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's. A social and Bible Study group. Meets alternate Tuesdays. Mrs Jean Bank 355698
3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393
7.15-8.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571
7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390
7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 29 September Harvest Details Diane Bayliss 268101
8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.
10.00-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.
10.00am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Janet King 313946
11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 7 October Contact Putnoe Office 365630
1.15pm Social Bridge Club St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks. 1st week of the month. Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966
3.30-4.30pm Vita Fit St Mark's starting 29 April for 6 weeks Liz Roe 07901684538
3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 21 October Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698
4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
5.00-6.00pm Rainbows at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091

6.00pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994
6.00-7.00pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel.01234 353865
7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts at Putnoe ages 10.5-14; Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095
7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600
8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 30 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) Jill Cooper 357960

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.
10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Restarts 17 September Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481
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.Restarts 10 September Contact Jaana Swaby 342613
1.00-2.30pm Wiggles & Jiggles Putnoe Heights. Drop in.
1pm-2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552. 2pm -
Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.
2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Contact Janet King 313946
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210
3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650
5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07768481499
6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284
7.00pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946
7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's (3rd week in month). Carol Plant 01832710504
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094
7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Rosemary McNeilage 405594
7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Linda Stephen 409493

8.00pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

Friday

9.30am -3.30pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, 2nd week per month.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647
10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946
2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
4.50pm-7.00pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email: phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd week in month)Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

9.00am Faith Temple Ministries St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593
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

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre at St. Mark's. 1st Sunday Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143
11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's . A crèche is also available.
2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th Sunday. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.



St Mark's Church Council -
St Mark's Leadership Team -
Annual Congregational Meetings -
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 October 2015
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 29 September
Putnoe Church Council - 15 October 2015
Pastoral Group Meeting-
Churchyard Committee - TBA
Circuit meeting - Deanery meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees -
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 28 September 2015 2.00pm
Messy Church Wednesday 21 October, Wednesday 18 November, Wednesday 9 December 3.45pm

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

Harvest

Sentence of Scripture The land has yielded its harvest: God, our God has blessed us. Psalm 67:6

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

Almighty and everlasting God, we offer you our grateful thanks for your fatherly goodness and care in giving us your gifts and the fruits of the earth in through the seasons. Give us grace to use them rightly,

to your glory, for our own well being, and for the relief of those in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



First Bible Reading - Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. (This is the word of the Lord —**Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Luke 12:16-30

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life

easy; eat, drink and be merry." ' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. (This is the word of the Lord —**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns for Sunday *(Please distribute special Harvest service and hymns sheets where required)*

1. Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest-home:
2. Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field,
3. Autumn days when the grass is jewelled,
4. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
5. We plough the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land,

Commentary

In the parable of the rich fool today we see many things which remind us of the inherent dangers of wealth creation. The rich man has a huge harvest, but he does not see this as an opportunity to lower the price and feed the poor. His mind turns rather to build bigger stores where he can keep the grain. Of course this would allow him to have more for himself, a bigger fortune, it would of course also ensure that there was not too much grain around and therefore continue to drive up the market price. The rich man was a fool because he saw possessions as being life, an end in themselves. The more possessions are amassed the better life will be. However the contrary is true, possessions bring worry and create division with the world not peace.

The parable gives us from the mouth of Jesus the verdict of God upon those who place their trust in wealth. Life is very fragile, it hangs by a thread and Jesus is clear there are far more important things to do in life than gather wealth and possessions together.

For some the gathering of wealth is an antidote to fear, they worry about the future and consider that the best way to prepare is to have a very large financial cushion to fall back on. Jesus uses the illustration of the death of the man as a warning that possessions are no basis for life and security and no protection whatsoever against the really important duty of being prepared to give account God for how we have used our resources. The rich man thought he owned a lot of things and therefore he was safe. The parable serves as a reminder that we have nothing, even our very life can at any time be asked for by God. This is the contradiction - when life is seen as frail we are tempted to think that the gathering of many possessions will help protect it. Jesus makes the point that the truth is to the contrary because the possessions are frailer still than life itself.

Psalm 14 tells of the fool who says in his heart that there is no God. The rich man is like that, he doesn't include God in his thoughts or actions. He sought security in things, and life is so much more than gathering material things for ourselves. Jesus tried to change the focus of his disciples and stop them thinking about themselves. If we want to be rich before God then we must be a people who give to others, who think about the plight of those who live less well, or perhaps who barely live at all. If our plan is to direct our energies towards getting things for ourselves then we will ultimately be impoverished towards God.

None of this is easy, we all want to have financial security, enjoy the fruit of our labours and there are hundreds of reasons which we can all think of for not giving away too much to others. However today is

a day in which we can think deeply about our attitudes and how our lives affect others.

It is often said that the fault is not in the possession of things in themselves, but rather how tightly we cling to them or how we use them, selfishly or wisely. Jesus is clear that the focus of our lives is what matters, for that focus will determine how we use our possessions. The parable is raw in its presentation of the fragility of life, this means that we must place our trust on something much more reliable than possessions.

Parables are not simple teachings, they are complex and raise difficult issues, not easy answers. There is the temptation is to think that the parable is only talking to the rich and therefore it is not about me. The fact is that people who have relatively little can be every bit as greedy as the rich and can be just as out of focus in life as anybody else. Then there is the problem of thinking that we can just give everything up and live a life of complete frugality and presume that we have passed the test. Such a life can be every bit as indulgent and lead to a false sense of holiness which expresses itself in criticism of others who are different. Remember, Jesus was never one to refuse a good celebration, behaviour which caused him to be accused of being a drunken party goer. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

The Pope has recently been in America stirring things up by making some very strong political statements. One of the issues which has caused attention was his call for action on climate change. He supported the statements which have been made by President Barak Obama about cutting carbon emissions and he was critical of climate change deniers for failing in their duty to protect our 'common home'. He said that tackling climate change was a moral issue. Pope Francis said "*Climate change is a problem which can no longer be left to a future generation.*"

The Pope said

Mr President, I find it encouraging that you are proposing an initiative for reducing air pollution.'

These words could not have come at a more poignant moment for in the same week we learned that Volkswagen have been fiddling their car emissions data to conceal how much pollution is coming out of the exhausts of their diesel cars. The Pope could not have timed his words more perfectly. Clearly people at Volkswagen were not inclined to consider the environment, and who knows how many other cars or manufacturers may be involved across the world. They had decided that a little software programme (a cheat device) inserted into the computer system of the car could conceal in tests the extent of the nitrogen oxides (NOx) which would normally be emitted from the car. The real levels could be 40 times more than the test indicated.

Not everybody believes that climate change is happening. The front runner for Republican presidential candidate Mr Donald Trump said that climate change was just 'weather.' However even Mr Trump had to agree that clean air was important. Volkswagen had decided that profits from selling their cars was more important than caring for the environment or people who might inhale the polluted air.

The Gospel writer of Luke would I am sure have recoded Jesus teaching about pollution and the environment if the issue had been around in first century Palestine. Luke has a major concern about wealth and resources and how they are used, this is a theme which we will see as we start to look at this Gospel. Almost every chapter of both his Gospel and also the Acts of the Apostles, the second part of his work, has reference to money and materials resources and how they are used. When the Pope denounces those who pollute the world, plunder our resources and put profit before people, he is speaking words which could have come straight from the mouth of Jesus. Jesus is concerned for the poor and denounces their exploitation by wealthy individuals or organisations. Jesus repeatedly teaches that pursuit of wealth brings with it inherent responsibilities and dangers.

There is no doubt that it is absolutely impossible to justify corrupt business practice to exploit others. The bible condemns those who use weighted scales to cheat, the same condemnation would be directed by Jesus towards car manufacturers and their clever computer cheat devices which put profits before the health of those who will suffer from pollution. Wealth is also a factor in the challenge made by the Pope with regard to climate change. Those who deny the existence of climate change must be very careful that this is not used as a justification not to make changes to protect our planet and the millions who could die from flooding and changing weather events.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

God of grace, as you are ever at work in your creation, so fulfil your wise and loving purpose in us and in all for whom we pray, that with them and in all that you have made, your glory may be revealed and the whole earth give praise to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. All Amen.

May God who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the sky, who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water, who multiplied loaves and fishes and changed water into wine, lead us, feed us, multiply us, and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator through all eternity; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Putnoe Heights Church Harvest Lunch. Sunday 27 September 12.45pm. All welcome. Menu - Steak, Chicken or Veggy Pie, harvest desserts. Tickets £7.00 adults £3.50 under 10s. Available from Putnoe Heights Office on weekdays or after Sunday Service.

Tuesday Housegroup St. Mark's Church is home to a mid-week social and Bible study group which has been running for many years. A small group of like-minded members of St. Mark's and of Putnoe Heights, meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons from 2.00pm -3.30pm. The group's next meeting is on Tuesday 6 October and we would like to invite a few more people to join us. More information from Jean Bank, St. Mark's and from Sue and Martin Fannon, Putnoe Heights.

The bowls sessions at St. Marks will now continue throughout the winter months on 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month 2pm -4.30pm. Contact Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

Messy Church Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2015

Following the success of previous years, by Messy Church and the wider congregation, we will be packing boxes at our Messy Church session on 18 November. We will be happy to accept donated items from now on. All items must be new. These include Toys, Educational supplies, Hygiene items, Other: Sweets sell by date at least March 2016. Gloves, scarves, sunglasses, hats, bangles, necklaces. Please do not donate: food (especially chocolate), no hand knitted stuffed toys, medicine, no war related items, no clothing other than those above, no fragile items, no liquids. No sharp objects, no novels. We do not need any empty shoeboxes this year. Please see the Messy Church notice board for further details of what can and cannot be put in the boxes. If you require further information please speak to Wendy Waters or Jean Bank.



Remembering the loved we have lost There will be a special service at St Mark's Church, Brickhill, Bedford Sunday 1 November 2015 at 3.00pm (Doves of Remembrance will be released from the Church at 2.50pm). Our address this year will be given By Mrs Delia Shephard, Civil Celebrant. If you know of anybody who would like a special invitation then please let one of the ministers know



Partnership Prayer Group meets every Thursday from 9.30 - 10am at Putnoe. We are always pleased to welcome new members. Prayer cards are now available at both churches and we include all prayer requests in our meeting.

Lenten Cathedral Pilgrimage 2016

We are organising an evening pilgrimage to St Albans cathedral on Wednesday 16 March 2016. Depart Bedford at 5.00pm. Cost is £7.50 Arrival at cathedral and buffet 7.00pm Pilgrimage and tour 7.45pm Compline and procession to shrine 9.00pm Depart St Albans 9.30pm Arrive back in Bedford 11.00pm If you would like to take part then please speak with Charlie so that we can book numbers and arrange transport.

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



December 9.

Community Coffee Mornings

at Putnoe Heights Church restarts at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays October 14 and 28, November 11 and 25, with the final one this year on

Footprints Walk on Sunday October 4 A 4 mile level walk on field paths and quiet roads, no stiles, and possibility of lots of blackberries half way round! Meet at Cople Parish Church 2.30pm where there is off road parking. Alan & Jean Kirk.

Putnoe Heights Office If anyone is able to assist working in our Church Office on a Friday morning from 9am to 11am it would be most appreciated. If you are interested please contact Geoff Gypps or Barry Southam. Thank you. Church Office 01234 365630.

Alan and all Lenas family would like to say a big thank you to all those who attended the service on Friday we overwhelmed by numbers which were there. Thank you for the many cards and telephone messages we received. Also to all those ladies who served the refreshments afterwards. Thank you to Charlie for his support during Lenas illness also for everything he did for us on Friday right up to when we buried her ashes later that day.

Partnership Quiz to be held at St Mark's Church on Saturday 28 November at 7.30pm. Do come and bring/make up a team. Tickets £7 includes Fish and Chip Supper. Please put this date in your diary.

Putnoe Men's Group Our next fellowship meal will be at the Pheasant public House on Wednesday the 21 October at 7:30pm. Details of the menu options will be available shortly. Please let Barry Southam know if you wish to join us.

Bedfordshire Fire Service will carry out a Home Fire Safety Check and fit smoke alarms if required if you would like any further information please contact them on 0800 043 5042 and leave them your name, address including postcode and a contact number.



Helping Children from the streets and slums in Kenya

Partnership Autumn Mission Project 2015

Every year at Harvest our churches gather together to give thanks for the many good things which we are able to enjoy. We thank God for the basics like food and water, and we also remember those who work hard to provide all the things we need. To show our gratitude for how fortunate we are, we always use Harvest as an opportunity to raise funds and give towards a charity.

For our Autumn Harvest Mission project this year we will be supporting Karibuni, which is the project Mike Carr spoke to us about when he preached in the partnership earlier this summer. The aim of the charity is to help the most disadvantaged children in Kenya by providing an education and a future.

The Karibuni Trust is a UK Registered Charity. Karibuni support approximately 1400 children in 14 projects based in and around Nairobi, and to the north and East of the city towards the country's borders. All of these have their own needs and challenges which Karibuni seeks to meet through its mission and ministry. All the schools they support are owned by The Methodist Church of Kenya and to mark their 20th Anniversary this year they have committed in faith to educating an additional 50 children. The Trustees visit the largest projects each year and for all projects ensure proper budgets and management are in place to maximise the impact and benefit from the funding and support given. Look out for further details next week as we give our support to this worthwhile and important work.

'When we stand and look over the massive slums of Nairobi we know that the scale of the need is huge and this could make us question what difference we can make. But we also know that for each and every child we support we can and do make a difference.'

It has also been agreed by the Leadership Teams of both churches that we should donate £250 from each church to the Syrian Refugee crisis.



The Bedford Passion Play Easter Weekend 26 March 2016

The Borough Council has given the go-ahead for the play to be staged in four main locations in the centre of Bedford, beginning near the Bus Station and ending by the Castle Mound. Rehearsals are soon to begin and alongside a cast of principles, large numbers of costumed volunteers are needed to make up the crowds, disciples and troops of soldiers. If you would like to be involved then please speak with Wendy Waters.

The first gathering for all who are interested in performing is to be on Saturday 17 October at 10.30am. at Priory Methodist Church.

You can join the Facebook page at: Bedford Passion Play and follow on Twitter @bedspassionplay

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

**Peter Marsden
Keith Padbury
Doris Hilda Mynott
Joyce Mavis Marriott
Lena Cooper**



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

St Mark's Harvest Intercessions

Bidding for today

For what we have received ,

Response : Make us truly thankful.

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of John Sutherland Lester will take place at St Mark's Chapel on Thursday 1 October at 1.15pm, followed by burial at St Albans Woodland Burial Trust