



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

28 August 2011 – Ordinary 22



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

28 August - Ordinary 22

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher – Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership -Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions – Mrs Sylvia Cohen

4 September- Ordinary 23

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mrs Alison Holden
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher– Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions – YPF

Bible Readings 1.Exodus 12:1-14
2.Romans 13: 8-14 3. Matthew 18: 15-20

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 John and Janet Smith to mark their 35th wedding anniversary

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Mary Hill in memory of her husband Rex, and Florence Hulatt in memory of family members.

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

My Father, how blind and deaf I am – to miss your voice as you speak within my own being! You call to me in my restlessness and discontent, You guide me by my own confusion....out of myself into you.

Keep me faithful while I grope my way along – as one who searches blindly along a wall – until I understand that there is a door... always open. And the door is you. Amen
(Julian of Norwich)

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 Hoare 782717
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091 youth@thisischurch.com

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

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

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry

☎211955

10.30am U3A Play reading (see contact details below)

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

2pm U3A Music Appreciation - (see contact details below)

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

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe

Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner

☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15 - 8.15pm

Weightwatchers. St. Mark's Sam Thompson

☎07766421000 Starts 25th July.

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—15 August 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 (see contact details below)

1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp - Putnoe

Heights for toddlers and their carers.Run by Putnoe

Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group. (see contact details below)

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

2.00pm U3A (see contact details below)

2pm U3A Photography (see contact details below)

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 13 September - AGM For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting September 6 - Richard Ledger Details call Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

10am U3A Card Making. (see contact details below)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly.

Next - Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

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

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

1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's (see contact details below)

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

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

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

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

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. 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 September 7 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 Restarts on 8September.

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 Restarts 8 September

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 (see contact details below)

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

2- 4pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎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 (see contact details below)

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

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

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

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

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

Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

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

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

Sunday

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

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

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

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfotrdtkd.com or bedfordtkd@googlemail.com.

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



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –

St Mark's Leadership Team - 6 September 2011

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 3 October

St Mark's Forum Meeting - Tuesday 13 September

Putnoe Church Council - 17 October

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting - 15 September at Putnoe Heights.

Deanery Meeting 15 September

Woodland Burial Trustees – 4th September 12.30

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 17 October

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

Ordinary 22

Introduction

Being a follower of Jesus has rewards, there is no doubt that there can be no greater promise made by Jesus than his assurance that we are loved by God for ever, even beyond death. But Jesus wants his followers to know that the realisation of this love brings with it responsibility. In our relationships we know that we cannot take somebody for granted just because they love us. Indeed a real relationship should mean total commitment and a willingness to give everything to the one we love. So it is that Jesus tells his disciples they must be totally committed to him. It is no good professing dedication and being half hearted. This meant that his disciples would have to be prepared to openly stand up for Jesus and be prepared to take consequences. At the time that meant the probability of persecution and quite possibly death. How deep is our commitment ? Would you be prepared to give everything for Jesus ?



**If any
want to become
my followers, let them
deny themselves and
take up their cross
and follow me.**

Matthew 16.24

Opening Verse of Scripture - Psalm 105

Praise the LORD and pray in his name! Tell everyone what he has done. Sing praises to the LORD! Tell about his miracles. Celebrate and worship his holy name with all your heart.

Collect Prayer (*Before we read we pray*)

God of all creation, you call all peoples of the earth into your kingdom. Grant that we, with young and old of all nations, may boldly confess Jesus Christ as Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and praise, now and forever. **Amen** *Methodist Worship*

First Bible Reading -Exodus 3: 1-15

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' "This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

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

Second Reading - Romans 12:9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. 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. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 16: 21-28

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom .

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

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

- 1 Soldiers of Christ arise 719 *(Tune St Ethelwald)*
- 2 One more step 746
- 3 Jesus the Lord said 137 *(Tune yisu ne kaha)*
- 4 Crown him with many crowns 255 *(Tune Diademata)*
- 5 And can it be 216 *(Tune sagina)*

Commentary

Last Sunday Jesus blessed Peter and gave him authority over his mission to build the household of God. Things have turned quickly on Peter as now Jesus calls him a devil and pushes him off. The sound of his rejection reminds us of what Jesus said to the devil when he tempted Jesus in the desert, "Away with you, Satan!"

You can't blame Peter for trying to save his master from pain and death. But there is more involved than just a devoted disciple's desire to protect the teacher he loves and follows. Christianity is not an easy walk, all smiles and good feelings. "Finding Jesus," or having "Jesus in my heart," might produce initial buoyancy of spirit. But eventually the fuller picture of what following Jesus entails will set in. Peter should have known better, after all, he's following the prophet Jesus. If Peter had reflected over the history of his religion he would have remembered how prophets got rejected and killed. Now Peter is facing what the prophets faced: he is being called to accept a prophetic role and it will cost. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me."

You can buy a cross in any jewellery store, but that's not the kind of cross Jesus invites Peter and us to

willingly take up each day. We are not likely to suffer crucifixion as Jesus did, but it's clear Jesus invites his disciples to sacrifice for his sake and for the preaching of the gospel.

Today Paul points out how we disciples are to live. We ought to offer our bodies "as a living sacrifice." Christians are not to "conform yourselves to this age...." If we choose to follow Christ we will live lives based on a different set of values from what guides those around us. This choice will cost us—friends, family, popularity and even possessions. We cannot buy into the values of our culture without first passing them under the lens of the gospel. At first Peter does not accept the terms of the relationship Jesus is offering. The emphasis on the pain and sacrifice seems to have blocked his ears to what comes along with the cross—life. Peter will, Jesus promises, gain his life.

After we get beyond Jesus' casting Peter off, we might notice there's an offer also being made to Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" It's an initial rejection, Jesus is also telling Peter to go back where disciples should be—behind and following Jesus. That's the right place for us too, despite our repeated failures to live up to being Jesus' disciples. Like Peter, in subtle or more obvious ways, we have rejected the cost of discipleship and admit today our need for another chance to keep trying.

We are invited back where we belong—following Jesus. Along with other disciples we will be guided by Matthew over the next weeks as we listen to Jesus' teachings. We disciples will notice on our journey with Jesus how he daily accepts his cross; the rejection and slander thrown in his path on the road to Jerusalem. As always, Jesus offers forgiveness for wayward and even obstructing disciples. Jesus sees in us what he saw in Peter, a willingness to do the best we can to follow him, even unto death. And so we join Peter as we get behind Jesus and follow him to Jerusalem

Meditation

The bible states, 'speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord'. As believers our worship is distinguished by joy which is manifested when we sing and make melody to the Lord. A singing heart is a joyful one. What better way to praise the Lord than by singing to Him words of praise which He inspired men to write based on Holy Scripture'. Singing does not have to be of any standard, and if we sing with the heart it is accepted and welcomed by God, and it is to the Lord we sing to please.

God blessed some men and women to write glorious hymns and spiritual songs which have lasted through the years containing sound doctrine from Scripture. These words remind us of the greatness of God in how He saves and delivers us and intervenes in our lives to help us, forgiving us through the atoning action of Jesus Christ.

The great revival meetings led by Moody and Sankey were characterised by joyful praise with a strong gospel message, and it was of course the hymns of Charles Wesley which led so many to Methodism. I invite you to come and join in this service of Timeless Praise as we sing hymns of gifted writers old and new. Music touches the heart and brings people together. Bring a friend with you and enjoy the evening on Sunday 11th September at 6-30p.m at Putnoe Heights Church. Many Churches recognise September as the start of the new Church year, let us start it well.

(Eric Royden)

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example to be a living sacrifice to you. Guide us to serve those around the world as you have commissioned us to do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Prayers of Intercession

For all who offer their lives as instruments of your peace so others may live in freedom: let us pray that oppression, violence, and hatred may cease and that goodwill may triumph.

Gracious God, we thank you for your loving gift of grace. Guide us to love all as you love us. We especially pray that you show us how to serve those we name enemies.

Loving God, please be with all of those suffering from disasters around the world. Guide us and our congregation to share your love and comfort in these places of destruction.

Thought for the day

Christianity had no tradition of impressive buildings at the time Constantine became Emperor in the fourth century. This changed with Constantine, who lavished many favours upon the Christian faith, including some great buildings and opulent digs. Said St. Jerome at the time: "Parchments are died purple, gold is melted into lettering, manuscripts are dressed up in jewels, while Christ lies at the door naked and dying."



Woodland Burial Tour A Unique Opportunity

On Tuesday 30 August at 11.00am there will be a guided tour of St Albans Woodland Burial Ground. This will be an opportunity to ask any questions which you may have about how funerals take place or what you can do to make a very personal service. Trustees will be accompanied by other professionals who will be available to answer any questions which you may have.

Located via The College Equestrian Centre Church Road, Keysoe, Bedford. MK44 2JP

More details can be obtained from the

Administrator: Mrs Linda Parry

Tel/Fax +44 1234 342613

Email: office@woodlandburialtrust.com

St. Mark's Junior Church resumes on Sunday September 4. St Mark's Storybox resumes on Thursday Sept 8. Many thanks to Jaana and all who helped throughout the year

Chat and Play restarts on Thursday 8 September
Jo Garner 400071

Action for Children works with disadvantaged & disabled children and their families through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church. The annual house-to-house collection takes place in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark's has the responsibility for covering Brickhill. Last year 21 collectors raised £806 (inc. Gift Aid.). If you could spare a few hours early in September to distribute and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area please contact me For more information. Mike Elliot Tel: 342507

Praise Service. A service of worship inspired by the songs of Moody and Sankey 6.30pm Sunday September 11 at Putnoe Heights Church, conducted by Rev. Eric Royden

Support for Older People. there will be a conference on Saturday 24 September from 9.00am - 12.45pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Lane, Goldington. This will look at raising awareness of physical, spiritual and mental needs and consider looking at ways to reach out to those in nursing and residential homes. Speakers will be from Age UK, Friends for Life and local GP's

Offertory Envelopes (Putnoe Heights). Sets of envelopes for the next twelve months are available for collection from a table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the envelope

scheme (or contribute to church funds by standing order), is invited to contact John Hitt, tel 404186.

St. Mark's Church Car Boot Sale –29 August.

We would be very grateful for bric-a-brac, books, tools, china, CD's puzzles etc for the Church Stall. Also if you are able to provide cakes and tray bakes for the refreshments they would be very welcome. Your support is really appreciated..

We have received details of new courses offered by St Albans Diocese and BELIEF.

Each module meets at St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford on Monday evenings from 7.00—9.30 pm. The cost is £25.00 per module.

Christian God: Doctrine On 12, 19, 26 Sept, 3, 17, and 31 Oct

Reading the New Testament An introduction to the Gospels and St Paul. On 7, 14, 21, 28 November, 5 & 12 December,

Introduction to Church History This module will focus on the Reformation in western Europe. On 7, 14, 21 and 28 November, 5 & 12 December,

Reading the Old Testament An introduction that will enable students to set old Testament texts in their literary and historical contexts. On 16, 23, 30 January 2012, 6, 13, 27 February,
Contact Ministry Development Office, Holywell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 1HE
Tel: 01727 818151 Email:
lhart@stalbans.anglican.org

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

Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust

Sponsored Bike Ride: Wendy and Chris Waters will be taking part in this event on Saturday 10 September. Half of the amount raised is given to St Mark's and half to the Trust. We hope to visit at least 12 churches circulating the outskirts of Bedford. If you would like to sponsor us please enter your details on the sponsor form in St Mark's foyer or phone Wendy on 01234 401834.

Circuit Launch Catering St Mark's has been asked to provide some cakes for Saturday 3 September for the launch of the new Circuit, If anyone is able to help with this request can you please speak to Laura Farthing or call 01234 210892. All are welcome on the day and if anyone has any time and would like to help out with the catering please let Laura know.

Footprints 4 September All are cordially invited to join the Footprints group on a 3½ mile walk from Tempsford along delightful paths beside the River Ivel and through the village of Blunham – plus a fascinating, but optional, extra bit at the end on return to Tempsford! Paths may be muddy after rain, so appropriate footwear is advised, as are long trousers as this is a bit of a jungle jaunt in places (yes, blackberries!). Don't let that put you off, because the walk is worth it. We will meet in Tempsford in time for a 2.30pm departure. Park beside the road opposite the Wheatsheaf pub; we will begin our walk along Mill Lane. To get to the meeting point, drive to the Black Cat roundabout and turn right (south) on the A1. Soon after this, take the first exit and follow the signs for Tempsford Church End, which will take you parallel with the A1 and then back over the A1 via right turns at a couple of roundabouts. If you have any queries, please contact Alison and Warwick Holden at St Mark's.

North Bedfordshire Circuit Launch Celebration on Saturday September 3rd 2011.

Kings House Complex, 245 Ampthill Road.

- 2.00 p.m. Family Fun
- 3.00 p.m. Barn Dance
- 3.45 p.m. Afternoon Tea
- 4.30 p.m. Informal Worship
- 4.50 p.m. Launch Service
- 6.15 p.m. End of Formal Worship

Please see notices in both churches.

Everyone Welcome

Putnoe Recording Service –As from 14 August recording of the Sunday morning services at Putnoe has resumed. The tapes are available for 4 weeks before being re-used. Anyone who cannot attend for any reason is welcome to borrow a tape and if necessary a small machine on which to play it. (through headphones). Please return as soon as possible for use by others. PA team

Wild West Bonanza

St Mark's Church

Calder Rise, Bedford

Saturday 17th September

at 7.30pm

Tickets includes Dinner, entertainment and line dancing

Tickets £7.50

Children 12 and under £5.00

Prize for best dressed

Cowboy and Cowgirl

01234 342613

office@thisischurch.com

Catering by Lingers Butchers, Bedford

Clubhouse Changes to Opens House !

St Mark's Church Council met last week to discuss changes to it's Clubhouse project which works with people with learning disabilities. In order to continue to provide this important support service, the church has decided to make the project entirely free to all those who wish to access the service. To demonstrate this new free facility the name will be changed to Open House. Families and carers will also be able to access Open House free of charge. We are delighted to be able to continue to provide this service to the community and hope that we will be able to attract volunteers to help run the session which will be from 10.00am until 2.00pm every Wednesday. If you are interested in being involved in any way, please speak to Charles Royden

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.

Jim Pearson
Aphrodite Hubbard

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 Michael Kenneth Eaton will take place at Bedford crematorium on Friday 9 September at 10.00am