



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

29 October 2006

Ordinary 30

Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both
Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Holy Communion at ST MARKS ONLY

9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion with Prayer for Christian Healing

Preacher - Revd Martin Hounsfeld

Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions - Mr Richard Ledger

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion with Prayer for Christian healing

Preacher - Revd Martin Hounsfeld

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

November 5th

8.30 Holy Communion at PUTNOE ONLY

9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship - Animal Service

Preacher - Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams

Intercessions - Mr Warwick Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship - Animal Service

Preacher - Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Sam Ware

Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Reading 1 : Isaiah 25: 6-9

Reading 2 : Revelations: 21: 1-6a

Reading 3 : John 11: 32-44

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Richard Ledger in memory of his mother.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Christina and Maurice Halsey in loving memory of their daughter, Lesley Robinson.

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

Prayer for Sunday

Eternal God,
giver of love and peace,
you call your children to live together
as one family.
Give us grace to learn your ways
and to do your will,
that we may bring justice and peace
to all people, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.

Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisisChurch.com

Partnership Youth and Children's Worker

Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@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 9am - 12 noon Monday & Friday

9am - 5pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

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

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

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 Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school Mrs Janet Smith 326685

8.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

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

Mini-Strikers Sport for Children at Putnoe aged 2-4 years. Contact Andy Carey 01908 313751 or 07766 142754, or www.ministrikers.co.uk

12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights contact Malcolm Smith on 01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

4pm Monday Club at St. Marks for 3—8 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments , between 4 & 5 Bible story, craft activities & songs. Lots of fun. Contact Liz 302349

4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044

4.15 - 6.00pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Penny Fulham 406045

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419

7.15 m Guides -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.15pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

7.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next 30 October Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.

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

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828

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

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting October 31 Langley House Trust. Contact Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 31 October Final Members afternoon. Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

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

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. For details of next meeting contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

3.45 - 5.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne 783129

7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's. Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.

Tuesday - 7pm-9pm MT Karate [all ages] at Putnoe Heights. Please contact Karen King 07941 264885

7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton 346718

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

7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting October 31 AGM Contact Madge Walsh 359088

8.30pm St Mark's Church Qi Gong. Contact Mrs D Steele 356384

Wednesday

9.30am Childminding Support Group at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949

9.30am - Body Control Pilates at Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787.

9.00 a.m. Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Contact Karen Bywater 315460.

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

10am Sewing & Chat Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights - For details of next meeting Contact Audrey Hancock 365915.

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. For details of next meeting 1 November contact Putnoe 365630

1 - 3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

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

4.15pm - 6pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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

6.15pm - 7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation at Putnoe Heights. Please contact Racheall Monton 01234 297138

6.30 - 7.30 at St Mark's .Karate contact Karen 079412 64885

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Contact Sylvia Woods 365095

7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073

7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*

9.30am Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips 01582 485333

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

1.30pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's 267444

12pm Story box St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 302349

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe. Geraldine Skeel 406828

1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group. Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

2pm - Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer 345991

4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-11year old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun And it's free! Liz Spavins 302349

5.30 - 7.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Helga Nash 218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7pm Street Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Curtis Ritchie 349255 or 07984 525147

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at St Mark's Mr P Housden 376597

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild at St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby 344442

7.30 - 9.30 Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Bible Studies every 2 Thursday– Pastor Tarr 360188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle at St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

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

1.30 - 2pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe.

Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

2pm U3A Gardening Group at Putnoe Heights Contact Eve Whitehead 356875

7 - 10pm Bedford Arts Society meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Contact Malcolm Smith 01234 400741

7.30pm Youth Club for age 13-18 at St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

Saturday

9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain at St Mark's – dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414

5 - 7pm Bethesda Church . Contact Pastor Denis Baka 07944 749357

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Sunday

Junior Church with crèche for under 3's

9.30 - 10.30 at St.Mark's

11-12 at Putnoe Heights.

1 - 4pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515

6-7.30pm T.N.T. for 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. At Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349.

6—7.30pm T.X.T for 13 + fortnightly , join us for fellowship , debate & discussion at Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council , 6 February 2007

Circuit Meeting -

St Mark's Leadership Team – 27th November

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 21 November

St Mark's Church Management Meeting - 12.30pm 6 December

Putnoe Heights Church Management - 6th Nov

Putnoe Church Council 29 January 2007

Pastoral Group Meeting – 31 January 2007

Churchyard Committee - 29 November 11am.

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting –

Wednesday 18 October at 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way. .

Partnership Council - 20 February at St Mark's

Brickhill Parish Council - 30 Nov

Deanery Meeting , 16 November

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth -

Calendar dates appear on our church website www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Ordinary 30

Verse of Scripture

Luke Chapter 4:18

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Bible Reading - Job 42:1-6, 10-17.

Then Job replied to the LORD : "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before. All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought upon him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring. The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. And he also had seven sons and three daughters. The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. And so he died, old and full of years. .

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

Second Reading - Hebrews 7:23-28

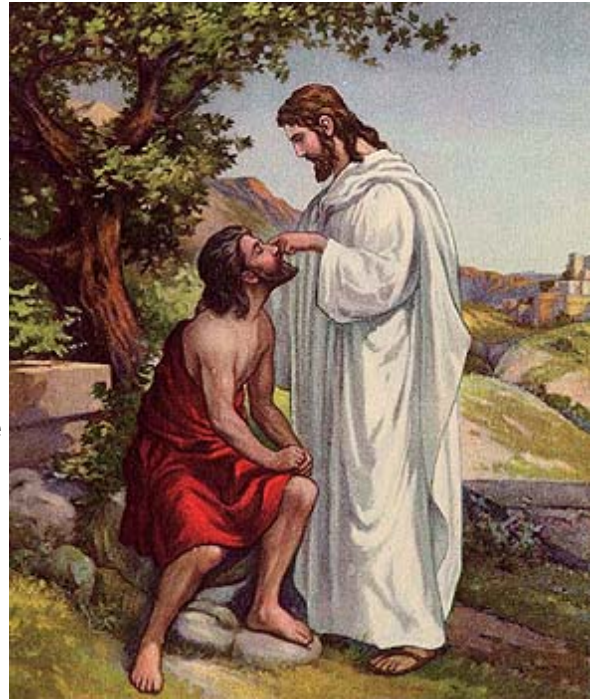
Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

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

Third Reading - Mark 10:46-52 (Please stand for the Gospel reading)

When the Gospel is announced - **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up!



On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

(Reader : This is the Gospel of Christ . **All - Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Holy Communion/Healing booklets)

1. O Christ the healer we have come (*Tune Song 34 MV*)

2. Your mercy flows upon us like a river. Your mercy stands unshakeable and true.
Most holy God, of all good things the giver, we turn and lift our fervent prayer to You.

Chorus (Women descant) Hear our cry, O Lord, be merciful once more.

Let Your love Your anger stem, remember mercy, O Lord, again.

Your church once great, though standing clothed in sorrow,
Is even still the bride that You adore; Revive Your church, that we again may honour
Our God and King, our Master and our Lord. *Chorus*

As we have slept, this nation has been taken, by every sin, ever known to man;
So at its gates, though burnt by fire and broken,
In Jesus' name we come to take our stand. *Chorus*

3. Jesus took a piece of bread, he shared a cup of wine.
'eat and drink with me,' he said, 'because you're friends of mine!'

We eat and drink with Jesus, because we are his friends,
remembering his promise, of life that never ends.

We share with one another, the bread and wine he gives,
and celebrate together, the special life he lives.

We rise up from the table, and go where Jesus sends,
to tell the world the gospel, of love that never ends. (*Tune Royal Oak*)

4. It is a thing most wonderful (*Tune Heronsgate*)

Commentary Time to test our spiritual sight

We cannot begin to understand the plight of those born blind at the time of Jesus. Yet whilst James and John are arguing about who is going to be the biggest boss and have most authority, it is a blind beggar who rises above the dreadfulness of his condition to see who Jesus really is. Bartimaeus must have had a dreadful life as person with blindness, it meant that he would spend the whole of his life regarded as a drain on the resources of those around him. Somehow he believed that all this would not matter to Jesus.

Mark does not usually name beneficiaries of miracles – only Jairus and Bartimaeus are named in this Gospel. The name was perhaps significant, (bar means son of in Aramaic. Mark gives the Aramaic name and translates into Greek for Gentile readers. Son of Timaeus, Timao (Greek) means to honour, so Bartimaeus can mean son of honour). Mark sets in stark contrast the meaning of the name and the occupation of the man. A son of honour is begging beside the road! This man, living daily with the shame of his condition, bestows on Jesus titles of honour.

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Until now, Jesus has tried to keep talk of his messiahship at a minimum – scholars talk of the "messianic secret." But Jesus does not rebuke Bartimaeus for calling him, "Son of David," a title that can be understood messianically. The reason is quite simple. Until now, his time has not come, but now it has. He is ready to enter Jerusalem – ready to confront the religious establishment – ready to die.

Amidst the noise of the crowd, Jesus hears the cry of this beggar, and stops in his tracks. Jesus' ears are attuned to hear the marginal person – the woman with a haemorrhage (5:25-34) – the Gerasene demoniac (5:1-20) – the sick in Gennesaret (6:53-56) – the Syrophenician woman (7:24-30) – the blind man at Bethsaida (8:22-25) – the boy with a spirit (9:14-29) – little children (10:13-16) – and now this blind man who sits beside the road. Jesus does not address the blind man directly, but orders the crowd to "call him here." Before he heals the blind man, Jesus dignifies him – moves him from the wings to center stage – puts him in the spotlight – gives him a starring role. The contrast is marked: Jesus, the son of David, stopping to help a beggar of no account. There are strong parallels between this story and Jesus' earlier blessing of little children (10:13-16). The disciples tried to prevent parents from bringing their children to Jesus just as the crowd tried to shush Bartimaeus (vv. 13, 48) Jesus' instructions to the disciples "Let the little children come to me" (v. 14), parallel his instructions to this crowd, "Call him here" (v. 49). In both cases, Jesus reaches out with authority to include powerless, vulnerable people, modelling authentic Christian ministry.

So throwing off his cloak, Bartimaeus sprang up and came to Jesus. Beggars typically sit with their cloak spread on the ground before them to catch coins tossed by passers by. This man's cloak is as important to his livelihood as boats are to a fisherman or a booth to a tax collector. Just as others abandoned boats and booths to follow Jesus, this man tosses aside cloak and coins to stand before the Son of David. He is quite unlike the rich man who, earlier in this chapter, could not bring himself to abandon his wealth (10:17-27). Jesus further dignifies him by asking what he wants. In the incident immediately preceding this story, James and John responded by asking for places of honour at Jesus' right- and left-hand – positions where they would be seen and envied – where ordinary people would have to look up to them. The blind man asks only that he may see again. He asks not to be seen, but to see – not for honour, but for vision – not to be superior to ordinary people, but to become ordinary himself – not to rule over others, but to join them.

Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well (Greek: *sesoken se* – healed or saved you)." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way (Greek: *hodo*). The word *sesoken* (root word *sozo*) has a happy ambiguity. It can mean healed, made whole, or saved. In this man's case, all three are true. The man not only regains his sight and, thereby, his place in society, but he also becomes a follower of Jesus "on the way." On the way to where? To Jerusalem! To the cross! To the open tomb!

It is only a few days until Good Friday. We can't help but wonder how Bartimaeus will fare during the tumultuous events of the coming week. Given the vigour of his faith, it seems possible that he will fare better than the other disciples. After all, Bartimaeus can see now, but the disciples are still blind.

Charles Royden

Meditation

So we are all encouraged to believe that, no matter what other people might think of us, we matter to Jesus. There is no prison from which we cannot be set free, no oppression from which we cannot be released. This is what being the messiah is all about for Jesus. It was with a statement about healing the blind that Jesus had started his ministry, with this last healing miracle in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus shows that he is still on track to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. Bartimaeus was blind but there was nothing wrong with his spiritual vision, he recognised who Jesus was, do we have his vision?

Charles Royden

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

The home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with us as our God; we will be God's people. And God will be with us, wiping every tear from our eyes. Death will be no more; Mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the former things will pass away. All things will be made new. Revelation

Do not care much who is with you and who is against you; but make it your greatest care that God is with you in everything you do. Have a good conscience, and God will defend you securely; no one can hurt you if God wishes to help you. (From 'The imitation of Christ' by Thomas à Kempis)

News and Information

Mission Project

Thank you to everyone who took envelopes and letters regarding the Kisiizi mission project last week. If you did not have the opportunity to take one last week please pick one up on your way out of church this morning if you would like to be involved. Please place completed letters and donations in the offertory plate each week or hand in to one of the church offices. We will keep you regularly posted on progress throughout the project. Once again thank you for your support.

8.30am Holy Communion — New policy

It has been agreed by Partnership Council and both church councils to change the pattern of 8.30am Holy Communion services. There will be a new fixed rota which will operate throughout the year, in a similar fashion to the summer holidays. If anybody finds this to be inconvenient we would like to offer transport to and from each church every Sunday, please advise us if you would like this service so that we can help.

First Sunday of every month at Putnoe
Second Sunday of every month St Mark's
Third Sunday of every month Putnoe
Fourth Sunday of every month St Mark's
Fifth Sunday of every month Putnoe

This fixed pattern should be easy to remember.

Due a shortage of ministers over half term we have already implemented a fortnightly arrangement. Therefore we have decided that the permanent change should take place from November.

Barn Dance 4 November 6pm at Putnoe. Suitable for all ages. Tickets £3 each or £10 for a 'family' of 4 Sausage & Mash with veggie option. Bring your own drinks. Raffle. Book early. Tickets from Putnoe Office or see Liz

Bedford Festival of Music, Speech & Dance

3-10 March 2007. If any of our young people from the Partnership would like to enter the Bible Reading, to continue the success of this year, could they please see Liz, as we need to register shortly.

Tesco Sports Vouchers are being collected by St Mark's Preschool. Vouchers can be handed into the Office. Thank you Helen

'Modern Singers' If you enjoy singing, come along to Bedford Modern School for an hour 6-7pm on Wednesdays. All voices welcome - no auditions! For more information - speak to Mike Cooper, Tim

Belief. Bedford Ecumenical Lay Institute for Education and Faith

Course leaflets are available in the foyer with details of some excellent sessions. The courses are held at St Andrew's Church in Bedford. Please take a leaflet and consider joining one of the courses this autumn. The next module "Thinking about God" led by Rev'd Dr Ian McIntosh begins on 8 November at 7.45 .

Weds 8 Nov. God as Creator

Weds 15 Nov God in Jesus

Weds 22 Nov God and Suffering

Weds 29 Nov God the Holy Spirit

Weds 6 Dec God as Trinity

St Mark's Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 25 November. Flyers are now available to be distributed around the area if you are able to help please take a bundle from the table in the foyer. Many thanks.

Sunday Services at Putnoe The 11am services are recorded on tapes, which may be borrowed, to enable people who are unable to get to Church to listen at home. More helpers are needed to maintain this service - for further details please contact Brian Lodge on 267531.

Mission Group Coffee Morning on Saturday 4 November from 10—12 noon at the home of Revd. Dr Joan and Paul Crossley, 30 Cutcliffe Grove Cakes, raffle etc. proceeds to African Projects. Offers & requests for transport to Eddie & Irene McKenzie 311569.

Card sales at Putnoe Heights continue to do very well. We have recently sent £50 to Riverbank Children's Ward at South Wing Hospital and we are now raising money for the British Diabetic Association. Cards for special occasions and Christmas can always be made to order. Telephone 267567. Thank you for your continuing support. Margaret and Claire Peck.

We are sad to announce the sudden death of Justin Platt, son of Rita and Nigel Platt, brother of Avril and Sarah. His funeral will take place this week on Thursday at 3.15, at Norse Road. (Joan)

TNT and TXT had a very successful "Saints and Heroes" party. The prize for best costume was won by Rachel Nash who came as Maria von Trapp.

See Round. Please take a copy today.

Partnership Commemoration Service

Sunday 12 November at 3.00pm at St Mark's Church our preacher this year will be The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman.

Dirty Pretty Things? They come over here and what? Dirty Pretty Things is a film about migrant workers. Okwe is a kind-hearted Nigerian Doctor. Senay is a Turkish chambermaid. They are both immigrants. Both work at the same West London Hotel. Both discover an unpalatable side of London life. Come to the Bowen West Theatre, Lansdowne Rd., Bedford on Thursday 16 November at 7.30p.m. to watch the film and join in a post-film discussion which will be helped along by a panel consisting of Crystal Dickinson (First Chair of the Befrienders, Yarl's Wood IRC), Jane Dykins (Head of the Children's Department at the Refugee Council and Chair of the Refugee Children's Consortium), Larry Wright (until recently Manager of Religious Affairs at Yarl's Wood) and Kemi Akinruli (Bishop of St Albans Adviser on Immigration Issues). Chair: Stephen Heap (Co-ordinating Chaplain, University of Bedfordshire in Bedford). Tickets (£3.00 each) from the Box Office at the Theatre or on 01234 219333.

Who is Melchizedek?

Several people asked about the reference to Jesus being a 'priest in the order of Melchizedek' which came up in our reading from Hebrews last week. Melchizedek is a mysterious and enigmatic figure who first appears in Genesis 14 where he greets Abram and provides him with a royal banquet on Abram's return from rescuing Lot and all his possessions from the four kings who have been at war with the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah,

Zeboiim and Beor and have captured Lot and his family. Melchizedek, in Hebrew malki-sedeq, which can be translated as 'Sedeq is my king', or '(The God) Melek is righteousness' is the King of Salem (or Jerusalem as it became known) and a priest of the 'God Most High'. He blesses Abram and brings him bread and wine and Abram then gives Melchizedek a tenth of everything. In Ps 110 v 4 a Davidic king is proclaimed by the Lord as a 'priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek'. This is by virtue of David's conquest of Jerusalem by which his house becomes heirs to the Melchizedek dynasty of priest-kings. As Jesus is from the house of David, the Davidic Messiah, it follows that He qualifies to be the priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. The priesthood of Melchizedek is different and distinct from the Aaronic priesthood of the Old Testament in several important ways. The order of Melchizedek is continuous and eternal. It does not need a line of succession in the earthly manner in which the Aaronic priesthood does and is therefore a priesthood of a much higher importance and significance. Secondly, Jesus' qualifications to be the true successor of Melchizedek are not based on tribal alignment. The Aaronic priesthood came from the tribe of Judah, not Levi; Jesus would not have qualified as an Aaronic priest. Thirdly, it is a royal priesthood which adds significant dignity and importance to the high priestly office of Christ. The theologian Guthrie writes, 'The Genesis account of Melchizedek, though mysterious, is nonetheless impressive. Even so he is but a shadow of his great antitype [Jesus Christ]'. As Christians, a priesthood of all believers it is Christ Himself who is our great High Priest. **Sam Cappleman**

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 Whittingstall
Mr Webster**

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



Rest in Peace



The funeral of **Paul Collins** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday November 3rd at 1.45pm. *(Crossley)*

The funeral of **Justin Stephen Platt** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 2nd November at 3.15 *(Crossley)*

The funeral of **Baby Finlay Michael Barker** will take place at St Mark's Chapel on Monday 30 October at 10.30am *(Royden)*

The funeral of **Malcolm Donald Cracknell** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 11.30am on Wednesday 8 November *(Royden)*