



Partnership News

3 October 2010
Harvest Festival



Partnership Church Services Today

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

9.30 am St. Mark's - Harvest Festival
Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions - Alison Holden
11am Putnoe – Harvest Festival
Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Sam Ware
Intercessions – Claire Peck

10 October – Ordinary 28

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott
11 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Mrs Sam Ware

Readings 1.2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c 2 Timothy 2: 8-13
3. Luke 17: 11-19

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 Alan and Margaret Massey to celebrate their 8th wedding anniversary.

The flowers at the front of St Mark's Church this week have been given by Iris Perry in loving memory of Cyril and the flowers in the Chapel have been given by Barbara Edwards in loving memory of her husband Cyril

Prayer for This Week

Lord, may I love all thy creation, the whole and every grain of sand in it. May I love the animals: thou hast given them the rudiments of thought and joy untroubled. Let me not harass them; let me not deprive them of their happiness; let me not work against thy intent. For I acknowledge unto thee that all is like an ocean - flowing and blending - and that to withhold any measure of from anything in thy universe is to withhold that same measure from thee.

(Adapted from The Brothers Karamazov by Dostoevsky.)

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 Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 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 - Avril Williams 360605
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school
Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

9.30-3.15pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry
☎211955

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

12.00pm 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.

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
☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

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

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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 Sally Banks
☎870357

1.15pm Sing and Stomp. For toddlers & their carers. Run by the Putnoe Children's Centre. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

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

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

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 5 October 'Tea & Chat ' Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

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

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

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

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting October 5 Shoe Box packing. For more details call Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

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

10am U3A Card Making, St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet King ☎313946

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next -September 29 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

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

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

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

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

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Monthly. First meeting 6 October. 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

6.15pm 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 6 October. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 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 in the quiet room. 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. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.

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

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins 07919402797

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

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

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

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

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

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

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

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

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

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun.

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 8 November
Partnership Council 18 October 7.30pm at St Mark's
St Mark's Leadership Team 18 October
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 18 October
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 27 Sept.
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12 noon, 16th November
Putnoe Church Council - 25 October.
Pastoral Group Meeting - 12 October 4.15pm in chapel
Churchyard Committee - 29 September
Putnoe Heights Mission Group
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings
Deanery Meeting - . 18 November at St Peter's
Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting
Circuit Meeting
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 18th October 1.15pm

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

Harvest Festival

Opening Sentence from Scripture

The Land has yielded its harvest: God, our God has blessed us.

Psalm 67 v 6

Collect (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**

Old Testament Reading - Joel 2:21-27

Be not afraid, O land; be glad and rejoice. Surely the LORD has done great things. Be not afraid, O wild animals, for the open pastures are becoming green. The trees are bearing their fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their riches. Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. The threshing floors will be filled with grain;

the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten— the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm my great army that I sent among you. You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed. Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.

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

Second Reading —James 5: 13-20

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

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 5: 13-20

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life. "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor 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, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

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



Post Communion Prayer

The earth is filled with the gifts of the Lord: wine, and oil, and bread, to strengthen us and cheer our heart.
Amen

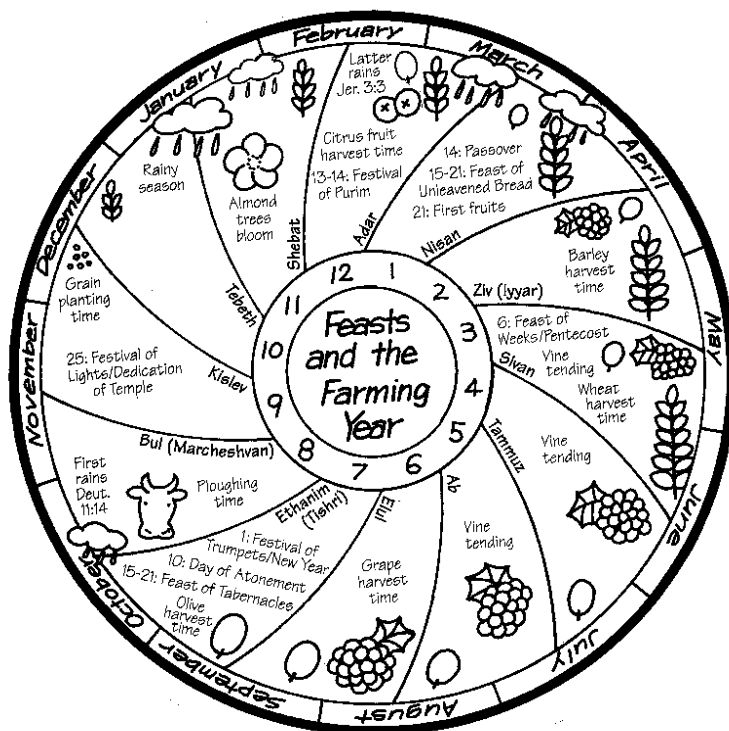
Hymns for Sunday (Please distribute Harvest Service Sheets & Baptism at Putnoe)

1. For the beauty of the earth 152
2. Fear not rejoice and be glad 144
3. We plough the fields and scatter 732
4. Come ye thankful people come, 106
5. All creatures of our God and King 7

Commentary

Our Harvest Thanksgiving

In the Jewish calendar there are several Harvest festivals but in England we only have one which probably dates back to an earlier festival, which is now generally forgotten, called Lammas or Loaf Mass. Lammas Day was an English feast in origin, held each year on 1 August as a thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the wheat harvest. Traditionally, a newly baked loaf from the wheat harvest was presented before God within the mass of that day. Although the Lammas festival stopped at the time of the Reformation some churches have begun to revive the practice in recent years with Lammas loaves being baked by members of congregations and used as the bread for Holy Communion service. The current Harvest Festival is a much more modern addition to the church calendar. Its origins are usually traced to the adaptation in 1843 of Lammas Day by the Revd R. S. Hawker, a parish priest in Cornwall. He chose the first Sunday in October as a Christian response to coincide with the traditional but largely secular 'harvest home' celebration. A link between the two festivals can be seen in the loaf of bread in the shape of a sheaf of corn which is often placed on the altar during the harvest festival services. In our modern day Harvest Festivals we often give thanks for all that God has given us and His abundant provision for the world and remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves who do not have a fair share of the earth's resources, often because of the greed of others.



The vision of abundant provision is picked up in our reading from Joel. Joel is a rather strange book in that we know very little about the prophet apart from his father's name, Pethuel, which is given in the first verse of the book. It's also difficult to date the book with estimates ranging over 500 years between 800 BC and 300 BC. Joel's theme is that there has been a metaphorical disastrous 'plague of locusts' fallen on Jerusalem like an invading enemy army and their insatiable appetite has devoured and destroyed everything, leaving nothing to eat or to offer to God. Whether the plague of locusts was real or not we do not know, although they do happen in that part of the world, but Joel uses the illustration to warn of a future day of judgement and calls for the nation to turn to God and plead for His mercy. As a response God promises to restore all that the locusts have eaten with abundant provision and rid the land of the invading army as He pours out His Spirit on all humanity as the nations of the world are judged and His kingdom is established. His people will be made holy and share in His blessing. For Joel, God's abundant provision is linked to His abundant mercy and our restored relationship with Him. Joel's prophetic writing is also a reminder to us that we too have our responsibilities in His creation if we are to

fully enjoy the abundance of His generosity. We can also read in Joel a message of solace for each one of us too, a message of solace as we mourn for the things in our lives that 'the locusts have eaten'. Perhaps the opportunities we felt we never had, the things that seem to have been taken away from us in an untimely manner, the time that seems to have slipped away from us. God's promise to us is the same as it was to the people of Israel and Judah, He will make up for 'the years devoured by the locust' as the Jerusalem Bible translates the phrase. Matthew speaks too of God's provision for His people. Just as for Joel, the people of the earth experience the fullness of God's riches when they turn to face Him and seek after His ways rather than their own. In a world where we are so relatively rich we would do well to remember this. Harvest is a time to give thanks to God for His provision for us but also to remember we are stewards of God's creation and He wants us to use it wisely. We can only do this properly and according to His will if we are engaging with Him and walking in His ways. So often we get consumed by our worldly affairs and seeking after our own wellbeing and welfare that we have no time left for God. And in so doing the harvest of the world gets distributed unevenly and unfairly, leaving many without enough to live on and others with surpluses to waste. The harvest of the earth literally rots in some places whilst others do not have enough to eat. Jesus wants us to get our priorities in the right order. To seek after God first and then seek after our own needs and wants. To put God first and ourselves second. To seek God's Kingdom and to work hand in hand with Him so that the ways of the Kingdom become the ways of all the earth. To work with God so that His Kingdom's righteous ways of justice, peace and reconciliation are made known, in our live and in our world so that all the earth may enjoy the fullness of the harvest that God gives to all from His abundant riches.

Meditation

God has given us many gifts, some of which we celebrate through the harvest festival. We remember His goodness and provision for us and are challenged to use His gifts wisely. Many people are less fortunate than ourselves and we need to remember God loves them too, and often could use us, and the gifts He has given us (to look after) to demonstrate that love for them, not just at harvest time, but all the year through. Using the gifts He has given us in the service of others is one of the most appropriate ways of demonstrating our gratitude to God for what He has done for us.

A Prayer for Sunday and the week ahead

The whole creation is suffering, and cries out with pain. Our sin affects the world of nature and the harvest it yields. Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation. *Michael Councill*

God, you are more generous than the most loving parent; yet we depend on the harvests of other lands, and the labours of people of many races. Make us grateful for what they do for us; help us to trade in such a way that we may not exploit others, and to share our plenty with those in need; that none may go hungry while your earth yields so abundantly. **Amen**

Father God, give to all who work the land, wisdom to understand your laws, and to co-operate with your wise ordering of the world: and grant that the bountiful fruits of the earth may not be hoarded by the selfish or squandered by the foolish, but that all who work may share abundantly in the harvest of the soil. **Amen**

Forgive us Lord, for thinking of ourselves more than others; for eating too much without considering those who have nothing at all; for our lack of diligence in searching for ways to share our riches with the hungry and the thirsty. Your Son came to earth that everyone might be blessed and forgiveness offered to the penitent. **Amen**

May God the Father bless you, who first sowed the seeds of eternal life in your hearts, may God the Son bless you, who nurtures you with the rain and sunshine of love; may God the Holy Spirit bless you, who brings us all to fruition; and may the blessing of God Almighty be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

St Mark's Messy Church first session is this coming week on Wednesday 6 October 3.45pm to 5.30pm. We would very much appreciate your prayerful support that all will go well; that children and their carers will come and all will enjoy themselves. There will be a short time of prayer in the Chapel beginning at 2.15pm on 6th to commit our efforts to God. It is not too late to offer to help on the day. For more information speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters

Sankey Moody Evening at Putnoe Heights Church 31st October at 6.30pm. On this evening we will be remembering the meetings held by these two great evangelists and it is an opportunity to enjoy singing a collection of some old favourite hymns and songs. The BBC 'Songs of Praise' programme featured the music last year and was popular with listeners, so making it an attraction for everyone. We would like to form a small choir to lead the singing so as to help make the service more enjoyable, and Mike has kindly stated his willingness to hold a rehearsal beforehand. Please speak to either Mike (Puttock) or contact me, ericroyden@gmail.com, telephone 07722138410 Let us make this an enjoyable and memorable evening.

Bedford South and Ampthill Circuit Network invite all to their final Circuit Network AGM and lunch on 11 October at 11am at Wilstead Methodist Church. Please see notices in foyer for more information.

District Craft Day will be held on 30 October from 10am to 4.15pm at Priory Methodist Church. For booking forms and further details contact Pam Seymour on 305695 or 01296 485087 or Ann Hitt on 404186. Closing Date 16th October

Riding Lights Theatre Company present Origins and Lemons (squeezing the juice out of Genesis) at Christ Church, Denmark Street on Sunday 17 October at 7.30pm. Tickets £11/£8 concession from Christ Church office 327150

Abbeyfield Bedford 40th Anniversary Celebration Praise Presented by Pam Rhodes, 3pm Sunday 24 October 2010 at St. Paul's Church Bedford. For invitations please apply to: Abbeyfield Bedford Society, 18 Linden Road Bedford MK40 2DA & return by 1 October 2010.

Footprints Walking Group All are welcome to join me on a 3.2 mile walk around Paxton Pits Nature Reserve on Sunday 10 October. The walk is mainly on good, gravelled paths or grass. There are no stiles to climb and no hills. Don't forget your

binoculars – this is a waterfowl reserve. There is the enticing prospect at the end of the walk of a cup of tea at the Visitors' Centre (and they have dark chocolate Kitkats!). We will meet in the car park near the Visitors' Centre in time for a 2.30pm departure. The reserve is in the village of Little Paxton, just north of St Neots. It is about 30 minutes' drive from Bedford. From the A1, take the 3rd exit after the Black Cat, signposted Little Paxton, and follow the signs to the Nature Reserve. Follow High Street through all its twists and turns, past the Church and the Anchor pub, to its end. For more information, please contact me.

Alison Holden alisonholden@ntlworld.com

Kempston Musical Society. Events for your Diary. **Saturday 30 October** 20th Anniversary Concert for Alzheimer's Society at Bunyan Meeting House, Mill Street, Bedford at 7pm. Tickets £6 on the door or from 2A Duke St, Bedford Tel.327380.

Saturday 6 November. Concert in aid of Keech Hospice care at Kempston East Methodist Church, Bedford Road, Kempston at 7pm. Programmes £6 available at the door or phone Bedford 268101 email kempstonmusicalsociety@hotmail.com

Many thanks to all who were able to help at and support the Macmillan Coffee Morning held at 1 Bindon Abbey last Friday morning. The total raised was two hundred pounds - by far the largest amount we have ever raised in such a venture so very many thanks again! Valerie and Peter Littleford"

Brass Band Concert in aid of 'Release International' Come and listen to the renown South London Fellowship Band of the Salvation Army On Saturday 16 October 2010 at 7.30p.m. Venue The Addison Centre. Kempston. Tickets £10 including light refreshments available from Steve Gadsden 01234 822486. Concert part of The Gadsden Bands Centenary Celebrations

A Joyful Noise at Putnoe Heights Church Community Centre on Saturday 16 October 2010. 1.30 - 5pm. This is for all children aged 7-13. There will be an afternoon of music, singing, drama, dance and craft. Cost is £2. Book with Emma by email to youth@thisischurch.com or phone 07593266091 if you wish to be part of the day.

Charity Fashion Show Regrettably, due to a low level of response, the Fashion Show in aid of Cancer Research UK planned for Friday, 8 October has been cancelled. Please make a note in your diary for Saturday, 18th December, when there will be a Carol Concert in aid of the same charity. More details nearer the time.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal The youth team at Putnoe Church are launching the Christmas Shoebox Appeal again this year. Via the Samaritan's Purse organisation filled shoe boxes will be delivered to some of the worlds poorest children, boys and girls between 2 to 14 years, in time for Christmas. If you could please donate any of the following items soft toys, jigsaws, building blocks, cars, dolls, soft balls, stationery items, stickers, puzzle books, toothbrushes/paste, soap, hairbrushes, hats and caps, necklaces, sweets (long sell by dates), bangles, sunglasses. We will also need empty shoeboxes and Christmas wrapping paper. Please leave at Putnoe Office for the youth team. Any question, contact Emma Gordon. Thank you." Alternatively if you would prefer to donate some money this can be used towards postage. The boxes need to be completed by the beginning of November.

Sunday morning Taxi Service St Mark's provides a taxi service to church for the 9.30am service. This service is free of charge for those who have difficulty transporting themselves to Church. To book this service all that you have to do is to telephone St Mark's Church Office during the week before 1.00pm on Friday. We will then arrange to have you collected by our driver, it is as simple as that!

Christmas Craft Fayre There are only 7 weeks left to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 20 November. Amazing how quickly it comes around. We would be grateful for any help with the following:-
Tombola – Any **NEW** unwanted gifts\Christmas present etc. for our Tombola stall.
Raffle – Raffle books will be available from Sunday 10th October. It would be appreciated if you could take a few books to sell to family and friends. We would also be grateful for any new items suitable for the raffle.

Cake Stall -Milly is kindly co-ordinating the cake stall again. If you are able to bake a cake for this

stall please contact Milliy via the Church Office.
Refreshments – We would very much appreciate donations of traybakes to sell with tea and coffee. Ploughman's lunches will be on sale at lunchtime as usual. Volunteers to help in the kitchen on the day would be very much appreciated. To put your name down please see Avril Williams. Any help gratefully received.

Secondhand Book Stall - Delia has very kindly volunteered to co-ordinate the secondhand book stall again this year so please have a look in your cupboards for any unwanted books.

Indoor Plant Stall -This year we are planning to have an Indoor Plant Stall. If you have any indoor plants or have split any plants and would like to donate them to our stall we would be very grateful. Please contact Wendy Waters or contact the Church Office.

All donated items for the above stalls can be bought up to Church anytime week beginning 16 November. We will need lots of help on the day especially when the Fayre finishes at 3.30pm Many hands make light work and it would certainly be appreciated. This is one of our main fundraising events of the year and we are hoping to make it an even bigger success than last year, with your help I am sure we can achieve this.

As well as using Amazon on thischurch.com please sign up for Easyfundraising. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online! Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thischurch.com, then we obtain 5%



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Mr. Janis Plocins will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 5 October at 11.30am.

The funeral of Mr George Bernard Austin will take place at St Mark's Church on Tuesday 5 October at 2.00pm

The funeral of Mr Clifford Prigmore Will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday October 8 at 4.00pm

The funeral of Mrs Margaret Saunders will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 11 October at 12.15pm



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.

**William Edward Carr
Graham Richard Harland
Pamela Mary Campbell**

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

