



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

4 September 2011 – Ordinary 23



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

4 September - Ordinary 23

9.30 am St. Mark's - Family Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mrs Alison Holden
11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship
Preacher – Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs. Jenny Snelson
Intercessions – YPF

11 September- Ordinary 24

9.30 am St. Mark's - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mr. Warwick Holden
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher– Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr. Gordon Evans
Intercessions – Dr. Tim Wilkes

Bible Readings 1. Genesis 50: 15-21
2. Romans 14: 1-12 3. Matthew 18: 21-35

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 Arthur Merryman in loving memory of Vi on their wedding anniversary.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Wendy & Mick Ovenden to celebrate their golden wedding.

Prayer for the Week

Give us, O Lord,
steadfast hearts
that cannot be dragged down by false
loves; give us courageous hearts
that cannot be worn down by trouble;
give us righteous hearts
that cannot be sidetracked
by unholy or unworthy goals.
Give to us also, our Lord and God,
understanding to know you,
diligence to look for you,
wisdom to recognise you,
and a faithfulness that will bring us
to see you face to face.
Thomas a Kempis

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—19 September 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 meeting 14 September. 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 8 September.

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 1st and 3rd Thursdays 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

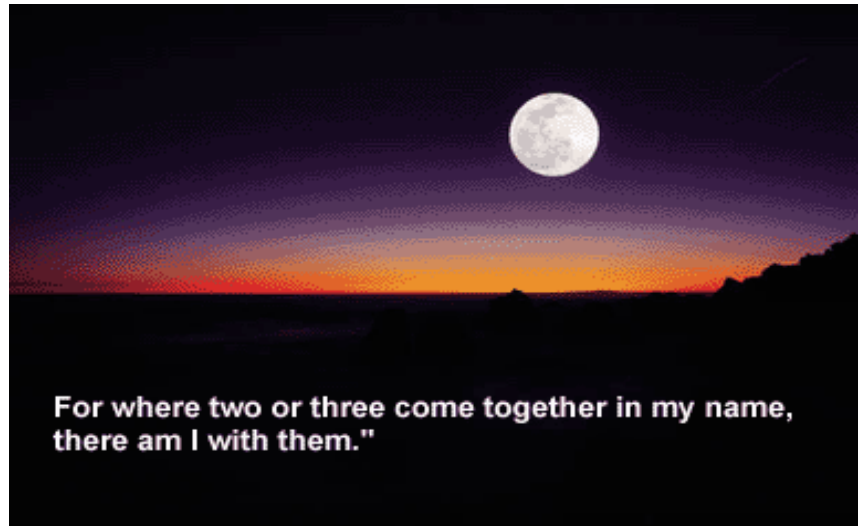
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 17 October

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

Ordinary 23 Introduction

In our reading from Romans today we are reminded that love is the fulfilling of the law. If there was enough love about, then there would actually be no need for most laws we can think of. We only need laws to protect us from greed, which makes us steal, anger which causes us to hurt others. If we were all more loving, then we would inevitably be law abiding, without even having to think about it.

Love has an amazing power to transform and change us, as we love we become less selfish as our hearts become enlarged and more open to the needs of others. Love enables us to forgive and be forgiven, we are people who look for the good in others, rather than seeing their faults. What a place this world would be if it was ruled by love, no more wars between nations, no need for high tech security and no more computer viruses. Could it be possible to live a life ruled by love. We have our example in the life of Jesus. He lived a life of love so transforming and challenging and upset the vested interests of the ruling authorities so much that they killed him for it. Now it is up to us to use the life of Jesus as our model of a different way of doing things.



Opening Verse of Scripture - Ps 149 v 1

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

Collect Prayer (*Before we read we pray*)

O God, you bear your people ever on your heart and mind. Watch over us in your protecting love, that, strengthened by your grace and led by your Spirit, we may not miss your way for us but enter into your glory, made ready for all in Christ our Lord. Amen Methodist Worship

First Bible Reading - Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbour, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire--head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it.

This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover. "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn--both men and animals--and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD--a lasting ordinance.

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

Second Reading Romans 13:8-14

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.

Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. (This is the Word of the Lord — **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 18:15-20

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." (This is the Word of the Lord — **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

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

Hymns *(Please distribute Family Worship and Mission Praise)*

1. He who would valiant be 224
2. Brother, sister let me serve you (On Partnership News)
3. Make me a channel of you peace 456
4. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind 111
5. Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour, 431

Commentary

John Kavanaugh, S. J. of Saint Louis University in the US writes that community life, whether in a family, intentional grouping, religious congregations, or the church itself, is the great testing ground of faith. St. Teresa of Avila thought that relationships in community were often a greater indication of one's relationship to God than the heights of mystical prayer. And Jean Vanier, as committed to marginal people as anyone might be, has often observed that it takes greater charity and humility to get along with a co-labourer than with a handicapped stranger. In our Epistle reading Paul reminds his Roman audience that love, tested in immediate relationship with our neighbour, is the fulfilment of all laws. Even dramatic sins of adultery, murder, and stealing are variations of the more domestic betrayals of deception, manipulation, and egotism. In each case it is a lack of love, a harming of the neighbour that occurs. This is why our one duty, our sole "debt," is to love one another.

Today's gospel provides a practical scenario on community relations: "If your brother should commit some wrong against you, go and point out his fault, but keep it between the two of you . . . If he does not listen, summon another, so that every case may stand on the word of two or three witnesses." Only after these careful encounters is the conflict to be referred to the entire church. Then, if recalcitrance persists, there is apparently separation. Sounds simple enough. The problem is, it depends upon behaviours that do not come easily. As Christians don't often enjoy directly confronting another person, especially someone with whom we are having difficulties. Indeed, some families will go years before addressing a problem. Grudges or resentments within a community more often die with those who hold them rather than come to resolution in quiet conversation. Misdeeds of friends or relatives are usually discussed with anyone but the accused. Encountering the truth with another person daunts us because

it makes us face another being who cannot be reduced to our own desires or projections. We may try to make others a function of our egos, but it fails. Rather than enter the struggle, we ignore it. If, however, we seriously love another person as an “other,” and not a mere instrument of our wills, we experience the kind of self-transcendence that is required in our relationship to God. Is it any wonder, then, that what we bind and loose on earth is somehow bound and loosed eternally? Our human relationships mirror our relationship with God. Whenever we encounter each other—not only in prayer—Jesus is in our midst. The central theme of the reading seems not to be about separation but reconciliation. We are not to work for separation but for reconciliation, often in what seem extremely difficult circumstances. Paul sums this up in his words of command to ‘love one another’. For Paul, it’s as if the Ten Commandments are examples of this principle at work. Examples of what loving one another and building reconciled families and communities is all about. It’s not an intellectual exercise, it’s a practical application of the faith we profess, the living out of the words we say each week in church. Matthew’s passage is also an encouragement to us; the very fact that he writes these guidelines for the early church would seem to indicate that there has never been a perfect and harmonious Christian community and that our unity is something that we need to work at, even when there are differences among us. As Jesus’ followers we will always be engaged in the struggle to demonstrate that we live a life governed by Jesus’ command to love one another and to be reconciled to those around us, often people with very different views and standards to our own. It’s not a question of sweeping differences under the carpet or pretending differences don’t exist but to love those who are different from ourselves, whether we agree with them or not. We are, in the words of the Old Testament reading, a Passover people, a redeemed people and as such we should live out that redemption in our lives. *Sam Cappelman*

Meditation

Today’s passage from Exodus comes at the defining moment in the life of Israel, the exodus itself, after Moses has followed God’s many instructions, delivering God’s demands to mighty Pharaoh to “Let my people go.” These exchanges between Moses and Pharaoh are the classic “speaking truth to power” that’s become a description of any apparently weak person standing up against oppressive, overwhelming authority. The story itself is even more chilling than any film could depict (even with today’s special effects), and it moves quickly, with Pharaoh’s heart hardening every time he seems to relent. But right in the middle of this drama, the action slows down and the narrative takes on a different tone and feel. Even though horrible danger looms (what could be worse than The Angel of Death?), God takes time to instruct the people about how to remember what is about to happen, how to worship properly not just that night, but in every age to come. That ritual would remember what God did for the people that terrible night, the protection God provided, and the cherished people they had become. Their worship, then, would serve to remind the people not only who God is in the life they share, but who they are as a people, as God’s “first-born child.” What had seemed like a time of despair is transformed into a new beginning. Whatever the future looked like, it changed with the intervention of a God who is ever present in the lives of the Israelites and still is ever present with us today.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Lord Jesus Christ, you are among us even when we feel few in number. Strengthen all those who profess your name and empower them through your Holy Spirit to live a life of reconciliation and love. Amen

Father God, you are among us in our petty disputes and disagreements. Open our hearts to your reconciling grace and heal the hurts in us and in others that our divisions, evil intentions, injuries and harsh words bring. Amen

O Lord, whose way is perfect, help us always to trust in your goodness, to walk in the way of faith, and to follow in the path of simplicity. Teach us to cast our cares on your providence, that we may possess a quiet mind and a contented spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Holy Spirit, you are among us in sickness and in health. Strengthen us in our frailty and give us faith to know your presence with us, holding us in your hands as you lift us up to see your face. Amen

May the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Putnoe Heights and St Mark's summer days went really well. The Jonah and the Whale days saw 27 - 29 children take part in lots of crafts, singing and games, and the Feeding the 5,000 days saw between 15 – 19 children come and join in with us. A big thank you to everybody who came along and helped and supported the days. *Emma Gordon.*

Storybox and Storybox Plus at Putnoe Heights are starting up again on the 12 September 2011. Storybox, which is a story time with singing and crafts for 0-5's and their parents or carers, is on Mondays at 12.15 – 1.15. Storybox Plus is for 5 – 9's with snacks, a story and games, crafts and activities based on the story. This happens on Mondays at 3.30 – 5. Contact Emma Gordon, 07593266091 or youth@thisischurch.com, for any queries or information.

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 at St Mark's Church on Thursday 8 September. This is a great time for parents and carers to meet together with children and babies. Jo Garner 400071

Magnet We have 3 spare copies of this magazine in the office at St. Mark's. Price £2.50.

Highfield Services of Worship will recommence on Sunday 18th September at 2.30pm. Supporters very welcome. *Vera Pearson*

Thank you to any one who has helped in any way with the Car Boot sales this year. £1200 was raised on Monday.

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

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

Brickhill WRVS over 60's Club restarts its weekly meeting on Tuesday 6 September at Avon Drive Community Centre. Social Chat, cards, Bingo, scrabble, Tea, cake & raffle, £1 per session. All welcome. More details ring Pat 346505.

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.

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.

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.

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 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*

A Hymn for Sunday

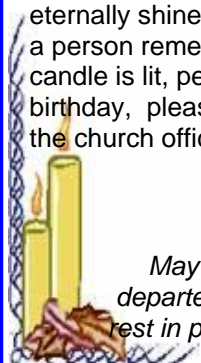
Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.

- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
- 3 I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.
- 6 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.

Timeless Praise. You are invited to join us in singing hymns, timeless in age, old and new, in a most fulfilling and spiritual service of praise. 6-30p.m. Sunday next (11 September) at Putnoe Heights Church.

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.



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

Forthcoming Funerals

Members of Putnoe Heights Church will be saddened to hear of the death of our dear friend **Mima Noble**. The service has been arranged for 3.00pm on Friday 14 September, followed by Burial at the St Albans Woodland Burial Ground, Keysoe.

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

