



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

5 July 2009
Ordinary 14



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

9.30am St. Mark's - Family Worship

Preacher - Mrs Claire Peck
Leadership - Mr Michael Ovenden
Intercessions - Mrs Alison Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship

Preacher - Mrs Claire Peck
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Sunday 12th July - Ordinary 14

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher -
Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions - Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher -
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Readings 1. Amos 7: 7-15 2. Ephesians 1: 3-14
3. Mark 6: 14-29

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mrs Jenny Emsley to celebrate the 65th wedding anniversary of Trevor and Mima Noble.

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

Prayer for Sunday

Give us love, O God, in our thinking and our speaking; love in all our doings and love in the hidden places of our souls; help us to love our neighbours; show us how to love those we find hard to bear and those who find it hard to bear with us; reveal your love in our joys and our sorrows; in our life and in our death; now and for ever. Amen

William Temple, 1881-1944

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 Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
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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 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 Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349
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 - Mrs Delia Shephard 275628
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school
Headteacher 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 Mr Kellie ☎ 721063

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 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

1.30pm U3A History Group St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474

2pm U3A Drama St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

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 20 July 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

9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299

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

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

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's Mrs Brown☎771676

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Sally Banks ☎ 870357

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. 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 July 7 Mrs. Kate Martineau : Family Centre. 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 Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎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 & Beds. Cardiac Support Group 1st Tuesday in the month

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

7.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Meeting July 14 Bring and Share Evening Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

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

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 15 July 2009 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

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

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎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 15 July Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments.. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016
7.45 for 8pm God talk - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. (No meeting on 9th April)
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070
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 Emma Strangwick ☎211070
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. Mary Rich ☎272470 Next meeting 24 September
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 Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden☎825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th 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. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550
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. Pat Foulks ☎346505

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
5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎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
6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360
7pm Bedford Art Society monthly Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 1st May Mary Rich ☎272470
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

9.45am Bedford Stamp Auction at Putnoe Heights Next Auction 30th May. Contact Stuart or Anne 01327 876438
10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414
Young Embroiders bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 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. Please see Liz ☎302349 .



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 9 Nov
St Mark's Leadership Team –
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 12 Oct, 8 Feb 2010
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 20 July
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 15 July, 8 Sept , 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010
Putnoe Church Council - 5 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee -
Putnoe Heights Mission Group -
Partnership Council - September 6th
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Deanery Meeting 17 Sep, 19 Nov,
Circuit/Deanery Meeting
Woodland Burial Trustees –
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Ordinary 13

Opening Verses of Scripture -Isaiah 53:3

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Collect Prayer for the Day -

Before we read we pray

Servant Lord, grant us both the opportunity and the will to serve you day by day. May all that we do and how we bear each other's burdens be our offerings of love and service to the glory of your name. Amen *Methodist Worship*



First Bible Reading- Ezekial 2: 1-5

The LORD said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' And whether they listen or fail to listen - for they are a rebellious house - they will know that a prophet has been among them." (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say. To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading –Mark 6: 1-13

Jesus went to his home town, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offence at him. Jesus said to them, "Only in his home town, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honour." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went round teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff - no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them." They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them. (This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Hymns (*Please distribute Hymns and Psalms*)

King of heaven, King of peace 499 2. Give me joy in my heart 492 3. Go Tell It On The Mountain 135
4. Who is on the Lord's side 722 5. We have a gospel to proclaim 465

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in our faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Commentary

The reading from Mark this morning splits neatly into two distinct parts. Verses 1-6 marks Jesus as a prophet in his own town and verses 7-13 see Jesus sending out his twelve disciples. Open the pages of Bible commentaries and each of these sections are dealt with separately. However, for one moment see them as a whole – with Mark describing the success of the mission of the all-too-human disciples, by contrast with Jesus' lack of success because of people's human perception of him.

Mark 6:1-6. In chapter 5 of Mark's Gospel it seemed that nothing or no one could resist Jesus' ministry. However, in Nazareth it was a different story. Everyone knew Jesus and his family. He was a local craftsman. He was supposed to be just like them so even when they heard him speak (verse 2) and saw him healing (verse 5), people could not shake off their preconceptions. Was he getting above his station in life? Had he, by going away, failed in his duty to his mother? Whatever the reason, it was the attitude of local people that meant that Jesus could 'do no deed of power'. Once again we see the mysterious connection between healing and faith. Lack of faith, it seems, seriously hinders Jesus' power; an important lesson for us all as we try to preach or live God's kingdom. If even Jesus was thwarted by the unbelief of those around, we shouldn't be surprised if sometimes we don't seem able to do what we thought we should. However, we still need to keep in mind both the big picture of what God is doing in our world and our time, and the many smaller pictures of the individual humans, perhaps at the moment in rebellion against the gospel, who by God's grace will become people of faith and prayer.

Mark 6:7-13 In contrast to the first six verses of Mark chapter 6, the result of the twelve's mission of preaching and healing was success. Being sent out without any of the baggage you would expect the disciples to need – provisions, financial protection or the security of extra clothing - they travelled light. However, they went out in Jesus' strength, not their own. They went out with all the authority they needed and they went out in faith. Likewise, we do not need any special qualifications to do God's work here on earth now. We just need to know Jesus and to be sent out by him. *Claire Peck*

Meditation

I came across the following meditation which for me sums up beautifully the message of the second part of today's reading from Mark. The words in italics are the words of God and the words in ordinary type express how you may sometimes feel.

'O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.'
Stand up straight said God, and pull your shoulders back,
There's work to be done, and courage that is needed!

But, I really don't feel up to it today, my legs aren't in the mood for movement,
And my head feels better lying down. Try him over there, or her, the other, but not me.

But it's you I want, your legs, your head, so stand up tall and face the day!

What about tomorrow? I'll be feeling stronger then, today I won't be giving you my best.

Today's the day, So rise up brightly, your weakness shall be my strength, your doubts the ground
in which your faith will grow. Your faith the means by which I shall bring such good things to be.
Claire Peck

The mission of the church is not to enlarge its membership, not to bring outsiders to accept its terms,
but simply to love the world in every possible way--to love the world as God did and does.
Parker Palmer, 20th century (from The Company of Strangers)

Order for Family Worship

Welcome

Opening Prayer *minister*

Loving God, our creator, our sustainer,
Give us hearts that will sing your praise in the
highs and the lows.

Give us minds that will put some effort into
thinking about how to follow you with honesty.
Help us to worship you with our hearts, minds
and bodies.

Help us to live the Christian life with our
hearts, minds and bodies.

Help us to be followers of Christ with our
hearts, minds and bodies. **Amen.**

Hymn – King of heaven, King of peace 499

Prayer of adoration - *all*

**We praise you, Loving God, for friends.
For the people who love us with a love that
is overwhelming, unending, given without
seeking anything in return.**

**We praise you, Loving God, for Jesus.
For the way he loves us with a love which
is more wonderful than any human love,
given freely so that we might know you as
friend.**

**We praise you, Loving God, for our love.
For the way we have been shown how to
love**

**by those who love us. For the way we have
been taught how to love by Jesus, the
friend of all.**

Amen.

Prayer of confession - *all*

**Lord, forgive us for the times that we have
lost sight of you: when our lives have been
too hectic to make time for you and our
commitment to your call to mission has
passed us by; when we felt too hurt, too
ignored, or too worried, to seek you.**

**Lord, forgive us, help us to listen and to
know that you are God, ever faithful, ever
true, so that we may be ready to accept
your gospel of grace,**

Hear the good news:

God did not send the Son into the world to
condemn the world, but that the world might

be saved through him. Those who believe in
him are not condemned. In Jesus Christ,
therefore, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Hymn – Give me joy in my heart 492

Junior Church/Story box plus contribution
(Putnoe Heights, led by Liz)

Collect for Day - Minister

Bible Readings (*See page 4*)

Offering - Minister

Prayer of Thanksgiving - Minister

Wonderful and surprising God,
for meeting us where we are,
taking us by the hand,
and leading us forward
on the next steps of our journey
of faith and life,
we say thank you.

(All) Thank you!

For opening up our eyes
to the possibilities before us,
lifting our spirits
where once we were bound fast,
helping us to dare to hope
that our actions will make a difference,
we say thank you.

(All) Thank you!

**Wonderful and surprising God,
receive our prayer of thanksgiving,
through Jesus Christ, our friend and
guide. Amen.**

Hymn – Go Tell It On The Mountain 135

Talk – Mrs Claire Peck

Hymn – Who is on the Lord's side 722

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn – We have a gospel to proclaim 465

Blessing - Minister

Youth, children and friends summer diary dates

Sunday 12th July TNT and friends "Cycle ride to Danish Camp" meet 2.00 by recycling area at Priory. All welcome to join us or meet for refreshments at the camp about 3.00. The young people remain the responsibility of their parent/guardian during the above two events.

Thursday 16th July St Mark's last Storybox and Chat and Play. Restart Thursday 10th September.

Monday 20th July Putnoe Holiday Storybox 12.00 till 1.00 followed by Storybox plus until 2.45.
Monday 27th July at Putnoe The Cheeky Dog Children's Entertainer and sandwich lunch 12.00 till 2.00. Tickets £2.50 from Liz or £3.00 on the door/office, accompanying adults £1.00, under 1 year free. This will be the last Storybox and Storybox plus until Monday 7th September

Monday 24th August under 5's summer workshop 2.00 till 4.00 and Tuesday 25th and Wednesday

26th August 5 years plus summer workshop 10.00 till 3.00pm Join us to "Travel God's world." Both these events celebrate the United Nations Year of the Child and will include stories of Children in the Bible, stories from around the world, music, games, crafts and Fun! Small charge.

There will be no Junior Church or YPF at Putnoe during August.

If you are able to help any of these groups in anyway over the summer or at the new term start in September please speak to Liz or Emma. Thank you for all your support. See Liz for further details on all the above events..

Outdoor Bowls Roadshow - An opportunity to see if you would like to join a local bowls club. In July, 6 bowls clubs are offering sessions for just £1 with all equipment provided. A brochure is on the notice board in St Mark's Foyer. Why not visit and see if you like it.

Footprints Walk on Sunday 5 July 2009. Park at either the River Street or Riverside car parks in Bedford, amble down to the river and meet with us at County Bridge/ Prebend Street at 14.00 hours. We will then meander up the river through Queen's Park towards Kempston Mill before crossing the river at two bridges and wandering back through attractive woodland and open parks. There are no stiles and paths are accessible : all welcome. Contact Pam or Ray on 305695 for further details

Seeking The Way A course for laypeople seeking to know how and where to serve God and his Church. The course is being provided by the St

Albans Diocesan Board for Christian Development. Cost £40 Venue The Transept, St Mary's Church, Redbourn. Dates October 17th, November 7th & 21st, 10am - 4pm. Application form and full details about the course available from St Mark's Church Office.

A huge thank you to Judith Stanton and her many supporters for their recent donation to St Mark's Church of £241.

New Website - After many months of work we are now close to being able to launch our new church website, www.thisischurch.com. The change has been made necessary due to a need to convert our existing site away from old technology to the new standard for websites. This has been a complex procedure given the size of our website and we are grateful to the Methodist Circuit who have helped us by providing funding for the work by professionals. The site will go live in August and we would appreciate comments from church members. You can see the new site by visiting the web address <http://tic.srv26.haisoft.net> Comments please to Charlie by Email. Our website has now been changed to include minutes of meetings. These can be accessed by visiting each church homepage.



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We publish the banns and pray for the marriages of

Paul Mark Nigro Single of this parish and on the electoral roll of Elstow Abbey and **Carmelina Di Lorenzo** single of All Saints

Mark James Hurst and Emily Frances Laura Scott, both single of this parish and electoral roll of Elstow Abbey

Thomas Joseph Woolley, single of Charlbury Chipping Norton and **Joanne Elizabeth Appleton** Single of this parish (*All for third time of asking*)



Visit to the RSPB

Christine Nixon, one of our church members from Putnoe works for the RSPB. She has kindly supplied the following information for Partnership News.

The RSPB has its UK headquarters at The Lodge, Bedfordshire, backed up by regional offices around the country. We carry out conservation work at our 200 nature reserves, helping farmers find wildlife-friendly methods, researching bird populations and working with international partners abroad. We also carry out advocacy with government on topics as diverse as planning, wind farms and economics. Getting people of all ages interested in wildlife and the environment is also a vitally important part of our role.

We are the largest wildlife conservation organisation in Europe with over one million members. Wildlife and the environment face many threats. Our work is focussed on the species and habitats that are in the greatest danger. We have more than one million members, over 13,500 volunteers, 2,000 staff, more than 200 nature reserves and one vision- to work for a better environment rich in birds and wildlife. Visit our website: www.rspb.org.uk

The RSPB's UK Headquarters is based at Potton Road, Sandy, on a beautiful nature reserve. You are invited to explore the RSPB headquarters mansion house with a local historian. Former home to Sir Robert Peel and his family with unique features including ornamental gardens and pond. Sunday 6 September 2009. 3.00 – 4.00 pm. Cost: adults £4, RSPB members £2, children £3, RSPB Wildlife Explorers £1.

For more information and to book your place, contact Christine Nixon 01234 305736 (home) 07729 171 907 (mobile).

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.'

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Lord God, father of all, you have made of one blood all the nations to dwell on the face of this earth. Pour down your spirit of peace, that we may learn to love each other as you have first loved us.

Give us tolerance and understanding towards those who are different from us. Shed your love abroad in our hearts that we might break down the walls of partition that divide your people from each other; until all men and women are brought into unity with each other and with you.

That all nations and kindreds and tongues, may with one mouth glorify you. Amen

Grant that it may be our meat and drink to do the will of our Father in heaven. Grant unto us to take up whatever cross is laid upon us and gallantly and gladly to carry it. Grant that as we may share his cross, so we may share his crown; as we share his death, so we may share his life. And so grant that having suffered with him, we may also reign with him. This we ask for your love's sake. Amen.

Church News

The Vatican celebrated last week's with news of two archaeological discoveries. At vespers in the Basilica of St Paul Outside-the-Walls, the Pope announced that a tomb found beneath the church contained the bones of St Paul himself. Three years ago, archaeologists unearthed a marble sarcophagus beneath a slab that is inscribed with the words "Paulo Apostolo Mart" (Paul, apostle and martyr). The discovery lent support to the theory that Paul's body was removed from the catacombs on the Via Appia, and placed beneath a church built in his honour. New carbon analysis of the grave's contents confirmed the presence of bone fragments dating from the first or second century. "All this", Pope Benedict said, "fills our soul with profound emotion."

Vatican archaeologists believe that they have also found the oldest known image of St Paul. A fourth-century fresco, in the catacombs of St Thecla, seems to fit a description of Paul in an apocryphal text as "bald-headed . . . with meeting eyebrows [and] a large red and somewhat hooked nose".



Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Mrs Audrey Gladys May Fuller will take place at 1-45p.m on Tuesday 7 July at Bedford Crematorium.

The funeral of Mary Pitts will take place on Friday 10 July at 12.30pm Putnoe Heights Church.