



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

5 October 2008

Ordinary 27



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 - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team – Mr Mike Cooper  
Intercessions – 'Wait and see'

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights– Family Worship

Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team – Mrs Sam Ware  
Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

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### 9.30am St. Mark's– Holy Communion With baptism

Preacher - Mr John Bassill  
Leadership Team - Mrs L Parry  
Intercessions – Mrs A Holden

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr John Bassill  
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley  
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

### Bible Readings

1. Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
- 2 Phil 3: 4b -14
3. Matthew 21: 33 - 46

## Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Barbara Edwards in memory of her husband Cyril, and those in the Chapel are given by Mrs Beck and family on the first anniversary of the death of her husband Peters.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights have been given by Deborah and Kevin Wallace in loving memory of their daughter Julie-Marie on her birthday.

**Mrs Sam Ware** [telephone 304058] has taken over the distribution of Sunday flowers from Putnoe Heights. If you know of anyone who would appreciate receiving a bunch of flowers, please let Sam know.

## 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 (Day off Thursday)

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.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://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. Wendy Nash 357119  
**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** - Mr Mike Cooper 306751  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr 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 Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school**

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.

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

**10.45am U3A Playreading** St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

**11am - 12. The Right Track** at St Mark's. Signpost information for people with learning difficulties. Gina Barton ☎07999859980

**12.00pm Story box** 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

**1.45pm U3A History Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

**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

**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 every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

**7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** Meets monthly at St Mark's. Contact Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 20 October 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 Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

**9.40 -12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Philips 01582 485333

**10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

**1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets

monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

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

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 7 October, Rev Eric Royden. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

**3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

**7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group** St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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

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

**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 of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club -** Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 7 October, Sing along with Debbie. More details from Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

**9.15am Paint Tots** St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

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

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎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

**10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

**Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 15 October 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch** St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

**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** monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

**2pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester ☎400584

**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

**6.30pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

**7pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073

**7.00pm U3A Sky at Night** 2nd Wednesday of the month. Mr Farish ☎824984

**7.45pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** St Mark's, 1st ,3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 15 October . All welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

**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.*

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** weekly at St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

**12pm Storybox** weekly at 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

**5.30pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.

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

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden☎825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group.** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

**7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc.**at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs.E. Marriot 303834

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

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

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

**8.00pm Brickhill Wives** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group** St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

**1.30pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

**6.30pm –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm**

**Improvers** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

**7pm Bedford Arts Society** fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

**7.45pm Astrology Group** St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

### Saturday

**9.00pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

**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

**4pm B.A.M.A.A.** at St Mark's. Chinese soft martial arts. Mr Chris Butcher ☎07886894922

**6pm T.N.T.** Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings .Next meeting Please see Liz ☎302349 .

## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council –** ,  
18 November  
**St Mark's Leadership Team –**  
24 November  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –**  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting-** 29th September at 7.30pm.

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -**

12 November all at 12 noon

**Putnoe Church Council -** 6 October.

**Pastoral Group Meeting -**

Tuesday 30th September at 4.30pm

**Churchyard Committee -** 12 November at 11am

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group –**

**Partnership Council -**

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -**

6th November

**Deanery Meeting -** 13 November

**Circuit/Deanery Meeting**

**Woodland Burial Trustees -** 12.30, 12 October at Putnoe Heights

**Mission Group Meeting**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –**1st December.

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

# Ordinary 27

Psalm 67:6  
The Land has yielded its harvest:  
God, our God has blessed us.



## Opening Verses of Scripture Phil 3:14

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*(Before we read we pray)*

God the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen *Common Worship*

## First Bible Reading - Exodus 20: 1-4,7-9,12-20

And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, "Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour. "You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour." When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

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

## Second Reading- Phil 3: 4b-14

Though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

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

## **Gospel Reading - Matthew 21: 33-46**

"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: " 'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes'? "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

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

## **Post Communion Prayer**

God our Father, whose Son, the light unailing has come from heaven to deliver the world from the darkness of ignorance: let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding that we may know the way of life, and walk in it without stumbling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **Hymns** (*Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship*)

1. All creatures of our God and King 7
2. Jehovah Jireh 354
3. O thou who camest from above 525
4. Take my life and let it be 624
5. Praise to the holiest in the height 563

## **Commentary**

The Old Testament reading is the Exodus version of the Ten Commandments. I am always struck how it was when the Israelites were lost and wandering in the dessert, at a time of immense need, that God met them and spoke with them in such a profound manner. They have been fed with the manna and the quail, they have drunk water that has come from a rock and now they are given the precepts on which so much of our modern society depends upon. Shortly after God gives these commandments to the people of Israel Moses approaches the thunder and lightening and the 'thick darkness where God was'. It's a salutary reminder that even in the darkness God is there, ready to meet with us however dire our apparent circumstances. Sometimes it can be easy to think about God and to pray when all is right with the world and ourselves. It's another thing when times are difficult and we seem to have all the cares and worries of the world on our backs. Exodus reminds us that God is with us in our darkness and that He will lead us through into the lightness of His freedom and salvation. We have a hope and a confidence in Christ. And as strong as this hope and confidence is, Paul reminds us that our challenge can sometime be to put our trust in Christ alone. By Jewish and Roman standards Paul had every reason to be confident. He lists His Jewish credentials in the today's Epistle. The Jews would see Him as a 'good boy, from a 'good family', from a 'good tribe' with a 'good education'. He'd make a 'good catch' for someone you can imagine the mothers all saying. He also has good Roman credentials which gives him a status in the society in which he lives. But he lays aside all these Jewish and worldly credentials to take hold of 'that which Christ took hold of for Him', a restored relationship with the Father. He wants to press on to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and even sharing in the fellowship of His sufferings so that He too can come through the darkness of the world into the light of Christ.

The gospel reading brings to a head the debate which has been occurring throughout Matthew's gospel, the exchanges between Jesus and the Pharisees and scribes where the Pharisees and scribes question the authority of Jesus and Jesus is questions their understanding of the Law, and by extension, of

God. Landowner and vineyard would be understood by the listeners, and certainly by the chief priests and Pharisees as God and Israel. The wall symbolises the Torah, the law given to Moses so that the Jews could be God's special people and a light to the world. The present tenants, the current Jewish religious leaders, know that the Messiah will take away their primacy. They must kill Him in order to retain the inheritance for themselves. Jesus makes it clear that He, as the stone the builders rejected, is the Messiah and that the Kingdom of God is now being taken out of their hands and given to those who will know what to do with such a privilege and responsibility and produce fruit and share in the harvest. In Hebrew the word for son is 'ben' and the word for stone is 'eben'. The stone of Isaiah is linked to the Messianic stone in Daniel (Dan 2 v 31 – 45), the Kingdom that will never be destroyed, and both are linked to the son and stone and the coming of His Kingdom in this gospel story. For the Jewish listeners it's a chilling tale. Paul sees himself as being one of the vineyard tenants and understands the importance of trusting in the Messiah alone. He realised that along with others he was not the perfect tenant of the vineyard and needed the salvation that the Messiah could bring. We too may not be the perfect tenants of the vineyard, God's Kingdom on earth, but we too have a responsibility to hear God's calling on our lives and respond to Him as Paul did, caring for His Kingdom and trusting in Christ as our saviour alone. That is the responsibility we have today as Christ's church. And whatever state we or the church may be in, our Old Testament and New Testament readings reminds us that our confidence is in the God who meets with His people, sometimes in the darkness, and offers us all eternal life through the resurrection of His Son. It's a reminder too that we are to take our responsibilities seriously, whatever they may be. In the recent news we have heard and read about what may be seen by some as a lack of responsibility in the financial markets which has certainly led to many people being in tough and difficult places at the current time. As the Jews found in the wilderness, God meets with His people in the dark places of the world. Indeed, sometimes it seems like we need to be in those dark and desperate place before we are desperate enough to meet with Him. As Paul's life would testify, our security is not in the financial markets but in God alone and He meets with us whenever we turn to Him, in the dark places and the light, in good times and in bad, as we put our trust in Him alone as our Lord and Messiah. *Sam Cappleman*

### **Meditation**

The Gospel of Matthew shows one of the components of Jesus' ministry was specifically to the people of Israel, the Jews, to call them back to their original experiences of God's saving love and their genesis as God's chosen people. Through Matthew both the people of Israel and the people of Christianity are reminded of just who they are in God's eyes and how they are to respond. History has shown how, at one time or another, all of us can be resistant to the call of God and the mission of Jesus. The Gospel reading, which echoes and quotes a similar story in Isaiah 5, is a stark reminder that we need to be always open to the call of the Lord, open to hear His voice and obedient to His commands. Neither should we undervalue or waste the gift of the vineyard, which He has given us. We are holy stewards of His good news and His Kingdom and we are to share generously with all who share His creation with us.

### **Prayers**

God, our light and our salvation: illuminate our lives, that we may see your goodness in the land of the living, and looking on your beauty may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**  
*Common Worship Shorter Collect*

Blessed are you, O lord, and blessed are those who observe and keep your law. Help us to seek you with our whole heart, to delight in your commandments and to walk in the glorious liberty given us by your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we make our prayer. **Amen** *Methodist Worship*

God of all Holiness and hope, cleanse the church from all that is selfish, complacent and worldly, that we might reflect your glory and bring hope to those who seek direction and meaning to their lives. **Amen**

I know what must be done. Only now am I beginning to be a disciple. May nothing of powers visible or invisible prevent me, that I may attain unto Jesus Christ. **Amen** *Ignatius of Antioch*

May God grant that we who have worshipped Him may be witnesses to Him in His world, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Help us today, Our God, to look very closely at what we have done, with your most precious gifts to us. Make us aware of and grateful for, the ways you have blessed our lives. As we bring these gifts, bless us with the joy only "givers" can know. *John Jewell*

**BEH District Women's Network** .Autumn Craft Day on 18th October, 9.45 to 4.15 at Priory Methodist Church. Contact Pam Seymour, Tel 305695 for booking forms. To be returned by 6th October. Autumn Fellowship Day on 23rd October, 11am to 3.30pm at Biggleswade Methodist Church. The theme is "Sensing God." For further information on the above events, see the posters in the Church Foyer.

**Bedford Art Society** require models for portraits Thursday afternoon from 2.30 to 4.30pm, at St Mark's. Modest remuneration & plenty of coffee & biscuits. Please contact Bob Wardale 406094.

**Church Lunch Club** (Alternate Wednesdays) would welcome any members of St Mark's or Putnoe Heights. If you are interested, please give your name to Margaret Standley, Jenny Emsley or Pam Kinselley. We would also welcome additional helpers, regular or irregular. We also need drivers. With the building work in progress at Putnoe, our Autumn session will not start until 1 October but don't leave it until then to let us know.

**The Right Track** Supporting People with Learning difficulties—do you want to know about Direct Payments? Benefits? Housing? and many more. If so come along to the drop-ins at St Mark's Church between 11am - 12 on 20th October, 17 November and 15 December.

**Kisiisi Hospital** celebrates its Golden Jubilee in November. Read the latest newsletter in Putnoe welcome area.

**Potton Barbershop Chorus** An enjoyable Musical feast by the very popular Potton Barbershop Chorus, Shannon Express, will be given at The Addison Centre, Kempston on Wednesday 8 October at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) in aid of Arthritis Research Campaign. They are one of the U.K's leading Harmony Choruses and twice champions of the British Ass of Barbershop Singers. Tickets £8 available from Tema Music 34 High Street, Kempston Tel 956465, Bedford Tourist Information Tel 221712, Cental Box Office Tel 269519 or from Marion Goddard Tel 344617. Tea and coffee will be available in the interval. Good parking facilities. Do come. Marian Goddard

**Footprints** Sunday 12 October. Come and join us for 4 mile circular walk on the second part of the Navigators Way. Meet at 2.30pm at Stanford by the village sign in Old School Lane. (Just past the Green Man pub.) Plenty of parking in Old School Lane. Ray & Pam Seymour 305695.

**"Friends For Life"** requires a secretary/co-ordinator to provide IT and Secretarial services and

assist the management team with the co-ordination of the North Bedfordshire Anglican/ Methodist ministry to Care Homes in the area.

Good communication skills and IT competence [data base/spread sheets etc] are essential with the ability to work from home and be self-motivating. The ownership/use of a PC and telephone are necessary and the use of a car would be helpful. This position is on a self-employed basis with up to 20 hours per month at varying times and periods in the month as convenient, with occasional evening meetings. The position can be fully paid at an agreed hourly rate, or be part or totally on a volunteer basis. Knowledge of local Methodist/Anglican church structures would be helpful. Some experience of Care Homes and /or the care of the elderly a big advantage. Please contact Chris Izzard if you wish to apply . 01234 212164. Chris.Izzard@ntlworld .com Garden House, Honiton Way, Bedford. MK 40 3AN

**Autumn Mission Project** After evaluating a number of options for projects to support it has been agreed that both churches will support Mission Aviation Fellowship for our Autumn mission project this year.

**Goldington Family Centre** is holding a Charity Gala Evening on Thursday the 30 October 2008. We will be showing the new Bond movie *Quantum of Solace* at Cineworld, Aspects Leisure Park Bedford. This will be our major fund raising event of the year and we hope it will be a glamorous and successful evening. The evening begins at 7pm with a free glass of champagne and a light bite with a showing of the movie at 7.30. Once the movie ends an auction will be led by one of Peacock's fine auctioneers with lots of great things to bid for. We will be awarding a prize to the best dressed lady and gentleman. Tickets only £20 (over 18s only) If you would like to purchase tickets please contact Luisa at the centre on 01234 341977

**The Macmillan Coffee morning** held at the Littleford's house on 26th September raised £126.00. Very many thanks to all who were able to come, donate and support. Valerie and Peter.

**Woodland Burial Trust** Trustees meeting 12.30pm, 12 October at Putnoe Heights.

**Thank you** to all friends who have sent cards, flowers and good wishes during my stay in hospital. Your thoughts and prayers are so much appreciated. I started my chemotherapy treatment this week so I am looking forward to Spring 2009. Maureen Simmonds



## Putnoe Heights Church Community Centre opens new hall and kitchen facilities

Thank you to all who worked hard to bring to a conclusion our fantastic new facilities at Putnoe. We are grateful to WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd) for the generous gift of £80,000. We are also grateful to our superb architect, Mr John Creasey and Meadsway Construction for their expertise. Special thanks to Barry Snelson for his hard work over the past months, supported by our excellent team of volunteers.

The official opening of our new facilities. We appreciated Sue Allen and the wonderful ladies of our Putnoe Catering Team who provided refreshments to celebrate the happy occasion.

**Anjulita Court** The new building is now under construction by The Ibbett Trust for Methodist Homes for the Aged in Brickhill. It is hoped that this complex will be opened during 2009 and information leaflets will be available in the New Year. If there are any members of our congregations who would like to be put on the mailing list, please let Pam Kinselly 354480 know and she will make sure you get all available details when they are published.

**Christmas Craft Fayre** There are only 7 weeks left to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre on Saturday 22nd November 2008. We would be grateful for help with the following:-

**Raffle** – Raffle books are now available as from Sunday 5th October. It would be really appreciated if you could take a few books to sell to family, friends and work colleagues. They will be on the hymn book table after the service.

**Tombola** – Any new unwanted gifts/birthday presents etc. for our Tombola stall. Please bring any items up to the Church Office in the week

beginning 17th November 2008.

**Cake Stall** - Millie is kindly co-ordinating the cake stall again. If you are able to bake a cake for this stall please contact Millie via the Church Office. If anyone is interested in helping on the day, please speak to Avril Williams or the Church Office. When the Fayre closes around 3.30 we would be grateful for helping in clearing up and getting the Church ready for Sunday Worship. Your support would be very much appreciated.

As 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. Your support in helping us achieve this is very much appreciated.

*Thank you Avril*

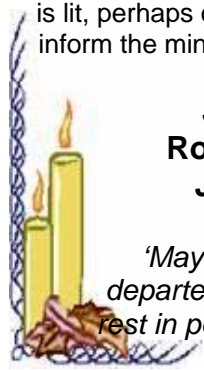
**Lunch Club Autumn Outing** to Poplars Garden Centre, Toddington on Wednesday 29th October . Pick up points: Avon Drive Community Centre 12 noon, St Mark's 12.05, Putnoe Heights 12.10, Maydenbury 12.15. Cost £6 Afternoon tea at 2.30pm Seats available contact Putnoe or St Mark's church offices or Margaret Standley 305352 by thew26 October. Opportunity for easy Christmas shopping.

### 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.

**John Harold Place  
Robert Frederick Howe  
Julie Marie Wallace**

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



### Rest in Peace

**The funeral of Marshall Geoffrey** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 6 October at 3.15pm