



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

6 September 2009

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

9.30am St. Mark's - Family Worship with Baptism of

Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Family Worship

Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

Sunday 13 September- Ordinary 24

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mr. Richard Ledger

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Sam Ware
Intercessions - Mrs. Claire Peck

Readings 1. Isaiah 50 4-9a 2. James 3: 1-12
3. Mark 8: 27-38

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Madge Walsh in memory of her husband on their wedding anniversary.

The flowers at St Mark's this week are given by Janet & Brian Ibberson to celebrate their wedding anniversary and their granddaughters birthdays.

Prayer for Sunday

Perfect within us, O Lord,
the work of grace which you have begun.
May we think, speak
and do only what is pleasing in your sight.
Keep us from falling back
into the sins of which we have repented.
May we live our lives in your presence
and finish them in your fear;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

William Bright (1824-1901)

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 273628
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 21 September 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 Putnoe Heights** 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 September 8 A.G.M.. Details from 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. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 8 September Digital switchover. 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 - 16 September 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 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 16 September 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. Next meeting 10 September 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
6.30 - 7.30pm Ladies Kick Boxing weekly at St. Mark's. Parker Lake ☎07984427854
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 – 14 September
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 12 Oct, 8 Feb
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 8 Sept , 11 Nov, 12 Jan 2010,
Putnoe Church Council - 5 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting - 22 September 4.30pm
Churchyard Committee - 26 January 2010, 11am
Putnoe Heights Mission Group—16 September 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way
Partnership Council—TBA
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - Deanery Meeting 17 Sep, 19 Nov,
Circuit/Treasurers Revue meeting at St. Mark's 15 September 7.30pm
Circuit Meeting at Sharnbrook Methodist Church 16 September at 7.30pm
Woodland Burial Trustees – 6 September
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –12th October

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

Ordinary 23

Opening Verses of Scripture- Ps 107 (v. 1 & 9)

O Give thanks to the Lord for he is good for his loving memory is forever..... he satisfies the thirsty: and fills the hungry with good things.

Collect Prayer for the Day 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 Isaiah Chapter 35:4-7

Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

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

Second Reading - James 2:1-10, 14-17

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favouritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong? If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Mark 7:24-37

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the



region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

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

Hymns (Service sheets & Mission Praise)

1. Fill your hearts with joy and gladness 147
2. Be Still for the presence of the Lord, 50 / He's Got the whole world
3. May the mind of Christ y Saviour 463
4. Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets (Printed on service sheet)
5. Now thank we all our God 486

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Commentary James 2: 1 -10, 14 – 17, Mark 7:24 – 37

The letter of James to 'the twelve tribes scattered among the nations' (Chapter 1 v1) is, in my mind, a short sound 'pocket guide' to living the Christian life. If we keep what it says in the 'pocket' of our minds wherever we go and whatever situation we find ourselves in and act upon its advice then we may not go far wrong in our Christian journeys. Topics covered in its five short chapters include how to respond to and act in: 'Trials and Tribulations'; Listening and Doing; Favouritism Forbidden; Faith and Deeds and 'Taming the Tongue.

Today we consider 'Favouritism Forbidden' and move on to the beginning of 'Faith and Deeds'. It was probably written about AD 50, at that time Christians were not yet being martyred but were suffering economic persecution and oppression. As is still the case in parts of the world today. The letter attributed to James, who may have been Jesus' half-brother and who took over the leadership in Jerusalem after Peter left, was addressing the whole people of God 'scattered among the nations'. It is presented to us in the Bible as one letter but it may be a compilation of his sayings and sermons put together by someone who could write good Greek, it is unlikely James could have done so.

The message is at first reading simple and straightforward 'don't show favouritism' (2:1) and 'faith by itself, it is not accompanied by action, is dead' (2:17), but as we all know reading something and living it may be harder than it first appears. To explain his advice James presented his readers with a scene that they were familiar with, that of a Jewish court of law. Jewish law demanded that those in court, both the accuser and the accused, should dress the same either as a rich or poor person and that they would sit at the same level or stand. So there would be little distinction between them which would put them on an equal footing in front of the decision makers. This seems a good practice to me. In the scene set by James there was obvious distinction in the physical differences which immediately displayed favouritism. James reminds his readers what Jesus told his disciples in Luke 6 v20, that God chose the poor to be rich in faith and that they would inherit his kingdom. If they failed to do this they were 'slandering the name of him to who you belong' (2:7), that is God. He pushes his point home by quoting the command found in Leviticus 19:18 and Matthew 5:43 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

Showing favouritism is in part because we make judgements about people without getting to know them first. We 'prejudge them', hence the term prejudice, which can lead to discrimination on a relatively minor scale. Perhaps excluding them from our group or not talking to a visitor in church, or to a much more serious level which now forms part of our anti discrimination laws which make it illegal to: discriminate for reasons of age; disability; religion or belief; colour or race or ethnic

background; gender; marital status or sexual orientation.

I am not pretending it is easy. I am fully aware that I have a strong tendency to judge by appearances; to put people in a certain category; what is often called stereotyping. Perhaps when I see a group of youths hanging around outside shops or in children's playgrounds, I suspect they may be up to no good. Not from any personal experience but perhaps from what I have read or seen in the media.

In my job I visit many elderly people in their homes and I have to be very careful not to prejudge, from the outside their homes and once inside, their financial status. It would all too easy for me to think they have a certain financial standing, rich or poor, according to their surroundings. A judgement which I have learnt from experience can be quite incorrect! The potential to prejudge, to discriminate, is something for us each as Christians and as a Church community to be constantly alert to. Unless we are we may exclude people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures from hearing of the love of God. The letter attributed to James puts it in a nutshell 'Don't show favouritism!!!' *Wendy Waters*

Meditation

In August, when I was pondering my contribution to this week's readings, I was struck by the heading of a series in the Bible study notes I use, 'Closer to God'. The heading was 'Vive la Difference!' The notes went on to say that 'this expression celebrates an experience of diversity'. The readings that week encouraged us to 'celebrate the joys of diversity and help us face some of its challenges'. Neither of the NT Bible readings set for today were included, instead we reflected on Numbers 12; 1 Corinthians 12: 11 – 26; Acts 6: 1- 7; Ephesians: 11 -22 and Revelation 7: 9-17. No doubt we could find many more that stress the same message as that of James who urges us to act without prejudice and Jesus who showed us how. On the day we read 1 Corinthians 12: 11 – 26 a set of questions were posed in relation to our church; neighbourhood and community, which I think are worth us all pondering on: Who are the most respected and valued? Who are the neglected and dishonoured? Who feels left out? Who is made a fuss of? Who might feel inferior? *Wendy Waters*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

God who made us all in your image; forgive us when we reject strangers.

God of justice; forgive us when we fail to fight injustice

God of acceptance; forgive us when we pre judge others

God of truth; forgive us when we are untruthful

God of love; forgive us when we fail to love

Grant, O Lord, that your Holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear and hatred cease; that our division being healed, we may live in justice and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord you have called your Church to shine as light in the midst of a dark and needy world; bless and strengthen it in its testimony in every land for justice, truth and freedom. May it bring help and hope to the poor and the powerless, to the outcast and the oppressed; may it maintain a bold and fearless witness in face of tyranny and wrong; and may it never be ashamed of the gospel of Christ, but point him as the liberator of mankind, the source of life and giver of peace. We ask this in his name, Amen.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go. Flood our souls with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that our lives may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through us, and be so in us that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us, but only Jesus. Stay with us - and then we shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from you. None if it will be ours. It will be you shining on others through us. Let us thus praise you in the way you love best - by shining on those around us.

Welcome to Deacon Jane. Welcome Service this week for Deacon Jane Mason. The service will be held at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday 9 September at 7.30pm. All are invited to attend.

Footprints walk on level ground around Stanwick Lakes near Rushden on Sunday 6 September. Meet at the Visitor Centre at 2.30pm. The walk is expected to be about 3.5 miles long, but may be lengthened or shortened to suit individual needs because of the variety of paths available. Stanwick Lakes are located on the A45 heading towards Raunds. Head out of Bedford on the A6, eventually taking Rushden by-pass. At the end of the by-pass at the roundabout where the A6 meets the A45, turn right along the A45 towards Raunds. Stanwick Lakes is on the left hand side of the road. There is a charge for the car park. For more details contact Barry or Jenny 344417.

Opening the book of bible stories in lower schools. That is what over 100 people in Kempston and Bedford have been doing for the past ten years through Open the Book Project. Now we need some new story tellers to join existing teams or go into more schools. For more information email Ruth Robbins, rrobbins545@hotmail.com mentioning Open the Book in the subject line.

John Stubbs Mary and the family are most grateful to the people at St. Mark's and Putnoe Heights for the continuing kindness, sympathy and offers of assistance expressed after John died. We much appreciated the several hundred letters, cards, visits and phone calls received, and enjoyed the tributes, shared stories and amusing anecdotes which helped to make us smile within our grief. Thank you all very sincerely.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal. The youth team at Putnoe would like to launch The Christmas Shoebox appeal again this year, where via the Samaritans Purse organisation filled boxes will be delivered to some of the worlds poorest children, boys and girls between 2 to 14 years, in time for Christmas. If you could please donate any of the following items the children will pack the boxes, alternatively if you would prefer to donate some money this can be used towards postage. The boxes need to be completed by the beginning of November so please start collecting now—soft toys, jigsaws, building blocks, cars, dolls, soft balls, stationary items, stickers, puzzle books, toothbrushes/paste, soap, hairbrushes, hats and caps, necklaces, sweets (long sell by dates), bangles, sunglasses. We will also need empty shoeboxes and Christmas wrapping paper Please leave at Putnoe office for the youth team. Thank you.

Thank you everyone who supported us in fundraising for our Girl Guiding trip to South Korea. We had an amazing time and really appreciate all the help from the church. Thank you! Samantha and Louise, 1st Putnoe Brownies

1st Putnoe Brownies kindly ask for donations of empty clean baked bean tins and glass paints. Items can be left at Putnoe for Liz. Thank you

Beds, Essex, Herts, Women's Network. District Day on 22 September 10.30—3.30 at Bishops Stortford Methodist Church, South Street, Bishops Stortford. The Induction Service of Brenda Veitch as District President will take place A 2pm.

Autumn Craft Day 2009 will be held on 17 October from 9.45 to 4.30 at Priory Methodist Church. £4 per half day session. For booking form please contact Pam Seymour 305695 or 01296 485087

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch Sunday 4 October at 1pm. Tickets now available from Putnoe Office or Sue Allen. Two courses, soft drinks & coffee. Bring your own wine. Adults £6, children under 10 £3.

Car Boots 2009

We had a very successful car boot sale on Monday and raised £1249.57, making a grand total for the four sales this year of £4318.23. Thank you to all who helped on the day ,the cake bakers and those who provided goods for the Church stall. It was an amazing effort and will go a long way to help with the upkeep of the church. Thank you. Avril Williams

Community Police Surgery has restarted at Putnoe Heights. The police will be in attendance [subject to operational requirements] every Wednesday between 1pm and 3pm..



Bedford Citizen's Advice Bureau is opening for 1 hour every Thursday between 11am and 12noon at Putnoe Heights Church starting this Thursday 10th September.

Bedford Citizen Advice are offering free benefits advice talks to community groups. If you would like a visit then please contact Chantel Southerland 01234 346543 email chantel@bedfordcab.org.uk Are you aware that the Citizens Advice Bureau have a great online advice service which you can access. Go to <http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/index.htm>



Visit our online chapel

We have now provided the opportunity to visit our online chapel and light a prayer candle. Please visit thisischurch.com and click on the candle.

Church calls for end to Pakistan blasphemy law 'Outdated' law is fuelling interreligious violence

The Methodist Church in Britain is calling on the Pakistani government to repeal its controversial blasphemy law, and is encouraging Christians to sign an online petition.

The blasphemy law includes clauses that forbid defiling the Quran and defaming the prophet Mohammed. Under the current law, defiling the Quran merits imprisonment for life and defaming Mohammed merits death with or without a fine. There is concern that the law is enflaming tensions between Christians and Muslims in Pakistan, and is being used to justify violence against Christians. In late July, three churches and 147 homes were burned during violent attacks against Christians that left ten dead and made more than 290 families homeless.

The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd David Gamble, has signed the petition (available at <http://pakistansignnow.petitionhost.com/#sign>) and is urging others to do likewise.

David said; "The blasphemy law is being used by some to fuel violence between people of faith in Pakistan, rather than creating respect as it was once designed to do. Atrocities such as those we have seen committed against Christians in recent days must be stopped and the Pakistani Government needs to prove its commitment to protecting religious minorities by repealing this outdated law."

So far more than 1,600 people have signed the petition, which has been formulated by Christians and Muslims together and will be delivered to the Pakistan Government, urging them to help prevent further attacks.

The Gospel for the Poor

Paul was a latecomer to the Gospel who converted on the road to Damascus around the year 35 AD. Fourteen years after his conversion, he travelled to Jerusalem to seek the favour of the original group of twelve apostles. He knew that he needed their imprimatur, and indeed he received what he calls "the right hand of fellowship" from the movement's leaders. Later, when he recalled this trip in his letter to the Galatians, Paul wrote something revealing about the first followers of Jesus. What did the leaders of the Jesus movement in Jerusalem require of Paul? "All they asked was that we should remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do." (Galatians 2:10).

Saint Neilos the Ascetic (d. 430): "We monks come fawning to the rich, like puppies wagging their tails in the hope of being tossed a bare bone or some crumbs. To get what we want, we call them benefactors and protectors of Christians, attributing every virtue to them, even though they may be utterly wicked."

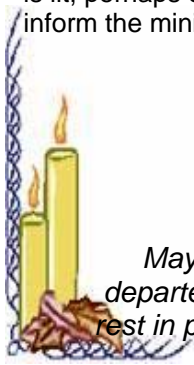
Evagrius (died c. 400) considered it a trick of the devil to befriend the rich on the pretense of helping the poor: "The devil suggests that we should attach ourselves to wealthy women, and advises us to be obsequious to others who have a full purse. And so, after deceiving the soul, little by little he engulfs it in avaricious thoughts and then hands it over to the demon of self-esteem. The latter calls up in our imagination crowds of admirers who praise the Lord for the works of mercy we have performed."

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 Standley
Arnold Taylor
John Stubbs**

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



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**Forthcoming Funerals
None this week**