



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

8 February 2009

3rd before Lent



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 – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mrs Morag Stewart  
Intercessions – Mr Chris Izzard

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team – Mrs Jenny Emsley  
Intercessions -Mr Eddy Peck

## 15 Sunday February

### 9.30am St Mark's – Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters  
Leadership – Mrs Linda Parry  
Intercessions – Mr I Farthing

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters  
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware  
Intercessions — Ministers

**Readings** 1 Prov 8:1, 22-31

2. Col 1: 15-20 3. John 1: 1-14

TNT next meet on Sunday 22nd February  
6.00 pm at Putnoe for a quiz evening.

## Thank You

The flowers in St Marks church have been given by Trudy Bunday in loving memory of her brother Andrew

*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.*

## A Prayer for Sunday

Almighty God,  
who alone can bring order to the unruly wills  
and passions of sinful humanity:  
give your people grace  
so to love what you command  
and to desire what you promise,  
that, among the many changes of this world,  
our hearts may surely there be fixed  
where true joys are to be found;  
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.  
*Common Worship*

## 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 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 ☎ 07973174430

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063

**10.30am U3A Playreading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607

**11am - 12. The Right Track** at St Mark's. 3rd week  
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

**1.30pm 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

**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 Lena Holland ☎244970

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 16 February 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 ☎07790206016

**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

**1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella

Atkinson ☎325293.

**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week . 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. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

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

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

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 10 February Mr Steve Lloyd - 'Christian Police Association'. 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.

**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

**7.30pmChartered Management Institute** St Marks 3rd week. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 10 February 2009 Mission Aviation Fellowship Rosa Stocking. Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

**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 18 February 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch** St Mark's 2nd week in month. Next meeting 11th February 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 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. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095

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

**7.00pm U3A Sky at Night** 2nd Week. 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 in month. Next Meeting 18 February Everyone welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594

**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** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. r 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

**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 in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

**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 & 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.

**9.30am U3A Photography.** St Mark's 4th week in month. Val Scrivener ☎346397

**10am U3A Beginners French** St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

**9.30am U3A Photography.** St Mark's 4th week in month. Val Scrivener ☎346397

**12.15pm U3A Photography.** St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

**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 Line Dancing.** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

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

### 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

; 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. Please see Liz ☎302349 .

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 22 June, 9 Nov

**St Mark's Leadership Team** – 24 Feb

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** – 9 Feb

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** 20 Apr, 13 Jul

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting** - 18 March

**Putnoe Church Council** - 15 Jun, 5 Oct

**Pastoral Group Meeting** - May 5th 4.30pm

**Annual Congregational Meetings** 3 May

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group** –

**Partnership Council** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** - 5 March

**Deanery Meeting** 5 Feb, 18 Jun, 17 Sep, 19 Nov,

**Circuit/Deanery Meeting**

**Woodland Burial Trustees** –

**Mission Group Meeting** -

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth** –

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

## 3rd Sunday before Lent

### Opening Verse - Psalm 51 v 10 - 12

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

### Psalm 30:10

Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me; O LORD, be my help." You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.



### Collect Prayer -Before we read we pray

Loving God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you: help us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may truly serve you, who to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Methodist Worship

### First Bible Reading – Isaiah 40: :21-31

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

### Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 9 v 16 - 27

Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make use of my rights in preaching it. Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we

do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

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

### **Third Reading - Mark 1: 29-39**

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

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

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

Fight the good fight, 143; I am a new creation, 254; For the beauty of the earth, 152; May the mind of Christ my Saviour, 463; The Kingdom of God is justice and joy, 651

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

### **Commentary**

In the passage from Mark today we read about Simon, this is of course the apostle who would later be named Peter. So we know that Peter was married and that he had to live with his mother-in-law, however we have no evidence that this influenced his decision to leave home and follow Jesus! It was normal for a newly married couple to live with parents until they had made enough money to make a home of their own. It was also more common for parents to die while their children were young adults. We know nothing of Peter's wife, we just know that on this occasion the unnamed mother-in-law is ill. Jesus cares about her, heals her, her temperature drops and she serves them. It is stated in a very matter of fact manner that the woman is healed so that she can get back to doing what she does, looking after the men. Of course once one healing has been completed, inevitably the word gets round and we are told that in the evening people came and brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. Indeed we are told that the whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. Observance of sabbath law is reflected in the fact that people waited till the evening to bring their sick and deranged to Jesus. The sabbath ended at sunset, so such work was acceptable in the evening.

Inevitably the disciples must have thought with this episode, on the outset of Jesus ministry, that they were on to a good thing. Here was somebody with a real talent and if the healing power of Jesus was exploited in the right way, then there was a way of making a real impression. Imagine sickness being a thing of the past, everybody being made well and the disciples starting off a divine sort of BUPA. But things soon fail to go according to plan. Peter gets up next morning and finds Jesus not at all ready to go and do more healing. Instead Jesus is off by himself and tells them that he must move on to go and preach.

We need to ask ourselves how Jesus managed to keep a balance in his life between the competing demands of being a miracle worker, preacher and teacher. How did Jesus avoid the temptation to be a crowd pleaser? In prayer we see Jesus draw strength from God and understand that God had a firm grasp on his hand and would never let go, even while he went through the depths of pain and humiliation at his crucifixion. Jesus' going apart to pray doesn't mean he will cut back and do less – in fact, he has every intention of doing more as he tells Simon they must move on to other places to preach. But he is not deluded or seduced by his reputation; he knows exactly what he must do: he must go to Jerusalem.

We are not nuns or monks in cloisters. Still, we will need to find some quiet places, some mini-Sabbaths, as Jesus did. We Christians have much to do as Jesus' followers and we need to make space to allow

God to reach out to us, quiet the fevers of our minds and hearts, so that we can return to our current places of service or, hear the call to the next places we must go. The pace of our lives probably will not change dramatically; there will continue to be temptations to lose focus and lean into success; there will always be the disciples' temptation to shun the cross and, of course, there will be many deaths along the way – of loved ones, but also of our plans and dreams. But if today's gospel is any indication, Jesus will never let go of our hands, never stop driving out the fevers of anxiety and burn-out, never stop raising us up – what he did for Simon's mother-in-law assures us of that.

After leaving the town, Jesus went through all of Galilee proclaiming the good news and expelling demons. Recovery from sickness and freedom from demons were visible signs of the inner healing which Jesus proclaimed. Yet he knew that our deepest need is not for health, but for meaning and hope. Healings were not the purpose and Jesus would not spend his time organising things efficiently for maximum healing benefit. We can only imagine how people would have felt when Jesus stopped healing and went off to preach.. However I can guess that those people would probably have felt very much like we feel when we seek God's healing upon other people or ourselves and they do not get well and it seems that God's mind must be on other things.

The visual aids of miracles and healings were carried out to make plain the message that illness is not something which God brings about, it is contrary to his plan for us. They show that there is present in this world another power which is opposed to God. When Jesus heals, he wages war against the forces of evil which bring to us sickness and ultimately death. The healing miracles are never an end in themselves, they are pictures of what God is like, given to us to help us to discover the really important message, that God cares and wants to liberate us from evil in all of its forms.

The ministry of Jesus was one of confrontation. We like to be people of peace and we often think of godly people as people of peace. We do well to be reminded that the ministry of Jesus was not a ministry of peace. He brought peace, but he did so by waging a constant battle against evil. The Epistle to the Ephesians Chapter 6: 12 says 'Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power, put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devils schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the armour.'

Christians do not live in peace time, we still live in a world in which there is sickness and evil of many kinds. We must be prepared to be the hands of Christ and through us allow him to reach out and touch those whose lives need healing. It is only the compassion of Christ and the holy power of God which can bring wholeness to our broken world.

## **Meditation**

Every time you make a choice, you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And, taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a Heaven creature or into a hellish creature -- either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow creatures and with itself. To be the one kind of creature is Heaven: that is, it is joy, and peace, and knowledge, and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness. Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other. C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

## **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

O Wounded Healer we kneel before you. Reach out and touch us. Heal our leprous wounds. Send us, scarred and scabrous to be wounded healers too. Caress your world using our touch. Amen St Louis Centre for Spirituality

Grant us, O Lord, a resurrection faith - a faith that is radiant in the knowledge of your victory over sin and death - a faith that is confident in your care and your love. Bless now, we pray, with joy those who call out in your name and those who labour as you have directed. Bless too those we hold before you - and work a work of healing and salvation in their lives. Amen

Father forgive our unbelief. Teach and strengthen us so that our faith will appropriately reflect your greatness. Amen

Blessed are you, creator of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. As your dawn renews the face of the earth bringing light and life to all creation, may we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God forever. Amen (After Lancelot Andrewes, 1626. Common Worship)

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

**Bible in a Year** Would you like to read the bible in a year? Sam Cappleman has put together an easy to follow guide/reading list to help me achieve this goal. For a small donation (perhaps £2) towards Church and Missions funds. I am happy to provide a copy to anyone else who is interested in using this fabulous tool. Contact Sam Ware through Putnoe Heights Church Office.

**Table Top Sale** Saturday 28th February at Putnoe. Prebooked your table £6.00 (£8.00 on the day) and set up from 9.00 am or join us from 11.00 am, 50p entry and enjoy a light warm lunch, cake and coffee. Items for the church table can be left from

Sunday 22nd February and donations of cakes from Friday 27th. . All proceeds to Putnoe Heights Church Fund. Thank you, Liz or Linda

**Putnoe Leadership Team** The meeting this Monday will take place at the Vicarage at 7.30pm—Not Linda's in Sharnbrook

**Partnership Council** There will be a meeting of the Partnership Council on Wednesday 11 February at St Mark's Chapel at 7.30pm (*Apologies for the short notice*)

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## Concern expressed over BBC changes

In a letter to the BBC's Director General, the Methodist Church has expressed 'deep concern' over the announcement of immediate structural changes to the BBC's Religion and Ethics department.

The Manchester-based Religion and Ethics team will be combined with the BBC's Factual department and the newly formed Factual and Religion department will be managed from Birmingham.

The full text of the letter follows:

Dear Mr Thompson, We write to you to express our deep concern over the recent news of structural changes to the BBC's Religion and Ethics department.

The Methodist Church would like to express our gratitude for the outstanding work of the BBC in the field of Religion and Ethics, on television, on radio and online. The BBC's creativity and authority in their engagement with a vast range of ethical issues, faith groups and life stories not only reaches individuals to whom these matters are important, but also resources public awareness and debate, enriching the life of the nations. We are seeking your reassurance that under the newly formed Factual and Religion department this work will not only continue to the high standards already set by your dedicated team, but will be given the space and resources to creatively develop.

We would like to express our pastoral concern and offer our prayerful support to all staff directly affected by these changes as they make this transition.

## Put A Little Grace and Hope In Your Pocket

With economic recession looming large and severe weather conditions causing chaos, some may feel that 2009 has got off to a rather gloomy start. But the Methodist Church is offering a little bit of hope and grace with their hugely popular 'In Your Pocket' booklet series.

Grace In Your Pocket and Hope In Your Pocket are just the latest editions to hit the press following the success of earlier publications on the themes of peace, prayer and joy. Since the series began in 2006, more than 150,000 booklets have been distributed.

Series Editor, Joy Fisher, said: "In a world facing financial meltdown, grace and hope may seem to be in short supply, but the booklets remind us that these values can transform our everyday lives.

"Prayer In Your Pocket and Joy In Your Pocket were hugely popular and we've found that churches are frequently using them for visiting neighbours and friends and for prayer groups. It goes to show that people really do want this kind of resource."

Grace In Your Pocket was inspired by a sermon given by the President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Stephen Poxon at the 2008 Methodist Conference. He described grace as being, "loved completely...and there are no conditions... only this overwhelming sense of being loved."

The booklets are ideal for mission-related activities and public events. Some of the contributions have been specially written, while others have been drawn from well-known authors such as Martin Luther King, Jane Austen and Superman star Christopher Reeve. Eighty thousand Grace and Hope booklets have been produced and a copy of each will be sent out to Methodist Ministers.

"Hope is like the wing of an angel, soaring up to the heaven, and bearing our prayers to the throne of God," 17th century clergyman, Jeremy Taylor, is quoted as saying in Hope in Your Pocket; designed to offer hope in the midst of a busy life.

**St Marks and Putnoe Heights  
Lent Course 2009  
The Life, Meaning and Teachings of Jesus**

**Title: The Teaching of Jesus**

- What did Jesus really teach? - How did He teach? - What did He mean? Date: Tuesday 10 March 2009  
Leader: Paul Fricker

**Title: The Parables of Jesus**

- Why did Jesus tell parables? - What do they mean? - How should we understand the parables of Jesus Date: Tuesday 17 March 2009  
Leader: Revd Charles Royden

**Title: The Miracles of Jesus**

- Why did Jesus do miracles? - Who were they for? - How do we interpret them now? Date: Tuesday 24 March 2009  
Leader: Claire Peck

**Title: The Passion of Jesus**

- What did Jesus say about His passion?  
- What does it mean?  
- Why did He think it was necessary?  
Date: Tuesday 31 March 2009  
Leader: Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

**Evening Outline**

- Each session takes place at Putnoe Heights Church
- Evening starts at 7:30 pm for 8:00 pm with coffee and biscuits
- Talk starts at 8:00 pm for approximately 45 minutes
- Questions and discussion for approximately for 15 minutes
- Evening closes at 9:00 pm

**Women's Network** - The annual Daffodil Day celebration will be held on Monday 2 March, 1.45pm at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Please see notice in the Church Foyer for more information.

**Sir William Harpur House** A service of Holy Communion takes place on the first Monday of each month at 10.00am. All welcome.

**Art Encounters** "Art tours in London with a spiritual perspective". Art Encounters was started by Bishop Christopher and Rev. Joan Crossley in 2008 following requests from many people. They have offered to conduct a visit for members of the Partnership to the National Gallery on Thursday 7th May. Please let us know a.s.a.p. if you are interested so that we give Joan an idea of numbers. John and Sally Gunning. Tel. 305925.

**February half term at Putnoe. Storybox** will run as usual on Monday 16th, followed at 1.15 by Storybox plus for the 5- 10 year olds. Bible story, craft and games. £1.00

**Stella Brooks** is in Lloyd Lodge Residential Home, 2 St George's Road. Her sister Alwynne and friend Connie have sent cards and letters to the people in Stella's address book and apologise if church members have been inadvertently missed out.

**Putnoe Residents** Association is holding a Coffee morning Saturday 21 February, 10a -12 at Putnoe Heights Church. Do come along and find out more about the Association, also to meet existing members and the committee.

**St Mark's Clubhouse** would greatly appreciate donations of knitting needles

**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.

**Joel Delaney  
Edith Joyce Taylor  
David Johnson  
Shelly Smith**

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

**Cut Your Carbon Competition**

We have managed to enrol 63 supporters, however we do need many more if we are to win £37,000 in this competition. Please register and help us win funding for solar technology  
<http://www.cutyourcarbon.org/group/stmarks>



**Forthcoming Funerals**

**The funeral of Mr William Stanley Lowndes** (Stan) will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.00am on Wednesday 11 February