



# Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
10 May 2015  
Sixth Sunday of Easter



## Sunday Services

**8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday**  
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights  
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

### 10 May - Sixth Sunday of Easter

#### 9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Michael Carr.  
Leadership - Mr. Edward Parry.  
Intercessions - Mr. Warwick Holden.  
Organist - Miss. Marion Prior.

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Michael Carr.  
Leadership - Mrs. Sue Allen.  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sam Ware.  
Organist - Mr. Alan Bunker.

### 17 May - Seventh Sunday of Easter

#### 9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman.  
Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean.  
Intercessions - Ministers  
Organist - Miss. Marion Prior.

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman.  
Leadership - Mrs. Sue Allen.  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sam Ware.  
Organist - Mr. Peter Twitchin.

**Readings** 1. Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26 2. 1 John 5: 9-13  
3. John 17: 6-19

Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's  
Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur  
House on first Monday of every month.

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights have been given by  
Joan York in memory of her husband Edgar.

The flowers at St Marks are in memory of Alison  
Holden on the occasion of Warwick and Alison's  
wedding anniversary.

*We are grateful when people make donations towards  
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 Ann Hitt 404186  
(Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the  
Foyers.*

## Christian Aid Week Prayer (from the church in Ethiopia)

Let your hand rest  
upon your people of Ethiopia,  
widows and orphans, aged and children,  
strangers and wanderers.  
And join us also with them,  
protect and strengthen us,  
from all evil works keep us apart,  
and in all good works unite us.  
You are life for our souls.  
You are the life of the world.

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

### Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre  
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535  
jane@thisischurch.com

### The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY  
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

**Partnership News** is sent out by email every Saturday  
in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy  
please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to  
vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items  
submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will  
automatically be posted on our website and may appear in  
other local media sources.

**Partnership News is also archived on our church  
website [www.ThisIsChurch.com](http://www.ThisIsChurch.com)**

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### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@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.*

### Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Mon-Thur 9-5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Geoff Gypps 365630  
**Leadership Team** Mr Barry Southam 219714  
barrysoutham@aol.com  
**Treasurer** Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
**Youth Team Leader** Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

### St. Mark's Church Centre

**Charity No** 1160981.

**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Mrs Margaret Appleton 354708  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892  
treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm -  
**3.45pm** For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com  
**8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634  
(See website for more details)  
**9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery** Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634  
**9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430  
**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955  
**10.00am-12 U3A Play reading** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946  
**11.00am-12noon Pilates** St. Mark's Liz Mason 07816522200  
**12.00 noon Storybox** 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. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630  
**1.30pm Chat & Make.** Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts On April 20  
**2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Italian** Putnoe Heights– fortnightly  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active** at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Zoe Wilcox 07767311424  
**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190  
**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.  
**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859  
**6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**6.30pm-8pm Cubs** at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509  
**6.30pm Fit For All** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081  
**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's (1st week in month) Mary Daly 217127  
**7.00pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.  
**7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club** at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399  
**7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091  
**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's ( Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting– 18 May Judith Stanton. 823313  
**7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club** St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567  
**7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507  
**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. 9.30, 11.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30. Lorrie Pearson 340473

**11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Contact Janet King 313946  
**1.15pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946  
**1.30pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895  
**2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225  
**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.  
**3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468  
**6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga** St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393  
**7.15-8.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390  
**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 19 May Flower Event Details Diane Bayliss 268101  
**8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee** St Mark's ( week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

## Wednesday

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.  
**10.00-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.  
**10.00am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946  
**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.  
**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks Contact Janet King 313946  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 20 May Contact Putnoe Office 365630  
**1.15pm Social Bridge Club** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811  
**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** at St Marks.Contact 1st week of the month. Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966  
**3.30-4.30pm Vita Fit** St Mark's starting 29 April for 6 weeks Liz Roe 07901684538  
**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 20 May 2015 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**5.00–6.00pm Rainbows** at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091  
**6.00pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731  
**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

**6.00-7.00pm ATSK Karate** at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel.01234 353865

**7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts** at Putnoe ages 10.5-14; Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.

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

**7.15pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 3446008.

**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 20 May Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's ( Week 1 in the month) Jill Cooper 357960

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

**10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival** at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

**12pm Storybox** . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 342613

**1.00-2.30pm Wiggles & Jiggles** Putnoe Heights. Drop in.

**1.00 - 2.30pm NHS Baby Clinic** at St Mark's ( Weeks 1 & 3 in the month) Contact 897401

**1pm-2.30pm Drop in** (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552. 2pm -

**Friendly Chicago Bridge** at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

**2pm U3A Current Affairs** - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St.Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210

**3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions** Drama Group Claire Creek 262650

**5.45pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07768481499

**6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga** St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284

**7.00pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

**7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's (3rd week in month). Carol Plant 01832710504

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale 406094

**7.30pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Rosemary McNeilage 405594

**7.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Linda Stephen 409493

**8.00pm Bedford Folk Dancers** (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50

Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

**8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle.** St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

### Friday

**9.30am -3.30pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, 2nd week per month.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647

**10am -12.00 U3A Photography** St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist** St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

**2pm U3A Gardening** - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**4.50pm-7.00pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers** at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email: phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

**7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation** St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399

**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.** St Marks(2nd week in month )Carol Brown 01438 233385

### Saturday

**9.00am Faith Temple Ministries** St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593

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

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

**2.15pm Society of Recorder Players** at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

### Sunday

**9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School** at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

**10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre at St. Mark's.** 1st Sunday Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

**11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior** at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's . A crèche is also available.

**2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls** at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th Sunday. Closed for summer break. Re opens 13 September. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – tba

**St Mark's Leadership Team** -

**Annual Congregational Meetings** -

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** – 2nd June

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** – 28 May

**Putnoe Church Council** - 11 June

**Pastoral Group Meeting**– 15 September 2015 4.00pm

**Churchyard Committee** - TBA

**Circuit meeting** – 16 June at Putnoe Heights

**Deanery meeting** -

**Woodland Burial Trustees** – 17 May

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** - 1 June 2015 2pm

**St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015**, 25 May and 31 August.

**Harvest Festival** service will be on Sunday 27 September.

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

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

## Sentence of Scripture Psalm 51:17

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart He will not despise.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. Common Worship Shorter Collect

## First Bible Reading - Acts 10: 44 - 48.

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, 'Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptised with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.' So he ordered that they be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

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

## Second Bible Reading - 1 John 5: 1 - 6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the one who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

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

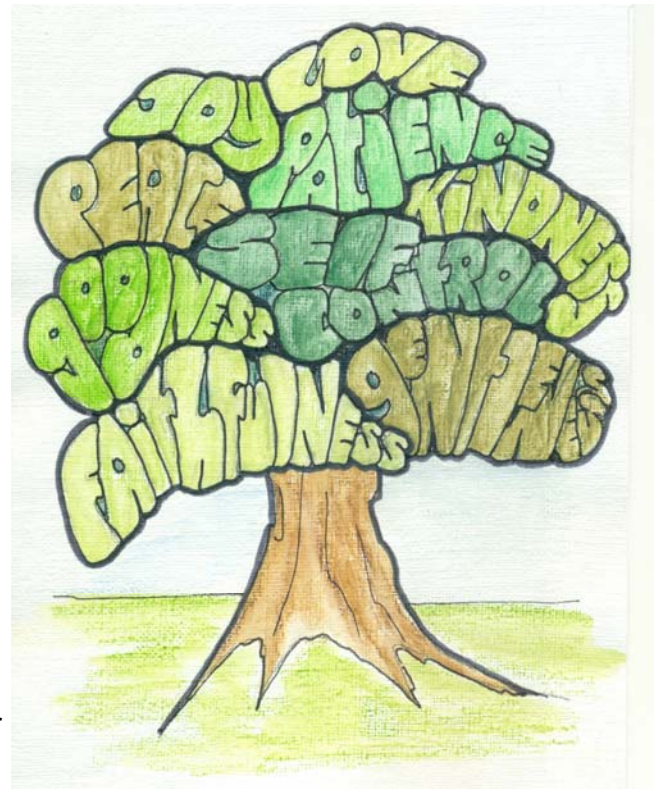
## Third Bible Reading - John 15: 9 - 17

'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: love each other.

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

## Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. .  
Amen



## Hymns for Sunday

*(Please distribute Morning Worship)*

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing
2. Beauty for brokenness
3. We are called to be God's people
4. Longing for light, we wait in darkness
5. Stand up, stand up for Jesus

## Commentary

Pursuit of happiness is an important goal for many people, but what is happiness? When do we know we've found it? And how do we go about it pursuing it? We are notoriously bad at predicting what will make us happy, so perhaps happiness isn't something you can pursue and catch and possess in the first place. Rather happiness is the by-product of worthy activities. Perhaps happiness is the feeling you get from a job well done, or from achieving a goal, or from being honest and trustworthy, or from helping someone out. In this sense, happiness is less a commodity to be pursued and possessed than it is a by-product of noble efforts or, even more, simply a gift to be received.

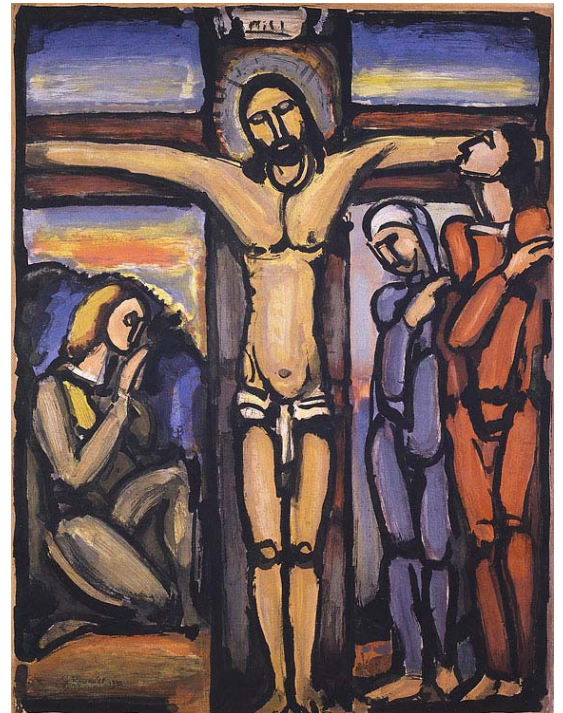
The same is perhaps true, and even more so – when it comes to joy, the close cousin of happiness that Jesus talks about in today's reading. One of the helpful mantras of the yoga world is the invitation and imperative to "choose joy." We have a choice about how we view many things, react to something, focus on one thing or another, knowing that each of these things can be an instance of "choosing joy" over frustration, anger, hopelessness, and more.

At the same time, and in light of Jesus' teaching here, it seems like joy is also and simultaneously beyond our choosing and comes to us, often at unawares, as sheer gift. Jesus commands his disciples to remain and abide in him and his love for them. But he also just loves them...enough to give his life for them (and us!). Moreover, he is pretty clear that, whatever they may have thought, they didn't actually choose him, or decide to follow him, or consciously become his disciples. Rather, he chose them.

This will be critically important to the disciples in the hours to come. Keep in mind that this conversation takes place on the eve of Jesus' crucifixion. In just a few hours he will be arrested, tried, convicted, and executed as an enemy of the state. He endures all of this in order to demonstrate the love he has for his disciples and, indeed, the profound love God has for the whole world. But that action will not only witness to Jesus' love for the disciples, it will also leave them feeling bereft, alone, and frightened. Which is why Jesus both urges them to abide in him and reminds them that what is more important is that they know he will abide in them. And so he tells them that they did not choose him; rather, he chose them. This is the good news that God loves us. That God plans to use us to make this world God loves a better place.

Not that God's choosing us is a panacea, as if none of the difficulties of this life matter. Rather, knowing that God has chosen us, loves us, and will use us gives us the courage to face the challenges and renews our strength. Ultimately, we cannot fix, let alone redeem, this world. That's God's work. But knowing that God has promised to do so can provide us with the strength and energy to work to make the small corner of the world in which we live a better place.

When someone asked Martin Luther what he would do if the world were going to end tomorrow. He replied that he would plant a tree today. The future is God's, a gift given, like joy, to God's beloved children. We live in that word and promise so that, while we are invited to abide and obey and choose and all of that is certainly good advice, we also hear and receive the good news that God has chosen us...once and for all.



What more can God do for us to show us his love? What more must God do to convince us? We did not love God first, rather, God loved us first and Jesus is proof of God's love for us – if we have any doubts. The real issue is: since God already loves us and has given such powerful evidence of that love, what should we do to show we got the message?

## Meditation for VE Day 70th Anniversary

**They fought for peace**, that the world might never again know such violence and destruction. We must work for peace and reconciliation in our homes and communities, and promote peace throughout the world

**They fought for justice**, that the scourge of prejudice and oppression might never again take root in our societies. We must work for a world in which hatred and injustice never have the final word, and where all people can flourish with dignity and hope.

**They struggled** so that the whole human family might know good will, security, and freedom. We must always acknowledge how precious are the gifts which God has entrusted to us, and exercise the freedoms and responsibilities we have with gratitude and humility.

May almighty God, who has given us the will to undertake these things, bless us with the strength to perform them.

### Poem

At A War Grave, by John Jarman

No grave is rich, the dust that herein lies  
Beneath this white cross mixing with the sand  
Was vital once, with skill of eye and hand  
And speed of brain. These will not re-arise  
These riches, nor will they be replaced;  
They are lost and nothing now, and here is left  
Only a worthless corpse of sense bereft,  
Symbol of death, and sacrifice and waste.

*John Jarman was killed during the Normandy landings in WWII at the age of 33. He left behind a wife, a daughter and a small book of poetry. Educated at Queen's College, Cambridge, Jarman was trained as a mathematician.*

### Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead This week VE Day Prayers

Trusting the promises of God, and with faith in his mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Let us give thanks for the selfless and courageous service and sacrifice of those who brought peace to Europe, and for the good example they have given us; let us bless the Lord.

We pray for nations still devastated by war, for their people and their leaders, and for those who suffer the effects or memories of past wars; for veterans, for those who mourn, and for all innocent victims whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of others;

Let us give thanks for those who work for peace and liberty throughout the world, for the Armed Forces of the Crown, and for all who strive to bring an end to injustice and oppression; let us bless the Lord.

We pray for those in our own day who have grown weary or lost hope as a result of violence or terror; for all refugees and displaced people, and for those who seek to address the causes of discord and distrust; Lord, hear us.

Let us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace; let us bless the Lord.

We pray for the young people of our own day and for all who will shape the future of this nation, that they may be inspired by those who have gone before them to serve as they have been served; Lord, hear us.

For the reconciliation of former enemies and for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many freedoms and benefits we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace; let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God Amen.**



**BELIEF'S Spring course** entitled "Reading the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) Today" will run on Wednesday Evenings at St Andrews Church Kimbolton Road Bedford from 8pm to 9.30pm as follows

Week 1 13th May 2015: A General Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament: David Dean and Peter West 9of BELIEF

Week 2 20th May 2015: A Jewish Perspective on the Hebrew Scriptures: Aga Cahn, of the Woolf Institute, Cambridge

Week 3 27th May 2015: The Value and Importance of the Hebrew Scriptures to Christians today: Janet Tollington, of Westminster College, Cambridge

Week 4 3rd June 2015: The Psalms: Brother John, of Turvey Abbey

Week 5 10th June 2015: The Old Testament: Brother William, of Turvey Abbey

This course will cost £4 per session (including refreshments) payable at each session

We do not want anyone to be deterred from attending any of BELIEF events for financial reasons. If you find the fees prohibitive, please contact us. Stephanie Field BELIEF Coordinator Tel 01234 330314 belief@standrewsbedford.org

**Putnoe Heights "Missions knitting and crochet group"**. Knit-a-square for KasCare, providing comfort for orphans and vulnerable children in South Africa. <http://www.knit-a-square.com> a mission project for everyone. We could meet once a month; knit at home; donate wool or postage to send the items we have made. KasCare likes knitted and crochet 8 inch squares sent to them to make blankets to keep children warm. For more details speak to Carolyn Morris or visit their website for patterns and instructions.

**Mother Teresa Support Group** meet at St Mark's every other Tuesday at 2.30pm to knit and natter. (Wool and needles provided.) Please call Maureen Watling Tel.262225. New people always welcome. Next meeting Tuesday 12 May.

**Action for Children** An invitation to all to join box holders for tea and cake at Ladyslaude, Bramley Way, Woodlands on May 13 at 2—4 p.m. Either give Margaret Standley your box beforehand or bring it on the day. We shall be opening the boxes, and help with counting the money will be welcome. Last year box holders raised £429.95. Thank you to all who help this worthy cause.

**Putnoe Men's Group** I have arranged a meal at the Pheasant Public House on Wednesday 13 May at 7:30pm. Please see Barry Southam for booking forms & Menu details.

**Brownies.** Holly is a Brownie Leader at St Andrews Church, she has been selected to represent the Anglia region on a service project to Romania. Our Putnoe Brownies are trying to help her with her fundraising (she needs to raise \$2,500) by making friendship bracelet kits for her to sell.

Each kit needs 7 strands of wool 50cm long. We are looking for as much pretty coloured wool as we can so that our Putnoe Brownies can make the kits. Thank you. Carolyn Morris.

**Do you have a skill** or something which you do which you could share with open House. It might be singing or making things or you may have some special photographs which you could show from a trip. Open House would like to welcome you along. Open House provides a relaxed café style environment where people are free to meet and make friends, enjoy themselves and perhaps try a new activity or learn a skill. Please get in touch with Charlie if you could offer to come along one Wednesday.

**Free** to a needy home, unused Incontinence Pads(28 pack). If you know anyone who could make use of them please contact Joanne Barrow 213038.

**Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to St Albans Diocese:** June 2015

Sustaining Ministry and Personal Faith - Thursday 18 June 2015 at 7.15pm.

I invite you to come and hear Archbishop Justin speak to clergy, lay ministers, ordinands and congregation members on Thursday 18 June in the Cathedral. Archbishop Justin will draw on his experience and life, as well as his interest in Benedictine spirituality, as he explores the wells which sustain his faith in his demanding role. I know that his insights will be relevant to us all as we seek to fulfill our various ministries and grow in our personal faith. The format for the event will be:  
7:15pm Arrive at St Albans Cathedral and mingle with friends from across the diocese over drinks  
8:00pm Talk by Archbishop Justin  
8:45pm Period of quiet reflection  
8:55pm Compline  
9:15pm Leave the Cathedral in silence  
Bishop Alan



**St Albans Woodland Burial Ground Open Day** will be on Saturday 16th May from 2-5pm. Do come along and join us for tea and cake and a chat. Offers of cake would be gratefully received. Many thanks. Linda



### **Jesus challenges us to love our neighbour.**

At Christian Aid, we believe he meant our global neighbour too.

We can't sit back and allow poverty to thrive. So together, as thousands of Christian Aid churches, supporters, partners and staff, we work hard to transform people's lives now and inspire lasting hope for the future. Christian Aid Week is the single biggest act of Christian witness in Britain and Ireland. For thousands of churches, it's a way of getting out into the local community, and of answering Jesus' call to help people in need. We each bring what we have – our energy, our voice, our influence, our money, our time, our talents, our prayer, and our worship – and use them to work for a world that looks more like God's Kingdom.

### **Prayer of Approach**

**Faithful God,  
you love us with a father's love; look kindly on  
your children as we gather in praise.  
Pour out your Spirit on all people, that we may  
live faithfully, inspire hope, show love,  
and raise a new song throughout all the earth.  
Amen.**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we have not always lived faithfully. In a world where most women are discriminated against from birth; where women alone, or alone

with children, are vulnerable to terrible abuse and violence; where girl children are at risk of forced marriage, early and dangerous childbirth; where endless work deprives women and girls of health, education and respect;

**We confess: we have not spoken out against the denial of dignity, we have not stood up for the most powerless, we have not acted to prevent the violation of childhood.**

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, We have not always inspired hope. In a world where rising temperatures and increasingly unpredictable weather threaten livelihoods, where droughts and floods hit the poorest hardest, where natural resources are under extreme pressure from over-exploitation,

**We confess: we have made idols of our own comfort and convenience, we have resisted the change that could bring life to others, we have sought to make offerings that cost us nothing.**

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, We have not always shown love. In a world where millions still live with food insecurity, with no reliable ways to feed their families, where the movement of refugees into already poor countries deepens long-term poverty and malnutrition, where lack of access to clean water and sanitation are a major cause of preventable illness,

**We confess: We have settled for injustice when we might make a difference, we have given a little when we could give more, we have refused the claims of community in favour of the demands of self.**

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, you know our weakness and still you are faithful, you know our despair and still you inspire hope, you know our need and still you show love. You are life for our souls, you are the life of the world. Give us the courage and persistence of those who are strong but still need our help.

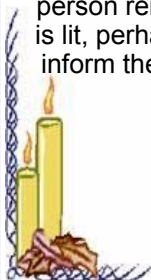
### **Blessing**

*(from the Church in Ethiopia)*

Son of the living God, shine upon us with your unending grace. Grant us wisdom, the power of faith, and unchanging hope. Amen.

### **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



### **Edgar York**

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



### **Forthcoming Funerals**

**The funeral of Bery Boness** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Thursday 14 May