



# Partnership News

## Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

### 10 November 2013 - Ordinary 32

### Remembrance Sunday



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

**Today – 10 November 2013**

**9.30 St Marks - Morning Worship**  
Preacher – The Reverend Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership Team – Mrs Jean Bank  
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds  
**11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship**  
Preacher – The Reverend Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership Team - Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions —Mrs Sue Allen  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

**17 November Ordinary 33**

**9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion**  
Preacher – The Reverend Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership Team – Mrs Margaret Appleton  
Intercessions –Mr Ian Farthing  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds  
**11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion**  
Preacher – The Reverend Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership Team - Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae  
Intercessions — Mrs Claire Peck  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds  
**Readings 1** Malachi 4:1-2a **2** 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13  
**3.** Luke 21:5-19

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

## Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Elizabeth Bean & Family in loving memory of Phil .

The flowers in the Chapel have been given by Gill Williams in memory of David on his birthday.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Dereck Wren in memory of his wife Betty

## A Prayer for Remembrance Sunday



O God our Father,  
help us to realise that all striving  
after justice must begin with  
ourselves, and not with others.

Make us to be those who work for peace and seek  
always to express your love in the world.

Help us to encourage the spirit of reconciliation, by  
being those who forgive, rather than those who try to  
establish their rights.

We ask this in the name of the One who forgave  
those who persecuted him, even Jesus Christ

**The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman**  
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a Vice  
President for Hewlett Packard)

**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.ThisChurch.com

**Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator**  
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.*

**Churchyards Administrator**  
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

**Putnoe Heights Church Centre**  
**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846  
**Leadership Team** Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417  
**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**  
**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892  
treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** 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

**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's

**9.-3.45pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's

**8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery**

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

**9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955

**10.30am U3A Play reading** Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)

**2.00pm U3A Calligraphy** at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)

**12.00 noon 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. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630

**1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make** St Mark's for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk .

**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** Putnoe Heights(see contact details below)

**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 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 Boot Camp** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

**7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson 353518

**7.00pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020

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

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 18 November 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

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Charlotte Williams 07968 207442

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507

**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389

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

**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** (see contact details below)

**1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp.** St Mark's (contacts details below)

**1.3pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's (contacts details below)

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895

**2pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).

**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.

**4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**7.30-8.30pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957

**7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

**6.00-7.00pm Zumba** at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648

**7.00pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455

**7.00pm Laughter Club.** St. Mark's Meeting (meets monthly) 12 Nov & 17 Dec. Cheryl Green 354339 or 07729187399

**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly). 12 November AGM Details Janet King 313946

## Wednesday

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

**10am-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

**10am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. (contact below)

**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks (see contact details below)

**10am U3A Diet and Nutrition-** Putnoe (contact below)

**11.15am U3A Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights

**12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery**

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 20 November Putnoe Heights Office 365630

**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)

**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811

**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** at St Marks.(see contact details below)

**2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan** Putnoe Heights

**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966

**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 20 November Wendy Waters 401834

**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994.

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Yvonne Blain 350241 or Brian Sallows 407725

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

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

**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 November 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 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

### Thursday

**8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery**

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

**9.30am Spanish for total beginners.** at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

**9.45am Chat and Play** St. Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers. 0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07932616468

**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

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic** at St Mark's 1st and 3rd Contact 267444

**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

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St. Mark's (contact below)

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Mark's Mary Rich 272470

**5.45pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

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

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

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

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

**7.30pm Gentle Birthing** St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231

**8 -10pm Bedford Folk Dancers** (formerly Barn dancers)

Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week. Except August. Next meeting 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. Mr Newton 01525 378193

**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass 294220

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

### Friday

**8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery**

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647

**10am -12.00 U3A Photography** St Marks. (4th week) (see contact details below)

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St. Marks (see contact details below)

**2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist** St Marks. (contact details below)

**2pm U3A Italian**-Putnoe Heights (contact details below)

**2pm U3A Gardening** - Putnoe Heights

**4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance** Esther

Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994

**7.00pm Meditation** St Mark's. Cheryl Green

07729187399

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

### Saturday

**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.** 1st Sunday Feb/ Apr/Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

**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.

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

**Messy Church Dates** Weds 20 Nov,

**U3A** For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council –**

**St Mark's Leadership Team -** 21 January 2014

**Annual Congregational Meetings**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -**

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting**

**Putnoe Church Council -**

**Pastoral Group Meeting -** 10 January at 10.00am

**Churchyard Committee -**

**Commemoration Service** Sunday 3 November 3 pm

**Circuit meeting - Deanery Meeting -** 14 November

**Woodland Burial Trustees–**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –** 10th

February 2014 1.30pm

**New Year Lunch** 19 January at Putnoe

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



# Remembrance Sunday



In our churches this week we remember all those who have given their lives for the peace and freedom we enjoy today. We will join with people across the nation to pause to reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave service men and women. We will observe the collective act of two minutes silence as we stand together and reflect on the price of freedom.

That price is still being paid with thousands of coalition soldiers killed in Afghanistan alone. More than 12,000 British Servicemen and women have been killed or injured on active service since 1945.

## **Sentence of Scripture -John 15:13**

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

## **Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read we pray**

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord

## **First Bible Reading - Micah 4: 1-8**

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the high and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever." "In that day," declares the Lord, "I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. I will make the lame a remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The Lord will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and for ever. As for you, O watchtower of the flock, O stronghold of the Daughter of Zion, the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to the Daughter of Jerusalem. (This is the Word of the Lord— **Thanks be to God**)

## **Second Reading - Romans 8:31– end**

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

## **Third Reading 1 Corinthians Chapter 15:50 - end**

I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound,

the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain  
(This is the Word of the Lord— **Thanks be to God**)

### Post Communion Prayer

Lord of heaven, in this Eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect: as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Hymns *(Please distribute Remembrance Day Worship and Hymns and Psalms)*

1. Praise my soul 13 (Tune: Praise my soul)
2. The National Anthem (back of hymn book)
3. Blest are the pure in heart 724 (Franconia)
4. O worship the Lord 505 (Was Lebet)
5. Guide me O thou great 437 (Tune Cwm Rhonda)
6. And can it be 216 (Sagina)

### Remembrance Sunday **The Cenotaph Charlotte Mew, 1919 first published 1919**

Not yet will those measureless fields be green again  
Where only yesterday the wild sweet blood of wonderful youth was shed;  
There is a grave whose earth must hold too long, too deep a stain,  
Though for ever over it we may speak as proudly as we may tread.  
But here, where the watchers by lonely hearths from the thrust of an  
inward sword have more slowly bled,  
We shall build the Cenotaph: Victory, winged, with Peace, winged too, at the column's head.  
And over the stairway, at the foot -- oh! here, leave desolate, passionate hands to spread  
Violets, roses, and laurel, with the small, sweet, tinkling country things  
Speaking so wistfully of other Springs,  
From the little gardens of little places where son or sweetheart was born and bred  
In splendid sleep, with a thousand brothers  
To lovers - to mothers  
Here, too, lies he: Under the purple, the green, the red,  
It is all young life: it must break some women's hearts to see  
Such a brave, gay coverlet to such a bed!  
Only, when all is done and said,  
God is not mocked and neither are the dead  
For this will stand in our Market-place -  
Who'll sell, who'll buy?  
(Will you or I  
Lie each to each with the better grace?)  
While looking into every busy whore's and huckster's face  
As they drive their bargains, is the Face  
Of God: and some young, piteous, murdered face.



On 11 November this week is Armistice Day or Remembrance Day. At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the Armistice began that was the end of World War One. In 1919, on the first anniversary of the Armistice, a service was held and now each year on the Sunday nearest to 11 November, at 11 o'clock in the morning, a Remembrance service is held at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London. The Cenotaph (*which means empty tomb*) was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in Portland Stone and unveiled by King George V on 11 November 1920. It replaced the original and identical wood and plaster cenotaph erected in 1919 for the Allied victory parade. The first Cenotaph was covered in wreaths to the dead and those missing in the war. Although it was originally to commemorate the First World War heroes, it is now used to commemorate all British troops who have died in wars. We are familiar with many poems inspired by war written by men, less so the writings of a woman. The

Cenotaph written by Charlotte Mew (1869-1928) was first published in 1919 after the end of the First World War. The poem is about the enormous loss and the ongoing pain of war, about sacrifice and futility and scars.

Reading the poem from the start we are captured by the words

*'Not yet will those measureless fields be green again'*

War leaves unresolved grief and pain and as the battle fields bear the scars and wounds of war, so has the beautiful colour of the green grass been removed. Wounded minds bore the deep scars of war. Nowadays we understand post traumatic stress, in the First World War men were shot before their pain was understood. When the Cenotaph was built, the suffering of war was fresh in the minds of all concerned, healing would take a long time.

Charlotte Mew writes *'there is a grave whose earth must hold too, too deep a stain.'*

This woman poet speaks profoundly and full of regret concerning the suffering borne by earth itself and inflicted by this terrible great war. Nature too is stained by war, made barren and is 'too' a victim. The heart and minds of those who lived through the conflict would not quickly or easily recover, she understands that the damage is so extensive that it has affected even earth.

The poignant line *'an inward sword have more slowly bled'* recalls to mind the words spoken to Mary by the prophet Simeon who told the mother of Jesus that 'a sword shall pierce your own soul too.' Jesus was pierced with a spear drawing blood from his side, his mother must surely have suffered that *'inward sword'* as she watched the death of her beloved son. Those who waited back home by *'lonely hearths'* knew the slow death of hope which pierced their inner being as loved ones spilled their blood on the fields of France.

And so *'We shall build the Cenotaph'* shows the country coming together in an act of solidarity.

Wreaths and flowers are brought in an outpouring of national grief and respect, *'Violets, roses and laurel, with the small, sweet, twinkling country things'*

This reminds me of the mountain of spontaneous floral tributes left in London following the death of Princess Diana. The horror and destructive images of war contrasted with the flowers which nature produces when peace prevails. Young brave, gay lives are laid to rest on a bed made with the covering of *'purple, green and red'* flowers, the colours symbolic of the vitality of their spent youth .

However Charlotte Mew is prophetic and makes no mistake that this war has somehow healed humanity of the urge to kill. Note the strange length of the lines of the poem, some short others long. The usual and often trite poetic patterns are forsaken for irregular lines, lacking conformity, perhaps mocking the uniform or military discipline of war. There is a sense that all is not well, no public ceremony will straighten out the crooked legacy of war or the twisted nature of humanity.

Then she brings in God, *'God is not mocked and neither are the dead.'* Therein lies the wastefulness of war for nothing has changed to justify broken *'women's hearts'*. Life continues as before with *'whore's and hucksters.'* Young lives have been murdered and God is together with them, there on the last line. The Cenotaph today is inscribed with the words 'The Glorious Dead.' Charlotte Mew uses the words *'young, piteous, murdered face.'* She is not disrespectful of the soldiers, but has clear anger towards how they have suffered, there is no glory in the waste of their lives which have been taken from them.

Charlotte Mew seems brutally aware of the horrors of war, no soothing to be found in the passing flags and marching bands. Life must have been extraordinarily difficult for one refusing to draw comfort from pretence. She took her own life in 1928 by drinking Lysol, a cleaning disinfectant. Sadly of course she was correct in expressing the futility of war in this powerful poem. The Great War, never was 'the war to end wars', the Cenotaph is inscribed in Roman numerals with not one but two dates 1939 & 1945. We should never be under any illusion that war solves problems or that it is anything other than the last resort. *Charles Royden*

### **Meditation** Why do we release doves ?

We were asked last week why we released doves at the commemoration service. The dove is a sacred bird for Christians, a symbol of purity and innocence and most importantly a reassurance of the presence of God. As we watch them fly we are reminded that at significant times God used a dove to communicate his blessing.

1. It was a dove which returned with an olive branch to give God's blessing of peace and victory over death to Noah as the waters of the flood subsided. (*Genesis 8*)
2. King David in his old age spoke of his wish to escape the pain and trouble and to have 'the wings of a dove' to fly away and be at rest. (*Psalms 55*)





## St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre 23 November 2013

It is now 2 weeks to go to our Annual Christmas Craft Fayre. We need a lot of help in the next coming weeks with leaflet delivering, selling of raffle tickets etc. Below is the list of items:-

The Raffle tickets are on the table in the Foyer this morning. Please take a few to sell to your friends and family. It is a good way of advertising the Fayre. We also have some posters and we would be grateful for any help in distributing them. There is a list of potential locations, and if you can think of other sites/ places that are not included please add them to the list. We are having the usual Church stalls again and donated items will be greatly appreciated.

**New Tombola:** Please make sure that donated items are new and unused.

**Cake stall :** Homemade cakes, please see Milly Rollinson for further details

**Secondhand bookstall:** Books in good condition plus any jigsaws (with all the pieces) please.

**Indoor/Outdoor Plant Stall :** Any queries please see Marion Prior or Jean Bank.

**Refreshments:** Donations of tray bakes to sell with our teas and coffees. If you can help on the day in any way with these stalls we would be very grateful. Your help is vital in making the Craft Fayre a very enjoyable and successful day. Any queries that I can help you with, then please see me in the Foyer after this morning's service. Thank you, Avril Williams



**Date for your Diary** The Quiz will take place at St Mark's on Saturday 16 November. Tickets £7 available from Church Office. Do come and make up a team.

**Dementia Support in Bedfordshire:** Alzheimer's Society provides a vital confidential network of support services for people with dementia, their families and their carers. If you are affected by dementia, the following services are available to you:

- Peer Support – a support group for people with dementia and their carers
- Singing for the Brain – a singing group for people with dementia and their carers
- Cognitive stimulation Group – specifically for people with dementia
- Dementia support – support and information to people living with dementia, their carers and families
- National Dementia Support line: 0300 222 1122 - Bedford office: Alzheimer's Society, 2a Duke Street, Bedford, MK40 3HR Phone: 01234 327380 email: bedfordshireandluton@alzheimers.org.uk

**Creating Safer Space.** London Rd Methodist Church, Tuesday 19 November 6.45 for 7.00pm until 10.00pm. Training session available to all churches in the North Beds Circuit. Suitable for church stewards, local preachers, office volunteers and keyholders. Details from Mairi Perks 01525 860797 mairiperks@btopenworld.com or Dave Heseldine 01462 013284 david.heseldine@methodist.org.uk

## St Mark's Weekly Offering Envelopes

Replacement sets of Weekly Offering Envelopes are available after the service this morning. If you don't currently use the envelope scheme or would like to find out more about regular giving to the Church please contact Jim Williams tel. 01234 360605.

## Mission 2013 Ethiopian Honey Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to this year's Autumn Mission project. Across the Partnership to date we have raised over £2300, and there still a few weeks to go before we formally close the appeal so we would expect the final total to be even higher. Please do take a letter and envelope from one of the church offices if you would still like to make a donation, and fill in the Gift Aid form on the letter if you are a UK taxpayer. Thank you once again for your generosity, it makes a real difference to the people and the communities we are supporting with our prayers and financial offerings.

## Open House Children In Need Fundraising Event

Open House will be holding a coffee morning on Wednesday 13th November between 10.30am and 11.45am to raise funds for Children in Need. On sale there will be tea, coffee, homemade cakes, pickles, jams as well as jewellery and place mats made by Open House members and other goodies for sale.

**Coffee Morning at Anjulita Court** Thursday 14 November from 11 to 12.30pm. Come along and join the residents for coffee and a chat. There will be a stall selling Christmas cards, calendars etc in aid of Arthritis Research UK. All welcome.

## Yamaha Portatone PSR– 3 Keyboard for sale;

Only been used 2 or 3 times. Donation to church funds. Please contact St. Mark's church office.

**Bishops Books** The magnificent book by Bishop Alan 'Saints and Pilgrims' has arrived and those who have ordered signed copies can collect them this morning from Charlie or from St Mark's Office. Please make cheques for £20 payable to St Mark's Church.



## Xmas Leaflet Delivery

We would really appreciate any help which you can offer to get out our Christmas leaflets which have the times of the services as well. They can be taken from the table in the foyer

3. At the birth of Jesus it was their purity which allowed them to be used as an offering. (*Luke 2:24*).
  4. At the baptism of Jesus the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove to show God's presence and blessing. (*Mark 1:10*)
  5. Jesus himself encouraged his disciples to be innocent or gentle as doves (*Matthew 10:16*)
- The doves which we released flew overnight back to St Albans, apparently stopping at a suitable resting place in the dark. we explained to the children that although the doves flew out of sight they had not disappeared, only out of our sight. So our loved ones when they die leave our sight but they do not leave our minds and they do not disappear. we believe that like the doves they return home, to God who made them. As we release doves we pray for that same blessing to be upon us and our loved ones.

### Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

Ever-living God we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all and remain with you always.

**For our nation** Grant, O Lord, that our people may devote themselves unselfishly to the common good, giving much and taking little. Grant that we may love your Word and seek to obey your commandments, so that justice and peace, unity and concord, may reign in our land. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**When you start Christmas shopping please shop at [www. ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)**

Thank you for shopping using the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases.



### Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Pamela Margaretha Cullen** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 11.30am on Monday 11 November.

**The funeral of Alan O Dell** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 11 November at 2.00pm

**The funeral of Marjorie Nora Fleck** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 12 November at 11.30am

**The funeral of Robert Henderson** will take place at the Crematorium on Wednesday 13 November at 12.15p.m.

**The funeral of Howard Lawrence** will take place on Monday 25 November 2.30pm at Priory Methodist Church.

**The funeral of Doreen Elizabeth Monico** will take place at St Mark's Church on Friday 22 November at 1.15pm

**The funeral of Nicola Sykes** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on Wednesday 20 November

### 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.

**June Mary Lewis  
Sheila Joy Pearson  
Christopher James Rolfe Henderson  
Elizabeth Steed**

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

