



# Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

11 August 2013 - Ordinary 19



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

## Today 11 August — Ordinary 19

### 9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship with Baptism

Preacher – Revd Jeremy Arthern  
Leadership – Mr Edward Parry  
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger

### 11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Jeremy Arthern  
Leadership – Mrs Sue Allen  
Intercessions — Mrs Sylvia Cohen

## 18 August — Ordinary 20

### 9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mr. Michael Ovenden  
Intercessions – Mrs. Delia Shephard

### 11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mrs. Jean Kirk  
Intercessions — Mr. Alan Bayliss

**Readings** 1. Isaiah 5:1-7 2. Hebrews 11:29-12:2  
3. Luke 12:49-56

**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 Putnoe Heights Church this week  
have been given by Christina and Maurice Halsey in  
loving memory of their granddaughter Davine Stuart.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been  
given by Lynne & Noel Seymour to celebrate the  
Christening of Cameron George Anderson Holl, the  
safe arrival and addition to our family of Cleo Rae  
Benney and to celebrate the 35th Wedding  
Anniversary of Lynne & Noel.

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## Welcome

We especially welcome to our service at St Mark's  
the family and friends of Cameron George Anderson  
Holl who has been brought for baptism.

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## Prayer for Today

Above all things, O Lord,  
let us rejoice in your presence.  
Let our hearts love you  
and let our mouths proclaim you.  
Let our souls hunger for you  
and let our whole being desire you;  
until we are one with you,  
for you are God, blessed for ever. Amen.  
*Anselm of Canterbury (c.1033-1109)*

### 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 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

**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

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)  
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685  
**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**9.-3.45pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
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** St Mark's (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Calligraphy** at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)  
**12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris  
[youth@thisischurch.com](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com) 365630  
**1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make** For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– [chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk) .  
**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** (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– 19 August Judith Stanton. 823313  
**7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club** St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218. First session starts 23 September.  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567  
**Putnoe Heights Children and Youth meeting** - Monday 23rd September

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016  
**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)  
**1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles** 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552  
**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  
**6.30pm MT Karate** (all ages) Karen King 07941264885  
**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455  
**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** (Meets fortnightly). Strawberry Tea 20 August at St.Mark's at 2.30pm Details Janet King 313946

## Wednesday

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.  
**9.30am Discover & Do** (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666  
**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**  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 11 September 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** 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 18 September. 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.  
**6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen King 079412 64885  
**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 monthly Mrs O Holt

266004

**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  
4 September. 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

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights.  
Valerie Capon 356306

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on  
the information table.

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green 244970

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

**10.00-11.30am Gentle Yoga** For more details contact  
Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305

**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 363283

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic** 1st and 3rd Thursdays  
St. Mark's 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 5 September. All  
welcome, cost £2 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

**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

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

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

**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

**6.45pm 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

**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 18 Sept; Weds 16 Oct; 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** – 8 October

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 10 September

**Annual Congregational Meetings**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 10 October

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting**

**Putnoe Church Council** - 14 Oct

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -

**Commemoration Service** Sunday 3 November 3 pm

**Circuit meeting** -

**Deanery Meeting** - 14 November

**Woodland Burial Trustees**–

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** –

**New Year Lunch 19 January at Putnoe**

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

# Ordinary 19

## Sentence of Scripture — 1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

**Before we read we pray** Let your

merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them

to ask such things as shall please you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Common Worship*



## First Reading— Isaiah 1:1,10-20

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah! "The multitude of your sacrifices-- what are they to me?" says the LORD. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—I cannot bear your evil assemblies. Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood; wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow. "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

## Second Reading — Hebrews 11:1-3. 8-16

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith Abraham, even though he was past age--and Sarah herself was barren--was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

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

## Gospel Reading – Luke 12:32-40

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night.

But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." (This is the word of the Lord . **Thanks be to God** )

**Hymns** (*Please distribute Morning Worship, Baptism Booklets and Hymns and Psalms*)

1. In the cross of Christ I glory: 167
2. Have faith in God, my heart 675
3. I sing the almighty power of God 334
4. Father whose everlasting love (*Tune Melcombe*) 520
5. Forth in thy name O Lord I go 381

## Commentary

Our Gospel reading today begins with the words 'Don't be afraid.' Jesus spends a lot of time telling people not to worry or be anxious, he knows what we are like. The disciples are told not to worry about their daily bread, now they are told not to worry about kingdom inheritance. He calls them 'little flock' an Old Testament reference and a reminder that he is the shepherd who will lead his sheep where they need to go.

It is a human thing to try and accumulate and the more that we do so the safer, more confident we will be about the future. Jesus now encourages his disciples to dispose of their goods, 'Sell that which you have and give gifts to the needy.'

This is completely counter intuitive. Last week we heard the parable of the rich fool who would tear down his barns and build bigger ones for his large harvest. Jesus called him, and people like him, fools because they "store up treasure for themselves, but are not rich in what matters to God" (12:21).

We return today to talk about money and treasure. Jesus instructs us how we can have an "inexhaustible treasure in heaven," which is indestructible and not subject to decay by selling and disposal rather than by purchase and acquisition.

Luke, both in this Gospel and in the book of Acts, emphasizes the virtue of charity (*Luke 3:10-11; 6:38; 10:33-35; 11:41; 19:8; Acts 6:1-4; 10:4; 11:29-30; 20:35*). He also tells how the first disciples exchanged private ownership for common ownership (*Acts 2:44-46; 4:32-37*). It is a radically faith-filled approach to money and property. None of this makes sense apart from faith that God has already established the kingdom and has invited us to begin life under Kingdom Rules. Since the giving of alms generates treasure in heaven, the wise person will give generously. The gift of earthly things which are subject to theft and decay, builds an investment in heaven - a purse that does not wear out.

Jesus' concern for the poor and oppressed flows throughout Luke. In his inaugural address in the synagogue in Nazareth (4:14ff), he quotes from Isaiah and announces that he has been sent "to bring glad tidings to the poor" (4:18). His healing powers benefit the poor, the oppressed and those shunned by society, lepers, the woman with the hemorrhage, the sinful woman, the dead, etc.

Jesus' miracles and teaching stress the importance of the poor for his disciples. As we read today, his followers are to be detached from possessions, "sell your belongings and give alms." He chose his disciples from the poor and outcast and sends them on mission, not dependent on their own possessions, but with the assurance that the Father has already given them the kingdom. They are, unlike the rich fool of last week's gospel, already "rich in what matters to God."

Jesus reminds his disciples that a concern for property closes us to God's call. "For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart." When wealthy people entered the early church they shared their wealth to help the poor. Jesus taught that the rich, who are attached to their possessions and detached from the poor around them, would not sit at the eschatological banquet – but the poor and outcast would (14:16-24).

Today's parable focuses on Jesus' return and the need for our fidelity and preparedness as we wait. The master is returning from a wedding. In light of the marriage customs of the time, the master could be returning with his bride. This would make the master's actions even more startling. The custom would mean

celebration and feasting upon the couple's arrival. The servants should have been prepared, not just with a quick bite to eat, but with a major celebration.

Jesus has exhorted his disciples not to be afraid because their needs are in God's hands. Then he shifts to urging watchfulness, faithful service, preparedness for his expected coming.

The parable surprises us. Normally we expect servants to wait on masters and mistresses, but when this master comes and knocks he hitches up his robes and invites the servants to the table and then serves them! The Messiah has come, Jesus says, to serve us and not be served.

If we had been reading the King James Version of the Bible today we would have remembered the words of Luke not as 'be dressed ready', but rather as 'Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning'

The reference to girded loins recalls the passover experience of the early Hebrews (*Ex 12:11*). Girded loins means fastening your clothes in such a way that you wouldn't trip over them if running, or get caught up in them if working. It's an expression meaning heightened anticipation and readiness for action. The early Hebrews girded their loins because they could smell freedom. Be like that, Jesus says.

Not only must loins be girded, lamps must be burning! The lamp in our photograph today is an original from about the time of Jesus which I photographed in a roman villa. The thing which amazes me is that they ever managed to keep these alight at all. The important feature of oil lamps - as opposed to our electric lights is that oil lamps require constant attention. Wicks must be trimmed and oil replenished, even a well-maintained lamp takes time to light and constant care and attention. So it should be with us, a constant state of preparedness, living the Kingdom.

Be like those who wait for "their lord (kurios)" coming from the wedding banquet. The word kurios is used twice (*12: 36, 37*) and clearly refers to Jesus in each case. Moreover, he is coming from a wedding banquet, an event of great festivity and gaiety. Indeed, the wedding banquet is an important biblical symbol for the Great Banquet at the end of time (*Is 25:6, Rev. 19: 7-9*).

The Lord is not grim-faced as he "comes and knocks." He will not come with a fearsome accounting of one's misdeeds. He will not come with pious exhortations to try harder. He will not come to put anyone in their place. Quite the contrary. He's coming from a party. He has a spring in his step and a song in his heart. To those who are watching for him, "he will gird (himself)"--that is, he too is in a condition of heightened anticipation and readiness for action--except that, in his case, his action will be to "sit down with them, and drawing near, will serve them"! *Charles Royden*

## **Meditation**

When you have watched tennis at Wimbledon or seen a football or rugby match on the television you will doubtless have marvelled at the precision of the stripes cut into the grass; so straight and so even. But have you ever tried doing it yourself? A lot of modern mowers don't do stripes but if you have got one with a cylinder you are likely to have tried and to have been disappointed with the result. It is incredibly difficult to achieve stripes that are both straight and equal in width. The secret of the straight line is not to look at the mower to see what you are doing but to fix your eyes on a point beyond the edge of the lawn and keep walking towards that point. You never reach the chosen point but it has a tremendous impact on the way you cut the grass. In the epistle for today the writer of Hebrews shows how faith in God lay behind all the achievements of the great figures in Jewish history. "All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised, they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance ( Hebrews 11:13) Living by faith means living as if you are cutting the lawn; knowing where you want to get to and keeping your eyes fixed on that point. In this life you will never get there but the values and attitudes taught by Jesus, the determination to get closer to God will have influenced everything you do. People who know where they are going will always achieve more than those who have no aim in life. *Jeremy Arthern*

## **Prayers for Sunday**

Eternal God, in Christ you make yourself our guest. Amid all our cares and concerns make us attentive to your voice and alert to your presence, that we may prize your word above all else; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, you are 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, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Augustine of Hippo (354-430)*

Knit my soul to your own, O Christ, so that I may never be separated from you. Only in you am I a person fully alive. Only in your light can I see and only in your strength can I pursue my way. To you I come, O wisdom without end. In you I rest, O mercy without limit. To you I give all praise, O crown of all majesty.

Amen *Mechtild of Magdeburg, 1210-80*

**“Foot Prints Walk 11 August 2013.** This is a 3¼ mile walk starting at 14.30 hours from Colmworth Village through the new country park with a few surviving elm trees and is mainly on good field edge paths. No stiles and easy walking. Park carefully near St Deny’s Church (OS Map ref. 108586) or alternatively along Honeydon Road where there is a marked path back to the church. Further details contact Pam or Ray 01234 305695.”

### **Highland Fling**

On August 14 John and Janet Day are setting off for the Scottish Highlands in their 1929 MG to participate in an MG gathering based at Aviemore and will attempt to cover 1400 miles in ten days. It will be a considerable challenge to complete the rally in such an ancient car and they anticipate some adventures along the way! They are seeking sponsorship for this epic journey with all proceeds being donated to St John’s at Moggerhanger. If you would like to sponsor their “Highland Fling” there is an official form in the foyer. Very many thanks.

### **Action for Children September House to House Collection**

Action for Children has a 140 year history of working with children, young people and parents living in tough circumstances. Today it does this through its family centres located throughout the UK including North Bedfordshire. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church where it has its roots.

Our annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark’s Church is responsible for covering the Brickhill area and last year our 13 collectors raised £572 (inc. Gift Aid). If you could spare a few hours during early September to distribute and then collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)

### **The Bedford and District Christian Aid**

Committee are looking for someone who could act as Secretary for two meetings per year, plus responding to mail coming from Christian Aid Oxford. Computer skills and internet access would be an advantage. Anyone who may be interested please speak to Carolyn Morris.

**Summer holidays at Putnoe Heights Church:** Storybox, Storybox plus and Junior church children and their friends aged 0 to 13 years

from both churches are invited to meet during the summer holidays on:

Monday 12 August, Monday 19 August.

We will meet together for lunch from 12.00 to 12.30pm; everyone please will you bring a packed lunch as our Storybox teams will be having a break. Drinks will be provided. Various themed activities and games from 1pm to 2.30pm. All children must be accompanied by an adult. If anyone is available to help with these sessions that would be really helpful. Please can you let me know. Carolyn Morris.

**Bowlers Required** The annual cricket match between Churches has slipped into history, but there is an interest in a Bowls afternoon for teams representing local churches. This has now been arranged for Sunday 22nd September 2013 at 2.30pm with teams from St Peters, Putnoe Heights, St Mark’s and St Andrews ,to be held at Priory Bowls Club who have offered their facilities. Anyone interested in this can you please put your name down on the list in the foyer. For more information please contact Ray Seymour 305695 or Valerie Edwards on 409508.



**Suitcases urgently needed** for Yarlwood Immigration Removal Centre (YRC) When residents of YRC are returned to their country of origin they often do not have suitcases so have to take their belongings in several carrier bags. If you have any surplus medium size suitcases, or rucksack type

luggage please consider donating them. Please ensure the zips and handles work, light ones with wheels are best. They can be dropped off at YRC or taken to the Miracle Church of God, Alexander Road, Bedford; or phone Miracle Church of God secretaries on 01234 215081; or Pastor Lonnie 0773889455; or given to Wendy Waters.

### **Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2013**

Following the success of last year’s donation of 38 boxes by Messy Church and the wider congregation, we will be packing boxes at our Messy Church session on 16 October.

We will be happy to accept donated items from now on. Please see the Messy Church notice board for details of what can and cannot be put in the boxes. If you require further information please speak to Wendy Waters or Jean Bank.

**Bedfordshire Essex and Hertfordshire District Methodist Women in Britain** Service of induction for Margaret Torkildsen as District MWiB President and Launch of the President's Project "Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund" will be held at St Andrew's Methodist Church, The Stow, Harlow CM20 3AF on Saturday 7th September. Refreshments from 10.am, please bring a packed lunch. See poster in foyer for more details.

**Our Mission Appeal 2013.** This year will be launched at harvest. We will be joining the St Albans Diocese in funding a project in Ethiopia that is teaching farmers about better beekeeping methods. Our gifts will make a real difference. New beehives and improved beekeeping skills are having a life-changing impact on people and communities in Ethiopia. Bees are vital pollinators; flying from flower to flower, they make connections that are fundamental to the life of our planet.

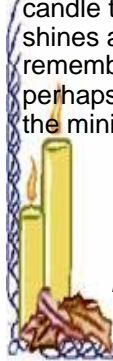
The Bishop's Harvest Appeal is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our connected world and to make lifechanging, loving and lasting connections with people in Ethiopia.

**Action for Children** Will you join other box holders in the League of Light and shine hope into the lives of vulnerable children? The scheme began in 1932 and this year the lantern shaped home collecting box has been re-launched. We are grateful for all donations, large or small, I can supply you with a box if you add your name to the list in the Church foyer. You can make a difference to the children and young people we support. Nationwide box holders raise £500,000 annually. thank you. M. Standley

**Harvest Festival** this year is on Sunday 29 September. This is a great time to invite along friends and we also welcome uniformed organisations and church groups

**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.



**Aphrodite Hubbard**

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

**Junior Church** meets again 8 September. **Story Box** starts again on 12 September. **Chat and Make** starts again on 16 September. **Chat and Play** has a meeting on 22 August and starts again weekly on 12 Sept

**Circuit Jigsaw** At the launch of the North Bedfordshire Circuit a 'Circuit Jigsaw' was introduced; each piece of this jigsaw represents either a church or aspect of Circuit life. On its progress around the Circuit the jigsaw has now arrived at Putnoe, where it will remain for a few weeks and will then be passed to St. Marks and thence to other Circuit churches.

## Telecare



**Telecare** is a non intrusive way of us being able to see if everything is alright or if you would like a visit. lease sign up by giving your name to one of the

ministers, or tell us of anybody that you think might like to be included and we will get in touch.



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**Forthcoming Funerals**

*There are no forthcoming funerals*