



# Partnership News

## Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church 11 January 2015



### 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

### 11 January - Baptism of Jesus

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

Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden.

Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean.

Intercessions - Ministers.

Organist - Mr John Mower.

**11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship**

Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden.

Leadership - Mrs Jenny Snelson.

Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen.

Organist - Mr John Mower.

### 18 January - Epiphany 2

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

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills.

Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank.

Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott.

Organist - Miss Marion Prior

**11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion**

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills.

Leadership - Mr Barry Southam.

Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen.

Organist - Miss Marion Prior

**Readings 1** Exodus 24: 3-11 **2.** Jeremiah 31:31-34

**3** Rom 12:1- 2, Jn 15: 1-10

Midweek Holy Communion at St Mark's Chapel every

Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir Willam 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 Gwen Beswick in memory of her loving husband Peter and by Irene McKenzie in memory of her dearly beloved husband on his 90 Birthday.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Mike Cooper in loving memory of Helen.

*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.*

### Prayer for Sunday

Lord Jesus Christ, Wisdom and Word of God, dwell in our hearts, we pray, by your most Holy Spirit, that out of the abundance of our hearts our mouths may speak your praise. Amen.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

#### 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 Monday to Thursday 9am - 5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm**

**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

**Centre Manager** Geoff Gypps 365630

**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** - Mrs Jean Bank 355698

**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](http://www.hazeldeneheights.com)

**8.30-12.30pm St Mark's Pre-School Nursery**

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

**9.00-3.45pm 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 M. Berry 211955

**10.30am U3A Play reading** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**11am-12noon Pilates** St. Mark's. Liz Mason

07816522200 (starts 8 Sept.)

**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 12 January

**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](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com) 365630

**2pm 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 Emily Taverner 01234

792013

**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](mailto:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com) Tel Tom 07974566509

**6.30pm Boot Camp** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor

341152 / 07976259081

**7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's (1st week in month)

Pat Nicholson 353518

**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— 19 January 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.

Lorrie Pearson 01234 340473

**11.15am 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

**2pm 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.

**4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe

Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**7.15-8.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher

07891879571

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

**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 3 February Indoor Games with raffle. 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.

**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 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

**10am U3A Diet and Nutrition-** Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

**10am U3A Diet and Nutrition-** Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

**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 14 January Putnoe Heights Office 365630

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

Mr Barnes 261811

**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** at St Marks.Contact Janet King 313946

**2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights

Mrs Webster 856966

**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 21 January.

2014 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

**6-7pm 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

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 3446008**.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 21 January 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) Greta Cansfield 215016

### Thursday

**8.30am-12.30pm St. Mark's Pre School Nursery**  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights. Will meet again on 8 January 2015

Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

**9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus.** at Putnoe Heights

**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 Restarts 15 January 2015

**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 Restarts 8 January 2015

**1.30 - 3.00pm 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 07805408811.

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

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

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

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

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

**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

**7.30pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Susan Perugi 300219

### Friday

**8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery**  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**8.30am Diabetic Centre** St Mark's (1st week in month) Deborah Hennessey 792013

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647 (9.30 am—3.30pm from January.)

**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-8.15pm Stars School of Dance** 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.** 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.

**2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls** at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th Sunday. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

**Messy Church Dates** 15 Oct,19 Nov,10 Dec



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – 10 February 2015

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 26 January 2015

**Annual Congregational Meetings** - 26 April 2014

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** –27 January 2015

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** –20 January 2015 at Church Meeting Room at 7.30pm

**Putnoe Church Council** - 19 February 2015 at 7.30pm

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Commemoration Service** -

**Circuit meeting** –

**Deanery meeting** -

**Woodland Burial Trustees**–

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** - Monday 19 January 2015

*Please advise St Mark's Church Office*



# The Baptism of Jesus

## Sentence of Scripture - Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*  
And a voice came from  
heaven: "You are my Son,  
whom I love; with you I am  
well pleased." Mark 1

## First Bible Reading Genesis 1: 1 - 5

In the beginning God created  
the heavens and the earth.  
Now the earth was formless  
and empty, darkness was  
over the surface of the deep,  
and the Spirit of God was  
hovering over the waters.

And God said, 'Let there be  
light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'day', and the darkness he called 'night'. And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

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

## Second Bible Reading - Acts 19: 1 - 7

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

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

## Gospel Reading - Mark 1: 4 - 11

And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

## Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus saw  
the Holy  
Spirit  
descend as  
a dove



## Hymns for Sunday

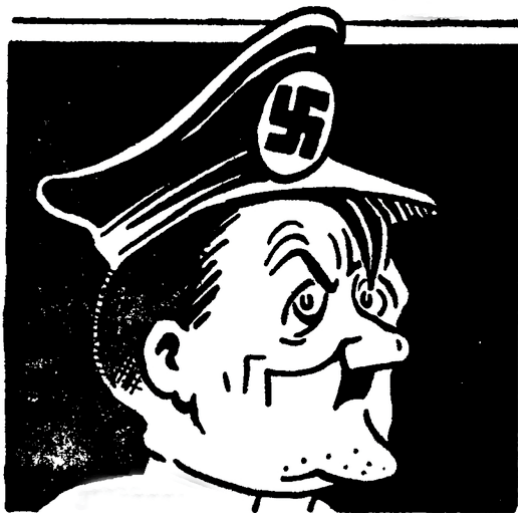
1. Songs of thankfulness and praise *St Georges Windsor*
2. Birth brings a promise of new life awaking *Epiphany Hymn*
3. Wild and lone the prophet's voice *Aberystwyth*
4. When Jesus came to Jordan *Cruger*
5. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness *Was lesbet*

## Commentary

Why has God taken human form and been born in Bethlehem? We have just celebrated the birth of Jesus and now we move quickly to think about his baptism as an adult. It is a big leap forward in time but it is very helpful because the baptism of Jesus tells us much about why has been born. When all the people were baptized by John, Jesus was baptized too. We get a real glimpse of who Jesus is by the fact that he was baptized. This is the kind of Messiah that Jesus will be.

We know that Jesus will in many ways be different from John. He is a real contrast from the austerity of John, the anger of John and the harsh teaching of John. Jesus is a man who eats and drinks and loves to be with people, enjoying their company. There is none of the remote prophet seen in John, wearing coarse clothes and living in the desert. Indeed so different was Jesus from John and what John expected, that it is little wonder that when John was in prison he sent word to Jesus to ask whether Jesus was really the Messiah or should they expect another!

Nevertheless, in spite of all the differences between John and Jesus, there is in the baptism of Jesus a recognition that Jesus wants to be associated with John, not with the religious authorities. Jesus is not found in the palace of the king, he is in the same river as the ordinary people, who were acutely aware of their own poverty, both spiritual and material. In the baptism Jesus gets into the river with ordinary folks and the scene is set for a Messiah who will have nothing to do with the trappings of the religious and social elite. *Charles Royden*



## Meditation

The words "Je suis Charlie", have become a rallying call to unite the world behind the murdered staff of the small satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. Something like Private Eye in the UK, the magazine has been irreverent towards religions, politicians and others, but nobody would have expected the outcome when its offices were attacked by masked Islamic Fundamentalists in bullet proof vests who conducted assassinations and sprayed bullets from their AK47 assault rifles.

Voltaire was a French writer of the 18th century. He was an outspoken advocate for freedom of religion and of expression, despite the risk this placed him in under the strict censorship laws of the time. As a satirical polemicist, he frequently made use of his works to criticize intolerance, religious dogma, and

the French institutions of his day. He used his wit to attack religion, including Roman Catholic, Jewish and Islam. In many ways he was just like those who were killed in the offices of Charlie Hebdo. One of the phrases attributed to Voltaire (Friends of Voltaire 1906) expresses his attitude very well  
*'I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.'*

It means that we might not like the articles or drawings in Charlie Hebdo, but they should be allowed to publish them because such dissent is the mark of freedom. The Christmas edition of Private Eye poked fun at the Virgin Birth and might have caused much insult to some Christians. However if we ban such cartoons then we might wonder where it will stop. Cartoons are one of the greatest weapons against those who would silence freedom. They were used against Hitler, who couldn't stand to be caricatured. It is said that the very sight of a cartoon showing his toothbrush moustache sent him into a frothing rage.

However there are now 17 dead, dozens injured. There are remarkable stories of bravery, like the owner of the Dammartin print works who saw the terrorists coming with their Kalshnikov and a rocket launcher.

He allowed himself to be taken hostage but hid his employee Lilian Lapere in a box and then made them believe that he was alone. There are many heroes among the emergency services, some of whom lost their lives and leave families to mourn. Ahmed Merabet was a Muslim policeman who died defending the right of Charlie Hebdo to lampoon his religion.

Perhaps the most worrying aspect of the whole affair is that the motivation of these terrorists is probably not just to stop cartoons but rather to create hatred between 'them and us.' The result is the radicalisation of young people, who then run into the arms of terrorist groups like al Qaeda. Or equally worrying, a spirit of bitterness fuelled by some and directed towards Muslims who are made to feel that they are not wanted in Europe and perhaps never have been.

The Pope has this week commented on the fact that such attacks undermine *'the fundamental good of peaceful coexistence of people despite national, religious or cultural differences.'* Christians must work hard to resist all of those who seek to cause and widen division between our brothers and sisters of different races and religions. 'Vive la difference' is often used about the difference between the sexes, it is a particularly apt French expression at a time when we might be tempted to hate those whose religious views are not like ours. *Charles Royden*

### **Archbishop of Canterbury condemns attack on French newspaper as 'barbaric'**

Archbishop Justin Welby condemns terrorist attack at the Paris offices of the satirical magazine, Charlie Hebdo.

Following the terrorist attack at the Paris offices of the satirical magazine, Charlie Hebdo, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said:

"This is an act of the most extraordinary brutality and barbarity. This violence is demonic in its attack on the innocent, and cowardly in its denial of the basic human right of freedom of speech.

"The people of France, a country in which I have lived, which I know and love, will rise courageously above the challenge of this vile attack and continue to demonstrate strength and confidence arising out of their great history.

"Our prayers and thoughts are especially with those who have been killed and injured and their families. I pray also for those involved in pursuing the terrorists."



### **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

**The Church of England has issued the following prayers in response to the Paris terror attack.**

Compassionate God and Father of all, we are horrified at violence in so many parts of the world. It seems that none are safe, and some are terrified. Hold back the hands that kill and maim; turn around the hearts that hate. Grant instead your strong Spirit of Peace - peace that passes our understanding but changes lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

God of Hope, we come to you in shock and grief and confusion of heart. Help us to find peace in the knowledge of your loving mercy to all your children, and give us light to guide us out of our darkness into the assurance of your love, In Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Merciful God, hear the cries of our grief, for you know the anguish of our hearts.

It is beyond our understanding and more than we can bear. We pray that justice may be done and that we may treasure the memory of their lives more than the manner of their death. For Christ's sake. Amen

To you, O God most high, we lift our hearts and to you we give our praise. To you we confess our sins and to you we come for pardon. To you we pray for one another and to you we come for grace. To you we render our thanks and to you we ascribe all honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

**Clear out your wardrobe** St Mark's have installed a textile clothing bank in the car park and we want your old clothes, curtains, sheets, soft toys, belts, handbags and shoes. Every kilo which you give us will help raise money for church funds

**Lent 2014 Oscar Romero - Blood and Sweat**

We are running a trip to St Albans Cathedral to participate in an evening lecture 'Witness of Oscar Romero's Life and Death'. This is being offered by the Abbey, as part of the Dedication 900 lecture series.

The event takes place on Monday 23 March and we will need to be in St Albans for 7.30pm - so expect to leave Bedford around 5.30pm. Tickets will cost £5. The lecture will take place in the crypt and will be given by Jan Graffius who is Curator of the extraordinary collections held at the Jesuit College at Stonyhurst in Lancashire, which has good claim to be the oldest museum in Britain. Her work with their unique collection of English Catholic relics and artefacts led directly to her involvement in the Romero Trust project to conserve the relics and possessions of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was murdered by Salvadoran death squads in 1980, and who appears among the new martyr statues being installed at St Albans Cathedral.

Romero's poignant blood stained clothing and his simple possessions are preserved today in his tiny house in San Salvador, where they are a focus for pilgrims

worldwide. Jan's work has revealed some startling insights into Romero's life and the last few seconds before his death. Such insights are valuable in a world where truth and justice are all too often clouded by powerful vested interests, and, with the likelihood of Romero's imminent beatification by the Vatican, this is a story with deep relevance for our own times. Tutor: Jan Graffius, Curator of Stonyhurst College

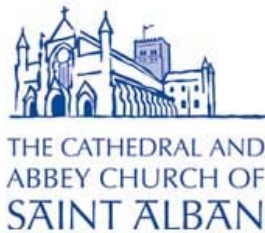
**Please give your name to Charlie if you wish to join this event**

**Putnoe Heights New Year Lunch**

Sunday 18 January 2015 at 1.00pm  
Tickets £8.00 adults, £4.50 children under 10.  
Traditional 3 course lunch including drinks.  
Post-Christmas bring and buy stall from 12.00 - 1.00pm. All proceeds for church funds.

**Footprints Walk** Sunday January 11. 2.00pm  
Meet in the car park at Priory Marina for easy circular walk. Boots recommended. Details from Sue.

**Singing the Faith Day** Saturday 21 February  
Wesley Church, Cambridge. 10.30am – 4.00pm.  
alison.walker@methodistchurch.org.uk or 01223 872862.



**BELIEF** have the following events confirmed in 2015

**The Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John** will be speaking to BELIEF on The Book of Revelation On Saturday 21 February 2015 at St Andrews Church Kimbolton Road Bedford MK40 2PF From 10am to 1pm £10 per person (including refreshments) Payable on the day – No advance booking

**Alistair Burt MP** for North East Bedfordshire will be talking to BELIEF about Being a Christian in politics. On Saturday 14 March 2015 at Priory Methodist Church Newnham Avenue Bedford MK41 9QJ From 10am to 1pm £10 per person (including refreshments) Payable on the day – No advance booking

**Andrew Bradstock** National Secretary for Church and Society at United Reformed Church will be speaking to BELIEF on How should we as Christians be approaching a general election? On Saturday 18 April 2015 at Priory Methodist Church Newnham Avenue Bedford MK41 9QJ From 10am to 1pm

**For more see [beliefbeds.org](http://beliefbeds.org)**



**The Garden of Remembrance.** To mark the occasion of Marion Prior's taking a less active part in the maintenance of the Garden of Remembrance and the church grounds after more than 20 years, she was presented with a card, a token of thanks and a bouquet of flowers from the whole church fellowship, during the Christmas Day service. Marion has been involved with the project since it began and will continue to act in an advisory capacity. Marion's hard work and creative talent have given St. Mark's a beautiful garden which has given a sense of peace to many hundreds of people over the years as they remember their loved ones.

**Thank you.** To all at St Mark's thank you so much for the generous gift and beautiful bouquet presented to me at the Christmas Day morning service. I was quite flabbergasted at such an unexpected tribute, and sad not to be able to continue helping in the garden, having helped since the beginning. I am not sure how I will be spending the gift but new craft tools are always becoming available! Marion





**The Methodist Church fully supports** the statement issued by the Council of Christians and Jews concerning the barbaric Charlie Hebdo terrorist attack in Paris on 7 January

2015. The CCJ statement can be found on their website here - and also below:

'The Council of Christians and Jews wishes to express its horror at the terrorist attack on the offices of the Parisian magazine Charlie Hebdo, and joins with those organisations of all faiths which have offered deepest sympathy to the families and friends of those murdered. In these unstable times, we offer our prayers for all victims of terror throughout the world and look with hope to those working for peace and justice.'

**Net us pray:** churches should install Wi-Fi, says Andrew Lloyd Webber. Cats composer and Tory peer says government is looking at ways to help churches become centre of community again "Once you do that, the church becomes the centre of the community again. They should go back to the medieval traditions, which is that the nave of the church is always used for local businesses.' Asked who would fund the project, he said: 'Well, I am going to get involved, but the government have indicated that they would pay for the idea of putting the Wi-Fi in.' The password for WiFi at St Mark's is 'jesuslovesme'



**We pay our respects to two members of Putnoe Heights Church who will be sadly missed.**

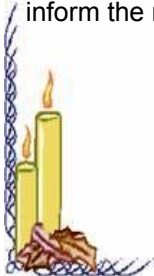
**Mrs Dorothy Elizabeth Frank** a long standing member of Putnoe Heights Church died this week. Dorothy and her husband Reg have been friends of the church for many years and recently they have both been residents at Anjulita Court. Her funeral will take place at Putnoe Heights on Thursday 15 January at 2.00pm followed by burial at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their bereavement.

### 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

**Doris Louisa Jane Temple**

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



**Mr Frank Tuffin** was well known at Putnoe Heights Church where he worshipped until recently with his wife Pat. Frank was also known by many people at St Mark's Church as he looked after the Garden of Remembrance for many years. His funeral will take place at Putnoe Heights on Friday 30 January at 11.30am. Our thoughts and prayers are with Pat and her family.



**Next Messy Church at St Mark's Church on Wednesday 21**

January 3.45 - 5.30pm. Messy Church takes place monthly on a Wednesday from 3.45pm - 5.30pm For children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. For more details contact Wendy Waters 401834

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We now have 47 people registered for [www.easyfundraising.com](http://www.easyfundraising.com). This works exactly the same when you shop with John Lewis, M&S and a whole host of other shops. This has an added benefit that you will also get some special offers - you can't lose ! Please click the link on the church website go online and sign up now

**Please always shop through [www.thisischurch.com](http://www.thisischurch.com)**



### Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Alfred James Kelsey** will take place at the Crematorium at 2.30p.m. on Tuesday 13th February

**The funeral of Mrs Dorothy Elizabeth Frank** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Thursday 15 January at 2.00pm followed by burial at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground.

**The funeral of Mr Frank Tuffin** will take place at Putnoe Heights on Friday 30 January at 11.30am