



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

11 May 2014

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Sunday Services

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

11 May 2014 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd. Jennie Cappleman
Leadership – Mr. Edward Parry
Intercessions - Revd. Canon Charles Royden
Organist – Miss Marion Prior
11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship
Preacher– Revd. Jennie Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs. Sue Allen
Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen
Organist - Mr Alan Bunker

18 May 2014 –Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship
Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart
Organist – Mr Martin Thompson
11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship
Preacher– Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss.
Organist - Mr Martin Thompson
Readings 1. Genesis 8: 1-19 2. Acts 7: 55-60
3. John 14: 1-14
Midweek Holy communion at St. Mark's Chapel every
Wednesday at 10am 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 Edward and Linda Parry in memory of their parents.

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

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

Loving God,
in Jesus you offer life to the world
and love to its people.
When we see life only for ourselves,
forgive us.
Help us to hear your transforming love
speaking to us of respect, dignity and worth,
telling us that we are loved
and that we are to love one another.
In the knowledge of this love
work through us to bring your justice
to the world,
in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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
Twitter follow at [bedfordchurches](https://twitter.com/bedfordchurches)

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators
Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com
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 Friday 9am –12pm,
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Managers Barry & Jenny Snelson 344417
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 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

8.30-12.30pm 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

1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email-chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk

2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's (2nd week in the month) Contact Janet King 313946.

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

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 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 May Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking at Putnoe Heights. For more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Charlotte Williams 07968207442

9.30am Candleworking (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 Contact Janet King 313946

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

1.3pm 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

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

7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.00pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455 (Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in September.

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly) 13 May 'Indoor Olympics'(Board Games) Details Janet King 313946

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

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 21 May 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 May 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel. 01234 353865

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 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 21 May. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) 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. 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 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 (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

8.00pm 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

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

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.

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

Messy Church Dates 21st May, 18th June.



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 17 June, 14 October

St Mark's Leadership Team - 20 May, 9 Sept

Annual Congregational Meetings—

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 10 July

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service - 2nd November

Circuit meeting – 19th June

Woodland Burial Trustees— AGM - May 25th

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting – Monday 9 June 1.10pm

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

Fourth Sunday after Easter

My sheep listen to my voice *Jesus*

Sentence of Scripture John 10

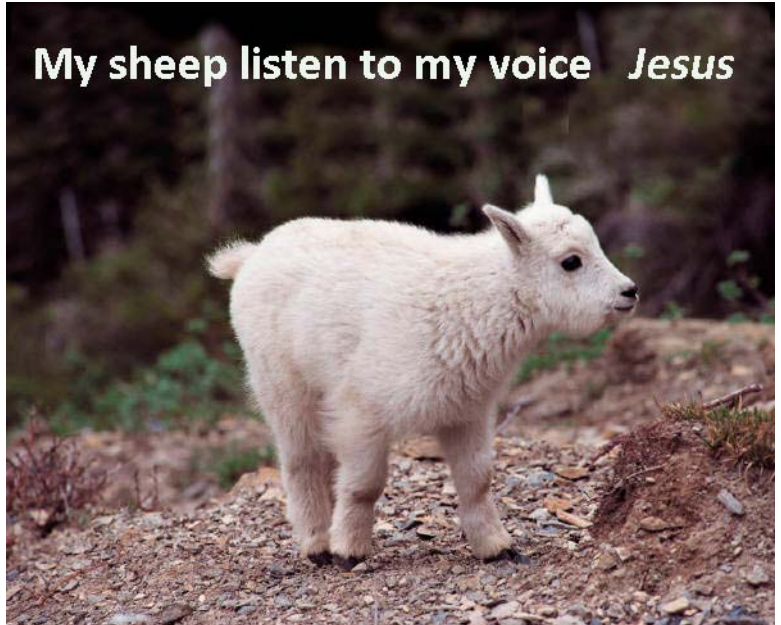
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Common Worship Shorter Collect



First Bible Reading – Genesis 7

The Lord then said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.”

And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord shut him in.

For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits. Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - Acts 2: 42-47

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All

of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

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

Gospel Reading John 10: 1-10

Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymns and Psalms)

1. Jesus, where'er thy people meet 549 (tune: Wareham)
2. Lord, thy word abideth 476 (tune: Ravenshaw)
3. The Lord's my Shepherd - Stuart Townend version
4. There's a wideness in God's mercy 230(tune: Cross of Jesus)
5. Great is thy faithfulness 66

Commentary - Easter 4 ... the sheep hear his voice.' '... they know his voice.'

From regular childhood attendance at Morning Prayer (Communion was a bit of a rarity in those days) I have been familiar with the words of the Venite (Psalm 95),
'For he is the Lord our God : and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.' (from the Book of Common Prayer)

They resonate with the opening words of the 23rd Psalm 'The Lord is my shepherd', another familiar Psalm from my childhood. So I have always had a vivid picture of Jesus as our shepherd and us as his sheep. Today's reading from John's Gospel reminds me of the importance of the words which follow on from those I've quoted,

'Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts ...' especially, 'hear his voice'.

The reason the sheep knew the shepherd in Jesus' metaphor is that they heard the shepherd's voice and they recognised it. They didn't recognise the voice of strangers. We, *'the sheep of his hand'* need to hear Jesus' voice and know his voice, be familiar with his voice, but how are we to do that? Knowing a voice means that we have heard it often, and more importantly that we have listened to the voice. Hearing and listening are not synonymous, but both are required in knowing a voice. Hearing alerts us to the timbre of someone's voice, the intonation, the volume, the quality and is a significant part of recognising their voice. Sometimes that's enough. It will mean, for example, that we know when a person we love has entered a room. In a relationship we need to do more than hear someone's voice, we need to listen to their voice, listen to the words they say, the tone of their voice so we can discern the nuances and so fully understand what they're saying. That's reasonably easy when we can hear a voice with our ears but we won't 'hear' Jesus' voice aloud so we need to learn to recognise and 'hear' his voice in different ways.

An obvious starting point for hearing Jesus' voice is reading the Gospels. It is very easy to read the Gospels rather quickly, not really taking in what they say, because the words are all so familiar. We need to pause and take time to really listen to what they say. The Venite is helpful here too, '*O come, let us worship, and fall down : and kneel before the Lord our Maker.*' I am not suggesting that we 'fall down' or even 'kneel' but those words suggest that we should listen to God, to Jesus our Shepherd, in the context of worship and prayer. The writer of Psalm 46 encourage us to '*Be still, and know that I am God!*' (v10).

If we are to discern God speaking to us through scripture we need to still our hearts, still our minds and still our bodies and that takes time and also practice. Another Psalm encourages us to '*Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;*' (Psalm 37:7).

It's so easy when we meet with God to hurriedly read the passage(s) for the day, say a few quick prayers and rush off to get on with the day, if we even do that. Rather, we are encouraged to be patient and wait in the stillness we have created (yes, we need to consciously make ourselves and our environment still) and listen for God speaking to us through his word. There is a hymn which highlights another important factor in our listening to God:

'Speak, Lord, in the stillness, while I wait on Thee;

Hushed my heart to listen, in expectancy.' (Emily May Grimes, 1868-1927)

Having stilled ourselves before prayerfully reading scripture, it is good to have a sense of expectancy as we read. That expectancy comes from being aware that Jesus, our Shepherd, knows us by name, calls us by name, wants us to know and hear his voice and so will want to speak to us.

Listening for Jesus' voice in this way won't mean the words suddenly seem to leap out of the page at us with startling relevance to the big issues in our lives, though this has been some people's (rare) experience. It may mean the words we read cause us to pause and ponder and reflect and perhaps lead us into further understanding of their meaning and in particular their meaning for us. As we spend time and more focused, still time in prayerful reading of God's word, we will become more familiar with 'the mind of Christ' and our thinking and behaving will be more Christ-like. This is another way in which we 'hear' and know the voice of our Shepherd. Our behaviour will be a reflection of the internalised voice of God. Jesus, our Shepherd, longs for us to know and hear his voice, Our part is to give him the opportunity to speak to us. *Jennie Cappleman*

Meditation

There is an ancient practice from Benedictine spirituality with which you may be familiar which can help us to listen for God's voice speaking to us through his word, *lectio divina* 'divine reading' or literally 'reading from God'. You might like to use it with today's reading from John's Gospel. This is the basic format:

First find a quiet place and take time to be still

1. **Lectio** (reading) - read the passage from the Bible slowly and reflectively allowing it to sink in. If you're alone it helps to read it aloud as was the practice when it was devised - all reading was aloud then. Ideally a short passage should be chosen.
2. **Meditation** (reflection) - think about the text, ruminate on it, take time to repeat and reflect on a particular phrase or word which stood out. You might like to read the passage again before moving to:
3. **Oratio** (response) - leave the thinking and allow your heart to speak with God.
4. **Contemplatio** (rest) - time to let go of your own thoughts, ideas and meditations and rest in the Word of God listening to God in the depths of our being.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of your sheep. Incline our ears to listen to your voice. In obedience to your calling may we find food for our souls and your promised gift of everlasting life. In all of the situations of life may we know your abiding presence and in trusting your words may we know that peace which the world cannot give.

We pray for all of those who have gone astray and who live troubled by fear and loneliness. Guide them back into right pathways, that they may never be estranged from your loving care. we pray for those caught up in circles of abuse, drugs, crime and other destructive behaviour. May your blessing be upon all of those who work with those troubled by dysfunctional lifestyles.

Bless also those who find faith difficult; those who cannot believe, those who have had their faith damaged through the behaviour of others, those searching but unsure. may they discern your calling amidst the noise and busyness of life.

Prayer must mean putting one's very soul upon our hands and offering it to God.
From the Babylonian Talmud (6th century Persia)

Car Boot Sale Thanks to everybody who helped make the car boot sale on Easter Monday such a great success. We raised £1192 which is a fantastic start to the car boot season. The next one takes place on Monday and we would really appreciate your help again. We were especially grateful to everybody who had turned out their cupboards to give things to sell on the church stall. Please take the chance to look through your home for anything which we could sell. St Mark's Church will be open all day to welcome contributions.

Putnoe Heights Ladies. You may be aware that our men folk have recently enjoyed two convivial evenings out together. It's our turn now! I have agreed to arrange a similar evening for the ladies. Please give me your name if you would like to join us on Wednesday May 21 at 7.30 p.m. at the Cappuccino Bar in Newnham Street, Bedford. The cost will be £15, which will cover a starter, main course and a drink. Lifts can be arranged between us, so don't let lack of transport stop you from coming out for an evening of delicious food and cheerful company. Margaret Massey. Tel. 01234 327219 or massey-1@tiscali.co.uk

Thank you to Judith Stanton and her supporters in donating £82 to Church funds.

Open House More volunteers to help the group on a Wednesday would be welcome.

Putnoe Heights Garden and Plants Stall. Sunday 8th June. Seedlings, Cuttings and rooted plants will be welcome. Please share some of the lovely things in your garden for Church funds.

MWIB Easter Offering The Easter Offering envelopes in the foyer at both Putnoe Heights and St Mark's Church explain how the money collected is used. Please take one and return it a.s.a.p.. This year's theme is 'Risk The Path He Trod'. The dedication service will be held on Thursday 22 May at 2.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church Biggleswade.

Christian Aid week 11-17 May "Give people a future without fear" Christian Aid is an agency that works to bring an end to poverty around the world and every year, one week is designated to a national House to House collection by Christians of different traditions working together for that common aim. Please be willing to help with the delivery and collection of gift envelopes, on behalf of St. Mark's and Putnoe Heights Churches, in the Brickhill and Putnoe areas during the week of 11-17 May. The envelopes and collector's information packs will be ready to collect in each church on 4 and 11 May. Contacts for more information are - Carolyn Morris, Putnoe Heights and Jean Bank, St. Mark's

Cash for Currency

Thank you to everybody who has helped Open House by donating coins and notes. In the first four weeks of people handing in foreign coins and the occasional banknote for Stuart Green has sorted it and converted it into £54 sterling for Open House funds !

We would be grateful for more British and foreign coins and notes, no matter how old. Please remember to keep any coins from your holidays ! We can turn every coin and note, no matter how old or how small, into cash to help fund our Openhouse project to help people with learning difficulties. So search out those old pesetas or shillings or whatever and bring them along to the Church Office anytime so we can sort them out and get the best possible value for everything you donate. Remember, everything can be used to generate funds for Openhouse.

Bowling in Bedford Flat green bowling is a relaxing sport undertaken in beautiful surroundings with convivial company. If you think this is for you try a taster session on our local Council green. Days: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 2 – 4 pm; Tuesday evening 6 pm until dusk. Bedford Park Bowling Club. Contact names: Ray Seymour 01234 305695 and Gareth Davies 01234 347647

Deanery evensong Everybody is invited to St James Biddenham on 18 May at 6.30pm for Deanery Evensong

Messy Cathedral On Saturday 7 June 2014 10.30am - 1.30pm - Booking Essential Creative activities, lunch provided, come and experience Messy Church in the historic and awesome cathedral

Putnoe Heights Church welcomed over 40 youngsters and their families from a number of churches in the area to a Circuit Youth Easter Egg hunt event last Sunday 4th May, followed by a Youth lead service and afternoon tea. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who helped to make this such a success

Action for Children (Home Collecting Box offering) Thank you to all who came to Lady'slaude Court on Thursday when the sum of £228.31 was counted by Janet, Millie, & Margaret Fisher. The Much needed money goes towards helping vulnerable children through various projects locally and nationally.

Liverpool Diocese writes: Downing Street has announced that the next Bishop of Liverpool will be the Rt Revd Paul Bayes. Bishop Paul has been Bishop of Hertford since 2010 and will succeed the Rt Revd James Jones, becoming the 8th Bishop of Liverpool.

Hymn for Sunday

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.
And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

(Descant)

I will trust, I will trust in You.
I will trust, I will trust in You.
Endless mercy follows me,
Goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.
Refrain

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.



War tears lives apart.
You can help piece
them back together.

Christian Aid Week 2014

Give people a future without fear
War tears lives apart.
You can help put them back together.

For a growing number of people across the world,
the horror of war is part of daily life.

The good news is that individuals, communities and churches can make a real difference this Christian Aid Week. Last year, a magnificent 20,000 churches across the country helped raise £12m (€14.3m) for Christian Aid Week. Thanks to your efforts, many more people can look forward to a future free from poverty.

Prayer for Christian Aid Sunday

'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.' (John 10:10)

Merciful God,
who is more than we can ever imagine,
give us a wider vision of the world;
give us a broader view of justice;
give us dreams of peace
that are not defined by boundaries of geography or
race or religion,
or by the limitations of worldly structures and
systems.
Open our eyes and our ears this Christian Aid Week
that wherever we go,
we may hear your voice calling us by name.
Calling us to serve,
calling us to share,
calling us to praise,
so that we never give up on the promise of your
kingdom,
where the world is transformed,
and all can enjoy life in all its fullness.
Amen.



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Mr Guy Birchall
will take place at Bedford
Crematorium on Tuesday 20 May
at 1.45pm

A Service of Celebration will
take place for Deryck Cutler at
Putnoe Heights Church on
Saturday 17 May, following burial at St Albans
Woodland Burial Trust.

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

Sidney Ernest Howard Edgar York

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

