



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

12 February 2012

6 Sunday after Epiphany



Church of  
England

## Partnership Church Services Today

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

**Today – 12 February**

**9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship**  
**Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman**  
Leadership – Mr Mick Ovenden  
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott  
**11.00 am Putnoe –Morning Worship**  
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions – Mrs Sam Ware

**19 February**

**9.30am St Mark's — Holy Communion**  
**Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters**  
Leadership – Mrs. Morag Stewart  
Intercessions - Mr. Ian Farthing  
**11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion**  
Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters  
Leadership - Mr. Gordon Evans  
Intercessions – Mrs. Clair Peck

### Bible Readings

1. 2 Kings 2: 1-12 . 2.2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 3. Mark 9: 2-9

**Midweek Worship 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 Barbara and Brian Keighley to celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary.

The flowers in St Mark's Church this week are given by Gwen Farmer and Mary Hall in loving memory of Pat Gregory.

*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 the Week

O God, grant us serenity  
To accept what cannot be changed  
The courage to change what can be changed  
And the wisdom to know the difference

*Reinhold Neibuhr*

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a Vice President for Hewlett Packard)

### Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE  
348091 Mobile 07807 146535 jane@thisischurch.com

### The Reverend Charles Royden

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

### For Data Protection Purposes

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](http://www.ThisChurch.com)

### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@ThisChurch.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. Linda Hoare 782717  
**Treasurer** Mr Ian Morse 21428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** John Hitt 404186  
**Youth Worker** Emma Gordon email - 07593266091 youth@thisischurch.com

### St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Laura Farthing 210892  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ Fri. Putnoe Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)

Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

**9.30-3.15pm 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)

**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 Emma Gordon ☎07593266091

**2.00pm U3A History Group** St Marks.(see contact details below)

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

**4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747

**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 Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

**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– 20 February Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

**8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## 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 Folbigg ☎351223

**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 Group.** St Mark's (see contact 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) (see 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.

**3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

**6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

**7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

**7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting February 14 'Work of a Councillor' - Wendy Rider. Details call Janet King 313946

**8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

## 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.(see contact details 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)

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 15 February 2012 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

**1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

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

**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 15th February. Wendy Waters401834

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

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

**6.00pm Shooting Stars.** Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

**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 Brian Sallows ☎407725

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073

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

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

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 15 February 2012. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 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 termtime group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

**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 (large hall) Children's Chatty Time** 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

**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.

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

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St.Marks.(see contact details below)

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Marks Mary Rich ☎272470

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

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

**6.30-7.30pm Bootcamp/Circuits. (Fitness)** St Marks. Laura Amor.341152. 07976259081.

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights 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

**8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers** (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

**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.

### Frida y

**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 Whist** St Marks. Patricia Holland.☎262823

**5-8pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

**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

**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.

**1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or

[www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's (not 25th March) Contact Adrian Felice

[www.bedfordtkd.com](http://www.bedfordtkd.com) 07964356355

**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 – 21 February**

2012

**St Mark's Leadership Team - 16 February 2012**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -**

**St.Mark's Church Council - Tuesday 21 February 2012**

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting**

**St Mark's Forum Meeting - NA**

**Putnoe Church Council - 13 February 2012**

**Pastoral Group Meeting -**

**Churchyard Committee -**

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -**

**Circuit meeting -**

**Deanery Meeting**

**Woodland Burial Trustees –**

**Putnoe Heights Children &**

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



## Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

### Opening Verse of Scripture – Psalm 51 V 10-12

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

### Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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



*Jesus heals the leper, Unknown Illustrator of Petrus Comestor's Bible Historiale, 1372*

### First Reading— 2 Kings 5:1-14 Naaman Healed of Leprosy

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!" When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage. Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

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

### Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. *(This is the Word of the Lord All: Thanks be to God)*

## **Gospel Reading – Mark 1: 40- 45 Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy**

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere (*This is the Word of the Lord - All: Thanks be to God*)



## **Post Communion Prayer**

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

## **Hymns** (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise*)

Fight the good fight, 143; I am a new creation, 254; For the beauty of the earth, 152; May the mind of Christ my Saviour, 463; The Kingdom of God is justice and joy, 651

## **Meditation**

Mark's is the most vivid of the Gospels. He is direct and uses few words, and moreover, he has more concrete details than the other gospel writers. When the leper comes up to him he has a simple request, to which Jesus gives a simple reply. Jesus is not repulsed or shocked by the approach, He is "moved with pity" or is "speechless with anger". Just three words, but they tell us so much, as we would expect from Mark. There is then the plain statement from the leper. "If you want to, you can make me clean." A statement which is not just a request, it's a confession of faith. The leper is stating his belief that Jesus has the power to cure. Jesus replies, "I do want to." Direct, honest, and so revealing of God. The whole life of Jesus consists of this desire to help people who are in trouble, to give to those who have a seed of faith by which they can receive His touch, wholeness and healing. Finally, in an extraordinary move, Jesus stretches out his hand and touches the man. At the time of Jesus it was believed that this type of sickness was communicable, and, at the very least, it was disgusting. Yet Jesus touches him with care and says, "Be made clean." Our spiritual life consists of us coming to Christ to be forgiven for our sins and be made clean, which is the same thing as allowing God into our souls, to touch (and transform) them.

*Based on Fr. John Foley, S. J. of the Center for Liturgy*

## **Commentary - Fit for purpose**

In our Epistle reading, the Corinthians want to know how to behave in their new found religion and spirituality and had written to Paul for advice. We're not quite sure how many letters Paul wrote to the Corinthians, it was probably four but it could have been more or even less. Now a delegation had come to Paul, perhaps with one of the letters, and was asking for help and advice on how to live out life as individuals and as a church. I Corinthians is a response to some of those questions. Paul had received reports about the Corinthian church which had concerned him and they had certainly written him a letter asking his advice on a number of topics such as divisions in the church, court cases, sexual issues and incest, the abuse of Christian freedom and the general chaos that seemed to be reigning in the Corinthian church. Paul's letters of reply cover these points and also the role of women and whether their heads should be covered, spiritual gifts and the facts and meaning of the resurrection. Corinth had been rebuilt by the Romans about 200 years earlier and was now a centre of commerce, trade and technology. The town was now

dominated by a temple to Aphrodite and was materially very prosperous but morally corrupt. It was multi-racial, multi-faith and cosmopolitan and sexually promiscuous. Sound familiar? The section of the epistle in today's reading is primarily directed to high status gentiles who, although they had converted to Christianity, often from paganism, wanted their social rights and privileges to remain unchanged. Paul first picks up on the question of rights. If anyone had rights it was Paul. He was an apostle and he was also a Roman citizen, something he was very proud of, but he tells the Corinthians that he has put these rights aside and subjected himself to the restrictions of others so he can preach and win others for Christ. Paul points out that at the centre of the Christian gospel is Christ, not self. Rather than putting their own rights and demands first they should have as priority the needs and rights of others and have at the centre of their lives the attitude of Christ. Paul then addresses the next question they ask, that of 'What's in it for me', another question frequently asked by those of higher riches and status. Why should they 'invest' in this new religion? Their reward, he says, is knowing that as disciples they are walking in the will and way of God. Just as with the question of rights they had to change their way of thinking and of being and focus on the gospel of Christ. Paul offers the Corinthians two key pieces of advice, motivational guidance as we might call it today to help them along this path. Drawing on the image of 'the games', probably the Isthmian games which were held in nearby, Paul helps them to help them understand how to live their lives focusing on Christ and others. First he says they are to focus on the goal and to move and run in that direction. All our energy and resources are focused on our eternal hope and service of God, not on ourselves and our own short term plans and schemes. Part of what the Corinthians needed to do was be absolutely clear on where they were going, what the Christian message meant for their lives, and then do everything in their power to move in that direction. The second piece of advice Paul gives the Corinthians is that it's not a quick fix, a single action or event. It will take time and perseverance to run the Christian race, as if training for a race. As it does every year, the New Year rush is quietening down at the gym already as we reach mid February. How strange that some people expect to be able to run the equivalent of the 4 minute mile if they have never been to the gym before and haven't done anything remotely energetic for years. Regular and quite rigorous training is a pre-requisite if we want to be a highly successful athlete, or even someone who is just reasonably fit and looking to lose a bit of weight! Similarly, neither should we expect to understand everything about God's will in our lives and the calling He has for each one of us immediately. It will take time; discipline and training if we are to truly achieve our full and God given potential. We need to spend time with God understanding His word and will and spend time with others who are in training too so we can be encouraged together about the race in which we are engaged. *Sam Cappleman.*

### **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

O Wounded Healer we kneel before you. Reach out and touch us. Heal our leprous wounds. Send us, scarred and scabrous to be wounded healers too. Caress your world using our touch. Amen *St Louis Centre for Spirituality*

Grant us, O Lord, a resurrection faith - a faith that is radiant in the knowledge of your victory over sin and death - a faith that is confident in your care and your love. Bless now, we pray, with joy those who call out in your name and those who labour as you have directed. Bless too those we hold before you - and work a work of healing and salvation in their lives. Amen

Father forgive our unbelief. Teach us, and strengthen us so that our faith will appropriately reflect your greatness. Amen

Blessed are you, creator of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. As your dawn renews the face of the earth bringing light and life to all creation, may we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God forever. Amen (*After Lancelot Andrewes, 1626. Common Worship*)

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen



**Count Your Blessings.** During Lent Christian Aid's 'Count Your Blessings' reminds us how fortunate we are in the freedoms and living standards we enjoy. Each day we are invited to make a small donation eg for Ash Wednesday, realise how few countries have a free press, give 10p for each newspaper read in a week. If you would like to take part in Count Your Blessings, contact Carolyn Morris at Putnoe 350722 after 12 noon, or Jean Bank at St Mark's 342613

**Joint Confirmation.** We would be interested to know if there is anybody who would like to consider confirmation. Confirmation is an opportunity for anybody usually over the age of 10. Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which you affirm for yourself the faith into which you have been baptized and your intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the confirming bishop. The Church also asks God to give you power through the Holy Spirit to enable you to live in the way of Jesus. If you were not baptized as a child and want to make a commitment of faith, you might consider adult baptism or you can be baptized and confirmed in the same service or baptized shortly before your confirmation. Joint Confirmation means the holding of a service of Confirmation of the Methodist Church and Church of England. In a joint Confirmation the confirming minister from the Church of England is always a bishop. In the case of the other churches it is the appropriate minister in terms of their practice. Those who are confirmed in this way are confirmed both in the Methodist Church and Church of England.

**The family of Trevor Noble** would like to say thank you for the many letters, flowers and cards received over the last few weeks. Thank you to all who attended the Service of Thanksgiving. Thank you to the Lunch Club team who worked so hard in the kitchen serving tea and washing up.

#### **Forthcoming Church Meetings**

**Putnoe Heights Church Council** will take place on Monday 13 February at 7.30pm

**St Mark's Church Council** will take place on Tuesday 21 February at 7.30pm

**St Mark's Church Leadership Team** will take place on Thursday 16 February at 7.30pm at the Vicarage

#### **Lent Course Dates**

Thursday 15 March at Putnoe Heights Church

Thursday 22 March at St Mark's - Wren Room

Thursday 29 March at Putnoe Heights Church

Please do book these dates in your diary

**Congratulations!** February 9th 1957 Barbara and Brian Keighley celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary last Thursday.

**Ladybird Book Tokens.** We would be grateful if any readers of the Daily Mirror could save the children's Ladybird book tokens for Hazeldene Heights Pre School. Many thanks from Laura Leggett

#### **Messy Church at St Mark's Church**

Future Dates

21 March – What a Wonderful World.

18 April Easter

16 May – Noah

20 June – A Diamond

Jubilee/Olympic Games.



**Fairtrade Fashion Show** on Saturday 24 March at St Andrew's Church Centre, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

Tickets £1.50 include refreshments. Contact Brenda Mayoh on 268574 or Church Office on 216881

All profits used to promote fair trade.

#### **St Mark's Organ Concert**

We are very much looking forward to the organ concert this evening at St Mark's Church. All are invited to attend.

**Putnoe Heating.** We are making much progress following the problems with the boilers. The boilers were condemned by the engineers at a recent visit and we have undertaken emergency work to the flue and ventilation systems to get them going. Considerable thanks to all of those who have spent time and effort resolving what has been a quite difficult problem

Guide and rule our Church for ever, Lord  
that it may walk warily in times of quiet  
and boldly in times of trouble  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.



This year for Lent we are looking at doing our Mission Plan. The Diocese has asked us to produce one and we will be using the opportunity of Lent. Sam is kindly heading this strategic piece of work and we will be using materials based on the diocesan website. It would be helpful for you to take a look at <http://www.livinggodslove.org/resources/resource/mission-action-planning>

We will be using three evenings during Lent to go through the stages Look, Listen, Plan, after Lent we will be looking at implementation ie Act

**Look or Review** - a time to Look and Listen, often called an audit. Getting into the community and looking beyond the local area to consider needs of the wider world, and as well considering the life and values of the church community.

**Discern or Choose** - out of the looking, a time to develop and articulate a vision, which will energise and unite the church. When the vision is owned, the priorities and goals flow naturally.

**Plan** - taking each of the goals and asking 'How?' Again a very prayerful approach is vital as people take on responsibility for specific actions, working to agreed dates.

**Act** - getting started. Keep praying and communicating together - recognise where modification may be necessary in the light of real experience. Celebrate achieved goals together!

There are also materials for homegroups to use during Lent and for personal prayer and Bible study.

<http://www.livinggodslove.org/resources/resource/lent-course-2012>

We would like to stress that Mission Action Planning is not about looking for more things to do. It is about recognising who we are, what we do and where we see ourselves in the future. This might mean that we do some new things, however there is no expectation that we will do more. So if we decide to do something new, then we will be giving something else up! We cannot do everything and we already do so much. However it will be good to take some stock of where we are, a kind of audit and ask prayerfully what our strengths and weaknesses are. It should be something which we gain some satisfaction from as we reflect together on the life of our churches. Please speak to Sam if you have any questions !



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God forces no one,  
for love cannot compel,  
and God's service,  
therefore,  
is a thing of perfect freedom.

*Hans Denck*

## 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.

**Pat Gregory**

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



## Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Thomas James Harvey** will take place at 1.45pm on Monday 13 February

**The funeral of Peter Graham** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 13 February at 3.15pm

**There will be a memorial service for Maureen Simmonds** at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday 22 February at 11.30