



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

12 January 2014

Baptism of Jesus



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 January- Baptism of Jesus

9.30 St Marks - Morning Worship

Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions – Deacon Jane Mills
Organist - Mr Philip Bond

11.00 am Putnoe — Morning Worship

Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership Team - Mrs Veta Hudson –Rae
Intercessions — Mrs Sue Allen
Organist - Mr Philip Bond

19 January 2014 -

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership – Mr Edward Parry
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing
Organist - Mr John Mower

11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership Team - Mr Barry Southam
Intercessions — Mrs Sam Ware
Organist - Mr John Mower

Readings 1. Exodus 24: 3-11 2. Jeremiah 31: 31-34
3. John 15: 1-10

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

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been kindly given by Irene McKenzie in memory of her beloved husband Eddie on his birthday.

The flowers at St Mark's Church have kindly been given by Margaret and family in ever loving memory of John.

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

Holy God,
too great to be trifled with
and too wise
to be deceived by insincerity;
compose our thoughts
as we enter your presence,
order our minds
as we bring our petitions,
and grant us grace
to offer you the loving sacrifice
of hearts both steadfast and obedient;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Susanna Wesley (1669-1742)

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.ThisChurch.com

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 Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre
Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

8.30-12.30pm 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 (see contact details below)

1.30pm Chat & Make. 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) Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119.

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(see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights– fortnightly

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

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner

01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights

Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571

6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week 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 92nd week each month)

Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (3rd & 5th week in the month).. Next meeting– 20 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

Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

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) Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

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

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly) 21 January Woodland Burial—Linda Parry.

Details Janet King 313946

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (4th week 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. Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

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

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next

meeting 15 January Putnoe Heights Office 365630

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

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

Mr Barnes 261811

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks. Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights

Mrs Webster 856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers.

Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 15 January 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.

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398

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 15 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 (1st week 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.

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

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

12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 342613

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in 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

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

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 Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

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

8 –10pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers)

Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in month). Mr Newton 01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week 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) Mrs Yvonne Francis

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Mrs Yvonne Francis 405119

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights

4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

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

7.00pm-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 Weds 20 Nov, 15th Jan., 12th Feb., 19th March, 16th April, 21st May, 18th June.

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 25 February

St Mark's Leadership Team - 21 January 2014

Annual Congregational Meetings

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 18 February

Pastoral Group Meeting - 10 January at 10.00am

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service

Circuit meeting - Deanery Meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees– 15th December 12.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –10th February 2014 1.30pm

New Year Lunch 19 January at Putnoe

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

Baptism of Jesus

Sentence of Scripture Psalm 29

The LORD is enthroned as King forever. The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace

Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read we pray

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Common Worship

First Bible Reading - Isaiah 42:1-9

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope." This is what God the LORD says-- he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you."

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

Second Reading - Acts 10:34 - 43

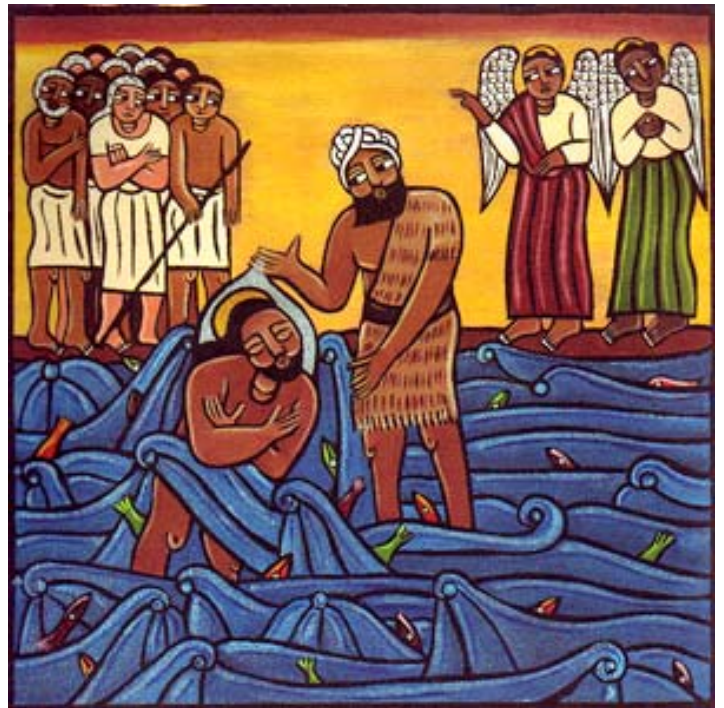
Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached-- how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen--by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 3: 13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

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



Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship)

1. Hail the Lord's Anointed' (omit verse 3) MP 204
2. Spirit of God unseen as the wind BBC Songs of Praise 165 (*Partnership News*)
3. On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry MP 538
4. There's a spirit in the air BBC Songs of Praise 168 (*Partnership News*)
5. The Kingdom of God is justice and joy MP 651

Commentary

'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight, I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations' Isaiah 42 v 1.

Surely this is one of the most stirring verses of the OT, which in just a few words encompasses God's promise to his people. His promise which John the Baptist, Jesus and his disciples, all believed was fulfilled in the coming of Jesus. This promise and its fulfilment is clearly expressed in all three of today's passages from Scripture. 'Fulfilment' of OT scripture is a central theme of the Gospel according to Matthew.

Isaiah 42:1 tells of the prophecy, the hope for the future; Mathew 3: 13 – 17 records a moment when this prophecy was being fulfilled; Acts 10: 34 – 43 is just one account of how one of those, Peter, responded to the fulfilment by declaring that the prophecy was for all people not just the Jews. The setting for Peter's declaration is perhaps in an unexpected place; the home of a Roman Centurion, admittedly one who had come to faith in the God of the country in which he, Cornelius, was part of an occupying force, but not perhaps the most obvious choice for a novice in preaching the good news of Jesus. But, as the recent accounts of the Nativity and Epiphany have shown, God's purposes are frequently not worked out in places and through people that might have been expected in Biblical times or today.

So too the setting for the Baptism of the one chosen by God to save his people is as surprising as is the very act itself. The desert, it is an inhospitable place for the longed for Messiah to first appear as an adult. Would the local population have expected such a setting for the Messiah's first appearance? Would they have expected the Messiah to subject himself to Baptism at the hands of a character such as John? Very unlikely! From John's response even he did not expect it, he did not consider himself worthy, but Jesus insists. From the very beginning of his ministry Jesus aligns himself with those he has come to serve and save. Not for him the remote leadership of the Romans under which he had been brought up, not for him a superior manner, from the outset he immerses himself in their experience, demonstrated literally by his Baptism of total immersion. This identification with others no doubt helped to inspire the crowds to follow him wherever he went. This same attitude by leaders of any group of people is likely to bring positive responses, whether in local communities, countries, or the world of work. I know from my own work experience that managers who come alongside their staff are more likely to gain respect and commitment from them than those who are remote and aloof.

Even more surprising than the desert setting, and perhaps still difficult to understand, is Jesus, who had not and would not commit any sin, wishing to be baptised by John who did so as an act of cleansing from sin. Apparently an early writer, who wrote the 'Gospel according to the Hebrews', which was not included in the Bible, suggested Jesus did it to please his mother and brothers. I find this even more surprising!

Up to this point Jews had never regarded themselves as sinners, so would have had no need to repent or be baptised. However they did baptise those of other faiths who wanted to convert to Judaism. So this was a major life changing event for them carried out by John the Baptist, who is commonly portrayed as a dishevelled, forthright, aggressive character. This portrayal struck me in the Channel 5 'Bible' series screened during Advent. It was a very dramatic and often gruesome series sponsored by Spring Harvest the Christian events organisation. In the series the difference between John and his cousin Jesus was huge. John was, tough, rough

and at times aggressive, whilst Jesus almost floated into sight along the lake side as he approached John, looking very much like the Jesus pictured in children's Bibles, gentle in manner and voice. The quiet background music added to that contrast. This was of course a dramatised interpretation of the Baptism story designed to hold our attention, but that in itself is no bad thing and perhaps provokes us into re reading the accounts as written in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke and John. The accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke are similar but not identical, but all include the key point of passage:

'And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, who I love; with him I am well pleased".

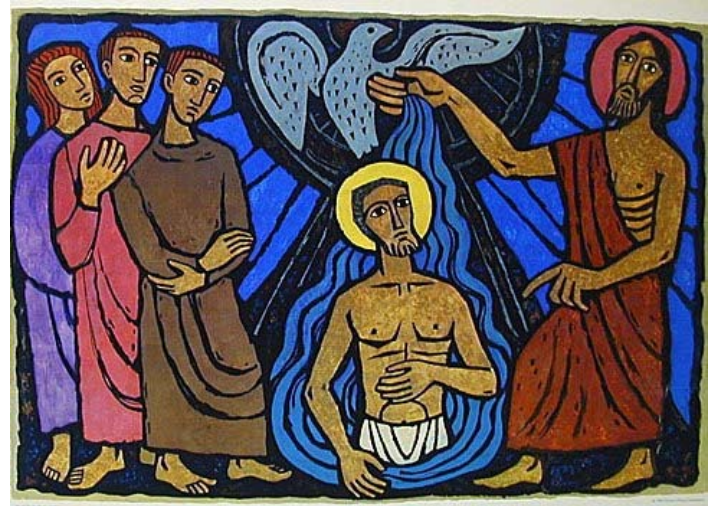
This echoes the prophecy of Isaiah Chapter 42 verse 1, which those nearby would have been familiar with.

The account in John's Gospel is, not uncommonly, slightly different, and worth reading after reading the other three accounts. One significant difference is in John 1: 32 – 34, where we read:

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

This is written in a way that it is John the Baptist who retells what he heard from God, rather than all those present hearing it. Also there is no explicit record of John the Baptist actually baptising Jesus as there is in the other three Gospels. Later in John Chapter 3: 27 – 4:3 there is 'John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus', but still no actual Baptism.

Surprises are one of God's specialities, surprises can catch us off guard, surprises can open our eyes, and surprises can trigger a new and enlivened direction in our faith journey. So I pray that in this coming year we may all be blessed with many Spirit led surprises. *Wendy Waters*



Meditation

'In Rio a group of Christians were working with street children, of whom there are 25-five million in Brazil*. Every day boys from the street got together at one spot to chat, to discuss their problems and to share their fears and anger with one another. Many came regularly. The Church people consisted of a Catholic priest, a Methodist, a priest of the Umbanda cult, a Presbyterian and a young Lutheran pastor. One day one of the boys said: 'I would like to be baptised.' 'In which church, then?' asked the Catholic. 'Which church? In ours here, of course.' 'But to which church building would you like to go?' 'Building? No, to our church, here on the street. I want to be baptised here among us'.

The Methodist said he couldn't issue a certificate. The Catholic thought it wouldn't be possible to perform jointly with the man from the Umbanda religion. The boy stuck to his wish. Finally the pastor organised the necessary things: he laid a board over two crates and filled an old boot with water for flowers, which the children provided. The Catholic brought along a candle. The baptism took place on the street, in the name of Jesus Christ.' *Dorothee Soelle, Celebrating Resistance: The Way of the Cross in Latin America, tr: Joyce Irwin (Mowbray 1993) *statistics when first written.*

Prayers Sunday and the week ahead

God of surprises, who surprised all who witnessed your coming to earth in the person of Jesus, make us ever alert and open to the surprises you have in store for us. Through the workings of your Holy Spirit may we be ready to respond with the courage displayed by John the Baptist, Jesus and Peter.

Lord of our lives may the lives lead by the prophets and the words they uttered for ever inspire us to be uplifted, enlightened and encouraged to live committed to your message of hope and to share that message with others in both words and action.

Lord Jesus, who walked alongside those rejected and condemned, who became a victim of rejection and condemnation, walk now, we pray, alongside all who have been rejected by family, friends, neighbours and society. Walk in the person of your worldwide church, relief agencies, care and support services so their walk through this life may be less of a burden and be turned into a blessing.

Lord Jesus s of winter can be a dark time for many in our community; darkness caused by concern for and care of others; darkness triggered by severe illness; darkness caused by news of a life limiting illness; may your light turn their darkness into hope.

Chat and Play at St. Mark's restarts on Thursday 16 January 2014

Chat and Make at St. Mark's restarts on Monday 13 January 2014

Putnoe Heights New Year Lunch Sunday 19 January 2014. Starter, roast, dessert, wines and coffee. Tickets available from Putnoe Office or after Sunday services. £8.00 (£4.50 children under 10)

Footprints walk:- There will be a footprints walk from Shefford on Sunday the 12 of January 2014. Meet at the car park (Free) at the end of Old Station Way off of the High Street in Shefford 2.00pm. About 2 miles in length, a bit muddy in places, a steep longish hill to climb (Cockshoot hill) No stiles. Any queries contact Alan or Margaret at massey-1@tiscali.co.uk

The Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John Dean of St Albans Cathedral will be returning to BELIEF to speak on '**Means of Grace**' Saturday, 22 February, 2014 10.00am to 1.00pm St Andrew's Church Centre, Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2PF £10 per person, payable on the day register in the 'Contact' section of www.beliefbeds.org, email belief@standrewsbedford.org or phone 01234 330314

County Ecumenical Development Officer

Are you passionate about working alongside Christians from other traditions?

Are you a self starter with organisational skills?

Churches Together in Bedfordshire needs a County Ecumenical Development Officer

10 hours a week Starting Salary: £24,564 pro rata

Closing date for applications: 31st January 2014

Interviews: Week commencing 17 February 2014

Further details: <http://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/bedfordshire/>

Matthew. We would like to thank the prayer group and all our friends for their best wishes and prayers for our grandson Matthew who died on Friday 3 January, a month before his seventeenth birthday. Over the past 14 years we have

appreciated all your support for us during the difficult times. *Thank you.*

Maureen and Keith Watling.

Queen's Park Community Orchard AGM on Saturday 18th January at 1.00pm at the Community Centre of Guru Nanak Gurdwara, 84 Ford End Road MK40 4JX. At 2.00pm Tea & Biscuits + planting of new trees. Everyone welcome.

The Pastoral Team had a talk from The Alzheimer's Society this week. There are leaflets available in connection with this at the back of the Church today. Please see Wendy Waters if you require any further information.

St Thomas More School Tyne Crescent Bedford [email@stm.beds.sch.uk. Telephone 400222] Are hosting an exhibition organised by The Board of Deputies of British Jews. The exhibition will run from Jan 21st till Jan 24th. This will be an insight into The Jewish Way of Life. You are most welcome to attend, please notify the school to book a place

St Albans Diocese are currently advertising for a Synodical & Pastoral Officer at Holywell Lodge. Further details of this full-time post are on <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies/>

Change of Contact The telephone number for Rev. Eric Royden has been changed to (01234) 300880

Bedford Deanery Synod The next meeting of the Bedford Deanery will be held on Thursday 20 March 2014 at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church Centre, Kimbolton Road.

There will be an introduction by the Bishop of Bedford, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson with Presentations and question time with representatives of Bedford Food Bank, Money Advice at St Andrew's, BeChar, airtrade, and Town Centre Chaplaincy



INHERITANCE

Lent 2014

This year we are going to do something very different for Lent and we want as many people as possible to join and hopefully also invite friends to come along. On Wednesday 9 April we will be hosting a performance of the Passion Play Inheritance by the Riding Lights Theatre Company. This is a meditative and reflective opportunity to consider the Passion and our response. We will be issuing tickets soon but for now it is important to have the date in your diary

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
*Gentle as is the dove;
Teach us the truth and help us believe,
Show us the Saviour's love!*

You spoke to us long, long ago,
Gave us the written word;
We read is still, needing its truth,
Through it God's voice is heard.

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,

Without your help we fail you Lord.
we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength,
following Christ each day.

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,

There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world!'

Lose your shyness, find your tongue;
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

When believers break the bread,
when a hungry child is fed,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.

Still his Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.

May the Spirit fill our praise
guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay,
Live tomorrow's life today!

There's a Spirit in the air,
calling people everywhere:
Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

If you are elderly or living alone

then it is important for us to be able to keep in contact with you. Please sign up for Telecare and we will give you a telephone call every week or fortnight to check if all is well. This enable us to keep track if somebody is ill and cannot come to church. We would like more people to join so just give St Mark's office a ring and they will put you on the list. This is a telephone service, nobody will call without your request



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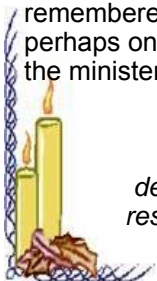
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Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases and we receive a commission.

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.



*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 Mrs. Kath Hooley
will take place at Bedford
Crematorium at 2.30pm on Monday
20th January.