



Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
13 September 2015
Ordinary 24**



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

13 September Ordinary 24

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Keith Lilley
Leadership - Mr. Edward Parry
Intercessions - Ministers
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Keith Lilley
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

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9.30am St Mark's – Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mr. Mike Cooper
Intercessions - Mrs. Morag Stewart
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mr. Barry Southam
Intercessions - Dr. Tim Wilkes
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Wis. Sol. 1:16 - 2:1, 12-22
2. James 3:13-4:3,7-8a 3. Mark 9:30-37
Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's
Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur
House on first Monday of every month.

Thank You

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given in memory of Doreen Smart by all her friends at the church.



The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Wendy Kingstone in memory of her brothers.

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

Defend us, O Lord, with your heavenly grace, that we may continue yours for ever and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until we come to your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer (1552)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

Assistant Rural Dean of Bedford
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
itsjanemills@gmail.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

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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Mon-Thur 9-5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Geoff Gypps 365630
Leadership Team Mr Barry Southam 219714
barrysoutham@aol.com
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 Charity No 1160981.

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Margaret Appleton 354708
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm -

3.45pm For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's

8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery

Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955

10.00am-12 U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

9.45am - 10.45am & 11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's Liz Mason 07816522200

12.00 noon Storybox Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630

1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts on 14 September

2.00pm 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 Zoe Wilcox 07767311424

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 07928483418 email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571

6.30pm-8pm Cubs at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

6.30pm Fit For All Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Mary Daly 217127

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–21 September Judith Stanton. 823313

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

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

9.30, 11.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30. Lorrie Pearson 340473

11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895

2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (Alternate Tuesdays) Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.00-3.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's. A social and Bible Study group. Meets alternate Tuesdays. Mrs Jean Bank 355698

3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393

7.15-8.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571

7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 8 September at 2.30pm Tea Details Diane Bayliss 268101

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

10.00-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

10.00am 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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 9 September Contact Putnoe Office 365630

1.15pm Social Bridge Club St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.Contact 1st week of the month. Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966

3.30-4.30pm Vita Fit St Mark's starting 29 April for 6 weeks Liz Roe 07901684538

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 16 September 2015 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

5.00–6.00pm Rainbows at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091

6.00pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994
6.00-7.00pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel.01234 353865
7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts at Putnoe ages 10.5-14; Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095
7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600
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 16 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) Jill Cooper 357960

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.
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 Restarts 17 September Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481
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.Restarts 10 September Contact Jaana Swaby 342613
1.00-2.30pm Wriggles & Jiggles Putnoe Heights. Drop in.
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 07768481499
6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284
7.00pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946
7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's (3rd week in month). Carol Plant 01832710504
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094
7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Rosemary McNeilage 405594
7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Linda Stephen 409493

8.00pm 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

Friday

9.30am -3.30pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, 2nd week per month.. 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-7.00pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email: phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd week in month)Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

9.00am Faith Temple Ministries St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593
10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard 01234 782414
Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198
2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre at St. Mark's. 1st Sunday Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143
11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's . A crèche is also available.
2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th Sunday. Closed for summer break. Re opens 13



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council -
St Mark's Leadership Team - Wednesday 23 Sept
Annual Congregational Meetings -
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 October 2015
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 29 September
Putnoe Church Council - 15 October 2015
Pastoral Group Meeting- 15 September 2015 4.00pm
Churchyard Committee - TBA
Circuit meeting - 14 September at Flitwick
Deanery meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees -
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 28 September 2015 2.00pm

Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 27 September.
Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Ordinary 24

Sentence of Scripture Psalm 116:1-8

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

Collect Prayer for the Day *Before we read we pray* God our Redeemer, who called your church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be reconciled drawn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Methodist Worship

First Bible Reading - Isaiah 50:4-9

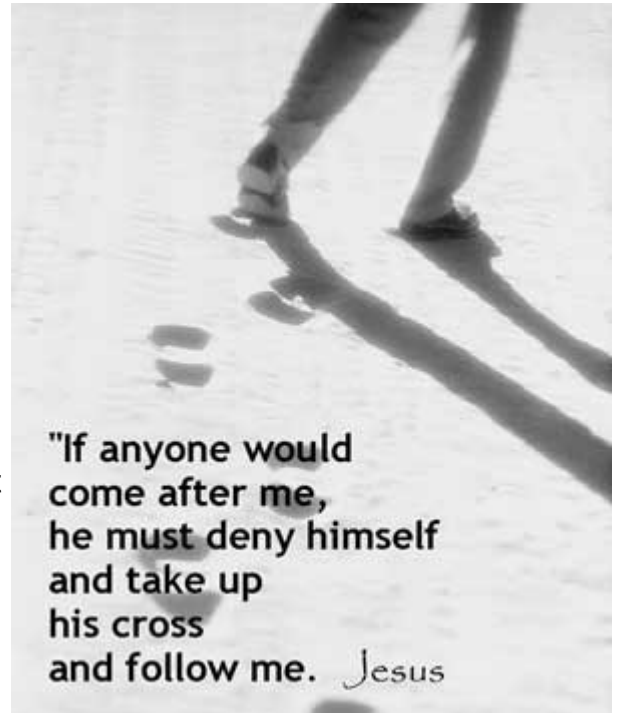
The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up. (This is the word of the Lord —**Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - James 3:1-12

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. (This is the word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Mark 8:27-38

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his



cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns for Sunday (*Please distribute Morning Worship and hymn sheet where requested*)

1. All my hope on God is founded
2. In a world where people walk in darkness,
3. Jesus, where'er thy people meet,
4. Through the night of doubt and sorrow
5. Filled with the Spirit's power with one accord

Commentary

For the first human admission of who Jesus is, Mark shows Jesus travel from Lake Galilee to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Caesarea Philippi had originally been called Baalinas. It was the place where the worship of Baal was centered. Then it was called Paneas, a place where the Greek god Pan had been worshipped. Finally it was known as Caesar's city, because Philip had built there a tremendous white temple to the godhead of Caesar. It was also known as the source of the Jordan, Jesus is in the shadow of this great city, upon Jesus at this time look down the gods of Palestine and Greece, the history of Israel and the might of imperial Rome. In this shadow of greatness, Jesus the poor Galilean carpenter, asks his sorry bunch of disciples who they think he is.

Peter shows that God has been at work in his heart and he is able to recognise that Jesus was 'The Christ, the Son of the Living God.' Jesus tells Peter that God has revealed this to him, and he calls him a 'rock' on which the church will be built. This means that Peter is the first person to discover who Jesus is and everyone who follows and makes that same discovery is another stone built on this foundation.

Jesus does not want this message to be published at large at this time, in the 70 years before Jesus there had been 17 rebellions in which 57,000 Jews were killed. This was not time for another blood bath, and Jesus had a different plan. However Jesus at this point has reached a watershed, there was at this point that moment of no return. Jesus from here makes an inevitable journey to the cross.

There are two types of bravery, there is bravery when you do something almost without thinking, indeed if you thought about it you might not do it. People throw themselves into swollen rivers to save people and animals, often drowning as a consequence, they just see the need and jump. However there are other situations when people have time to consider what they are doing, they face the danger and sacrifice, they could escape, but they do not. A young man who offers his own bone marrow to help somebody who he has never seen, who goes through the hospital tests, arranges time of work, faces the operation—these types of things we all admire greatly.

In Homer's Iliad, Achilles is told by his mother Thetis that if he goes out to battle he will certainly die, and his answer is 'Nevertheless I am going on.'

William Tyndale gave the Bible in English to the English people. The church of the day did not want the common people to have the scriptures and they burned his Bible. Tyndale said, 'no doubt they will burn me too, if it be God's will.' It was eight years before they did eventually burn him, and he waited those eight years for his death.

The episode today shows Jesus in this mould. He knew the danger and what lay ahead and he refused to be put off course. This was not a particular gift of fore knowledge, anybody in their mind would know that if Jesus went to Jerusalem and continued to say the things which he was saying then it would end in his death. The Roman Empire was strong and powerful yet Jesus was completely lacking in awe of worldly power or values. Jesus created his own values.

But this morning is not a day in which we simply admire Jesus. He has a call to each one of us also and he makes it in this passage. He tells us that we must be like him "Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." Today we seek to model ourselves on Jesus -

When surrounded by the power of influences which surround us. Are we able to live independently by God's values and not conform to the world around us?

Would we be prepared to do so if it brought us directly into situations of conflict?

Are we prepared to consider and think through our ideas and values, to make sure that we are being transformed to live more like Jesus wishes us, rather than conforming to the prevalent opinions of our day. This is so difficult in our time because we are surrounded by powerful influences which tempt us to have a distorted view of life which is not according to the teaching of Jesus. We do not live in the shadow of

Caesarea Philippi but there is substantial pressure from powers about us. We are called to be in the world, not to retreat into solitude like the pillar saints, but to be in the midst of the chaos of our society. In the shadow of the malevolent forces which seeks to corrupt us and our society are we prepared to stand against the tide? Are we prepared to say like Jesus that if we seek self fulfilment we will never be fulfilled.

Jesus tells us that it is only as we serve and give to others that we are truly filled. Is it any wonder that our society is so lacking in fulfilment?

You might think that the message of today is that we must be brave like Jesus. Well no, it's not. Jesus was able to continue resolute in his ministry because he depended upon God's strength. If we are to dare to stand out as lights in the dark places of our world and demand kingdom values and witness to the Gospel of Christ, then we do not need to be strong or courageous, we need to be faithful. God will give to us the strength that we need to carry out his will for our lives. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

A new study has raised questions about the common concept of 'family'. Through a range of surveys, interviews, consultations and research, a new collaborative study, by the Consultative Group on Ministry among Children and the Methodist Church, has found that church family workers are engaging with a growing range of family types. The 'We are Family' research encourages a greater emphasis on diversity in understanding what is meant by 'family', the study promotes a deeper level of ministry that embraces variety and offers support to both church going families and those outside of the Church. Gail Adcock, Families Ministries Development Officer in the Methodist Church, said "Our understanding of family needs to go beyond the concept of the nuclear family to encompass a diversity of relationships. If you would like to read the report or discuss it in a group you can download a copy from the Methodist Church website

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Lord Jesus we pray that your Spirit would lead us and guide us as we seek to follow you and place you at the centre of our lives. Your love urges us to have confidence in your promise that we are a new creation. May we know in our hearts the reassurance of sins forgiven and our future safe in your merciful keeping. King of Love we praise you that no matter what circumstances may come upon us, we are always in your presence and that you walk with us wherever we go. Help us to trust you in all things and through all things and may we be an optimistic people dwelling in the comfort and knowledge that we can entrust all of our future to you.

We pray that our lives would be lived as witnesses to your kingdom. May your seeds planted in our lives bear witness to your saving grace. Help us to make our souls places which are fertile for the growth of your word. Through us may your kingdom be demonstrated to your glory as we share your grace and love. We pray that you would direct and govern your Church, that we might be your living presence in our community. May your kingdom grow and your love be known that justice and peace may reign. We pray that you would inspire our church leaders that they might speak your words to our generation and lead us in truth.

Especially we pray for all of those in the decision making process over how to respond to the mass movement of people across the Middle East and into Europe. Give them compassion and understanding to tackle those underlying issues which have caused so many people to flee their own countries. Forgive us our part in the destructive violence seen in dysfunctional countries in the Middle East and northern Africa. You have called us to welcome the stranger and love them as ourselves, so may your church show leadership to respond with love and care to the humanitarian crisis. Help us also to prepare for the long term commitment and the implications of the responses we which offer.

Look with compassion Lord Jesus of the anguish of our troubled world. We pray today for those facing adversity and all who are in need of your love and grace. We think of those facing financial hardship and an uncertain future. Those who are weak and frail and troubled by physical weakness. May all who are insufficient in their own strength find their strength in you. Lord Jesus your touch changed the lives of all who turned to you, so now hear the cry of all who cast their anxiety onto your loving care.

Heavenly Father your glory unites earth and heaven. Gather to yourself those who have died and grant eternal life to all your children, bring us through the waters of death to life eternal. Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We comment to your merciful keeping May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

Prayers Today Bidding : Loving God guide us.

Response: And grant us a glimpse of your glory.

Putnoe Heights Church Harvest Lunch. Sunday 27 September 12.45pm. All welcome. Menu - Steak, Chicken or Veggy Pie, harvest desserts. Tickets £7.00 adults £3.50 under 10s. Available from Putnoe Heights Office on weekdays or after Sunday Service.

Partnership Prayer Group meets every Thursday from 9.30 - 10am at Putnoe. We are always pleased to welcome new members. Prayer cards are now available at both churches and we include all prayer requests in our meeting.

St Mark's Junior Church will begin again on 13 September when we will look forward to welcoming the children back

Chat and Make restarts at St Mark's on Monday 14 September at 1.30-2.45pm

Chat and Play at St. Mark's restarts on Thursday 17 September from 9.30 - 11.30 am.

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church will start again on Monday 14 September at 12 noon. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help with this children's group without whom it could not take place. We are looking for new volunteers to help with this group in September.

Concerts at St. Andrew's 10th Anniversary Weekend Friday 9 October 7.30pm Urban Folk Quartet Saturday 10 October Bring & Sing Handel's Messiah 2.30pm—5pm rehearsal 7.30pm performance.
Sunday 11 October Recital 2.30pm, Tenth Anniversary Tea 4.30pm Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of Music 6pm. Details from www.standrewsbedford.org or Church office 01234 216881.

Afternoon Tea at St Mark's 3 – 5pm Saturday 19 September

We invite you to enjoy a traditional sandwiches, cakes and scones tea. We hope those who can't usually get to our evening social events will join us on this occasion. Lifts will be available for those who live locally but don't have transport. Tickets are £5 and available after services or from St Mark's church office. Any proceeds will be divided between Christian Aid and Action for Children. If anyone has china tea sets, cake stands, or embroidered tablecloths, that they are willing to loan, would like to offer other help, or would like a lift, please contact: Janet Day 295592; Jean Bank 355698; Linda Parry 216724; Wendy Waters 401834.

Youth Service—Reason is a new event at Christ Church, Denmark Street (MK40 3TJ), designed to challenge, question and inform our beliefs and where they come from. It is an opportunity to strip back our world view to the fundamental questions that shape our understanding of life, the universe and everything. Take this chance and bring some

friends to share food for thought and food for the body. Christ Church Bedford, 1st Sunday of every month 6.30pm, refreshments from 6.15pm
Fall...and why is there evil and suffering? - 4/10/15
Redemption...and how can we live life to the full? - 1/11/15
Restoration...and why should I be friends with God? - 6/12/15

Brickhill Parish Council next meets on Thursday October 1 at 7.30pm at St Mark's Church Community Centre. All are welcome to attend these public meetings. This is preceded by a meeting of the planning committee which discusses local matter of planning and which is also a public meeting. The planning committee has powers to decide to direct any planning application to a full public meeting of the Bedford Borough Council Planning Committee.

Harvest Festival 2015

Our Harvest Festival Services will take place on Sunday 27 September.

Harvest Invitation cards are available this morning to use to invite people you know to our services

Tuesday Housegroup St. Mark's Church is home to a mid-week social and Bible study group which has been running for many years. A small group of like-minded members of St. Mark's and of Putnoe Heights, meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons from 2.00pm -3.30pm. The group's next meeting is on Tuesday 22 September and we would like to invite a few more people to join us. More information from Jean Bank, St. Mark's and from Sue and Martin Fannon, Putnoe Heights.

Cooking Apples If you have a glut of cooking apples, Messy Church would love to have them. Please leave in the office for Gill to collect.

Harvest Service A service for harvest will be held at Highfield Residential Care Home on 20 September 2015. All who would like to help are very welcome. Vera Pearson

Messy Church Dates

Wednesday 21 October
Wednesday 18 November
Wednesday 9 December
3.45 to 5.30pm



Telecare

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.

Equipping God's People

The Diocese runs many courses which you may find helpful and our churches will offer you encouragement and support if you wish to attend. You can find them all online www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/find-a-course/

Home group/Bible Study group Leaders' training is a course run over two Saturday mornings for anyone who leads or would like to lead Bible studies/Home groups and wants to learn more about how adults learn and the skills of facilitating groups.

Bereavement Ministry This three session course will interest and help equip anyone who as a disciple of Christ wants to know more about caring

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Please remember in your prayers

We were saddened to hear news this week of the death of **Lena Cooper** at St John's Moggerhanger. She died peacefully surrounded by her family. Lena and Alan have been members of our Church since the earliest times. Lena fought bravely to overcome many illnesses and surprised us all on more than one occasion by her fortitude, attending church only a couple of weeks ago at St Mark's looking quite remarkable. Please remember Alan and all of the family in your prayers.

Please also remember the family of Gill Padbury following the death this week of her husband **Keith Padbury**. Gill is a faithful member of our 8.30am Holy Communion and our thoughts and prayers are with her and the family at this time.

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



Joan Pierce

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

for people who have been bereaved, whether within the church or wider community.

A Welcoming church This 2-session course will interest anyone and everyone who is keen that the welcome we offer to newcomers, visitors and enquirers is the best it can be.

Dementia Friends Training

A basic short friendly and interactive session on recognising the signs and tips on how to support people with dementia.

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



Community Coffee Mornings at

Putnoe Heights Church restart at 10 a.m. on Wednesday September 30.

Other dates this year are

Wednesdays October

14 and 28, November 11 and 25, with the final one this year on December 9.

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Jean Harrold

will take place at St. Albans Woodland Burial Ground at 12noon on Friday 18 September, followed by a service at St. Mark's Church at 2.00pm.

The funeral of Kay Joy Phillips will take place at Norse Road Cemetery Chapel at 9.15am on Monday 14 September.

The funeral of Rosemary Alexander, longstanding member of Putnoe Heights and Tuesday Club, will be at Norse Road, at 11.30am on Wednesday 16 September.

The funeral of Peter Marsden will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Monday 21 September.

The funeral of Keith Padbury will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 3.15pm on Thursday 24 September

The funeral of Doris Hilda Mynott will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 3.15pm on Thursday 24 September.

The funeral of Joyce Mavis Marriott will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Friday 25 September

The funeral of Lena Cooper will take place at St Mark's Church at 10.00am on Friday 25 September.