



Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
15 February 2015
Sunday next before Lent**



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

15 February - Sunday next before Lent

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

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

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon
Intercessions - Mrs. Sam Ware
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

22 February - First Sunday of Lent

9.30am St Mark's - Commissioning Service

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions - Mr. Richard Ledger
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Commissioning Service

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mrs. Sue Allen
Intercessions - Dr. Tim Wilkes
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Genesis 9:8-17 2. 1 Peter 3:18-22
3. Mark 1:9-15

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.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

Deacon Jane Mills
c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

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

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website www.ThisIsChurch.com

Music Copyright CCL1501

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Jean & Roger Bank in loving memory of their parents and also in celebration of their twin grandsons' first birthday.

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

All creation blesses you, O Lord.
Exiles offer you worship.
Pilgrims hallow your name.
Saints adore you.
Humanity offers its praise.
And we your servants
lift our hearts and voices
to you in joy and thanksgiving. Amen.

Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

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

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Geoff Gypps 365630
Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Jean Bank 355698
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

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

11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's. Liz Mason 07816522200 (starts 8 Sept.)

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

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 01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Pat Nicholson 353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.

7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting– 16 February Judith Stanton. 823313

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

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

Lorrie Pearson 01234 340473

11-12.15am 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 (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.

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

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 3 March Easter Crafts 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 –4pm St Mark's Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 11 February Putnoe Heights Office 365630

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811

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

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

2.00pm - 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 18 March

2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

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

6.00pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

6.00-7.00pm 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 3446008.

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

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Will meet again on 8 January 2015 Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

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

1.00ui-2.30pm Wiggles & Jiggles Putnoe Heights. Drop in.

1.00 - 2.30pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's (Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

1pm-2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552. 2pm -

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

2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210

3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07768481499

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

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

7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th

week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Kaye Logan 309105

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. 1st Sunday Feb/Apr/ Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

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

Messy Church Dates 18 Mar. 15 Apr.



Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council –
St Mark's Leadership Team -**

Annual Congregational Meetings - 26 April 2015

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting –

Putnoe Church Council - 19 February 2015 at 7.30pm

Pastoral Group Meeting - 17 February

Churchyard Committee - 15 April 11.15am

Circuit meeting –

Deanery meeting - 19 March 7.30pm.

Woodland Burial Trustees – 15 March 12.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 1 June 2015 2pm

St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015, 6 April, 4 May, 25 May and 31 August.

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

Sunday next before Lent

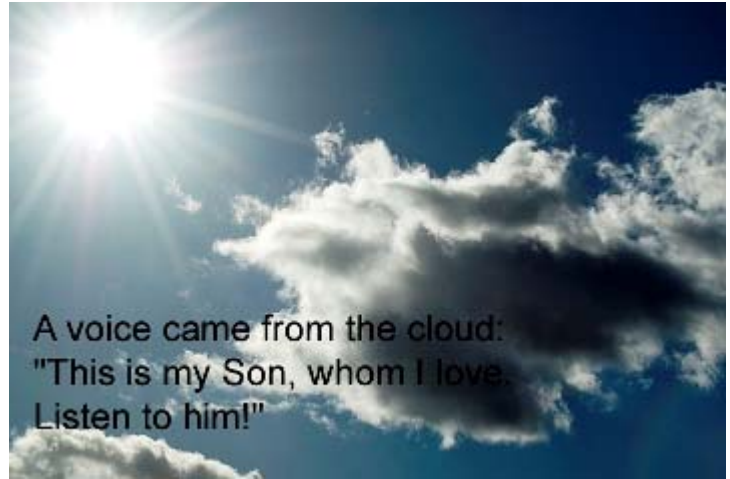
Sentence of Scripture - Psalm 50 v1-2

The Mighty One, God, the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets. From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen



A voice came from the cloud:
"This is my Son, whom I love.
Listen to him!"

First Bible Reading - 2 Kings 2:1-12

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "but do not speak of it." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho. The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," he replied, "but do not speak of it." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on. Fifty men of the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours--otherwise not." As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them apart. (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading 2 Corinthians Chapter 4:3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Mark 9:2-9 (When announced - **Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, when they

looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. (This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns for Sunday (*Please distribute Holy Communion booklets and Mission Praise*)

1. Christ triumphant, ever reigning, MP 77;
2. Father hear the prayer we offer, MP 132;
3. Christ upon the mountain peak, (**On Partnership News**)
4. Guide me O Thou great Jehovah, MP 201

Meditation

Transfiguration Sunday marks the end of the season of Epiphany. There is a lot of talk about light during Epiphany, beginning with the shining star that led the Wise Men to Jesus. Epiphany literally means 'to shine on' or 'give light to' and today's gospel reading about the Transfiguration is all about light shining, from people's faces, because they have encountered the mystery and presence of God. But how confusing for the disciples. Peter, James and John have been with Christ up the mountain. There can be no confusion for them as to who Christ is, He truly is the Messiah, the Son of God. Even though Peter has already made his declaration that Jesus is the Christ the voice from the cloud leaves them in no doubt as they are then instructed to listen to Christ. After such an experience they would certainly do anything Christ asks of them. But strangely, the first thing Christ says to them is that they should tell no one about what had happened and what they had seen until the one they had just seen transfigured in glory has died and risen from the dead. How could being the Messiah, the Son of God involve suffering as well as glory, pain as well as light and life? Jesus had already begun to explain what would happen to Him but it's easy to imagine the disciples forgetting this in the heat, light and glory of the moment. Mark records that the disciples obeyed Christ's command faithfully, but then did talk among themselves as to what this could possibly mean! There are times when we too catch glimpses of God's glory, and even reflect its radiance in our faces. There are times too when we are confused and don't understand what is happening in the heat of the moment. Those are the times when we, like the disciples, have to step out in faith, sure in the certain hope that we will only fully understand God's plan and our part in it when we meet with the transfigured and resurrected Christ resplendent in all His light and Glory.

Commentary Seeing the Light

Today's gospel reading follows the declaration by the disciples that Jesus is the Messiah. So their decision about Jesus is not prompted by what they see on the mountain. It's more like what they see and hear on the mountain is a confirmation of what they have already come to believe, that Jesus is indeed the Messiah. As Jane Williams writes, "This is my Son, my Beloved' – you have made the right choice". The thin curtain that separates the spiritual and physical dimensions of the cosmos is pulled back and the disciples see revealed the glory of the Father and His heavenly Kingdom about to break through on earth. Jesus is the fulfilment of the Old Testament law and the prophets and brings to a completion their work. In Jesus, confirmed once again at the transfiguration, a new day is now dawning, a new era has come. Light is breaking through in our world in a new way. Jesus coming was not a trivial event – it would have cosmic and cataclysmic consequences! The memory of the glorious encounter would last with Peter, James and John for the rest of their lives and into eternity. Whatever they would encounter as they followed Jesus, the joys, trials and tribulations of life as a disciple of Jesus that particular experience and memory would remain with them. They would recall it at night, they would think of it as Jesus spoke to them and taught them of His Father's love for them and the world. They would hold it before them as they went out into the community in which they lived, to share what it meant to have had an encounter with the Son of God and the transformation that brought in their own lives. If they'd lived in an era of smartphones they would certainly have taken a few 'selfies' to capture the moment and to help them remember it for the rest of their lives!

Given that Peter, James and John witnessed the bright light of the glory of God its perhaps not surprising that it is these same disciples who are with Jesus in His hour of deepest agony and darkness in the Garden of Gethsemane. In the dark, they would remember the light. In the hour of Jesus' deepest affirmation and challenge, they would remember the mountain top experience. And yet, not all the disciples experienced the transfiguration. They, like many others to follow them, would need to live off the experience of the few who had witnessed firsthand the intervention of God and His voice speaking in His creation. But mystical experiences are not just the privilege of a few. Each of us in our own way can experience similar mystical experiences at different times of our lives. They can be times when we are reassured of God's personal relationship and love for us as individuals, they can assure us of God's purpose in our lives, or that can just be a mystical experience of a power other than ourselves in our lives for a brief moment. But just because we do not always see and hear the transforming and transfiguring light and voice of God does not mean that they do not exist, for others or for ourselves. Our faith will always be a mixture of our own personal experience and spiritual journey and the reflected experience and stories of others on the same road. We may not always hear and experience God in the same way as others but we should not deny the reality of that experience just because it is not ours. God, through His Son Jesus, speaks to each one of us differently, meets with us in different ways; wants us to encounter Him not only in our mountain top experiences but in our valleys of despair. And as He does, as we acknowledge the voice that says, 'This is my beloved Son, listen to Him', as we listen to Him and let the light of the transfiguration into our lives, so Christ is able to transfigure and transform our lives.

When life is at its most confusing and uncertain or when we are most afraid (like the disciples up the mountain with Jesus) we can still look around and see and realise the glory of God, and in so doing begin to get an insight into Him and of our place in His world. Our place in reflecting the glory which is His however badly and inadequately we might feel we do this. We also need to appreciate the elusive quality of the revelation of God's glory. The disciples found that it could not be contained or controlled and it never will be. It is, by its very nature, elusive. When God touches us, as he does to each one of us, we should appreciate the moment and move on down the mountain and back to real life, not try to build structures around an experience or to try to capture it or put it on record as if it was something to be photographed but live it for the immediacy and let it change our lives forever.

Sam Cappleman

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

As the beautiful, dew covered rose rises from amongst its thorns, so may my heart be so full of love for you my God, that I may rise above the storms and evils that assail me, and stand fast in trust and freedom of spirit. Amen. *Hadewijch of Brabant - 13th Century*

Lord, in so many ways we are blind to you. We too fail to see you for who you are. Forgive us when we miss the reality of your transfiguring and transforming presence among us. Amen

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit, that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the broken hearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God of dawning light, hear our prayers today and give us the strength to put aside all cares and choose to follow you in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Glory to the Father, our true and only hope. Glory to the Son, our true and only refuge. Glory to the Holy Spirit, our true and only protection. Glory to the Holy Trinity, our true and only light; now and to the ages of ages. Amen. A Prayer of the Eastern Church

Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen

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

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

International John Bunyan Society Conference on Representing Dissent in the Long Eighteenth Century at University of Bedfordshire on Friday 10 April 10.00am - 5.00pm. Free of charge. Contact bob.owens@beds.ac.uk for more information.

Putnoe Heights Ladies. I have booked for a group of us to have another evening meal at The Cappuccino Bar, in Newnham Street, on Tuesday March 3rd at 7.30p.m. Even if you didn't come last time, you are welcome to join us on this occasion. Please see me for further details. Maximum number 25. Margaret Massey. Tel. 327219.

St. Mark's Church Pre-school. Our lunchtime volunteer now feels unable to carry on so we are looking for someone to help out for 1 hour (or more) a week. We would prefer Monday 12noon to 1pm but volunteers are always welcome. A DBS (Data Background Check) will be required for the children's safety. Please speak to Helen Harpin/ Sue Jones at pre-school or Jean Bank/Janet Day at church.

Confirmation. 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 the Christian life. The affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the support of the wider church. In the Partnership we welcome The Bishop and the Methodist Superintendent. If confirmation is something which you might be interested in then we would be delighted to discuss it with you. Please speak with one of the ministers.

Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 27 September.

St. Mark's Pre-school are collecting Active Kids vouchers. There is a box on the table or they can be handed into the office. Thank you Helen Harpin.

Next Messy Church at St Mark's Church on Wednesday 18 March 3.45 - 5.30pm. Messy Church takes place monthly on a Wednesday from 3.45pm - 5.30pm. For children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. For more details contact Wendy Waters 401834

Lent Group using extracts from the film 'The Kings Speech' and related Bible passages to explore fear, how it holds us back; how we can face and overcome it. To be held on Monday evenings 7.30 pm on 23 February, 2, 9 and 16th March. If you are interested please contact Wendy Waters.



Lent Homegroup We have had an offer of a new weekday evening Homegroup for Lent in Putnoe which will be advised. If you would like to offer a Lent Homegroup then we can advertise that and encourage people to come and supply suitable materials for reflection. If you would prefer something during the day then we have a homegroup at St Mark's 2.15pm Tuesday afternoons and this group welcomes new members even if it is just through Lent.

Lent Lunches We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us for a simple lunch of soup, cheese and bread every Thursday during Lent, 26 February - 26 March, 12noon - 1.15pm in the Holt Room at St. Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford. Minimum donation £3 in support of the Bedford Hospital Challenge Cancer Appeal.

Christian Aid "Count Your Blessings" in Lent beginning Ash Wednesday, 18 February. During Lent, Christians think about the time that Jesus spent in the desert without food and drink. Many give up something they enjoy and reflect on the things they have and remember those who are less fortunate. Lent is a good opportunity to take actions that make a difference for people all over the world. "Count Your Blessings" leaflets will be available at both churches today. At the end of the Lent period, please send any contributions you would like to make directly to Christian Aid. The address is in the leaflet. Thank you. Further information from Carolyn Morris at Putnoe Heights and Jean Bank at St Mark's.

Date for your diary Auction of Promises at St Mark's church Saturday 18 April at 7.30pm. Please put this date in your diary. This will be a fund raising evening at which we can offer things we have, experiences, gifts etc. More information to follow.

St Mark's Craft Stall will have their Easter novelties available from today @ £1each. This year we have Shaun the sheep.

The Lord Richard Harries, formerly the Bishop of Oxford will be speaking on "Standards in Public Life Today" The event, including lunch, will be held at the Sharnbrook Hotel on Thursday 12th March at a cost of £21. For further details please contact Roger Cornwall email: rogwencornwall@icloud.com

Putnoe Heights Church Council takes place on Thursday 19 February at 7.30pm. This is an open meeting and all are invited to attend



Ash Wednesday Service

There will be an Ash Wednesday service in the chapel at St. Mark's on Wednesday 18 February at 7.30pm. The service lasts an hour and includes Holy Communion and the Imposition of ashes. The

preacher this year will be the Reverend Ross Royden, Vicar of Christ Church, Hong Kong.

Christ upon the mountain peak

Christ upon the mountain peak
stands alone in glory blazing;
let us, if we dare to speak,
with the saints and angels praise him.
Alleluia!

Trembling at his feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the Law
shout through them their joyful greeting.
Alleluia!

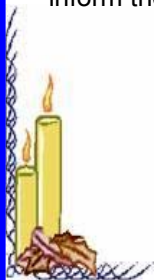
Swift the cloud of glory came.
God proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus as his Son by name!
Nations cry aloud in wonder!
Alleluia!

This is God's beloved Son!
Law and prophets fade before him;
first and last and only One,
let creation now adore him!
Alleluia!

Footprints Walk Sunday 1 March 2.00pm
A circular walk, under 3 miles, from the War Memorial in the centre of Biddenham, passing through some interesting parts of Biddenham and Great Denham. Details from Sue & Gerry.

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.'

Welcome and Farewell A fare well to Debbie Copenhall who has cared for the children in both crèche and junior Church for many years. On behalf of everyone at St Mark's we have given her a gift to show our appreciation of her dedicated service. A welcome to Louise Brady and her children. Louise like Debbie is one of our Pre-school staff and she and children will be in the crèche and Junior Church on Sunday mornings from now on, so please help to make her feel welcome. *Thank you Jean.*

Bedford Town Band The first concert of 2015 will be held at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday February 28 at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door £8 or £5 concessions

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

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Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Mr Patrick Vincent Elms will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 11.30am on Thursday 19 February

The funeral of Nina Margaret Allen will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on Monday 23 February

The funeral of Lily May Hostler will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 9 March at 1.45pm

The funeral of John Henry Owen Williams will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 4.00pm on Friday 20 February