



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
16 February 2014
6th Sunday after Epiphany



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

Today – 6th after Epiphany

9.30 St Marks - Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mr. Edward Parry
Intercessions – Mrs. Delia Shephard
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs. Sue Allen
Intercessions — Mrs Sylvia Cohen
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

23 February 2014 - 7th after Epiphany

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Ministers
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds
11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship
Preacher– Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership Team - Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions — Mr Alan Baylis
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Genesis 1: 1-23
2. Romans 8: 18-25 3. Matthew 6: 25-34

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

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Beryl Rainbow in loving memory of Tony on his 80th Birthday and in celebration of granddaughter Sophie on her 18th 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

O Lord of the waters of creation
we are awed by the power and majesty
of the oceans, seas and rivers.
we give thanks to you for the water
we have to drink;
for the skills we have been given by you
to channel the power of the wind
and the waves.
We remember before you those affected by flood,
cyclone and hurricane
We ask you to remind us,
as we drink, of what we can do
for those for whom water is less friendly.
Amen

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

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

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

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

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

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 Contact Janet King 313946

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) Contact Janet King 313946.

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

2pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights— fortnightly

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

5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Emily Taverner 01234 792013

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner

01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571

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

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

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

7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club 92nd 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— 17 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 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking at Putnoe Heights. For more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

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

9.30am 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 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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.

4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

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

7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.00pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly) February 18 'Experiences in Nepal' - Margaret Hakin Details Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

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

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

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

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Janet King 313946

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 26 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

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966

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

Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 19 March 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

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

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

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

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

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 19 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

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 (Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

1pm-2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552. 2pm -Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

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

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

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

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

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

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) Contact Janet King 313946

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd week in month)Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

9.00am Faith Temple Ministries St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard 01234 782414

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday Feb/ Apr/Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

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

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

Messy Church Dates Weds 19th March, 16th April, 21st May, 18th June.



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 25 February
St Mark's Leadership Team - 20 May, 9 Sept
Annual Congregational Meetings—27th April
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 30th April
Putnoe Church Council - 18 February 10 July
Pastoral Group Meeting - 1 April 4pm
Churchyard Committee -
Commemoration Service - 2nd November
Circuit meeting – 19th June
Woodland Burial Trustees—
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –

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

6th after Epiphany

Sentence of Scripture - Psalm 119 v 1

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law the Lord

Collect Prayer for the Day *Before we read we pray*

O God, you know us to set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection may support us in all dangers and carry through all temptations; 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.

**Forgive, settle matters quickly,
do not be angry,**



First Bible Reading -Deut 30 v 15 - 20

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (This is the word of the Lord -- Thanks be to God)

Second Bible Reading - 1 Corinthians 3: v 1-9

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly— mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, I follow Paul, and another, I follow Apollos, are you not mere men? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe— as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labour. For we are God's fellow-workers; you are God's field, God's building.

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 5: v 21-37

(When the gospel is announced: **Glory to You, O Lord**)

You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny. You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of

your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery. Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes', and your 'No', 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

(At the end of the reading – **Praise to you, O Christ**)

Post Communion Prayer

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Mission Praise & Holy Communion Booklets*)

1. Brightest and best are the sons of the morning, 65
2. Shout for joy, - **On Partnership News**
3. Break Thou the bread of life, 64
4. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, 529

Commentary

It's about choice...Perhaps the Old Testament reading is the central reading for understanding all of today's readings. The commandments are given to Israel so that they might have freedom in their relationship with their God, knowledge of Him as the creator life-giver and understand Him as the source of all life if they chose to do so. In so doing they give guidance as to how to live in His world in harmony with creation and crucially, in a relationship with Him. The book of Deuteronomy can be seen as being structured into three sections, each of them a similar to a 'sermon'. Today's reading is the conclusion of the third, and shortest 'sermon' and in some ways contains the essence of not only the Old Testament, but the New Testament too and brings into sharp focus the challenge and choice God offers each one of us. In one of the most powerful statements in the bible, the writer of Deuteronomy sets before the world the question to which everyone needs to respond. 'I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life'. God's offer to each one of us, His desire for each one of us is simply expressed in the last two words of the challenge, 'Choose life'. Jesus, like Moses, invites us to choose life and the blessings of the Kingdom that God offers to all. Perhaps Matthew also gives us an insight into one of the key facets and presumed outworking of the choice of life. Just as Moses had assumed that many of the precepts laid down in the law would become second nature and therefore the core and basis for the Israelites life, so too it would appear that unity with fellow believers and reconciliation with the world and creation was an outworking of the choice for life that the believers made.

In the gospel reading, Jesus may well be comparing and commenting on the teaching of some of the prominent Rabbinic teachers in this passage from Matthew. Matthew was probably written for a mainly Jewish readership and Jesus and speaks about how the early believer's righteousness needs to exceed that of the Pharisees. But it would appear that His primary concern is not slavish adherence to the law but with those things which would drive division and rifts and tear families apart and therefore stop individuals and communities being reconciled to each other, as would be the case with divorce and adultery. In those times many families would intermarry and would have had strong blood links across the entire community. Breakdown between families implied breakdown in communities, as it does today in many societies. Similarly reconciliation and harmony in communities can build them up and strengthen them. Reconciliation can be both reflective and active and frequently includes two key facets. Facing the truth, the bare and sometimes painful facts about a situation and secondly, doing something about it. This seems to be what Jesus is stressing here, not just about a small, specific component of Rabbinic teaching, over which there was apparently much debate, but about the big and the small things that can divide families and communities. If we are to be fully reconciled to God we need to be reconciled to each other. And according to Matthew's gospel we are the ones to take the initiative in the reconciling process. It's not if we have anything against our brother and sister we are to

act, but if they have something against us. The responsibility for reconciliation is with the believers. That too may involve facing the truth about a situation and then doing something about it. Through the work of Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela there has been an increased focus on the need for reconciliation in recent times and the need to face too the often brutal facts which have led to division in the first place. We might not be called to be active in some of the bigger acts of reconciliation which need to take place in God's creation but we are called to those smaller acts which surround our own lives and over which we have influence, and choice. A choice which can lead to the ever increasing fullness of life God has in store for each one of His people. *Sam Cappleman*

Meditation

Implicit in the words of Christ are the words of Moses in Deuteronomy. At the time Deuteronomy is written Israel are camped in the plains of Moab and about to enter the Promised Land and Moses is coming to the end of his life. In his final appeal to Israel he tells how God is ready to forgive and restore all people, even those who have turned their back on Him. There is a choice to be made; between life and death, between loving God and forsaking Him, between blessings or curses. As the Israelites stand on the brink of taking possession of the land they have been promised in scripture they have to choose between obedience to God's laws or going their own way. Not surprisingly Moses urges them to choose life. It was a choice they had to make. If we too are to live out the life God intended for us, as individuals and as a community, that too will involve choices and reconciliation. Choices to walk in God's ways as lived out by Jesus in the gospels, step by step, day by day, and reconciliation too, with those people and situations from which we have become divided in the past.

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*

Father God we pray that we would have the grace to be reconciled to you, in order that we can be reconciled to your world. 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 to chose to follow you in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Church leaders are urging David Cameron to rethink government policy on Britain accepting Syrian refugees.

Forty-eight Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic and United Reformed Church leaders from across Great Britain have written an open letter to the Prime Minister acknowledging the significant role that Britain has played in providing funds for refugees in countries around Syria. However, the letter also speaks of the 'moral responsibility' to resettle a significant number of refugees in Britain. The letter criticises the Government's initial commitment as falling a long way short of the contribution Britain should make given its size and resources. The leaders suggest that a proportionate figure well in excess of 1,000 would be far more appropriate and point out that following a major conflict most refugees are able and desire to return to their homes. "We are proud of Britain's long heritage of welcoming refugees," said the Revd John Howard, Chair of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District, who coordinated the response. "We have an ethical duty to honour this tradition and play our part in caring for those displaced by this terrible conflict."

Church Clears way for women bishops

The Church of England General Synod has opened the way for a woman to be selected as a Bishop in the early part of 2015. Cutting through normal due process this is a double quick way to fast track women to the top. Synod voted by a majority of 358 - 39

Putnoe Heights Bring & Buy Stall.

In the welcome area on Sunday 9th March. Please bring any saleable items to the Church Office or on the day, eg bric-a-brac, gifts and cakes. Then come along to BUY. It is hoped that this will be the first of a series of modest monthly fund-raising events for church funds. We have recently had some expenses which were not in the budget so funds are urgently needed. If you would like to help with future events please speak to a member of the Leadership Team.

Putnoe Book Stall : Our bookstall is now up and running; the books are to be found on a Library Trolley which is being kept in the Quiet Room. This can be wheeled anywhere in the building and if any Groups using Church premises wish to have it in their room, please take advantage of it (we would ask that it be returned to the Quiet Room afterwards). The loan charge per book is 25p, purchase price of any book is £1 and an honesty box is attached to the trolley. We will still have some books in the Small Hall and the same charges apply here. Until this project gets going, perhaps anyone with any books for the stall will be patient and keep them until later. Thank you to everyone who has donated books up to now. Pam Kinselley

Wanted – Waitrose Green Tokens; Friends for Life have been selected as a nominated charity for the Waitrose Community Matters scheme for the month of February 2014. If you shop at Waitrose in Bedford please choose Friends for Life for your green token. Tell all your friends to support us too. Friends for Life is an ecumenical project dedicated to supporting Care Home residents in the Bedford area by providing volunteer visitors to residents who have few or no other visitors.
www.friendsforlifebedford.org.uk

Coloured plastic bags are wanted by the guides for their show in April. Please leave at church office.

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.*

Christian Aid News: Christian Aid Oxford are organising a sponsored abseil down Elstow Abbey tower. They are busy looking for volunteers to abseil as well as sponsors. more details to follow shortly. Speaker Sarjon Toma from Iraqi Christian Aid partner REACH will be at Stopsley Baptist Church, St Thomas Road, Luton LU2 7XP on Tuesday 11 March, 7pm. An evening to hear about your impact in Iraq and beyond, as well as discussing faith, hope, conflict, and the role churches can play in building peace this Christian Aid Week. Carolyn

Ash Wednesday Service 5 March

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be at St Mark's Church at 7.30pm. The service is a great way to start Lent.

Putnoe Heights Church Council is on Tuesday 18 February at 7.30pm

St Mark's Church Council is on Tuesday 25 March at 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start

Church Councils are open meetings and all are welcome to attend



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 at St Mark's. 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

Welfare Benefits are Changing Find out how benefit changes may affect you. This session is for people of working age with a physical disability. Including Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Employment Support Allowance, Universal credit changes, Housing Benefit, Council Tax and Benefit cap. Thursday 6 March St Andrew's Parish Church 10.30am - 12.30pm You must book ! Call Anona 01234 718345 anona.hoyle@bedford.gov.uk

Get ready for the summer, learn Spanish at Putnoe Heights Church. Survival Spanish for holidays. On Thursdays 9.15-10.45 for more information contact Elena 01234 266968 or www.elcole.co.uk

Join the Real Easter Egg 2014 Campaign. Out of 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one with the Easter story in the box. This year there are two versions available at £3.99 and £9.99. See St. Mark's notice board for further details and order at the office.

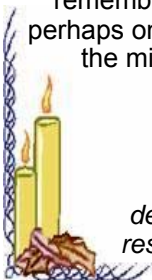
St. Mark's Church Preschool are now collecting Sainsbury's kids vouchers. Please pass to Helen Harpin or pop them into the box provided.

Women's World Day of Prayer Services 7 March 'Streams in the Desert' - Praying for Egypt 2pm at the Miracle Church of God. Speaker: Revd. Glayne Worgan 7.30pm at St Mark's Church. Speaker: Revd. Fiona Gibson. Men and women welcome to this moving, interdenominational, service compiled by the women of Egypt. This is the first time it has been held at St Mark's so do come if you can. For more information please speak to Wendy Waters

Lent Soup Lunch for Christian Aid. Make a donation to Christian Aid and enjoy a home made soup, bread and cheese lunch at Putnoe Heights Church after morning service on Sunday 16th March. No tickets but please sign the list in Putnoe Welcome Area.

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.



John Emery

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

A Hymn For Sunday

Shout for joy! The Lord has let us feast;
heaven's own fare has fed the last and least;
Christ's own peace is shared again on earth;
God the Spirit fills us with new worth.

No more doubting, no more senseless dread:
God's good self has graced our wine and bread;
all the wonder heaven has kept in store
now is ours to keep for evermore.

Celebrate with saints who dine on high,
witnesses that love can never die.
"Hallelujah!" - thus their voices ring:
nothing less in gratitude we bring.

Praise the Maker, praise the Maker's Son,
praise the Spirit - three yet ever one;
praise the God whose food and friends avow
heaven starts here!
The kingdom beckons now!

 amazon.com
and you're done.



When you do your shopping please shop at [www. ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)

Thank you for shopping using the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. 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.

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Olive Rose will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Thursday 20 February at 12.30pm

The funeral of Roger Terence Beard will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 20 February at 2.30pm

The funeral of Irene Jenny Hill will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on Thursday 20 February.

The funeral of Barbara Allen will take place at the Crematorium at 11.30a.m. on Friday 28th February