



# Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
16 November 2014  
Ordinary 33



## 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

### 16 November– Ordinary 33

#### 9.30am St Marks - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Bank

Intercessions - Mrs. Wendy Waters

Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

#### 11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden

Leadership - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae

Intercessions - Mr. Alan Bayliss

Organist – Mr. Clive Simmonds

### 23 November– Ordinary 34

#### 9.30am St Marks - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs. Brenda Sackett

Leadership - Mrs. Jean Bank

Intercessions - Mr. Mike Elliott

Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

#### 11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs. Brenda Sackett

Leadership - Mr Martin Fannon

Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen

Organist – Mr. Clive Simmonds

**Readings** 1. Ezekiel 34: 11-16 2. Ephesians 1: 15-23

3. Matthew 25: 31-46

**Midweek Holy communion** at St. Mark's Chapel every  
Wednesday at 10am and at Sir William Harpur House on  
first Monday of every month at 10.00am.

## Thank You

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week are  
given by Mike Cooper in loving memory of his  
parents.

## Prayer for Sunday

The Grace of Christ  
has been offered to us again today;

We receive it with thanks,  
and through our kindness  
we will share it with others.

The Love of God  
has come to us again today;

We fill our hearts in joy,  
and through our compassion  
we will share it with others.

The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
has embraced us again today;

We delight in it with gratitude,  
and through our generosity  
we will share it with others.

Go in peace and thanksgiving,  
Live and work so that God's goodness  
may be recognised,  
and God may be praised. 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.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)**

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### 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](http://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

**11am-12noon Pilates** St. Mark's. Liz Mason

07816522200 (starts 8 Sept.)

**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 8 September

**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](mailto: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-8pm Cubs** at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5

Email:[phxg.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com) Tel Tom 07974566509

**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** 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— 17 November 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 Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights.

Pat McCart 365507

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

Lorrie Pearson 01234 340473

**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

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

07891879571

**7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie

07980447390

**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets

fortnightly Next meeting Christmas Crafts 25 November.

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 19 November 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 November

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

**6-7pm 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

**7.00pm 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 November 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.

**9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus** at Putnoe Heights

**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 Restarts September 11

**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 Restarts 4 September

**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 Brenna. 07919402797.

**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

**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

**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 (9.30 am— 3.30pm from January.)

**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

**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.



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council –**  
**St Mark's Leadership Team -** 26 January  
**Annual Congregational Meetings—** 26 April 2014  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -**  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting -**  
**Putnoe Church Council -** 20 February  
**Pastoral Group Meeting -**  
**Churchyard Committee -**  
**Commemoration Service -**  
**Circuit meeting –**  
**Deanery meeting -**  
**Woodland Burial Trustees—**  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -** Monday  
19 January 2015  
*Please advise St Mark's Church Office  
of the dates of your meetings.*



# Ordinary 33

## Sentence of Scripture -

1 Thessalonians 5:10

God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall

appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever



*Weighing the heart From Thebes, Egypt  
19th Dynasty, around 1275 BC*

## First Bible Reading - Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, during the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah: At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.' Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. They will build houses but not live in them; they will plant vineyards but not drink the wine.

"The great day of the LORD is near-- near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the day of the LORD will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness, a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers. I will bring distress on the people and they will walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like filth. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath. In the fire of his jealousy the whole world will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth." (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

## Second Bible Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)

## Gospel Reading - Matthew 25:14-30

*(Please stand when the reading is announced—Glory to Christ our Saviour)*

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also,

the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

(This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

### **Hymns** *(Please distribute hymn sheets)*

1. Come let us worship the Christ of creation
2. My Jesus my Saviour
3. Give me the faith
4. Church of God

### **Commentary**

I think I have told some of you about my journey to France and the visit to the Louvre to the Egyptians exhibitions and the magnificent 'Book of the Dead.' In the picture opposite we see a scroll from the British Museum From Thebes, Egypt 19th Dynasty, around 1275 BC. This is the Book of the Dead of a man called Any and it is full of spells and rules to help Any travel safely on his journey through the Afterlife.

Here he is shown facing his last and most important test – the weighing of the heart. On the left Any and his wife enter the area where he is to be judged. The Egyptians thought that a person's heart showed all their good and bad deeds. Any's heart is placed on scales and weighed by the god Anubis (with the black jackal head) against the feather of truth. If it is lighter than the feather he will survive and continue into the next world. If it is heavier then he will be eaten by the Devourer, the monster on the right who is part-lion, part-hippopotamus and part-crocodile. Next to the Devourer stands Thoth, the god of truth (with an ibis head). He is checking that the weighing is fair. If you look carefully at the scales you can work out if Any make it through to the next world !

Weighing is part of judgement and reckoning and in the Parable of the Talents today it is all about this same process of weighing up what we have done and giving an account of ourselves. We probably all know the parable of the talents off by heart but the name is a bit of a problem. When we think of talents we tend to think of things like the ability to play the flute or to draw or sing. When Jesus told the story it was not about those things, a talent was literally weight, of 60 - 90 pounds. It meant a lot of money, so today whilst this parable might have come into our language with the meaning of being good with our hands or something else, there is much more going on.

Jesus tells the story of a master who goes away. In those days there were no phones, no email, no faxes, so he had to leave things in the hands of somebody else. In the Roman Empire slaves were often left in control of estates, they could earn bonuses by managing affairs well. The master gives them talents, a talent was the equivalent of 6,000 denarii and a denarii was a days wages. We can think a talent as being equivalent to 6,000 days labour, 15 - 20 years work! So Jesus is making the point that even the slave with

the least amount of money was given a lot, equivalent to perhaps about half a million pounds.

When the master returns from his journey there is a reckoning, just like Any in the story there is a weighing up and an accounting process which takes place, to judge the way that the slaves had used the talents that had been given to them. Jesus tells that the two slaves who had been given much had made much more and they were rewarded with even more. However the third slave had failed. Unlike the others he had been gripped by fear of failure and had buried his money in the ground. Burying things was common in those days and was considered to be a safe way of preserving what you had.

Burying the money is a wonderful picture of what is wrong with the servant because of course the most important thing that you have to do when you bury treasure that you have to make sure you don't tell anybody about it ! The one thing which they follower of Jesus most not do it to keep the good news to themselves, the Gospel is for sharing. Preserving what we have is not considered a satisfactory way of living. Therefore doing nothing and playing safe ends up with the servant being punished.

This is the troubling part of the teaching of Jesus which makes it different from just the normal judgement and afterlife stories. For the Egyptian Any, he would have had to account for his behaviour in his life and whether he had been guilty of crimes such as stealing. However Jesus is saying that God's judgement is not just about keeping out of trouble, God treats lack of action as a terrible thing. The Christian disciple has been entrusted with the wonderful truth of the Gospel and because of this much is expected of them. They are in a privileged position and the idea of just preserving what you have got and keeping quiet about it is not an option. Burying it in the ground and not telling anybody about it will get you into trouble ! The servant might well have been afraid of failure like the lion in the Wizard of Oz, too frightened to achieve anything. But Jesus is saying clearly to those who would follow him that they must not waste the opportunity to make a difference. *Charles Royden*

### **Meditation**

In today's society, growing older is often seen as a reason for sadness or regret. But the Church of England and the Methodist Church have published a new resource which urges Christians to celebrate and affirm the 'second half of life'. Through creative discussion material 'Seasons of My Soul' offers people a chance to explore and share with one another key aspects of their lives and experiences. It focuses on eight themes for discussion; identity, memories, transition times, wisdom, roles and relationships, forgiveness and reconciliation, death and dying, and the celebration of life.

"As I approach retirement, I become ever more conscious of the importance of Christians having constructive conversations about this potentially creative stage of life," said the Rt Revd John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford. "This invaluable resource could help turn the tide in enabling creative discussion about the second half of life - or, in my case, even the last third!"

"Often when we talk about the demographic of church attendance, we concern ourselves more with those who are not within our church communities than with celebrating and resourcing those who are," added Doug Swanney, Connexional Secretary for the Methodist Church. "Seasons of My Soul is a creative way of redressing this balance. It offers us an opportunity to explore themes which can often be avoided but which, when unpacked, can lead to the most amazing possibilities for us all."

The resource's themes are opened up for discussion and exploration using interactive conversation tools, Bible texts, creative activities, social action topics, prayer and worship. It contains facilitator guidance and helpful templates to accompany each session. The book can be purchased at the price of £8.99 (plus p&p) from Methodist Publishing online or by calling 0845 017 8220.

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

Lord Jesus help us to be good with the Good News which you have entrusted to us. Give us courage to share what we have with others, help us to be your presence in a world which so desperately needs to know the wonder of your love.

Day by day, O Lord, let us ardently seek your presence, lovingly walk with you and willingly spend ourselves in your service. At the day's end let us not be found hiding our talents nor at the end of our life be unready to rise up and meet you in the feast of your kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Richard Baxter (1615-1691)*

Loving God, obedience can be a high price to pay for blessing; obedience can be a real test of faith: when the world depended on an Ark, did Noah ask "Will it float?"; when a nation waited to be blessed, did Abram still say, "But Sarah's barren?"; when Jesus called, did Matthew say, "Who will run the office?". Lord, give me childlike trust that your promised blessings are greater than my sacrifices; give me the love for you from which obedience flows naturally, as it did for Jesus, who never asked, "Why a Cross?". *Colin Harbach, supernumerary minister, Carlisle Circuit*



**Roderick Williams, Baritone, with Joseph Middleton, piano. As seen at the BBC Last Night of the Proms 2014.** Saturday 22 November 2014. St Andrew's Church. Advance tickets £8, £7 concessions, Students 16-21 £3 Children free accompanied by an adult. At the door are £9/ £8 concessions available Church Centre Office, Kimbolton Road, tel 01234 216881 Central Box Office, Bedford, tel 01234 718112

**Mission Update** Thank you to everyone who has contributed financially to our Autumn Mission project. The total donated has already climbed to over £1500 which is outstanding and makes a significant contribution to offer hope and a new beginning to the companions who live and work at Emmaus Thank you for your generosity. If you have not yet been able to pick up an envelope with details of how to support the project, these are available from the Ministers or either church office.

**Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB).** Everyone is invited to a Circuit Advent Service on Sunday 7 December at 4pm at Priory Methodist Church. Refreshments will be available after the service.

**Offering Envelopes** Replacement sets of weekly offering envelopes are available after the service this morning. If you do not currently use the envelope scheme or would like to find out more about regular giving to the Church please contact Jim Williams tel. 01234 360605.

**Are You Willing** - November is Will Writing Month and we are encouraging everybody to make a will. Your church is important to you, so please consider leaving a legacy, however large or small. It can make a huge difference to the church and ensure that we are able to continue to provide Christian ministry in the years to come. To maintain the ministry of our churches we are dependant on generosity. .

**Bowls at St Mark's** The next session will be on 23 November. **Please note that from December** sessions will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Ray Seymour

### Clear out your wardrobe

St Mark's are installing a textile clothing bank 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. We will hopefully have the container in the church car park this week so please start clearing out those unwanted items now. You can drop them off at the church office in the meantime if you want to make a start !



**Footprints Annual Planning Meeting**  
Tuesday 18 November  
7.30pm at 3 The Furlong.

Ideas please for next year's programme.

### Footprints 'Tea and Cake' Walk Sunday 30th November

The final walk of the year will start at Putnoe Heights Church at 2.00pm following footpaths, cycleways and green spaces to 'Four Seasons Cafe' in Mowsbury Park and return. Friends, non walkers, past walkers and Footprints Weekenders are invited to join us at the cafe for tea and cake from 2.30pm.

**Putnoe Provender Sunday 7 December** Sales of the ever popular Christmas puddings, cakes, mince pies, jam, marmalade, chutney and much more in the welcome area after Morning Service. Proceeds in aid of the Autumn Mission Project for Emmanuel. All contributions gratefully received. John & Sally Gunning Tel 305925.



**Mission Update** A huge thank you to everyone who has already contributed to our Autumn Mission project. The total donated has now climbed to over £2000 between the churches. This will make a real contribution to the work of Emmaus. Thank you for your generosity. And

it's not too late to make a donation! If you have not yet been able to pick up an envelope with details of how to support the project, these are available from the Ministers or from either church office.

### Samaritan's Purse Shoe Boxes

Thank you very much to all who contributed, in any way, to the 56 Shoe Boxes we are donating to this year's Operation Christmas Child. At our October Messy Church we watched a video of delighted children receiving and opening their boxes, it was most humbling to see what happiness these gifts bring to children around the world. Wendy Waters

**Open House** This Wednesday, Open House, the weekly drop in for adults with learning difficulties held a coffee morning for Children in Need. There were guessing games, lucky dip, homemade cakes and produce for sale as well as necklaces and bracelets made by members of Open House. A special highlight was a surprise visit from Pudsey Bear who was warmly welcomed. The coffee morning raised £670 on the day with more sales of goods expected. Thank you to everyone who attended or gave donations to support us. Special thanks to Sue & Richard for all the cakes and produce that they made and their help on the day. Also to Anj, Harry, Julie and Jill without whose help on the day was invaluable. But most of all congratulations to members of Open House who run the stalls so well and were very good at persuading people to spend money! If you would like to donate to Open House's Children in Need fundraising you can do so via St Marks Church office. Regards Cheryl



**St Mark's Craft Fayre**  
22 November 2014

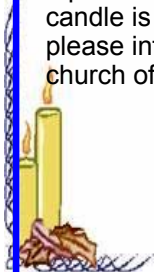
Last week to go before the Craft Fayre. Items can now be brought up to the Church. Many thanks to those who have already supported the Fayre, by taking street leaflets and delivering them. The response has been brilliant. If you live out of Brickhill area there are some leaflets left that we would be grateful if you would deliver in your street. Raffle tickets are also available to take and sell to family and friends. We have a list for a Christmas Hamper. If anyone would like to donate an item please put your name on the list. If we get duplicates we will pass on to the Raffle itself. We will be setting up on Friday at around 4.30p.m. There is always lots to do with setting up the tables, creating a Father

### 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

**Vera Wenlock  
Doreen Mills  
Marjorie Taylor**

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



Christmas Grotto, sorting out the Church Stalls, folding raffle tickets etc. We would love to see you if you can make it. There is also a Fish and Chip supper around 6.30p.m. – 7.00p.m. I would like to thank you in advance for all your help and support. It is all greatly appreciated and helps towards a very enjoyable and successful event for the Church.  
*Avril Williams*

### 'Christmas Craft Fayre Hamper

We have a hamper again as a prize in the raffle. We would be grateful if it could be filled with your donations. There is a list on the table in the foyer of suggested items so that we don't get duplicates. Many thanks to those who have offered their help either in goods or on the day etc. It is very much appreciated on all fronts. *Avril Williams*

### Celebrate 100 Beer

We are down to our last ten cases of Celebrate 100 beer. Please help us ensure we sell all our stock which is now at rock bottom prices! See Sam and we will arrange delivery

### Christmas Concert by Kempston Musical

**Society** with Castle Lower School Choir. Putnoe Heights Church. Saturday 13th December 7.30pm. Admission £7.50 (children £3.00) to include seasonal refreshments. (donations of mince pies welcome). Proceeds shared between Putnoe Heights Church and Emmaus Village, Carlton. Admission programmes will be on sale soon.



### Christmas Shopping Starts Soon

Once we get into November we start thinking about presents and this year more than ever they will be bought online. So please can you make a point of always going to Amazon through the link on [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com). If you look at an item through Amazon direct they put a cookie on your machine and we don't get any commission! Please make it a habit to always go through the church website. This costs you nothing and we get a bit of commission. For some reason very people have registered for [www.easygiving.com](http://www.easygiving.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 always shop through  
[www.thischurch.com](http://www.thischurch.com)**



### Forthcoming Funerals