



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

## 16 September 24 in Ordinary



Church of  
England

### Partnership Church Services Today

#### 8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

### Today 16 September - 24th in Ordinary

#### 9.30am St Mark's – Holy Communion

Preacher -Revd Andrew Gale  
Leadership - Mrs. Laura Farthing  
Intercessions – Mr. Warwick Holden

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher –Revd Andrew  
Leadership -Mrs. Jenny Snelson  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen

### 23 September - 25th in Ordinary

#### 9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher— Deacon Jane Mills  
Leadership - Mrs Jean Banks  
Intercessions – Ministers

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Ebo Ofori-Quaah  
Leadership –Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae  
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

**Readings** 1 Proverbs 31: 10-31 2. James 3: 13-4:3, 7-8a 3 Mark 9:30-37

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

### Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Vera Tippet at Sir William Harpur House remembering all her friends at St Mark's.

*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 on the foyers.*

### Prayer for Sunday

Grant us grace, O God,  
to take your Son for our Redeemer,  
his life for our example,  
his word for our rule,  
his Spirit for our guide,  
his wounds for our healing  
and his cross for our salvation,  
that he may take possession of our hearts,  
now and for ever. Amen.

*Jeremy Taylor (1613-1657)*

#### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a Vice  
President for Hewlett Packard)

#### Deacon Jane Mills

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE  
348091 Mobile 07807 146535 jane@thisischurch.com

#### The Reverend 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)

#### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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. Jean Kirk 317699  
**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** - Morag Stewart 360103

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/Thurs/ Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)

Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett ☎326685

**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's

**9.-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 Berry ☎211955

**10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's (see contact details below)

**2.00pm U3A Calligraphy** at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)

**2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation** at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (see contact details below)

**12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris [youth@thischurch.com](mailto:youth@thischurch.com) 365630

**1.30-2.45pm Chat and Make** For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– [chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk) . Restarts on 10 September

**2.00pm U3A History Group** St Mark's (see contact details below)

**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** - (see contact details below)

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

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

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.

**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

**7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518

**7.00pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 17 September Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

**7.45pm Opus Choir** at St Mark's Mrs Sutherland ☎269100

**8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790206016

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

**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

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

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

**1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles** 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton

(centre assistant) for more information ☎340552

**1.15pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's (see contact details below)

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details below)

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

**2pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Wk) (see contact details below).

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

**3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎0789187957

**7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker ☎07900 232648

**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

**7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

**7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 18 September Harvest Details call Janet King 313946

**8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

## Wednesday

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly. Contact Marion Sutton ☎217647

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

**9.30am Discovery & Do** (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons ☎328380 or ☎07788824666

**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.(see contact details below)

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

**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks (see contact details below)

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 12 September 2012 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

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

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

Mr Barnes ☎261811

**1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** St Marks.(see contact details below)

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

**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Wk). for

children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 19 September. Wendy Waters 401834

**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.

**6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Mrs O Holt ☎266004

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Heights 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 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Valmai ☎219555 Rosemary ☎405594 or Graham ☎406359 for more details.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's 1st week in the month. Jean Ross ☎771870

#### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner ☎400071 or ☎07719670624

**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 ☎363283

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays** St. Mark's ☎267444

**1pm—2.30pm Drop in (large hall) Children's Chatty Time** 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

**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.

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

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Mrs. P. Cass ☎294220

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St.Mark's. (see contact details below)

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Mark's Mary Rich ☎272470

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale ☎406094

**7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's

3rd week in month. Carol Plant ☎01832710504

**8 –10pm Bedford Folk dancers** (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law☎825574.

**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 Pat Cass ☎294220

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan ☎01234 309105.

#### Friday

**10am -12.00 U3A Photography** St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St. Marks (see contact details below)

**2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist** St Marks. (contact details below)

**5-8pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker ☎07900 232648

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

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

#### Saturday

**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

**6.45pm Duplicate Bridge.** St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

#### Sunday

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

**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.

**1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or w.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

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

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council – 9 October, 19 Feb, 11 June**

**St Mark's Leadership Team -**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -**

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting**

**Putnoe Church Council - 15 October,**

**Pastoral Group Meeting -**

**Churchyard Committee -**

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -**

**Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm**

**Harvest Festival 30 September**

**Circuit meeting -**

**Deanery Meeting - 16 November**

**Woodland Burial Trustees– 30 September**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -**

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

## Ordinary 24

### Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 116:1-8

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

### Collect Prayer

*Before we read we pray*

God our Redeemer, who called your church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be reconciled drawn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Methodist Worship

### First Bible Reading - Proverbs 1: 20-33

Out in the open wisdom calls aloud, she raises her voice in the public square; on top of the wall she cries out, at the city gate she makes her speech:

“How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you my teachings. But since you refuse to listen when I call and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand, since you disregard all my advice and do not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you; I will mock when calamity overtakes you— when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you. “Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me, since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord.

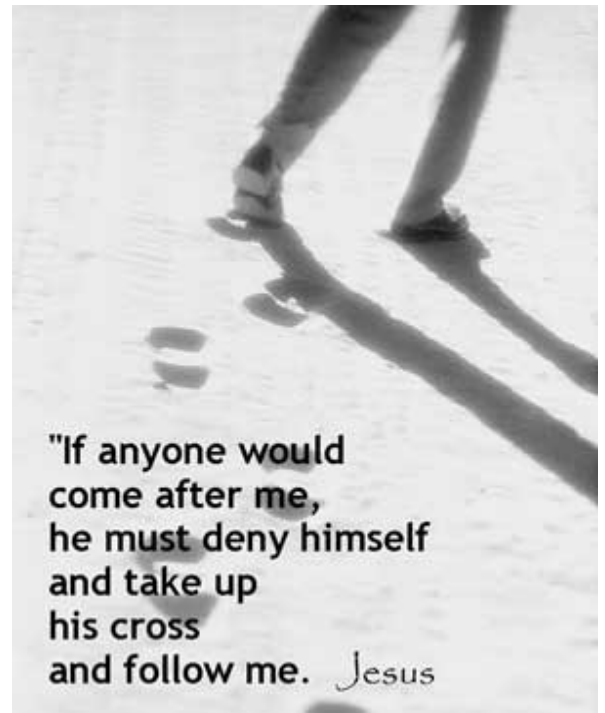
Since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.”

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

### Second Bible Reading - James 3: 1-12

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

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



## **Gospel Reading— Mark 8:27-38**

*When the reading is announced* **All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

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

## **Post Communion Prayer**

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Hymns** (*Please distribute Holy Communion and Mission Praise*)

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord 631
2. I have decided to follow Jesus, 272
3. Healing God, almighty Father 226 (*Tune Hyfrodol*)
4. Onward, Christian soldiers! Marching as to war 543

## **Commentary**

The passage from Mark today is all about recognising who Jesus really and what that means for his followers. There are three ways we can look at the passage, what it means for Jesus, what it meant for the disciples and what it means for us.

### **1. What it meant for Jesus**

Jesus is nearing the end of his ministry, he is about to be killed and there is an evaluation of how well he has communicated his teaching.

Jesus asks directly what people are saying about him, and he is told that some see him as John the Baptist others as Elijah or a prophet.

Then Jesus asks them directly what they think. Peter was always quick to respond and in the words of our reading today he calls Jesus the 'Christ' The word "Christ" is a Greek translation of the Hebrew word "messiah." The expectation of a "messiah" in first century Israel was that the messiah would sweep in and bring about the promised Golden Age. The messiah would be like King David, and would destroy Israel's enemies and bring peace and prosperity to the land. We could understand Peter stating this very traditional Jewish teaching. The Messiah was one who would usher in a climactic day of God's deliverance as a mighty warrior. One capable of returning Israel to independence, free from Roman oppression.

He would understandably be shocked that Jesus interpreted Messiah as meaning somebody who would instead see the role as meaning one who suffered. Jesus speaks of himself as the "Son of Man" one who would suffer and be killed.

Peter will have nothing of it and reprimanded Jesus for having said it. Peter wants to hear nothing about the Son of Man being rejected and killed. He is still fixed on the idea of a triumphant and strong Messiah who would overpower the authorities; not suffer and die. It didn't fit his view of how God would save the world.

Peter rebukes Jesus for not being the kind of saviour that he wanted. In return Jesus uses the strongest language and calls Peter "Satan." The disciples had failed miserably to understand Jesus teaching. God's presence would not be found in powerful deeds and military might. The power of Jesus would be revealed in his risen life, but this only came through a life lived in weakness, suffering and death.

## **2. What it meant for the disciples**

Note that Jesus calls the disciples and the crowds to gather round and makes clear that he is giving instructions which are for everyone. If they wish to live his risen life then they must follow his life of service. They must learn to copy him and deny their own selves, take up crosses, and follow. The words at the time would have had stark meaning. Having seen hundreds and thousands who had received the death sentence the crowd knew well the sight of individuals walking the roads carrying their own wooden crosses upon which they would be nailed and killed.

The message at the time would have been chilling, there were no cute songs 'the old rugged cross,' if you followed Jesus you should expect to go to the same fate as the condemned Jesus, literally carrying their cross for their own crucifixion.

## **3. What it means for us**

We won't most likely be asked to carry a cross, or to literally die for our faith. However we are called to be radically different in our lifestyles, to live in a counter intuitive ways to the norms of society. Like Jesus, like the disciples, we are required to deny our own needs and desires. To put ourselves aside for the sake of greater values. It is giving up ourselves for others, in the way of sacrifice and unselfishness. It is giving up particular interests or time or possessions when the purposes of God require it. It is letting the will of God take the place of our own will. It is putting God, not ourselves, at the centre of life.

There were those who like the rich man had understood the cost of following Jesus and the sacrifices which needed to be made, and who decided that they were not prepared to pay that sort of price. It is interesting that Jesus finishes this teaching by using monetary terms of profit and loss. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Jesus is using the language of economics to boil it down to very materialistic terms which we all understand. Following ourselves and our own desires is a path leading to ruin, following Jesus is the only good investment.

## **Meditation**

About this time of year people of the Jewish faith will celebrate the feast of 'Rosh Hashanah'. The words in Hebrew mean "beginning of the year". On the feast of 'Rosh Hashanah', people celebrate God's creation. During a festive meal, pieces of apple dipped in honey are eaten. It is an expression of hope for a sweet and pleasant year ahead. 'Rosh Hashanah' is also the first day of a ten-day period of reflection, asking God's forgiveness for faults of the past, promising to approach things in a better way in the year ahead. On this day, a ram's horn - called the 'shofar' - is blown.

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

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation, for having made us all different. What I don't know about you I need to learn from others because they reflect your image and likeness in a different way. I ask you to lead me to seek to understand the many people of good will who are different from me. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. I am grateful for all that is good in my life. I know that you look on me with tender love, and invite me to assess and renew my attitude and direction in life. Be with me in my determination to live in a positive way. Amen.

Wonderful God, Almighty Redeemer - you have declared your love for us not only in words, but in deeds. We thank you for the love you have revealed through Christ Jesus, our Lord and for how you have granted us by his death and resurrection victory over the sin that is in us and in the world. We praise you for inviting us to be a part of your family and for reaching out to us when we have wandered from the path. Be with us this day as we worship you and listen to your word. Grant that we may be renewed in body and spirit that we might more worthily serve and adore you. We ask it in Jesus' name.

We are on the way again Lord - the time of busyness. The time of new schooling, Of new activities in church and in the community. We ask you to bless our activities - our special services - our ways of doing things, our volunteers - and those who continue to serve as faithfully as they have for many years.... Amen.

## Harvest Festival 2013



Our Harvest Services will take place on Sunday 30 September, Donations of non-perishable foods would be gratefully received. These will go to BeCHar and could include tinned goods (meat, fruit & vegetables); rice or pasta; tea or coffee and biscuits.

BeCHar are also collecting clothing, please see poster on the notice board for details of requirements.

**Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch** Harvest services on September 30 will be followed at 1.00pm by a Harvest Lunch at Putnoe for which tickets are available. at 1.00pm. Tickets from Putnoe Office on weekdays or Leadership Team on Sundays. Adults £6.00 Children under 10 £3.00. Two courses inc. drinks.

**Messy Church** on Wednesday 19 September will have an Olympic theme.

Future dates: all 3.45 to 5.30pm



Wednesday 19 September  
Wednesday 17 October  
Wednesday 21 November  
Wednesday 12 December.

**Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church will start again on Monday 17 September at

12.15 for details please contact Carolyn at [youth@thisischurch.com](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com). Carolyn

**Bedford WRVS Good Neighbours Scheme** would like to thank The Harpur Trust for their generous donation/grant of £13,950 to support our Community Transport, Shopping and Companionship Service for the over 60's in and around Bedfordshire. The WRVS can provide you with a CRBchecked Volunteer to assist you with transport needs to Hospitals, Doctors, Dentist and any formal or informal transport request. We can also assist with your

shopping needs and or provide companionship. If anybody would like to use this service or become a volunteer and join our team of 67 then please call Amanda Bewick on 01234 262429 or 07714 898600 You would be surprised at the benefits that volunteering can do for you!

**Concert at St Mark's** we are delighted to announce that there will be another concert held by Clive Simmonds at St Mark's. Clive will once again be supported by his guests Taylor Wilson (mezzo soprano) and Stewart Kempster (bass). The concert will be held on Saturday 9 February at 7.30pm. This year there will also be some music from the musicals and some more 'jazzy' numbers. Clive has obtained a reconditioned piano for St Mark's and whilst entrance will be free the concert will help raise funds towards this.

**Pond Refurbishment.** We are having a special pond day in the Garden of Remembrance at St Mark's on Friday September 21. We have been increasingly disappointed by the appearance of the pond and have decided to build a new one. Work starts at 9.30am for any aquatic lovers with spades.

**Methodist Women in Britain/Network**—Beds, Essex, Herts District An Autumn Craft Day will be held at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 20th October from 9.45am to 4.30pm. Cost £4 per half day session.. Please book by 11th October. Booking form and details of workshops available from Pam Seymour. Tel 305695; Email –[pam@tgis.co.uk](mailto:pam@tgis.co.uk)

**Highfield Services** will recommence at 2.30pm Sunday 16 September. Helpers welcome. Vera Pearson

**Thank you to** Judith Stanton and her supporters for their donation of £292. 50p, raised at Whist Drives.

**Valerie and Peter Littleford** will be holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning at 1 Bindon Abbey, Riverfield Drive, on Friday 28 September from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm and would very much hope that many church members will be able to come to this event. There will be a raffle and a 'bring and buy' stall.

**Social Evening.** There will be a Partnership Church Social event organised at St mark's on Saturday 17 November, please put this in your diary as we are looking to make it a great event for all the family.

**St Mark's Leadership Team** notes of meeting from last week are on the church website.

**Partnership Council** are invited to the Vicarage for a traditional thank you on 23 December at 1.00pm

**St Mark's Service Rota** is available in draft form. Please feel free to either speak with people and agree swaps, or cross your name off if you cannot make a particular commitment. Once changes are made we will publish before the end of September.

**Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed.** We will be holding a special service of commemoration of loved ones who have died at St Mark's Church on 4 November. All are welcome to attend so please do encourage anybody you know who would appreciate this special service

**Contemplative Group** meet on the 28 September, 1.45pm in the quiet room at Putnoe Heights. *Eileen Brown*

**Christmas Craft Fayre –24th November 2012**  
Now that the Car Boots have been put to bed for the winter our next big fundraising event is our Christmas Craft Fayre.

We have a number of Church Stalls that need your support, i.e. plant stall, homemade cake stall, Craft stall and of course tray-bakes for refreshments. So plant up your cuttings (indoor and out), bake your cakes and tray-bakes then come and enjoy the day with a cup of tea and a lovely ploughman's lunch. Help on the day is always needed and is very much appreciated. Any queries about the above just contact Avril via the Church Office. Thank you.

**The Christian Aid Campaign** against Tax Avoidance Bus will be coming to Bedford on Thursday 20 September and will be parked in Harpur Square, opposite the Library. The bus will contain a display about Tax Avoidance issues downstairs, while the upstairs part of the bus will be used for short talks and discussions on this issue.

#### Publication of Marriage Banns

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Andrew James Lennon and Michelle Louise Butler both single of this parish. (16 Sept)

#### 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.

**Hilda Marjorie Demkowski  
Hazel Irene Smith  
Alex Lawton**

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

**Fairtrade Display** 22 Mallard Hill, Bedford Friday 21 September 6-9pm, Saturday 22 September 2-5pm and Sunday 23 September 10am-1pm. Come along to see our wide range of fairly traded products. Admission £1 includes refreshments. For more information contact ☎268574

**Coffee Rota** at St. Mark's. Additional volunteers to assist with coffee after church on Sundays would be very welcome. The more volunteers the less frequent the duty! Please see Milly if interested

#### Advent Course

This year we will be running a Partnership Advent Course at St Mark's for three weeks. The course will also be great for those considering confirmation in the 2013. Each session will start with refreshments at 7.30pm with the main meeting 8.00pm - 9.00pm. More details to follow but put these dates in your diary.

#### Thursday 29 November

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm  
Session in Church from 8pm

#### Thursday 6 December

In WREN room from 7.30pm

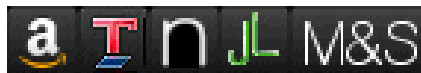
#### Thursday 13 December

Coffee served in Chapel 7.30 - 8pm  
Session in Church from 8pm

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#### Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.



**A service of Thanksgiving** for the life of Nicholas Dawson-Taylor will be held at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue on Monday 24th September at 3.30pm. No flowers please but if desired a donation to Brain Tumour UK care of Arnolds Funeral Service 48 Roff Avenue Bedford