



Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
18 January 2015
Epiphany 2**



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

18 January - Epiphany 2

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion & Covenant

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion & Covenant

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mr Barry Southam
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

24 January - Epiphany 3

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mrs. Delia Shephard
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs. Sue Allen
Intercessions - Dr. Tim Wilkes
Organist - Mr. Alan Bunker

Readings 1. Genesis 14:17-20

2. Revelations 19:6-10 **3.** John 2:1-11

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 Elias and Margaret Jaworsky to celebrate their diamond wedding.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by the family of Dorothy Frank.

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

God beyond all speech,
above all thought and surpassing all imagination;
when you speak to us may we listen,
when you draw near to us
may we rejoice in your presence,
and when you reveal yourself to us
may we bow before you in adoration. Amen.

Gregory of Nazianzus (329-389)

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

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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

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

12.00 noon Storybox Putnoe Heights We welcome the

under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon

and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based

story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris

youth@thisischurch.com 365630

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 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— 19 January Judith Stanton.

823313

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

300218.

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of

Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane

Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights.

Pat McCart 365507

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

Lorrie Pearson 01234 340473

11.15am 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

monthly Next meeting 3 February Indoor Games with

raffle. Details Diane Bayliss 268101

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in

month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights.

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

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 28 January 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 21 January.

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 3446008

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 21 January 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. Will meet again on 8 January 2015

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

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 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.

Messy Church Dates 21 Jan. 11 Feb. 18 Mar. 15 Apr.



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 10 February 2015

St Mark's Leadership Team - 26 January 2015

Annual Congregational Meetings - 26 April 2014

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –27 January 2015

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting –20 January 2015 at Church Meeting Room at 7.30pm

Putnoe Church Council - 19 February 2015 at 7.30pm

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee - 15 April 11.15am

Circuit meeting – 7.30pm 9 February at Amphill

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.

Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows Service

Sentence of Scripture - Joshua 24:14

Fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

God of grace, through the mediation of our Son, you call us into a new covenant. Help us therefore to draw near with faith and join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



First Bible Reading Exodus 24: 3-11

When Moses went and told the people all the Lord's words and laws, they responded with one voice, 'Everything the LORD has said we will do.' Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, 'We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.' Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.' Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

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

Second Bible Reading - Jeremiah 31: 31-34

"The time is coming" declares the LORD "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time" declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD' because they will know me, from the least to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Third Bible Reading - Romans 12: 1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God— this is your spiritual act of worship Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - good, pleasing and perfect will.

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

Gospel Reading - John 15:1-10

Please stand when the reading is announced - Glory to Christ our Saviour

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in

me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

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

Post Communion Prayer

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: Fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns for Sunday (*Please distribute Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows service sheet*)

- 1 O Lord my God (*How great Thou art!*) 506
- 2 Come bring yourselves to God' (*words below*) after sermon
- 3 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love. 94
- 4 God is working his purpose out 189

Commentary

New Year is a time of promises. In the secular world there are 'New Year's Resolutions' made to be broken each year. This year I noticed a charity, Cancer Research I think, was encouraging people to be sponsored to give up alcohol, something many people try at the beginning of a year! In some Christian traditions the New Year can be used as a great opportunity to 'wipe the slate clean' and make a new start, in services such as those we practice today, the renewal of our Covenant with God (from our Methodist heritage) and the Renewal of our Baptismal vows (from our Anglican heritage). When we are part of a service of baptism we make promises to God; Promises of commitment for those being baptised - whether for themselves (as at the baptism of an adult) or on their behalf (as at the baptism of an infant). Promises to provide a home in which their faith can be nurtured, by family, supporters and godparents. Promises to be a church family into which people are welcomed, nurtured and enabled to grow in faith and love. Such promises are often made with the best intentions, though we almost always fall short of our own expectations, so it is good to be reminded of these commitments.

God makes his Covenant to us repeatedly, initially to the whole creation, yet it was interpreted to be more focussed over time; to people; to the tribes of Israel; to believers; to believers who do and say the correct things.... Until ultimately God came to dwell amongst us, was baptised as one of us, then died on our behalf so that that covenant be sealed, once and for all, in his act of self-sacrificial Love. God makes promises that are eternal, yet has the grace to accept our limitations. God does not need to remake the covenant yet welcomes us into his embrace whenever we turn to him and realise we need to remake our part of 'the bargain'.

John Wesley, the 'founder' of Methodism and author of the Covenant service, often appears to be overlooked as a theologian, yet one observance of his which I find fundamentally true is this. When considering the aspects that influence our faith journey he added to Scripture, Reason and Tradition (the accepted 'triptych' of the time) one simple word, Experience. Wesley was acknowledging that we each hold the potential to be perfect, we are made in the image of God after all, yet often through the situations we face and the people we meet this perfection becomes marred, and the way ahead can become unclear.

Let us take some time to look at the prayer of Dedication from the Covenant service and consider what it might mean for us today.

"I am no longer my own but yours". This is the essence and intent of the whole prayer; to let go of control over our own lives and to accept God's lead.

"Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will" Here we are asked to acknowledge that where we are and the people we are amongst at any given time, regardless of what we think of them, are those whom God wishes us to serve.

"put me to doing, put me to suffering;" Whilst many of us, myself included, may struggle with the idea that God may actually require our suffering, it is important to remember that God is with us through all such experiences, in the 'low times' just as much as in the 'good times'. It can often be through difficulty and hardship that we gain a deeper understanding of other people and are drawn closer to each other, and to God.

“Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you”. In this simple phrase we are asked to acknowledge that everything we do is ‘under God’s hand’, that there are many different callings, yet each is equally important to God. It also touches on those times that it may seem that God does not actually want or require our service, perhaps these are the times when God needs us to be patient and wait for the plan for us to unfold.

“Exalted for you or brought low for you” here we acknowledge that it is for God to decide what constitutes success not the admiration of the world.

“Let me be full, let me be empty”, these simple words can actually be interpreted in several ways, whilst they could be about physical hunger, they could also be about the hunger for spiritual or personal fulfilment.

“Let me have all things, let me have nothing” having possessions, or life’s blessings

“I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal”. It marks a total giving over of self into God’s hands, to be used or not as He chooses. It takes incredible courage to acknowledge that God has the power over us and courage to offer ourselves, not just as and when we feel like it, but as God requires.

“Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it! in exchange for our self- giving we are aware, once again, of the presence of God in our hearts and in our lives. In offering of ourselves to God and to others we gain far more than we are giving, but it takes courage. In this prayer we promise again to make the leap of faith, to give ourselves without knowing the outcome or where it might take us. As we do so we have the scriptures to guide us; human reason to think through and unpick the effects our actions may have on others; traditions, through which we gain insights from others, both past and present, to encourage us to step out into the future; and it is our experience of all of these that make us who we are; a child of God, with the potential for perfection, placed in a Christian family, a family which should help us to step forward with faith.

Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen

Deacon Jane Mills

Meditation - This Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This week is the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Pope John XXIII (the twenty-third) was Pope in the early 1960s and he did a lot for world peace at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis that almost became World War III. He is also well-known for being very keen to bring closer together Christians of different churches. He said: “In essential things - unity; in unimportant things - freedom; in all things - charity.” The end of Church Unity. Pope John wrote a prayer which we will make our own today:

**“Renew in our own days your miracles like a second Pentecost.
Grant that the Church, re-united in prayer, may extend the kingdom of Jesus -
a kingdom of truth and justice, of love and peace. Amen.”**

Each day at 12.30pm, there will be Midweek Meetings across Bedford. These meetings are open to anyone who is able to attend. Please bring a packed lunch, but hot drinks will be provided. Below are details of the venue each day:

Monday 19 January at 12.30pm All Saint's Church, Queen's Park

Tuesday 20 January at 12.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road

Wednesday 21 January at 12.30pm St Michael and All Angels Church, Faldo Road - Speaker: The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford. A good conversation will explore how the church in Bedford can support those on the margins of society. This will be followed at 2.00pm by a visit to the Bedford Foodbank Distribution Centre for any Church or Ministry Leader who wishes to attend. You do not need to attend the lunch to attend the visit to the Foodbank Distribution Centre in Brickhill. Please could you advise me in advance whether you wish to join Bishop Richard and I for that visit.

Thursday 22 January at 12.30pm Friends Meeting House, Linden Road

Thursday 22 January at 7.45pm Fish and Chip Supper at Christ the King Roman Catholic Church, Harrowden Road. Opening devotions led by the Rev Glayne Worgan and our after supper speaker will be The Rt Revd Peter Doyle, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Northampton. Please let Rosemarie Langley, Secretary of CTSB know if you wish to attend and have some food ordered for you. Contact ctsb@adam-may.co.uk

Friday 23 January at 12.30pm Rutland Road Church, Rutland Road

Sunday 25 January at 6.00pm Rev Roger Sutton from Gather Network will preach at the 2015 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Celebration at Elstow Abbey. The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford and Anita Nancollas, County Ecumenical Development Officer for Bedfordshire will be attending and also taking part in the Celebration along with other Church Leaders from across the town.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

O good Jesus, brightness of the Father's glory, teach us to do your will that, guided by your Spirit, we may come to the city of everlasting day, where all are one in heart and mind, where all is safety and eternal peace, and where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end.

Gregory the Great (c. 540-604)

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

Putnoe Heights New Year Lunch

Sunday 18 January 2015 at 1.00pm
Tickets £8.00 adults, £4.50 children under 10.
Traditional 3 course lunch including drinks.
Post-Christmas bring and buy stall from 12.00 - 1.00pm. All proceeds for church funds.

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

The Garden of Remembrance. To mark the occasion of Marion Prior's taking a less active part in the maintenance of the Garden of Remembrance and the church grounds after more than 20 years, she was presented with a card, a token of thanks and a bouquet of flowers from the whole church fellowship, during the Christmas Day service. Marion has been involved with the project since it began and will continue to act in an advisory capacity. Marion's hard work and creative talent have given St. Mark's a beautiful garden which has given a sense of peace to many hundreds of people over the years as they remember their loved ones.

Thank you. To all at St Mark's thank you so much for the generous gift and beautiful bouquet presented to me at the Christmas Day morning service. I was quite flabbergasted at such an unexpected tribute, and sad not to be able to continue helping in the garden, having helped since the beginning. I am not sure how I will be spending the gift but new craft tools are always becoming available! Marion

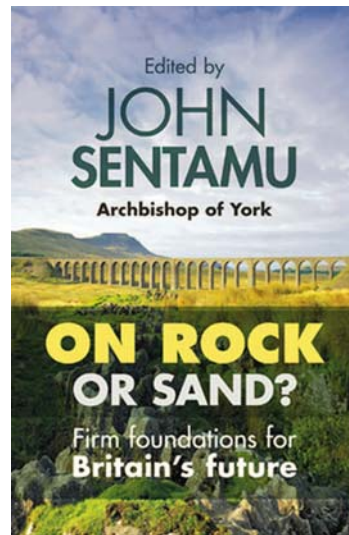
Books and Study for Lent

Sam Cappleman has written some encouraging notes on these two books

Finding a Voice is a new and original Lent course by Hilary Brand. Taking the film, *The King's Speech*, as a starting point, the course explores the ways in which fear holds us back and examines how we, like Bertie, can face and overcome our fears and begin to find our authentic voice. The course is based around five weekly group sessions which each includes extracts from the film, group discussion questions, exercises and meditations. There are also short introductory and follow up chapters, with related Bible passages, for individual reading each week. Also included is a suggested follow up session, along with full notes for leaders.

<http://www.chbookshop.co.uk/books/9780232528930/finding-a-voice>

A Beautiful Friendship is based on the film Casablanca and provides a great basis for discussion of themes of sacrifice, repentance, suffering, loss and hope at Lent. Its wartime setting provides additional poignancy for study at a time of continued armed conflict around the world as well as the centenary remembrance of the first world war. Miranda and Not Going Out writer Paul Kerensa makes an intriguing departure from his comedy writing, preparing this moving book in the style of DLT's classic movie-based Lent Courses. *A Beautiful Friendship* is written with his wife, Zoe Young. It is designed to be studied by groups or individuals alongside the DVD of *Casablanca*, starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. The book includes leaders' notes, timings for film clips, discussion-starters, reflections and prayers.
<http://www.chbookshop.co.uk/books/9780232531404/beautiful-friendship>



The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu's has edited the book 'On Rock or Sand?' published on 20 January, featuring contributions from experts in economic, political, social and religious disciplines, including Lord Adonis, Sir Philip Mawer, Oliver O'Donovan, Andrew Sentance and Archbishop Justin Welby. The

Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said: "The book addresses crucial questions about the moral principles that undergird the way Britain is governed. It is about building firm foundations for Britain's future and setting out the essential values we need to build a just, sustainable and compassionate society in which we can all participate and flourish. We need to rediscover the true meaning of the word economy – it means a household, a community whose members share responsibility for each other. The giant that must be slayed is income inequality - where some few have far too much and the many have too little."

The book has raised considerable controversy having been launched just before a general election. It contains some strong political opinions expressed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York which have not gone down well with some politicians. If you are interested in politics, economics, and society then it is surely worth a read whether you agree with it or not. For further information about the book, including a video interview with the Archbishop of York: bit.ly/onrockorsand

Next Messy Church at St Mark's Church on Wednesday 21

January 3.45 - 5.30pm. Messy Church takes place monthly on a Wednesday from 3.45pm - 5.30pm

For children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. For more details contact Wendy Waters 401834



Get £5 for yourself when you buy at least £20 in Amazon Gift Cards on Amazon.co.uk by 31 January, 2015. Enter qualifying code "JANGIFT20" when you check out with your £20 gift card purchase, to qualify for the £5 promotional code. You will receive the £5 promotional code by e-mail within 5 days of your gift card purchase.

Hello everyone, Due to a mixture of circumstances & good fortune I have ended up on the Bedford MacMillan Cancer Fundraisers Committee. They are a small but very dedicated team of people who have been raising money for MacMillan for over 20 years. They raised the money for the MacMillan ward at Bedford's Hospital, a hospice with a full time MacMillan nurse & last year they raised £15,000. If you can help either with holding a collection tin outside a super market or doing some knitting? Please let me know. Maurice Mills

Dates for your diary

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

St Mark's Leadership Team meet on Monday 26 January at the home of Jean Bank. 7.30pm for 7.45pm start.

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team meet 7.30pm Tuesday 27 January at the home of Barry Southam

Putnoe Heights Church Council Thursday 19 February at 7.30pm

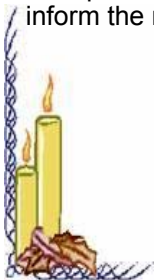
Putnoe Heights Centre Management Tuesday 20 January at 7.30pm

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

Alfred James Kelsey
Dorothy Elizabeth Frank

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



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Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Mr Frank Tuffin will take place at Putnoe Heights on Friday 30 January at 11.30am

The funeral of Brenda Mary Howard will take place at the Crematorium at 11.30a.m. on Tuesday 27 February.

The funeral of James Patrick Lee will take place at the Crematorium at 3.15p.m. on Friday 30 January.

The funeral of Edith Hudson will take place at the Crematorium at 1.45p.m. on Tuesday 3 February

The funeral of Mrs Doreen Chetwood will take place at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground at 11.30am on Wednesday 28 January at 11.30am

The funeral of Mr Charge will take place at St Mark's Church on Friday 23 January at 11.00am