



Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
18 October 2015
Ordinary 29**



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 October - Ordinary 29

9.30am St Mark's – Holy Communion
Preacher - Rev Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Ministers
Organist - Mr. John Mower
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion
Preacher - Rev Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr. Barry Southam
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes
Organist - Mr. John Mower

25 October - Ordinary 30

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr. Jim Ragless
Leadership - Mr. Edward Parry
Intercessions -
Organist - Miss Marion Prior
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr. Jim Ragless
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen
Organist - Mr. Peter Twitchin

Readings 1. Jeremiah 31: 7-9 2. Hebrews 7 :23-28
3. Mark 10: 46-52
Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's
Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur
House on first Monday of every month.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by Barbara Whittingstall in treasured memories of her husband Peter, and by Valerie Peacock in memory of her husband Trevor



We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the Foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

O Lord,
you are the beginning of all our goodness,
the wellspring of all our loving
and the source of all our freedom.
Let your grace continually work within us,
that your will may be done through us,
and that we may always rejoice
in your presence;
now and for ever. Amen.

Mary Ward (1585-1645)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
Assistant Rural Dean of Bedford
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
itsjanemills@gmail.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-Ordinator
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 Mon-Thur 9-5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Geoff Gypps 365630
Leadership Team Mr Barry Southam 219714
barrysoutham@aol.com
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 Charity No 1160981.
Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Margaret Appleton 354708
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm -

3.45pm For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's

8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery

Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955

10.00am-12 U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

9.45am - 10.45am & 11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's Liz Mason 07816522200

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

1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts on 14 September

2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights– fortnightly

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

5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Zoe Wilcox 07767311424

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 07928483418 email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Mary Daly 217127

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 October 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.

9.30, 11.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30. Lorrie Pearson 340473

11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

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

2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (Alternate Tuesdays) Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.00-3.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's. A social and Bible Study group. Meets alternate Tuesdays. Mrs Jean Bank 355698

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

6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393

7.15-8.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571

7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 10 November - Christmas Craft and AGM Details Diane Bayliss 268101

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

Wednesday

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

10.00-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

10.00am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

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

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 21 October Contact Putnoe Office 365630

1.15pm Social Bridge Club St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks. 1st week of the month. Contact Janet King 313946

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

2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 21 October Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

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

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

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

6.00-7.00pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel.01234 353865

7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts at Putnoe ages 10.5-14; Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095

7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

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 21 October. 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) Jill Cooper 357960

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.

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 Restarts 17 September Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun.Restarts 10 September Contact Jaana Swaby 342613

1.00-2.30pm Wriggles & Jiggles Putnoe Heights. Drop in.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284

7.00pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Rosemary McNeilage 405594

7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Linda Stephen 409493

8.00pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers)

Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

Friday

9.30am -3.30pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, 2nd week per month.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

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

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

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

4.50pm-7.00pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email: phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

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

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

Saturday

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

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

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

Sunday

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

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre at St. Mark's. 1st Sunday Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's . 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 -
Annual Congregational Meetings - 24 April
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 19 January
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 13 January
Putnoe Church Council - 26 January
Pastoral Group Meeting-
Churchyard Committee - TBA
Circuit meeting -
Deanery meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees -
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -
Messy Church Wednesday 21 October, Wednesday 18 November, Wednesday 9 December 3.45pm

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

Ordinary 29

Sentence of Scripture

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust. Psalm 91 v 1, 2

Collect Prayer for the Day *Before we read we pray*
Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
(*Common Worship Shorter Collect*)



First Bible Reading - Isaiah 53 v 4 – 12

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (This is the word of the Lord —**Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. No one takes this honour upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

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

Gospel Reading - Mark 10:35-45

*Please stand and when the Gospel is announced we say - **Glory to Christ our Saviour***

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." When the ten heard about

this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns for Sunday

(Please distribute Holy Communion booklet and hymn sheets where required)

1. Timeless love! (tune All Saints)
2. We come as guests invited (tune Passion Chorale)
3. God, whose love is all around us (tune Quem Pastores Laudavere)
4. The Lord is King! Lift up thy voice (tune Church Triumphant)

Commentary

Jesus has for the third time told his disciples that he is going to Jerusalem to die. On the two previous occasions the disciples have made the wrong response. Do you remember that the first time Peter told Jesus this must not happen and Jesus called him 'Satan' ? Well on this occasion it is not that much better. No sooner has Jesus told them that he is going to Jerusalem to die than James and John ask him if they can have the best seats when he takes power! The two positions on either side of a king's throne were the most prestigious in a kingdom. Humanly speaking you can see how James and John get to this position, they are thinking that Jesus is going to go and take over and when he does then they will well placed to have some great jobs.

For the past few Sundays we have heard Jesus saying how hard and different it is all going to be. You won't be able to join in if you have any money, it will be so hard for rich people that you might as well try and thread a camel through a needle! Forget any ideas of self aggrandisement, if you want to be a part of the new way then you have to become vulnerable and weak like a child. Most of all the leader is not going to be welcomed onto the world stage as a powerful new authority he will suffer and die and - and this is the real nail in the coffin, those who follow Jesus as leader must be prepared to lose their lives also.

The other ten disciples become indignant probably because James and John got in there first. These disciples were part of the inner three, they were especially close to Jesus, but they have got it all wrong. They still clung to the idea that there would be a restoration of the glorious kingdom which David ruled. Jesus asks James and John's a question: "Can you drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" Jesus elsewhere refers to the cross as his cup (14:23-24, 36). Jesus needs to get across to them that being a disciple is not about power and prestige. It's not about the first places at table. It's about following Jesus' path to service, suffering and death. Both of these terms, "drinking the cup" and "baptism," were "images for death."

They assure Jesus that they are confident they can do whatever Jesus asks of them. However when reality sets in, with his suffering and death, they will scatter. It will take their experience of the resurrected Jesus and his accompanying grace, to enable them to drink his cup and be baptized in his baptism. Thus, "later," they will accept the servanthood and sacrifice Jesus asks of his disciples.

James and John would surely have justified what they were asking as not being out of selfish ambition but because they would be good at it. They would make better rulers, but Jesus does not want to just play music chairs with those in power, putting new people in control. He wants to take away the chairs and show that that the people who really matters are the ones on their knees, serving. What Jesus brought was not a revolution in which one group stole power from another. It was not a leadership contest in which roles were simply exchanged. Jesus was about to completely change the nature of true power itself. From now on those who sought to obtain status must become servants. The followers of Christ must not seek the best seats at tables, they must deliberately choose the way of servanthood. They must follow the example of Christ and be those who took the towel to wash the feet of others.

So where are we in all of this - some lessons

1. We need to look closely at ourselves and examine our own willingness to accept the path which Jesus calls us to follow. The truth is that we cannot be too hard on James and John because we all still fail miserably to be servants like Jesus. We are all way too ambitious for our selves in all sorts of ways. We do not give up our plans, our desires, our ambitions easily. Have we responded with enthusiasm to what Jesus asks us to do, have we done so any better than James and John? Are we prepared to set aside our own ambitions and expectations and consider what path Jesus would have us follow?

2. Do we make excuses of our own inadequacy? Is there some work which we feel God wants us to do but for which we have felt inadequate? There is clearly no need to feel inadequate for the task. When we look at those disciples and see how misguided they were, how ill suited for the purpose they were, how much they lacked even the basic ingredients, and yet God used them.

If Jesus can use these ambitious self seeking individuals then he can use us! We do this by allowing parts of ourselves to die, those parts which are absorbed with self, Jesus called this a kind of being born again, as we put the past behind us and start living a new way.

3. Are we fulfilling other people's expectations for us

In Matthew's Gospel we read that it was not James and John who went to Jesus but it was their mother (Salome). Perhaps they all did, we don't know but I suspect that James and John did have to deal with the fact that their mother had certain expectations for them which she expected them to fulfil. We all have to be careful of the expectations of others for us. Remember Jesus himself had to make clear that he would not simply follow the expectations of his family.

The way is laid out for us today to participate in the work of Christ. We are called to be servants after the example of Jesus. Thankfully we can also draw inspiration from the lives of James and John. Having so miserably failed they went on to live lives of great service.

It can be tempting to be like James and John and see success in human terms, judge success by great numbers, lots of money or recognition or influence. Even in church life we do this, judging churches for example by how many come. Today's gospel opens our eyes to look for true greatness in other ways. Greatness surrounds us in daily life as we see others active in service in all sorts of small ways. Being a servant sometimes means having to get on and do things quietly and unnoticed, without shouting or drawing attention to our willingness to serve. We are surrounded by examples of those who, in quiet ways, behind the scenes serve without receiving praise; help without thanks and remain faithful to daily responsibilities without trumpets fanfares or awards.

- Those who care for an elderly relative or friend day in and day out.
- Single parents who struggle to make ends meet and who work hard to bring up their children to be responsible and kind.
- Those who look after a sick friend or practice patience in a difficult working environment.
- Those who carry on volunteering and giving their time, when it would be so easy to walk away and spend that precious time doing things which they would enjoy.

In a world which is obsessed fame and wealth, thank God we honour those who give themselves sacrificially in service of others. These are the ones who bring the greatest healing to the world and so we embrace and celebrate the humble, serving people around us. We don't do this on our own anymore than Jesus expected his disciples to do it on their own. We are nourished by Christ's strength. So we come to our communion seeking God's strength and nourishment as we realise that we can not do it on our own.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Lord Jesus Christ, although greatness was in your nature you became as one of us and lived a life of humility and service. Give to your people that same spirit of service, that in faithfulness to our calling we may reject human standards of success and aspiration.

Give us hearts which seek to care for others, to reject the temptations of wealth or power. Help us remain faithful to serving in quiet ways, without receiving praise, completing our tasks and duties without the need for acknowledgement or reward.

We pray for our church leaders that would be empowered to give of themselves sacrificially in service of others. May your church be governed in ways which see greatness expressed in faithfulness, truth, compassion and mercy. In so doing may your church bring healing to our communities and the world around us.

We pray for world leaders that they may recognise the importance of true service, to refuse to be tempted by self seeking, and desire for honour and human recognition. May those who govern seek out wisdom and be guided by justice, that all people created and loved by God might live in peace and the knowledge of God's care for all creation.

Tuesday Housegroup St. Mark's Church is home to a mid-week social and Bible study group which has been running for many years. A small group of like-minded members of St. Mark's and of Putnoe Heights, meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons from 2.00pm -3.30pm. The group's next meeting is on Tuesday 20 October and we would like to invite a few more people to join us. More information from Jean Bank, St. Mark's and from Sue and Martin Fannon, Putnoe Heights.

Messy Church Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2015

Following the success of previous years, by Messy Church and the wider congregation, we will be packing boxes at our Messy Church session on 18 November. We will be happy to accept donated items from now on. All items must be new. These include Toys, Educational supplies, Hygiene items, Other: Sweets sell by date at least March 2016. Gloves, scarves, sunglasses, hats, bangles, necklaces. Please do not donate: food (especially chocolate), no hand knitted stuffed toys, medicine, no war related items, no clothing other than those above, no fragile items, no liquids. No sharp objects, no novels. We do not need any empty shoeboxes this year. Please see the Messy Church notice board for further details of what can and cannot be put in the boxes. If you require further information please speak to Wendy Waters or Jean Bank.



Lenten Cathedral Pilgrimage 2016

We are organising an evening pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral on Wednesday 16 March 2016. Depart Bedford at 5.00pm. Cost is £7.50 Arrival at Cathedral and buffet 7.00pm Pilgrimage and tour 7.45pm Compline and procession to shrine 9.00pm Depart St Albans 9.30pm Arrive back in Bedford 11.00pm If you would like to take part then please speak with Charlie so that we can book numbers and arrange transport.

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



Community Coffee Mornings

at Putnoe Heights Church at 10am on Wednesdays October 28, November 11 and 25, with the final one this year on December 9.

Putnoe Heights Office If anyone is able to assist working in our Church Office on a Friday morning from 9am to 11am it would be most appreciated. If you are interested please contact Geoff Gypps or Barry Southam. Thank you. Church Office 01234 365630.

Partnership Quiz to be held at St Mark's Church on Saturday 28 November at 7.30pm. Do come and

bring/make up a team. Tickets £7 includes Fish and Chip Supper. Please put this date in your diary.

Putnoe Men's Group Our next fellowship meal will be at the Pheasant Public House on Wednesday 21 October at 7:30pm. Details of the menu options will be available shortly. Please let Barry Southam know if you wish to join us.



Remembering the loved ones we have lost

There will be a special service at St Mark's Church, Brickhill, Bedford Sunday 1 November 2015 at 3.00pm (Doves of Remembrance will be released from the Church at 2.50pm). Our address this year will be given by Mrs Delia Shephard, Civil

Celebrant. If you know of anybody who would like a special invitation then please let one of the ministers know.

Footprints Walk Sunday 8 November. Please note change of date

A 2.5 mile walk around Thurleigh on field paths and bridleways with a short distance on paved footpaths. The walk takes us by Thurleigh airfield and the reservoir built to take excess water from the runways. Meet at car park for the Playing Field (Thurleigh Club) signposted to right of Keysoe Road, Thurleigh at 2pm. Ray & Pam Seymour 305695

Climate can't wait ! It's time to act

Bedfordshire Climate Change Forum is hosting a free public meeting at the Quarry Theatre, St Peters St, Bedford, MK40 2NN on Mon 19 October 7pm There will be a short film about the history and science of climate change, and speakers on: Impacts of climate change on wildlife, on how our council is achieving carbon targets, how the UK could be carbon neutral, and the preparation for world carbon targets at the Paris climate talks in December. Doors open at 6.30pm All welcome

Deanery of Bedford Evensong

Sunday 1 November, 2015 4.00 pm St Peter de Merton with St Cuthbert, Bedford (MK40 2TE) Followed by Refreshments All Welcome

Thank You from Bedford Foodbank to Putnoe Heights Church for the Harvest donation of 71.44Kg of food which will provide 169 meals.

Please shop at ThisisChurch.com



Please always go shopping on Amazon through the link on www.ThisisChurch.com. This costs you nothing and we get a bit of commission.



Helping Children from the streets and slums in Kenya

Partnership Autumn Mission Project 2015

For our Autumn Harvest Mission project this year we will be supporting Karibuni, which is the project Mike Carr spoke to us about when he preached in the partnership earlier this summer. The aim of the charity is to help the most disadvantaged children in Kenya by providing an education and a future.

The Karibuni Trust is a UK Registered Charity. Karibuni support approximately 1400 children in 14 projects based in and around Nairobi, and to the north and East of the city towards the country's borders. All of these have their own needs and challenges which Karibuni seeks to meet through its mission and ministry. All the schools they support are owned by The Methodist Church of Kenya and to mark their 20th Anniversary this year they have committed in faith to educating an additional 50 children. The Trustees visit the largest projects each year and for all projects ensure proper budgets and management are in place to maximise the impact and benefit from the funding and support given. Look out for further details next week as we give our support to this worthwhile and important work.

'When we stand and look over the massive slums of Nairobi we know that the scale of the need is huge and this could make us question what difference we can make. But we also know that for each and every child we support we can and do make a difference.'

It has also been agreed by the Leadership Teams of both churches that we should donate £250 from each church to the Syrian Refugee crisis.

St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre 21 November 2015

It is hard to believe that our Craft is only 8 weeks away on Saturday 21 November 2015. We will be having the usual Church stalls again and donated items will be greatly appreciated.

New Tombola

New and unused items needed so please look in your cupboards etc.

Homemade cake Stall

Secondhand Bookstall

Books in good condition plus any jigsaws (with all the pieces) please.

Indoor/Outdoor Plant Stall

Now is the time to plant cuttings and bulbs etc.

Refreshments

Donations of tray bakes to sell with our teas and coffees.

And of course the Christmas Prize Draw

Any new items suitable for raffle prizes would be really welcome. Raffle tickets are on sale and will be available from the table in the foyer. Please take a few home to sell to family and friends.

We will need a lot of help nearer the time with leaflet delivering, selling of raffle tickets distributing posters etc. Please let me know of any locations where you think a poster would go.

If you are able to help us with manning a stall, on the 21 November, helping in the kitchen or in any other way, we would love to hear from you. As always your help is very much appreciated and we could not run this large fundraising event without your help. Please contact Avril Williams.



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Pamela Vera Barnett will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 4 November at 10.00am

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

Peter Whittingstall

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

CHURCH LEGACY

A lasting gift to your church

Christian Legacy Week October 2015

Once you have made provision for your loved ones, you have the opportunity to make a lasting gift by leaving a legacy to God's church. Leaving a gift in your will to your local church is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support the mission and ministry in your community.

A gift can be an expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God, and can help keep your local church alive, and help transform its future.

Please speak to Church Treasurers Ian Farthing or John Hitt if you would like to know more. We can also provide a solicitor to help prepare your will and cover the cost if this is difficult for you.