



# Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
1 March 2015  
Second Sunday of Lent**



## 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

### 1 March - Second Sunday of Lent

#### 9.30am St Mark's - Family Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs. Wendy Waters  
Intercessions - Mrs. Margaret Appleton  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Family Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mr. Barry Southam  
Intercessions - Young People  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

### 8 March - Third Sunday of Lent

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

Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger  
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Bank  
Intercessions - Deacon Jane Mills  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger  
Leadership - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

**Readings** 1. Exodus 20:1-17 2. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
3. John 2:13-22

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 Church this week have been given by Diana Johnson in loving memory of her mother Jean Brown

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Vera Pearson to remember family birthdays.

*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.*

## A Prayer for Sunday



God's of love which has no beginning and has no end. You love is with an everlasting love which transcends our understanding.

Help us to aspire to love you with such a love which seeks to show that love in love for others.

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

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

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

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

**Partnership News is also archived on our church website [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)**

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**Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators**  
Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@Thisischurch.com  
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

**Churchyards Administrator**  
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

**Putnoe Heights Church Centre**  
**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Geoff Gypps 365630  
**Leadership Team** Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417  
**Treasurer** Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
**Youth Team Leader** Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

**St. Mark's Church Centre**  
**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Mrs Jean Bank 355698  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892  
treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

**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

**11.00am-12noon Pilates** St. Mark's. Liz Mason 07816522200 (starts 8 Sept.)

**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

**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 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 Fit For All** 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– 16 March 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

**11-12.15am 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 (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.

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

**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 3 March Easter Crafts 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 11 March. Contact Putnoe 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

**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 18 March 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

**6.00-7.00pm 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 3446008.

**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 4 March 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

**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 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. Contact Jaana Swaby 342613

**1.00ui-2.30pm Wiggles & Jiggles** Putnoe Heights. Drop in.

**1.00 - 2.30pm 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 07768481499

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284

**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

**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

**7.30pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

**7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Kaye Logan 309105

### 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.** 1st Sunday Apr/Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

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

**2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls** at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th Sunday. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

### Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – tba

**St Mark's Leadership Team** -

**Annual Congregational Meetings** - 26 April 2015

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** –

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** –

**Putnoe Church Council** -

**Pastoral Group Meeting**

**Churchyard Committee** - 15 April 11.15am

**Circuit meeting** –

**Deanery meeting** - 19 March 7.30pm.

**Woodland Burial Trustees** – 15 March 12.30pm

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** - 1 June 2015 2pm

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

**Harvest Festival** service will be on Sunday 27 September.

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

# First Sunday of Lent

## Sentence of Scripture - Psalm 104:31,34

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in His works. May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Common Worship

## First Bible Reading - Genesis 7:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty ; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram ; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."  
(This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

## Second Bible Reading - Romans 4:13-25

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."



The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

### **Gospel Reading - Mark 8:31-38**

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 word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Hymns for Sunday** (*Please distribute Morning Family Worship and Hymn Sheets*)

1. Jesus tempted in the desert (Lux Eoi)
2. It is a thing most wonderful (Herongate)
3. When you prayed beneath the trees (Kelvingrove)
4. In a world where people walk in darkness (Let us light a candle)
5. No weight of gold and silver (Cruger)

### **Commentary**

In the passage from Mark today we find Jesus with his disciples in Caesarea Philippi. It is at this great seat of human power that Jesus takes stock of himself and he asks the disciples who other people and who they think he is. Peter answers that Jesus is the Messiah (*Greek = Christ*). Jesus prefers to use a title about himself which lacks such overtones of kingship and military power. Jesus speaks of himself as 'Son of Man' and defines this title in terms of rejection, suffering and ultimate death.

It is a horrible twist on the prevailing thought of the day which predicted that God would send a Messiah to liberate the Jewish people from the Roman occupation. For the disciples it meant an incredibly disappointing turn of events as they had assumed that they would be a part of the glorious new kingdom which Jesus was about to establish. No wonder that Peter gets above himself and rebukes Jesus - the one he has just declared to be Christ ! Poor Peter must have been beside himself with disappointment that the one who promised so much now had such a low opinion of himself that he was going to offer himself up for death on a cross. The cross was the death reserved for the really undeserving criminals. Jesus is about as firm as he could possibly be in his response to Peter, in fact he see the words used to dissuade him from his God given task as nothing short of a further temptation by Satan to drive him off course. Peter is not only rebuked but the disciples are told that they too must have such a clarity of vision and purpose that they will follow Jesus along this path of suffering and rejection.

There is a temptation to see a whiff here of that religion which has been seen all around the world from the earliest times, that God is in need of placating by our suffering and death. In many cultures there is a desire to appease god with offerings of sacrifices of anything from animals to virgins. Across the faiths worshippers are seen to whip themselves, deny themselves and equally punish those considered to be ungodly with all manner of torture and torment.

However Jesus is not calling his disciples to a life of asceticism in which they must wear coarse shirts and be uncomfortable at all cost. Albeit such ideas sit well with the denials of Lent ! Rather Jesus is about setting aside our interests to discover God's interests. Refusing to go down any other path or direction than the one which God has set for us in a daily act of committal.

Jesus is of course calling his followers to a life of real fulfillment rather than the illusory fulfilment which in reality brings only pain and suffering. Listen to the prescription which Jesus gives, 'whoever loses his life will save it'. Jim Elliot, a missionary who was murdered on the mission field by the Auca Indians as he

tried to minister to them, earlier assessed the risk saying: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." What he meant was that in service is found freedom. Those who pursue gain from a human perspective will find it to be an empty promise. Earthly wealth and treasure is no treasure at all, so it is entirely sensible to throw it overboard so that that the lifeboat can float. *Charles Royden*

## **Meditation From Bishop Alan**

Following the terrible murders in Paris at the offices of Charlie Hebdo in January, there has been much debate about the importance of freedom of speech. There have even been articles about whether we have a 'right to offend' other people.

Although freedom of speech is limited in every country, it is important that we encourage robust debate, not least with those with whom we disagree. Indeed, it is often through such exchanges that we learn and grow. However, we need to think about how we choose to express ourselves. It is significant that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights begins with a statement which talks both about rights but also the responsibility to treat one another as brothers and sisters:

*'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.'*

Whilst Charlie Hebdo may have the legal right under French law to mock and humiliate those with whom they disagree, they need to remember that there is also a moral dimension to all relationships. For many of us Charlie Hebdo's response seemed designed to whip up further hatred: an eye for an eye. As Ghandi pointed out, this ultimately results in a world where everyone is blind.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught a different way 'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you (Matt 5. 11-12). As Christians we follow a Saviour who was mocked as he hung on the cross: 'Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads (Matt 27.39). St Peter, reflecting on what he had witnessed commented 'When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly' (1 Peter. 2. 23). He exhorted his fellow Christians when facing opposition 'Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.'

As we journey through Lent, the media will be full of debates in the run up to the General Election. The statement 'Who is my Neighbour' recently released by the House of Bishops, calls for a new vision of how we do politics. I hope that one of the things that Christians can contribute is the way that we treat others, especially those with whom we disagree:

**To read the statement** from the House of Bishops to the people and parishes of the Church of England for the General Election 2015 go to <https://churchofengland.org/media/2170230/whoismyneighbour-pages.pdf>

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

In faith let us pray to God our Father, in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

God of love, we pray for the life of your worldwide Church, especially in those places where persecution persists and where people are ridiculed for their faith. May every congregation be a community of love, and every Christian a witness to your grace. Strengthen this Partnership to face the challenges which lie ahead, and make us a living fellowship as we seek to serve other people.

Your kingdom come: Your will be done.

God of mercy, we pray for the life of the world in which we live, especially for those who exercise power and authority – in politics, in the media, in industry and commerce.

We pray for those who wrestle with their conscience as they face conflicting expectations, and for those whose livelihoods are being threatened by the selfishness of others.

We pray for those who work to keep the peace and foster mutual understanding and respect; and for those who teach, heal and care, giving freely of themselves in the service of others.

Your kingdom come: Your will be done.

God of compassion, we pray for people in need: those for whom life is a bitter struggle; those whose lives are bowed down by death or loss, pain or disability, discouragement or fear, shame or rejection.

May they know the warmth, the comfort and the assurance of your love.

Your kingdom come: Your will be done.

God of glory, we rejoice in the communion of saints, and give you thanks for all those who have gone before us whose lives have enriched and challenged ours, and who have inspired our faith. May they dwell in your eternal light and love.

Your kingdom come: Your will be done.



# Faith in Social Media



This ecumenical conference, run by the Beds & Herts Media Trust in association with the Diocese of St Albans and The Salvation Army's national media office, is designed for beginners and experts alike.

It will offer guidance for those venturing into the world of social media for the first time and help the experienced gain the greatest benefits from using these tools.

There will be time to meet over breakfast and space to reflect theologically on the impact of social media on today's world.

## Explore the use of Social Media in your church

For further details & booking: [www.bhcmt.org.uk](http://www.bhcmt.org.uk)



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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
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ST ALBANS

**Are you interested in getting our churches more involved in Social Media ?** This ecumenical conference, run by the Beds & Herts Media Trust in association with the Diocese of St Albans and The Salvation Army's national media office, is designed for beginners and experts alike. It will offer guidance for those venturing into the world of social media for the first time and help the experienced gain the greatest benefits from using these tools. There will be time to meet over breakfast and space to reflect theologically on the impact of social media on today's world. For further details & booking: [www.bhcmt.org.uk](http://www.bhcmt.org.uk) Explore the use of Social Media in our church Saturday 6 June Legrave Centre Luton 8.30am - 13.30 Starts with breakfast !

**St Mark's Craft Stall** Easter novelties now available from £1 each. This year we have Shaun the sheep. All profits to St. Mark's.

**International John Bunyan Society** Conference on Representing Dissent in the Long Eighteenth Century at University of Bedfordshire on Friday 10 April 10.00am - 5.00pm. Free of charge. Contact [bob.owens@beds.ac.uk](mailto:bob.owens@beds.ac.uk) for more information.

**St. Mark's Pre-school** are collecting Active Kids vouchers. There is a box on the table or they can be handed into the office. Thank you Helen Harpin.

**1st Putnoe Brownies** are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids 2015 vouchers to purchase equipment.

If you would like to donate yours? please either leave them in the Putnoe church office or pass them to Carolyn Morris. Thank you.

**Next Messy Church at St Mark's Church** on Wednesday 18 March 3.45 - 5.30pm. Messy Church takes place monthly on a Wednesday from 3.45pm - 5.30pm. For children of lower school age and carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and meal. For more details contact Wendy Waters 401834

**Lent Group** using extracts from the film 'The Kings Speech' and related Bible passages to explore fear, how it holds us back; how we can face and overcome it. To be held on Monday evenings 7.30 pm on 2, 9 and 16 March. If you are interested please contact Wendy Waters.

**Lent Homegroup** If you would prefer something during the day then we have a homegroup at St Mark's 2.15pm alternate Tuesday afternoons and this group welcomes new members even if it is just through Lent. Next meeting 10 March.

**Church safeguarding** - A safeguarding training session will be held on Wednesday 15th April from 10.00 am – 4.00 pm. Included will be a general update on current issues, procedures and an opportunity to cover specific issues.

The session is aimed at anyone working with children or adults who may be vulnerable or anyone who has responsibility for the safety of children in our churches. Venue: The Boardroom, St Albans Diocesan Office, Holywell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 1HE Catering: Light refreshments will be provided. Lunch is not provided and you should make your own arrangements. Booking: These sessions are always oversubscribed. Please book early if you wish to attend by email if possible to [childprotection@stalban.anglican.org](mailto:childprotection@stalban.anglican.org) or by phone on 01299 841269.

**Christian Aid Soup Lunch** You are invited to our annual Lent Soup Lunch at Putnoe Heights Church at 12.30pm on Sunday 22nd March. Donations to Christian Aid. Please sign the sheet in the welcome area at Putnoe or give names to St Marks office.

**Footprints Walk** Today 1 March 2.00pm A circular walk, under 3 miles, from the War Memorial in the centre of Biddenham, passing through some interesting parts of Biddenham and Great Denham. Details from Sue & Gerry.

**Lent 2014 Oscar Romero - Blood and Sweat** Will those who are coming to St Albans Cathedral to participate in an evening lecture 'Witness of Oscar Romero's Life and Death' Please give your £5 booking fee to Charlie to confirm you are still coming. The event takes place on Monday 23 March and we will need to be in St Albans for 7.30pm - so expect to leave Bedford around 5.30pm.

# Living God's Love

## Partnership Mission 14- 19 July

In July, Bishop Richard will be joining us in the Partnership for a week of mission in our community. We will be holding special events and Bishop Richard will be visiting groups and meeting people leading up to special Sunday Services. If you have any ideas of events which you would like to hold or that you would like to participate in, then please speak with Charlie. During this week the aim will be to make contact with as many people as possible and offer them a welcome to our church family in Jesus name.

## Real Easter Eggs

A million sold and voted the UK's favourite Fairtrade Egg! The Real Easter Egg, the only easter egg sold with with a copy of the Easter story in each box, has sold a million since it was introduced in 2010.



Initially turned down by supermarkets, as they were unsure that a 'faith egg' would sell, the Real Easter Egg was voted the UK's favourite Fairtrade egg in a national poll last year. How wrong they were. There is also a charitable donation for every 150g egg sold. More than £140,000 has been donated from sales. It also supports farmers and producers in the developing world by using Fairtrade chocolate. David Marshall, who heads up the Meaningful Chocolate Company, said; "The Real Easter Egg campaign aims to establish giving a Real Easter Egg as a tradition. We can be found in Tesco, Waitrose and Morrison's. However, we make very little from

supermarket sales so we do rely on direct sales from churches and schools. Last year we sent more than 400,000 eggs through the post. This is a very positive example of putting our faith into practice so I hope churches will support this year's Real Easter Egg campaign by visiting [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk) and ordering.

## New eggs

Each year the content of the Real Easter Egg changes. This year blue egg has a unique 3ft storybook/banner, the Premium Peace Edition contains an olive wood key ring made in Bethlehem and there is a dairy free dark chocolate egg. Visit [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)

## Please shop at ThisisChurch.com



Please can you make a point of always going to Amazon through the link on [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com). If you look at an item through Amazon direct they put a cookie on your machine and we don't get any commission! Please make it a habit to always go through the church website. This costs you nothing and we get a bit of commission.

**www.easyfundraising.com.** This works exactly the same when you shop with John Lewis, M&S and a whole host of other shops. This has an added benefit that you will also get some special offers - you can't lose ! Please click the link on the church website go online and sign up now

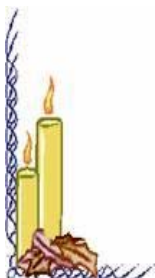
**Please always shop through  
[www.thisischurch.com](http://www.thisischurch.com)**

## 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

**Nina Margaret Allen  
Elsie Mary Lumbers**

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



## Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Lily May Hostler** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 9 March at 1.45pm

**The funeral of Peter Parker** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday 18 March at 11.30am

**The funeral of Mr Peter Clough** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 16 March at 10.00am

**Rest in Peace.** We were sad to hear news this week of the death of Mr Maurice Mitchell, husband to Pat. The cremation will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.00am on Friday 20 March and will be followed by a memorial service at St Mark's Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with Pat and all the family.