



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

1 September 2013 - Ordinary 22



8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

Today 1 September — Ordinary 22

9.30 St Marks – Family Worship

Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership – Mrs Wendy Waters
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing
Organist - Mr John Mower

11.00 am Putnoe – Family Worship

Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership Mr Barry Southam
Intercessions — Dr Tim Wilkes
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

8 September — Ordinary 23

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr Peter Fletcher
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship with Baptism

Preacher – Mr Peter Fletcher
Leadership - Mrs Sue Allen
Intercessions—Mrs Sue Allen
Organist - Mr Alan Bunker

Readings 1. Jeremiah 18: 1-11 2. Philemon: 1-21,
3. Luke 14: 25 –33

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 & Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Maurice and Jane Mills to mark the first anniversary of their wedding.

A Prayer for Peace in Syria

Spirit of wisdom and grace
the power of truth and judgement,
we pray for all who are working for peace
in the tangled conflict of Syria today.

For international leaders
holding a thread of control,
For the politicians
holding a thread of power
For religious leaders
holding a thread of authority
for the fighters
holding a thread of influence
and citizens clinging
to a thread of hope
Bring unity through the untangled order of justice
Bring reconciliation through truthful dialogue
Bring new life through patient diplomacy
determined mediation and courageous peacemaking
we pray, in the name of Christ
our source of inspiration and confidence. Amen.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@ThisChurch.com
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs 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 - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685
8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**
(See website for more details)
.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955
10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)
12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris
youth@thisischurch.com 365630
1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk .
2pm U3A Music Appreciation (see contact details below)
4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.
6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571
6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081
7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson 353518
7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020
7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 16 September Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218. First session starts 23 September.
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567
Putnoe Heights Children and Youth meeting - Monday 23rd September

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016
9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389
10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704
11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)
1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552
1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp. St Mark's (contacts details below)

1.3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's (contacts details below)
2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details)
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895
2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs 406784.
4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights.. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
7.30-8.30pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957
7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390
6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648
6.30pm MT Karate (all ages) Karen King 07941264885
7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455
7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club (Meets fortnightly). 3 September 'Messy Church' Wendy Waters Details Janet King 313946

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.
9.30am Discover & Do (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666
10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.
10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. (contact below)
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)
10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe (contact below)
11.15am U3A Keep Fit
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 11 September Putnoe Heights Office 365630
1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)
1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)
2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights
2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966
3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 18 September. Wendy Waters 401834
4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994.
6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King 079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Yvonne Blain 350241 or Brian Sallows 407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe

Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004
7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378
8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 4 September. 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 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306
 Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green 244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07932616468
10.00-11.30am Gentle Yoga For more details contact Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305
12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 363283
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays St. Mark's 267444
1pm-2.30pm Drop in (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
2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's (contact below)
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Mary Rich 272470
5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094
7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Carol Plant 01832710504
7.30pm Gentle Birthing St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231
8 -10pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers)
 Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. Next meeting 5 September. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton 01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass 294220
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

Friday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647
10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks (see contact details below)
2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (contact details below)
2pm U3A Italian-Putnoe Heights (contact details below)
2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights
4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker (07900 232648
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd week) Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard 01234 782414
Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198
2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792
6.45pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger 212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
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.
7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355
Messy Church Dates
 Weds 18 Sept; Weds 16 Oct; Weds 20 Nov,



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



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 8 October
St Mark's Leadership Team -
Annual Congregational Meetings
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 10 October
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 1st October
Putnoe Church Council - 14 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting - 4.15pm 17th September
Churchyard Committee -
Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 3pm
Circuit meeting - 10th September Wilstead Methodist Church
Deanery Meeting - 14 November
Woodland Burial Trustees–
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –1.30pm 23rd September
New Year Lunch 19 January at Putnoe
Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Ordinary 21

Sentence of Scripture Psalm 103:1, 8

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me
bless his holy name. The Lord is full of compassion
and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Living God, you formed us in the womb and
appointed us to be prophets to the nations. Stretch
out your hand to cure our infirmity and dispel our
fear, that we may know the freedom of serving you in
Christ and proclaim the wonders you have done.
Amen. *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading Jeremiah Chapter 2:4-13

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob,
and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus
says the Lord:

"What wrong did your fathers find in me that they
went far from me, and went after worthlessness,
and became worthless? They did not say,
'Where is the Lord who brought us up from the
land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a
land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and
deep darkness, in a land that none passes
through, where no man dwells?' And I brought
you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its
good things. But when you came in you defiled
my land, and made my heritage an abomination.
The priests did not say, 'Where is the Lord?'
Those who handle the law did not know me; the
rulers transgressed against me; the prophets
prophesied by Baal, and went after things that
do not profit. "Therefore I still contend with you,
says the Lord, and with your children's children I
will contend. For cross to the coasts of Cyprus
and see, or send to Kedar and examine with
care; see if there has been such a thing. Has a
nation changed its gods, even though they are
no gods? But my people have changed their
glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled,
O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly
desolate, says the Lord, for my people have
committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the
fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns
for themselves, broken cisterns, that can hold no
water.

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

Second Reading Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not
forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing
some people have entertained angels without
knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you
were their fellow prisoners, and those who are
mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.
Marriage should be honoured by all, and the
marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the



adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your
lives free from the love of money and be content
with what you have, because God has said,
"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
So we say with confidence,
"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What
can man do to me?" Remember your leaders,
who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the
outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today
and forever. Through Jesus, therefore, let us
continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the
fruit of lips that confess his name . And do not
forget to do good and to share with others, for
with such sacrifices God is pleased.
(This is the word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – Luke 14 : 1, 7-14,

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the
house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being
carefully watched. When he noticed how the
guests picked the places of honour at the table,
he told them this parable: "When someone
invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the
place of honour, for a person more distinguished
than you may have been invited. If so, the host
who invited both of you will come and say to you,
'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you
will have to take the least important place. But
when you are invited, take the lowest place, so
that when your host comes, he will say to you,
'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will
be honoured in the presence of all your fellow
guests. For everyone who exalts himself will be
humbled, and he who humbles himself will be
exalted." Then Jesus said to his host, "When you
give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your
friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich
neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back
and so you will be repaid. But when you give a
banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame,
the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they
cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the
resurrection of the righteous."

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

Hymns (Please distribute Family Worship and Mission Praise)

1. Alleluia, alleluia 30 2. Majesty 454 3. Open this book that we may see your word (In Partnership News) 4. Father, I place into your hands 33 5. Crown him with many crowns 109

Commentary

Today's readings encourage us to live God's way both individually and as communities of his people. But things can so easily go wrong! Jeremiah accuses Israel of betrayal. That is pretty blunt. A whole series of rhetorical questions in verses 5,6,8,11 and 14 convey God's shock at the ancestors' treatment of him despite his generosity in bringing them to a 'a fertile land' (verse 7). Leaders abandon him, follow worthless idols and substitute their own broken cisterns for God's spring of living water. They got it so badly wrong – and there will be big consequences.

By contrast, one of the themes of the gospel reading is humility, and William Barclay suggests that we can retain our humility by realising that we as individuals know very little compared with the sum total of knowledge and that life and work go on just the same when we retire (or die). We are not indispensable – though we might like to think so. And, he says, we can keep our humility by comparing how we do with an expert. My golf seems even worse when I see the Open! It is a different game totally. And if, in a far more important context, we set our lives beside the life of Jesus – and see his perfect love – we'll see our unworthiness and any pride we have will just melt away.

In the parable Jesus is telling about how the people of his day were jostling for position in the eye of God – eager to push themselves forward. In Jesus' day it was all too easy for the well-off and the legally trained to think that they were superior in God's eyes to the poor, to those unable to study the law.

And, also we need to note that in Luke's lifetime thousands of non-Jews had become Christians – had entered, if you like, into the feast prepared by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Lots of Jewish Christians (and Acts shows us this) found this very difficult, even impossible to accept or approve. How could God stand the world on its head like this? After all, were they not his chosen people? Well, Tom Wright concludes his thoughts on this parable thus; "*Pride is the greatest cloud which blots out the sun of God's generosity: if I reckon that I deserve to be favoured by God, not only do I declare that I don't need his grace, mercy and love, but I imply that those who I think don't deserve it shouldn't have it*".

It is such an easy trap to fall into – and all of us do so in some way from time to time as we categorize and so judge the worth of other people. May we ask God to forgive us – and by his grace to help us to love as he loves us. And Hebrews 13 shows us what this can mean. Again, a reversal of accepted values that can turn the world upside down which Christians believe is what it needs – and God longs for! *Richard Ledger*

Mediation

For each child is special, accepted and loved;
a love gift from Jesus to his Father above.
And now he is giving his gifts to us all;
for no one is worthless, and each one is called. (*Graham Kendrick*)

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

God our Father, you made each of us unique and unrepeatable. Inspire me to live in such a way that I respect others and am ready to learn from all who are part of my life this day. Amen

Lord we are humbled as we wonder at your greatness and power, your gentleness and love. Help us to worship you in our words, in our thoughts and in our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had:...he was humble. *Philippians 2:5,8*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst humble thyself to become man, and to be born into the world for our salvation; teach us the grace of humility, root out of our hearts all pride and haughtiness, and so fashion us after thy holy likeness in this world, that in the world to come we may be made like unto thee; for thine own Name's and mercies' sake. *Bishop How (1823 – 1897)*

Father, bless the family of the church. May we accept one another as brothers and sisters, finding strength and joy in our life together. May we be a family open to all the families of mankind that, in the church, they may overcome all the hostilities and prejudices that might otherwise drive them apart.
From More Everyday Prayers

Father, may I not live as if the welfare of this community and the quality of its corporate life were none of my concern. Keep me alert to what is happening around me. *From Further Everyday Prayers*

O God of Love, we adore you...You transfigure our disfigured faces, you strive with our resistant clay, you bring out of chaos, harmony, O God of Love, we adore you... *From Prayer at Night*

Syria

Leaders from the Methodist Church in Britain, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the United Reformed Church have released the following statement on the crisis in Syria:

"At this time of challenge and uncertainty we pray for the people of Syria, thinking especially of those who have suffered or died as a result of an apparent use of chemical weapons near Damascus. We also pray for wisdom and discernment from political leaders in Britain and other nations. We urge them to take time for careful consideration and resist hasty response. Syria has experienced a cycle of violence for too long. We pray that our nation's response will be guided by the desire to achieve peace and urge our leaders to work with as wide as possible a range of regional partners and with the United Nations."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, delivered the following speech in the House of Lords on the situation in Syria:

My Lords, I very much welcome the opportunity to have been able to speak later in this debate because of the extraordinary quality of many of the contributions that have been made, and how much one can learn by listening to them. Like many noble Lords I have some experience in the region, partly from this role that I have and recent visits and contacts with many faith leaders of all three Abrahamic faiths, and also through 10 years of, from time to time, working on reconciliation projects.

I don't intend to repeat the powerful points that have been made on international law which is itself based on the Christian theory of Just War, and that has been said very eloquently. But I want to pick up a couple of points - first is, it has been said, quite rightly, that there is as much risk in inaction as there is in action. But as in a conflict in another part of the world, a civil conflict in which I was mediating some years ago, a general said to me "we have to learn that there are intermediate steps between being in barracks and opening fire". And the reality is that until we are sure that all those intermediate steps have been pursued, Just War theory says that the step of opening fire is one that must only be taken when there is no possible alternative whatsoever, under any circumstances. Because, as the noble Lord Lord Alli just said very clearly and very eloquently, the consequences are totally out of our hands once it has started. And some consequences we can predict - we've heard already about the Lebanon and about Iran, particularly the effect that an intervention would cause on the new government in Iran as it is humiliated by such an intervention.

But there is a further point, talking to a very senior Christian leader in the region yesterday, he said "intervention from abroad will declare open season on the Christian communities". They have already been devastated, 2 million Christians in Iraq 12 years ago, less than half a million today. These are churches that don't just go back to St Paul but, in the case of Damascus and Antioch, predate him. They will surely suffer terribly (as they already are) if action goes ahead. And that consequence has to be weighed against the consequences of inaction. In civil wars, those who are internal to the civil conflict fight for their lives, necessarily. Those who are external have a responsibility, if they get involved at all, to fight for the outcome, and that outcome must be one which improves the chances of long term peace and reconciliation. If we take action that diminishes the chance of peace and reconciliation, when inevitably a political solution has to be found, whether it's near term or in the long term future, then we will have contributed to more killing and this war will be deeply unjust. In consequence my Lords, I feel that any intervention must be effective in terms of preventing any further use of chemical weapons. I've not yet heard that that has been adequately demonstrated as likely. That it must effectively deal with those who are promoting the use of chemical weapons. And it must have a third aim which is: somewhere in the strategy, there must be more chance of a Syria and a Middle East in which there are not millions of refugees and these haunting pictures are not the stuff of our evening viewing. ends...

Leaders from the United Reformed Church, the Methodist Church in Britain and the Baptist Union of Great Britain have given thanks for the decision of the UK Parliament to reject military action in Syria.

"We are thankful that our MPs carefully considered the difficult matter of military intervention in Syria - and decided to reject it. Our prayers now are that all diplomatic means are used to bring government and opposition leaders to the negotiating table and that divided parties are encouraged to seek a future they can inhabit together. We also urge that priority is given to a quick and effective humanitarian response to the thousands of Syrian people affected by the violence."

The Revd Roberta Rominger, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church The Revd Ruth Gee, President of the Methodist Conference, The Revd Stephen Keyworth, Faith and Society Team Leader, Baptist Union of Great Britain

A Prayer for Peace

Gracious God,
We pray for all those
who suffer from violence;
May they know
your healing and peace.
We pray for those who have died
and those who are bereaved;
May they be comforted
and sustained by your love.
We pray for political leaders in
Britain
and across the world;
May they seek wisdom
and work together for peace.
May your kingdom come,
your will be done
And the earth be filled
with your glory.

*A prayer written by the Revd Ruth Gee,
President of the Methodist Conference:*

Prayer for Reconciliation in Syria God of history, Witness of the struggles within families; we pray for the divided family of Syria as brother fights against brother, and sister rejects sister. We pray for those whose love of neighbour has been destroyed in the bitterness of enmity. May fear be submerged in compassion. May distrust be diluted by hope, as a vision of peace illuminates darkened minds and hate-filled hearts. We pray in the name of Christ, our source of light and love. Amen.

St Mark's

Junior Church meets again 8 September.

Story Box starts again on 12 September.

Chat and Make starts again on 16 September.

Chat and Play has a meeting on 22 August and starts again weekly on 12 Sept

Action for Children September House to House

Collection Action for Children has a 140 year history of working with children, young people and parents living in tough circumstances. Today it does this through its family centres located throughout the UK including North Bedfordshire. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church where it has its roots.

Our annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark's Church is responsible for covering the Brickhill area and last year our 13 collectors raised £572 (inc. Gift Aid). If you could spare a few hours during early September to distribute and then collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)

The Bedford and District Christian Aid

Committee are looking for someone who could act as Secretary for two meetings per year, plus responding to mail coming from Christian Aid Oxford. Computer skills and internet access would be an advantage. Anyone who may be interested please speak to Carolyn Morris.

Harvest Festival this year is on Sunday 29 September. This is a great time to invite along friends and we also welcome uniformed organisations and church groups

Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2013

Following the success of last year's donation of 38 boxes by Messy Church and the wider congregation, we will be packing boxes at our Messy Church session on 16 October.

We will be happy to accept donated items from now on. Please see the Messy Church notice board for details of what can and cannot be put in the boxes. If you require further information please speak to Wendy Waters or Jean Bank.

Bedfordshire Essex and Hertfordshire District Methodist Women in Britain Service of induction for Margaret Torkildsen as District MWiB President and Launch of the President's Project "Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund" will be held at St Andrew's Methodist Church, The Stow, Harlow CM20 3AF on Saturday 7 September. Refreshments from 10.am, please bring a packed lunch. See poster in foyer for more details.

Wanted 2 volunteers to join the lawn cutting rota at Putnoe Heights. If you have approx 1¼ hours to

spare once a month I would like to hear from you. The rota runs from March to the end of October. If you are able to help please contact Veta Hudson-Rae, Leadership Team on 360507.

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch Sunday 29

September 2013 1.00pm Tickets are now available from the Putnoe Office on weekdays or after Sunday Services. Two courses, soft drink and coffee. £6.00 or £3.00 for children. Please bring your own wine.

Footprints Walk Sunday 1 September at 2.30pm. Meet in Biggleswade at the Dan Albone Car Park (turn left at Sainsbury's roundabout on A1, continue to car park by bridge). Circular walk on Biggleswade Common and along River Ivel. Details from Margaret and Eddy.

Last meeting for the Summer holidays at Putnoe Heights Church : Storybox, Storybox plus and Junior church children and their friends aged 0 to 13 years from both churches are invited to meet for the last time this summer holidays on:

Monday 2 September

We will meet together for lunch from 12.00 to 12.30pm; everyone please will you bring a packed lunch as our Storybox teams will be having a break. Drinks will be provided.

Various themed activities and games from 1pm to 2.30pm. All children must be accompanied by an adult. If anyone is available to help with these sessions that would be really helpful. Please can you let me know. *Carolyn Morris*.

the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world

New Ministers Welcomed. Members of the Partnership attended at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday to welcome Gill and Graham who have come to join the Circuit as ministers. Gill will be based at Oakley and Graham at Flitwick. Please support them in your prayers as they start their ministry with us.

Our Mission Appeal 2013. This year will be launched at harvest on 29 September. We will be joining the St Albans Diocese in funding a project in Ethiopia that is teaching farmers about better beekeeping methods. Our gifts will make a real difference. New beehives and improved beekeeping skills are having a life-changing impact on people and communities in Ethiopia. Bees are vital pollinators; flying from flower to flower, they make connections that are fundamental to the life of our planet.

The Bishop's Harvest Appeal is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our connected world and to make life changing, loving and lasting connections with people in Ethiopia.

A Hymn for Sunday

Open this book that we may see your word embodied in the drama of our earth— stories of people that your Spirit stirred, glimpses of hope and visions of new birth.

Open this book that we may meet the one who came as word-made-flesh for all to see; show us his life, all that was said and done, that we might see ourselves as we could be.

Open our ears that we may hear you still; teach us to live as well as speak your word. open our eyes that we might face your will— the word-made-flesh in those who call you 'Lord'.
Christopher Ellis (b. 1949)

Prayers for Sunday

Lord Jesus your life was characterised by service towards others. You touched those who were considered spiritually unclean and you washed the dirty feet of your disciples. Help us to understand that in serving others we are learning to walk in the path to which you have called your disciples.

Lord Jesus you suffered at the hands of corrupt human power and authority. You were pursued by religious leaders threatened by your compassion and example of servanthood. You were handed over to

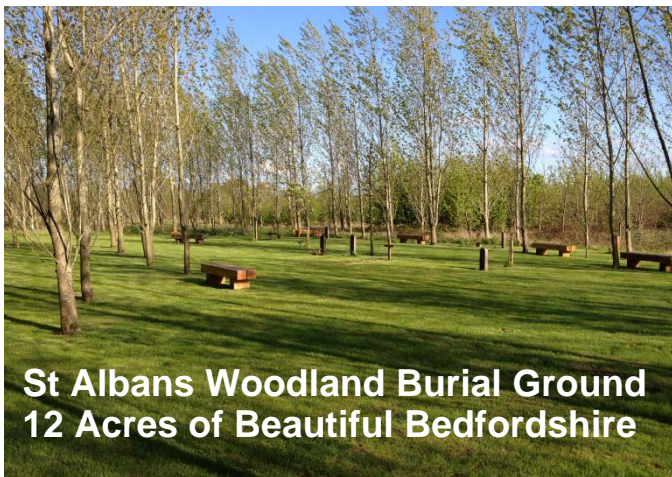
powerful leaders who were unprepared to uphold the standards of truth and justice. We pray that our leaders would recognise and be worthy of the responsibility which they hold. May those who are in positions of authority know the power of humility and service.

God of history, Witness of the struggles within families; we pray for the divided family of Syria as brother fights against brother, and sister rejects sister. We pray for those whose love of neighbour has been destroyed in the bitterness of enmity. May fear be submerged in compassion. May distrust be diluted by hope, as a vision of peace illuminates darkened minds and hate-filled hearts. We pray in the name of Christ, our source of light and love. Amen.

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Thank you for shopping using the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases



**St Albans Woodland Burial Ground
12 Acres of Beautiful Bedfordshire**



St Albans Woodland Burial

We are delighted to have taken a further 10 acres of woodland to increase substantially the area consecrated for burial at our woodland in Keysoe. We are now assured of providing woodland burial for generations to come. The Trust is a non-profit making charity, established to offer woodland burial an environmentally friendly alternative to commercial cemeteries and crematoria.

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust
(Registered Charity No. 1118216)

Mrs Linda Parry, office@woodlandburialtrust.com.
Outside office hours contact 07922 053740 or 07973 113861.

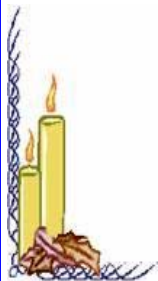
For information visit our website
www.woodlandburialtrust.com

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.

**Herbert John Luscombe
Lee Michael McGonnell
Aphrodite Hubbard**

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 Edith May Willis will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Wednesday 4 September