



# Partnership News

20 January 2013  
Covenant Service

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church



## Thank You

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

### Today 20 January

**9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion`**  
Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills  
Leadership - Mrs Laura Farthing  
Intercessions –Mrs Mary Stubbs  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion**  
Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills  
Leadership – Mrs Linda Hoar  
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

### Sunday 27 January

**9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship**  
Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean  
Intercessions – Ministers  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship**  
Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mrs Jean Kirk  
Intercessions - Mrs Sam Ware

**Readings** 1. Ezekiel 43 27-44 2.1 Corinthians 13: 1-13  
3. Luke 2: 22-40

**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

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week  
have been given by Alan Massey in loving memory  
of his mother Mabel.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have  
been given by Barbara Joy and family in loving  
memory of Alan.

## Prayer for Sunday

Let us be yours, Lord.  
Let us not draw back from you,  
neither from your heaven,  
nor from your divinity, nor from your cross.  
Let us be yours to whom we owe our creation  
and our redemption.  
Touch our hearts and sanctify them,  
and consecrate us in your service,  
for ever. Amen.  
*Lucy Herbert (1669-1744)*

## Struggling in the Snow ?

If you or somebody you know is struggling in the  
snow for supplies etc, please call the church offices  
or one of the ministers and we will be pleased to  
help

**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 365630  
jane@thisischurch.com

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

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

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

**Churchyards Administrator**  
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

**Putnoe Heights Church Centre**  
**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846  
**Leadership Team** Mrs. Jean Kirk 317699  
**Treasurer** Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
**Youth Team Leader** Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

**St. Mark's Church Centre**  
**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team -** Morag Stewart 360103  
**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](http://www.ThisChurch.com)  
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685  
**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**9.-3.45pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**  
(See website for more details)  
**.9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430  
**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955  
**10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Calligraphy** at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation** at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (see contact details below)  
**12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris [youth@thischurch.com](mailto:youth@thischurch.com) 365630  
**1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make** For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys,songs,story and refreshments £1. More details email– [chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk) .  
**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– 21 January Judith Stanton. 823313  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567  
**7.45pm Opus Choir** at St Mark's Mrs Sutherland 269100  
**8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Diane Field 404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016  
**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507  
**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen 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 Group.** St Mark's (contacts 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.** Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468  
**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957  
**7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390  
**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648  
**6.30pm MT Karate** (all ages) Karen King 07941264885  
**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455  
**7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo 07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)  
**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** (Meets fortnightly). Next meeting 22January 'Messy Church' Wendy Waters Details Janet King 313946  
**8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers Workshop** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler 01767 651767

## Wednesday

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly. Contact Marion Sutton 217647  
**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.  
**9.30am Discovery & Do** (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666  
**10am-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.  
**10am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. (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 30 January 2013 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)  
**2.00pm Fifty Plus Keep Fit** Mrs Webster 856966  
**2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan**  
**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 20th February Wendy Waters /401834  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731

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

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

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

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. 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 30 January Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

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

### Thursday

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

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

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

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

**110-11.30am 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

**.5.00pm 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

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

**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

**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

**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** – 19 Feb,11 June  
**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 22 January  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 5 February  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** 24 January  
**Putnoe Church Council** - 19 February  
**Pastoral Group Meeting** - 5 February  
**Churchyard Committee** -  
**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -  
**Commemoration Service**  
**Circuit meeting** - 7 February  
**Deanery Meeting** -  
**Woodland Burial Trustees**–  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** –4th Feb. 1.30pm

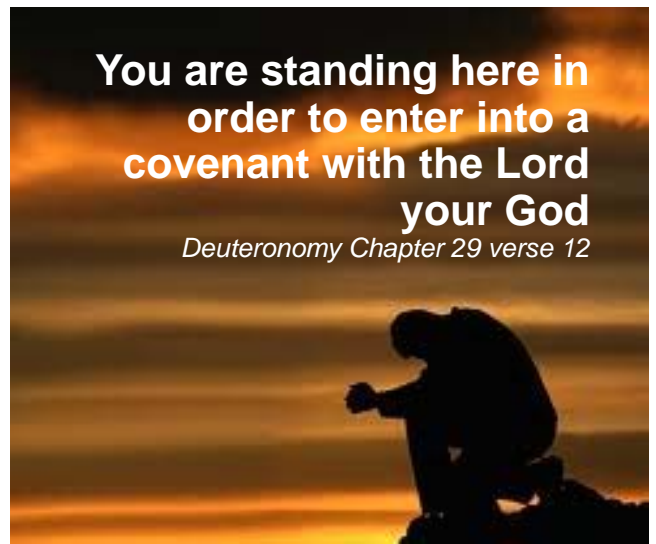
*Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.*

# Covenant Service

## Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 19 v 7 - 10

The law of the LORD is perfect, the precepts of the LORD are right, the fear of the LORD is pure, and the ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

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



## A Reading from the Law — Exodus 24: 3-11

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

## A Reading from the Prophets — Jeremiah 31: 31-34

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to[ them, declares the Lord.

"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord.

"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord.

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

(For the Word that inspires us. **All: We praise you O God**)

## A Reading from the Epistles — Romans 12: 1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

(For the truth that enlightens us, **All: We praise you, O God**)

## A Reading from the Gospel – John 15: 1-10 (All: Glory to Christ our Saviour)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This

is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. (This is the Gospel of Christ **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Hymns** (*Please distribute The Covenant Service Booklet and Hymns and Psalms*)

1. Lord for the years MP 428
2. O breath of life, come sweeping through us, H&P 777
3. This, this is the God we adore H&P 277
4. Now let us from this table rise H&P 619

### **Commentary**

Today we both celebrate communion, but also that unique opportunity, created by the bringing together of different traditions, to renew both our Covenant with God (from our Methodist heritage) and our Baptismal vows (from our Anglican heritage)

Whatever your feelings on baptism (infants and/or 'believers'), the fact is that when we make promises to God, often with the best intentions, we almost always fall short of our own expectations. God, on the other hand, makes promises that are eternal, yet he has the grace to accept our limitations and welcome us into his embrace whenever we turn to him.

The promises we make are huge, if we were creating a business plan we may be told to think more 'realistically' and choose more 'achievable' goals or targets than, for example;

*'I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose!'*

Yet this service is a beautiful gift, where we can meet our Lord 'face-to-face' as it were, to renew our vocation to serve him in every part of our lives.

In our concern about the 'big' things we may be asked to do we should not lose sight of the fact that it we who are called and, while God wants us to be the best we can be, he loves us AS WE ARE.

When I was training for ministry I was given this prayer, which comes from the ordination service of the Methodist Church in Singapore;

### **Called to something smaller**

*We are not ordaining you to ministry; that happened at your baptism  
We are not ordaining you to be a caring person; you are already called to that.*

*We are not ordaining you to serve the Church in committees, activities, organisation;  
that is already implied in your membership.*

*We are not ordaining you to become involved in social issues, ecology race, politics, revolution,  
for that is laid upon every Christian.*

*We are ordaining you to something smaller and less spectacular to read and interpret those sacred stories of our community, so that they speak a word to people today; to remember and practise those rituals and rights of meaning that in their poetry address man at the level where change operates; to foster in community through word and sacrament that encounter with truth which will set men and women free to minister as the body of Christ.*

*We are ordaining you to the ministry of the word and sacraments and pastoral care.*

*God grant you grace not to betray but uphold it, not to deny but affirm it;  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

This reminded me that I was not training for some big 'solo crusade', rather that I was being equipped to encourage and enable others to recognise and carry out a ministry. So much of what we do as a church is undergirded by a foundation of little tasks, without any one of which the outcome would be different. It's like the ripples on a pond that unsettle the whole surface, or the smallest stone which sets off a landslide, or more positively the rocks which, when brought together create a cairn which marks a footpath, and act as a marker to guide people who have become unsure of, or have lost the way.

Together all those small acts become huge, one person at a car boot sale may raise £100 for charity, yet when we club together we have been known to raise thousands!

Together our 'small gifts' create a congregation, which is part of a church, which IS the body of Christ. And if we risk underestimating the potential of our own contribution we should remember the words of Prayer spoken by Nelson Mandela at his inauguration;

*Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate  
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure  
It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us  
We ask ourselves; Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?  
Actually, who are you not to be?  
You are a child of God; Your playing small doesn't serve the world  
There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you  
We are all meant to shine as children do  
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us  
It's not just on some of us; it's in everyone  
And as we let our own light shine,  
we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same  
As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others*

So I encourage you to grasp this opportunity, acknowledge what you already do and shine as the person God created, and loves. Only then should you consider if there is more, less, or something different you are being asked to do.

As I begin my first 'sabbatical', three months away from my full time ministerial context to refresh and rediscover my own calling, I pray that each of you may find the time and space to learn to honour the divine spark within you, to acknowledge your God given gifts, and use them in whatever way feels 'right', at home, at work, in church or in the world. Be who God wants you to be. Every Blessing. Jane

### **Meditation**

In earlier times we might have been asked to publicly account for any "backsliding" that might have gone on in the last year. But this is not a phrase that we now hear and I am sure it would infringe peoples' privacy to ask them intrusive questions. But today is an occasion on which we can interrogate ourselves, be fearless in challenging ourselves and make a resolve to do better. It was part of Wesley's design that we should make our Covenant at a service when there was a celebration of the Lord's Supper, so that honesty and renewal was set in the context of the act of Christ's loving Sacrifice of himself for us, symbolised in the sacrament. When we reach out to God, in the covenant or in any other way, the loving response is immediate and all encompassing. So we pray that in this New Year we may find a deeper value for God's love and reflect it out into the world. Amen

### **Prayers for Sunday and the Week of Christian Unity ahead**

As we walk together, send your Spirit to strengthen our resolve and deepen our conversations to realise Jesus' prayer in us.

As we walk with the wounded body of Christ, hasten the day when we can realise the fullness of fellowship at his table and inflame in our hearts the desire to overcome all that divides us.

As we walk towards freedom, raise the unity of the Churches to be a sign of hope in situations of discrimination and injustice.

As we walk as part of God's creation, help us to tread carefully and respect the earth that we may be attentive to the suffering of the landless.

As we walk as friends of Jesus, enlarge and deepen our fellowship and friendship with each other and with those who are marginalised.

As we walk beyond barriers, grant us courage to overcome cultural prejudices that hinder us from recognising the presence of God in each other.

As we walk in solidarity with women like Sarah and other victims of discrimination, encircle us all with your love and enable us to do justice.

As we walk in celebration, help us to see the wonderful diversity in human life, born of the struggles for dignity and survival amid oppression, and see your abiding faithfulness.

In Christ's brokenness on the cross, you transformed all sinful, flawed and fractured humanity.

Lord, we crucify you again with our disunity. Walk with us as we stumble to the day when we share in the one bread, one cup. God of life, lead us to justice and peace. Amen

We love to talk, Lord forgive us when we fail to listen. Christ talked of love; challenge us to engage in costly conversations. God of life, lead us to justice and peace. Amen

## Another Fabulous Free Concert at St Mark's Church

Concert on Saturday, 9 February 2013 at 7.30pm in St Mark's Church given by Taylor Wilson, Stewart Kempster and Clive Simmonds.

Entrance is free and there will be a retiring offering in aid of the St Mark's piano fund.

We were delighted that you were all so enthusiastic after our concert last February to celebrate the arrival of the new organ at St Mark's. I'm delighted that Tracey (Taylor Wilson) and Stewart have agreed to join us for a second concert next February. This year we also have a new piano at St Mark's to enjoy and this will widen the range of items which we can include in our programme.

**Stewart** was a student at the Royal Academy of Music and has sung operatic roles in many venues both in this country and abroad. He and Tracey live now in a cottage just south of Glasgow and he has sung with most of the major choirs and orchestras in Scotland. He has made CD's with the National Youth Choir and the Scottish National Orchestra and been involved in performances and broadcasts from the Wexford Festival Opera and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. He was involved in the Academy Award winning soundtrack of "Lord of the Rings" and has sung operatic roles in music festivals in France, Switzerland and Russia. He recently sung a recital on the Danish island of Bornholm. In 2012 he was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music..

### Putnoe Heights Church Children and Youth

meeting on Monday 4 February 2013 at 1.30pm instead of 28th January. Carolyn

**Christmas Gifts** If you would like to re-gift your unwanted Christmas gifts we will be having our annual stall after the service on Sunday 3rd February 2013. Please leave things in the office. Thank you. Liz and Carolyn

**Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meets at St Mark's on 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday from 8-10pm. All dances called. Come along and burn off some energy. Next meeting 30 January. Entry £1 including refreshments. More details ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594.

**Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church** will be 10 years old this May. If you would like to celebrate this milestone on Saturday 11th May 2013 please can you let me know. Carolyn email Youth@thisischurch.com

**"Roots" Campaigns Training for Christian Aid**, an evening of workshops, prayer and action to prepare for the year ahead will be held on Monday 28 January, 6-9pm at St Andrew's Church Bedford. If interested please book a place by calling the Oxford office on Tel: 01865 246818

**St Mark's Messy Church** Future dates: all 3.45 to 5.30pm, Wednesday 20 February



### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday 20 Jan 6.30pm Russell Park Baptist  
Monday 21 Jan 12.30pm Bunyan Meeting  
Tuesday 22 Jan 12.30pm Bedford Hospital Chapel  
Wednesday 23 Jan 12.30pm St Andrew's  
Thursday 24 Jan 12.30pm Friends Meeting  
Friday 25 Jan 12.30pm Miracle Church of God

### Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration

Monday 28 January 12 noon at the Anne Frank Memorial Tree, Russell Park 12.45pm Civic Commemoration Harpur Suite

**Thank you** to all those who volunteered to collect for Christian Aid on Saturday at Tesco's Cardington Road. A total of £277.78 was raised. Peter Littleford.

**John Bunyan's 'Childish Toys'** a one day course for readers of all ages on 16 March 10am—4pm at Bunyan Meeting. Tutors Dr. Pat Pinset and Professor Bob Owens. For further information contact Dr. Clare Walsh 01234 793091 email clare.walsh@beds.ac.uk

**Members of Putnoe Heights Church** will be saddened to hear news of the death of Mary Tew. Sadly Mary died during the last week and was aged 97

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### A Hymn for Sunday

Lord, for the years Your love has kept and guided,  
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,  
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:  
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world where men disown and doubt You,  
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,  
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without You:  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us  
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,  
Past put behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

## Real Easter Eggs



Each egg costs £3.99, is made from 125g of high quality Fairtrade milk chocolate, which has an approval rating of more than 95% and with each sale we make a donation to Traidcraft Exchange (over £40,000 has been donated so far to this and other charities).

### Features of the 2013 Real Easter Egg

- Free inside - Easter story, activity poster & sticker set
- The three crosses on the front
- The Easter story is explained on the box
- If you open the lid, you will see 'Happy Easter'
- Under the lid, for the first time ever on an Easter Egg, there is a quote from the bible-the resurrection text from Mark.
- charity donation

If you would like us to order a Real Easter Egg for you in time for Easter, then please hand £3.99 to either church office and we will take your name and address and place an order. All orders must be placed by the end of January.



### About The Real Easter Egg

Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter eggs sold each year in the UK, The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter. We also give a sizeable donation from profits and Fairtrade Premium fees, to our farmers allowing them to invest in their community buying everything from school books and solar panels to providing fresh water. The Real Easter Egg is now in its third year of production with more than 200,000 sold so far.

This year the Real Easter Egg has a free activity pack in the box which includes the Easter story, activity poster, free itune download and a sticker set (pictured right). The resurrection text from Mark can also be found inside the lid.

### Thank you for Shopping at [www. ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)

Thank you for shopping using the links on thischurch.com. Please always use 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 and help raise money.

### 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.

**Nikolai Vivian Murray**  
**Rosaline Greta Baines**

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



### Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

**The funeral of Brian Keighley** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 11.00am on Friday 25 January

**The funeral of Rosie Miriam Norris** will take place at the Crematorium at 12.15p.m. on Friday 1 Feb

**The funeral of Jocelyn Alfred Neil Burns** will take place at the Crematorium at 12.15pm on Monday 4 Feb

**The funeral of Mrs Theresa Baccarella** will take place at Bedford Cemetery on Thursday 7 February at 11.30am followed by burial