



Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
20 September 2015
Ordinary 25**



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

20 September Ordinary 25

9.30am St Mark's – Holy Communion
Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mr. Mike Cooper
Intercessions - Mrs. Morag Stewart
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion
Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mr. Barry Southam
Intercessions - Dr. Tim Wilkes
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

27 September Harvest

9.30am St Mark's – Harvest Service
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Intercessions - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds
11.00 am Putnoe - Harvest Service
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Deuteronomy 8:7-18
2. 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 3. Luke 12:16-30
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 Veta Hudson-Rae to celebrate her birthday and that of her grandson Samuel.



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

Prayer for Sunday

Lord our God,
as you have given us the night for rest
and created the day for your glory,
let the remembrance of your goodness
be always on our minds
and the gift of your love forever in our hearts.
Keep us free from sin,
protect us in the hour of temptation
and guide us with the light of your presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

John Calvin (1509-1564)

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

Deacon Jane Mills
c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
itsjanemills@gmail.com

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

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

Churchyards Administrator
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Open Mon-Thur 9–5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Geoff Gypps 365630
Leadership Team Mr Barry Southam 219714
barrysoutham@aol.com
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

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.

St. Mark's Church Centre Charity No 1160981.

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Margaret Appleton 354708
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Partnership News is also archived on our church website www.ThisIsChurch.com
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Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

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

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

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

Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

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

Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

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

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

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

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

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

2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights– fortnightly

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

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

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

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

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

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

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

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

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.

7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting–21 September Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 8 September at 2.30pm Tea 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 9 September Contact Putnoe Office 365630

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

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

3.30-4.30pm Vita Fit St Mark's starting 29 April for 6 weeks Liz Roe 07901684538

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

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

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

6.00pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994
6.00-7.00pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel.01234 353865
7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts at Putnoe ages 10.5-14; Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095
7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600
8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 16 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 (Week 1 in the month) Jill Cooper 357960

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.
10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Restarts 17 September Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481
12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun.Restarts 10 September Contact Jaana Swaby 342613
1.00-2.30pm Wriggles & Jiggles Putnoe Heights. Drop in.
1pm-2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552. 2pm -
Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.
2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Contact Janet King 313946
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210
3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650
5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07768481499
6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284
7.00pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946
7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's (3rd week in month). Carol Plant 01832710504
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094
7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Rosemary McNeilage 405594
7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Linda Stephen 409493

8.00pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

Friday

9.30am -3.30pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, 2nd week per month.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647
10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946
2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
4.50pm-7.00pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email: phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd week in month)Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

9.00am Faith Temple Ministries St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593
10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard 01234 782414
Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198
2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre at St. Mark's. 1st Sunday Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143
11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's . A crèche is also available.
2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th Sunday. Closed for summer break. Re opens 13



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council -
St Mark's Leadership Team - Wednesday 23 Sept
Annual Congregational Meetings -
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 October 2015
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 29 September
Putnoe Church Council - 15 October 2015
Pastoral Group Meeting- 15 September 2015 4.00pm
Churchyard Committee - TBA
Circuit meeting - 14 September at Flitwick
Deanery meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees -
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 28 September 2015 2.00pm
Messy Church Wednesday 21 October, Wednesday 18 November, Wednesday 9 December 3.45pm

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

Ordinary 25

Sentence of Scripture

Surely God is my help;
the Lord is the one who sustains me.
Ps 54 v 4

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

Lord God, defend your church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Bible Reading - Wisdom of Solomon

1 v 16 – 2 v 1, 12 – 22

A contemporary translation

By their words and deeds the godless call for death; considering death a friend, they yearn for him, and make a covenant with him, worthy as they are to belong to his world. For they wrongly reasoned to themselves saying, "Our life is short, dreary and sorrowful, and there is no remedy when our end comes, no one has been known to come back from Hades. Let us lie in wait for the upright, because they are an inconvenience to us, they oppose our actions, and influence in the opposite direction to us; they reproach us for sins against the law, and accuse us of sins against our heritage and upbringing. They profess to have knowledge of God, and call themselves children of the Lord. They became to us a reproof of our way of thinking; the very sight of them weighs our spirits down because their manner of life is unlike that of others, and their ways are different to ours and seem strange. We are considered by them as something base and counterfeit, and they avoid our ways as they would filth and they see us as unclean; they call the final end of the righteous happy and blessed, and boast that God is their father. Let us see if their words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of their life; for if the righteous person is God's son, God will help them, and will deliver them from the clutches of their enemies. Let us test them with cruelty, insult and torture so that we may find out how gentle and patient they really are. Let us condemn them to a shameful death, for, according to what they say, they will be protected." This is the way the godless reason, but they were led astray because their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hope for the reward of holiness, nor recognise the reward for blameless souls. (This is the word of the Lord —**Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - James Chapter 3:13-4:3,7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)



**He took a little child and
had him stand among
them.**

Gospel Reading - Mark 9 Verses 30-37

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

Jesus and His disciples left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it. They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.'

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

Post Communion Prayer

Keep, O Lord, your church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns for Sunday

(Please distribute Holy Communion booklet and hymn sheet where requested)

1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind
2. God of grace and God of glory
3. Make me a channel of your peace (Tune St Francis)
4. Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour (Tune St Helen)

Commentary

It's not difficult to imagine the disciples are beginning to flex their elbows in the gospel reading today. Jesus tells the disciples that He will be delivered into the hands of men who will put Him to death. And, whilst the next verse tells us that the disciples did not understand what this meant, perhaps referring to the fact that Jesus tells them that after He is killed He will rise again, they then seem to be discussing who among them is the greatest. It's logical to assume that in some shape or form they were trying to decide who should take over from Jesus when He goes. If this is the case, then rather than focusing on the mission and ministry which Jesus has started, and to which we are all called to continue, they seem to be locked in discussion about who might have the best leadership characteristics to pick up the mantle of Jesus. Who has the most influential way of speaking, who might have the most persuasive voice with the Romans and the Jewish authorities? Who could engage the most with the crowds and who could equally engage with the rich, famous and influential? Whose voice and face will resonate with the public as they look to challenge some of the established thinking and understanding? Were the disciples who had witnessed the Transfiguration (which has just happened) better than the rest? It looks like some serious succession planning may have been happening on the road! Even if Jesus did come back in some shape or form as a King, He'd need an able Chief of Staff or Head Ambassador to keep things on track.

There could be challenging times and their decision about a succession plan and who should be in charge of operations could be important – they need to get it right. Yet when challenged by Jesus the childishness, futility and misguidedness of their arguments must have seemed embarrassingly obvious. Jesus points out greatness and leadership is not about popularity, about any great ability to influence others with smart words and arguments, about being the most acceptable or popular in the world's eyes or about credibility with the masses and the public. Quite the opposite. It's certainly not about selfish ambition but about servant hearted humility and offering God's welcome to all who come to them, however unimportant and 'invisible' to those that are in power. In fact, anyone who showed these characteristics, even in the faintest of ways, could become His ambassador. The humbler, more vulnerable and insignificant the person, the better. So much so that even a child can become an official representative for Jesus. And we are to welcome them. Welcome those it would seem who can be invisible in our lives, those people we never give a second glance too because they seem insignificant or unimportant. In Jesus' words there is a real challenge. How do we respond to the refugee crisis we see all around us, how do we act towards the homeless and those much less fortunate than ourselves? There as there is challenge there is also comfort. No longer do we need to struggle to be someone of importance or significance. We don't need to be the greatest. We don't

need to prove we are interesting or have a position of status. We are free to be ourselves, loved by God through Jesus. We are truly chosen and free. Richard Rohr in his book, *Falling Upwards* talks about the two halves of life. In his model the first half of life is about building a container for ourselves and our lives, working to find and build our identity and status, working to build a home and friends, it's all about surviving successfully. It's what we focus our time and effort on as we grow up. The second half of our lives is about discovering the contents of the container. We're still quite good at maintaining the container all our lives but the real discovery is when we find the contents, the purpose for which the container was built in the first place. And ultimately it's the contents that give our life purpose and give it real security. We do need a container which is strong enough to hold real life, with all its ambiguities and conflicts, moments of deep sadness and great joy, but we also need to let go of the dependence on the things which give us outward security and comfort so that we can come to Christ as a child and be free to receive from Him the abundance of His riches, security and peace. The Father welcomes us as we are, and invites us to do the same for others irrespective of their status, importance or circumstances. *Sam Cappleman*

Meditation

The letter of James is often attributed to 'James, the brother or the Lord'. It's written in Greek but is more Semitic in its style of argument and was clearly intended for Jewish converts who would be very familiar with the Hebrew scriptures of the Old Testament. And, for a letter which seems to focus on moral expectations and practical good works, its underpinnings can be found in much of the philosophical Jewish Wisdom tradition and teaching. These too are surprisingly practical in their application. Some writers refer to the book of James as the New Testament's chief wisdom book so we do well to study and understand its teachings and apply them in our own lives. As we see James' setting in a wisdom context it's then understandable when we read that the opening verse of today's passage encourages its readers to put into practical action the things that (their) wisdom prompts them to do. The book of Proverbs 1 v 7 tells us that the fear of the Lord, that is our awe and reverence, are the beginning of wisdom. James therefore challenges us to think about and take action on some of the practical things of life as we come before God with our own awe and reverence. Challenges to reflect and take action on issues and topics such as the news of the refugee crisis, or as we see what is happening in our increasingly fragmented society, or as we are inundated with images of inequality and as we look out on a world of indifference to suffering and hear of everyday needs in those around us. Perhaps we need to ask ourselves whether our lack of action is sometimes because of our lack of that awe and reverence for God and a dulling of our sense of the need to do what is right in the light of situations and circumstances where Jesus Himself would have acted with love, care and compassion. As James points out, wisdom is more than reading about, seeing or even understanding a particular situation, it's about taking practical action in the light of the insight a relationship with God through Jesus gives each one of us. Being open to the prompts which He sometimes gives us, rather than ignoring them because it is more convenient or expedient for us to do so.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

God whose holy name defies our definition, but whose will is known in freeing the oppressed, make us to be one with all who cry for justice; that we who speak your praise may struggle for your truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen. All desires known

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead. Lord, you hide your face when we trust in ourselves; strip us of false security and re-clothe us in your praise, that we may know you as the one who raises us from death, as you raised your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen Daily Prayer, Refrain from Psalm 30

Loving God, who chose to send your Son into our world, be with us today as we make our daily choices. Help us keep our eyes fixed on you, that in your eyes we may be wise, that we may grow in wisdom and reflect the glory of your incarnation, Jesus Christ who is with us always in the power of your Spirit. Amen

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us paralysed, but whose presence is overwhelming, breathe on us with your abundant life; that where we cannot see we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you. Amen

Now may the blessing of God the Father, who made from one every nation that occupies the earth; of God the Son, who bought us for God from every tribe and language and people and nation; and God the Holy Spirit, who brings us together in unity, be with you and remain with you always. Amen
After 'Patterns of Worship'

Harvest Festival 2015



Next week is Harvest Festival.

Please bring harvest gifts of food for the Food Bank. Non-perishable items especially welcome.

Putnoe Heights Church Harvest Lunch. Sunday 27 September 12.45pm. All welcome. Menu - Steak, Chicken or Veggy Pie, harvest desserts. Tickets £7.00 adults £3.50 under 10s. Available from Putnoe Heights Office on weekdays or after Sunday Service.

Harvest Service A service for harvest will be held at Highfield Residential Care Home on 20 September 2015. All who would like to help are very welcome. Vera Pearson

Partnership Prayer Group meets every Thursday from 9.30 - 10am at Putnoe. We are always pleased to welcome new members. Prayer cards are now available at both churches and we include all prayer requests in our meeting.

Tuesday Housegroup St. Mark's Church is home to a mid-week social and Bible study group which has been running for many years. A small group of like-minded members of St. Mark's and of Putnoe Heights, meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons from 2.00pm -3.30pm. The group's next meeting is on Tuesday 22 September and we would like to invite a few more people to join us. More information from Jean Bank, St. Mark's and from Sue and Martin Fannon, Putnoe Heights.

The bowls sessions at St. Marks have resumed. These will now continue throughout the winter months on 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month 2pm -4.30pm. Contact Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

Messy Church Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2015

Following the success of previous years, by Messy Church and the wider congregation, we will be packing boxes at our Messy Church session on 18 November. We will be happy to accept donated items from now on. All items must be new. These include Toys, Educational supplies, Hygiene items,

Other: Sweets sell by date at least March 2015. Gloves, scarves, sunglasses, hats, bangles, necklaces.

Please do not donate:

food (especially chocolate), no hand knitted stuffed toys, medicine, no war related items, no clothing other than those above, no fragile items, no liquids. No sharp objects, no novels. We do not need any empty shoeboxes this year. Please see the Messy Church notice board for further details of what can and cannot be put in the boxes. If you require further information please speak to Wendy Waters or Jean Bank.



Remembering the loved we have lost

There will be a special service at St Mark's Church, Brickhill, Bedford Sunday 1 November 2015 at 3.00pm (Doves of Remembrance will be released from the Church at 2.50pm). Our address this year will be given By Mrs Delia Shephard, Civil Celebrant. If you know of anybody who would like a special invitation then please let one of the minister know. *(Posters are available if you have somewhere to put them !)*



Lenten Cathedral Pilgrimage 2016

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

CHURCH LEGACY

A lasting gift to your church

Christian Legacy Week October 2015

Once you have made provision for your loved ones, you have the opportunity to make a lasting gift by leaving a legacy to God's church. Leaving a gift in your will to your local church is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support the mission and ministry in your community. A gift can be an expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God, and can help keep your local church alive, and help transform its future. Please speak to Church Treasurers Ian Farthing or John Hitt if you would like to know more. We can also provide a solicitor to help prepare your will and cover the cost if this is difficult for you.



Sam's Book Review

Falling Upward: Richard Rohr
£9.99 Kindle

List Price around £10.99 Hardback,

Richard Rohr's book 'Falling Upward' is subtitled 'A spirituality for the two halves of life'. At its centre is the concept of a life of two halves, the first half where we are focused on establishing our identities by what we do and what we achieve, and the second half where we are compelled by what happens to us in life, the things we can't necessarily control, to take a wider perspective which takes us out of our comfort zones. The first half is about constructing the container of our lives, the second about what is in the container. Rohr explores how our very failings and mistakes, the loss of control and challenges that can happen in the first half of our life can be the foundation for our spiritual growth, a beginning to falling upwards. 'In the divine economy of grace, sin and failure become the base metal and raw material for the redemption experience itself.' The heartbreaks of life and disappointments of the first half of life can therefore be the stepping stones to the spiritual joy that lies in store for us as we enter the second half of life, whatever age that might be. Sam Cappleman

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



Wednesdays October 14 and 28, November 11 and 25, with the final one this year on December 9.

Walk A 4mile level walk on field paths and quiet roads, no stiles, and possibility of lots of blackberries half way round! Meet at Cople Parish Church 2.30pm where there is off road parking. Alan & Jean Kirk.

MacMillan Coffee Morning to be held at Hazeldene Pre School, Putnoe Heights on Thursday 24 September 2015 from 9am-12.00noon. Cakes, refreshments and bric a brac. Please come and support this worthy cause, everyone welcome.

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

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

Jean Harrold
Kay Joy Phillips
Rosemary Alexander



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

Community Coffee Mornings at Putnoe Heights Church restarts at 10 a.m. on Wednesday September 30. Other dates this year are

Thank You to everybody who supported the afternoon tea at St Mark's over £250 was raised for Christian Aid and Action for Children.



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Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Peter Marsden will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Monday 21 September.

The funeral of Keith Padbury will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 3.15pm on Thursday 24 September

The funeral of Doris Hilda Mynott will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 3.15pm on Thursday 24 September.

The funeral of Joyce Mavis Marriott will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Friday 25 September

The funeral of Lena Cooper will take place at St Mark's Church at 10.00am on Friday 25 September.