



# Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
21 June 2015  
Ordinary 12



## 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

### 21 June Ordinary 12 - Feast of St. Alban

**9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion**  
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton  
Intercessions - Mr. Ian Farthing  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion**  
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs. Sue Allen  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

### 28 June Ordinary 13

**9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship with Baptisms**  
Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean  
Intercessions - Mr. Mike Elliot  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship**  
Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon  
Intercessions - Dr. Tim Wilkes  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

**Readings 1.** Wisdom of Solomon 1: 3-15  
**2.** 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15 **3.** Mark 5: 21-43  
Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's  
Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur  
House on first Monday of every month.

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by the families of Gwyn Morgan and Reg Frank.



*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

Day by day, O Lord,  
let us ardently seek your presence,  
lovingly walk with you  
and willingly spend ourselves in your service.  
At the day's end let us not be found hiding our talents  
nor at the end of our life be unready to rise up and  
meet you in the feast of your kingdom;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
*Richard Baxter (1615-1691)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Churchyards Administrator**  
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

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

**St. Mark's Church Centre**  
**Charity No 1160981.**  
**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com**  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team - Mrs Margaret Appleton 354708**  
**Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892**  
treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm -  
**3.45pm** For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com  
**8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634  
(See website for more details)  
**9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery** Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634  
**9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430  
**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955  
**10.00am-12 U3A Play reading** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946  
**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 April 20  
**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–29 June 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 (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225  
**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month. 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 7 July Bring and Share with raffle 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 1 July 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 15 July 2015 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**5.00–6.00pm Rainbows** at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091  
**6.00pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731  
**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

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

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

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

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

**7.15pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 3446008.

**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 1 July 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 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

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

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

**1.00 - 2.30pm NHS Baby Clinic** at St Mark's ( Weeks 1 & 3 in the month) Contact 897401

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

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

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

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

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

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

**6-7pm 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 Jun/Aug /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 September. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council—Thurs. 25 June 7.30pm**

**St Mark's Leadership Team -**

**Annual Congregational Meetings -**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –**

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting –**

**Putnoe Church Council -**

**Pastoral Group Meeting– 15 September 2015 4.00pm**

**Churchyard Committee - TBA**

**Circuit meeting –**

**Deanery meeting -**

**Woodland Burial Trustees –**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 28**

**September 2015 2.00pm**

**St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015, 31 August.**

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

September.

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

# Ordinary 12

## Sentence of Scripture Psalm 9:8

He will judge the world in righteousness; he will govern the peoples with justice. The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

**Collect Prayer for the Day** *Before we read we pray* Creator God, in the beginning your word subdued the chaos and in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, your Son, to rebuke the forces of evil and to make all things new. By that same power transform our fear into faith that we might have courage to follow in the way of your Kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

## First Bible Reading Job 38:1-11

Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone-- while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? "Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt'? (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)



Statue of our Lady made in Lebanon from the model of a seal of the abbey Notre Dame, dating from 13th century. The work of a well known Lebanese wood carver Joseph Hoveck. It was carved out of a branch of (fallen under its own weight) from the thousand year old cedars which grow on Mount Lebanon. Displayed in the Cathedral in Boulogne.

## Second Bible Reading - 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation. We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonour, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange--I speak as to my children--open wide your hearts also. (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

## Gospel Reading - Mark 4:35-41

*(Please stand when the gospel is announced—Glory to Christ our Saviour)*

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

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

## Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in our faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Hymns for Sunday *Please distribute Holy Communion booklets*

1. Angel voices ever singing
2. Jesus calls us here to meet him
3. Lord of our life, and God of our salvation
4. Jesus, lover of my soul,

## Commentary

The passage from Mark today shows Jesus in a storm and clearly nature is important, but so also is geography. Listen to Jesus at the start of the passage 'Let us go over to the other side.' At the start of Chapter 5 we read that when they had eventually crossed the lake and they get out of the boat they are in the country of Gerasenes and Jesus heals a man who has demons and we are told that the demons go into the pigs. They are going to a place where there will be pigs, it was a foreign place. It was different. Specifically if you were one of the disciples you would regard this as going to gentile territory. For Jesus the Jew, and the Jewish disciples this is a significant symbolic crossing as well as a literal one.

In their upbringing the disciples would have been taught that this was an unclean place, the place where gentiles lived. Gentiles were not favoured by the Jews, since Gentiles were unclean, the fundamental things for a Jew was to avoid such places and such people, they were to remain uncontaminated. The thing which is perhaps most important for us to remember is that this was not just something which they had picked up from their parents. This was Jewish teaching, this was Biblical teaching, this was from God. The God fearing faithful Jew believed that the gentile was unclean. God had told them. Jesus is now crossing the lake, and he is also crossing centuries of prejudice and separation. Jesus is rewriting the rules in a way which must have seemed frightening.



The worry which we all should share is that sometimes what we think of as God's prejudice is actually just our prejudice and we justify it by convincing ourselves that God demands such behaviour. Good Christian people have done this throughout the centuries as we have colluded with racist and sexism. It was not so long ago we considered it alright for Christians to subjugate black people, marriage between blacks and whites was considered wrong by good God fearing people in this country. This would be bad enough if it were not for the fact that we use scripture to reinforce our prejudice.

The challenge for us today is to ask ourselves whether we are prepared to get into the boat with Jesus, knowing that it might take us to the other side, to foreign territory, spiritually, intellectually. The hardest journey is not a physical one, it is being able to open our minds. We know how difficult it was for the early church to come to terms with the inclusion of the gentiles into the new community. How prepared are you to cross to the other side, to meet people who you have been taught are unclean, to see them as Christ sees them?

So here are the disciples going to gentile country, a mission to new territory and they are doing so in the dark. Then there is a storm at sea and it is clear that they are frightened. The boat in which Jesus and the disciples were travelling was a little boat, and the waves were large and the wind was blowing in the night. The language used could mean a hurricane. The impression we are given is of hardened fishermen who had been through quite intense weather conditions and they were afraid because the conditions were life threatening. The waves were beating on the boat and the boat was filling with water. It is in this context that we are told the disciples use the words to Jesus 'Don't you care'

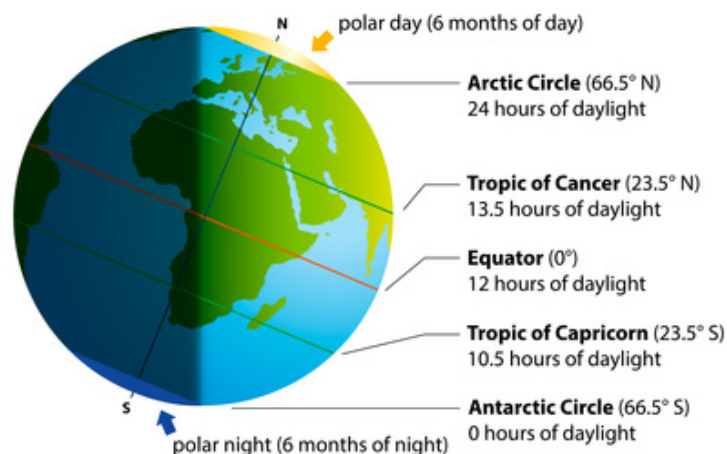
These words are considerably softened by the other Gospel writers ! Matthew has, "Save, Lord, we are perishing." Luke has, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" These words recorded by Mark sound harsh towards Jesus but we can understand them. Have you ever wondered what on earth Jesus was doing whilst people you knew suffered, or terrible things took place? Have you ever asked Jesus why he seemed less compassionate towards suffering than you? This story teaches us the valuable lesson that we cannot judge Jesus by the ferocity of the storms which rage around us. Jesus was totally present physically with the disciples and yet they encountered life threatening storms.

We are told that Jesus raised from sleep rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be silent!'" Jesus rebuked the wind just as he had rebuked the demonic powers (1:25, 3:12). He says to the sea, "Be silent!", which is the same thing he had said to the demon which had possessed the man in the synagogue (1:25).

This is really difficult because we could read this passage and believe that when we get into the storms of life, be they physical, spiritual or otherwise, that all we have to do is wake Jesus up and he will do something about it. This is the belief of many Christians. Millions of prayers are made which ask Jesus to stop the storm and provide a nice sunny day with calm seas. Give me a new job, give me a new girlfriend, stop the bank from taking my house, give me better exam grades than last year, make me well again. We must never lead people to believe that Jesus is like a Genie in a bottle. We all know that this is not what God is like. Jesus rebukes the disciples and the rebuke he uses is about their faith. Jesus says to the frightened disciples "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" Faith will not protect us from the storms of life. Neither should we be in denial and pretend that storms around us do not exist. The presence of Jesus in the boat does not change the condition of the sea, neither are we protected from storms. However Jesus is clear that faith should have one important impact, it should drive out fear. His disciples will be buffeted and tossed about, they will be persecuted and tortured and killed. Yet Jesus is absolutely resolute that despite all of this they should be a people without fear.

Charles Royden

## summer solstice (June 21)



## Meditation

Today the 21st of June is the longest day of the year, called the Summer Solstice. For those living in the northern hemisphere, the Summer Solstice is the day on which the earth, spinning on its axis, has its North Pole 'tipped' as far as it will go to face the sun. Because of this 'tipping' towards the sun, the northern hemisphere receives the longest hours of daylight of the year.

Let us pray:

Lord God, Creator of light, at the rising of your sun each morning, let the greatest of all lights - your love - rise, like the sun, within my heart. *(from the Armenian Liturgy)*

## Prayers for Sunday and the Week ahead

Lord Jesus, help us not to be afraid of people, things or ideas just because they are new or different. Forgive us when our desire to feel comfortable causes us only to travel along familiar roads. Help us to be open to new ideas and to be willing to share with people who see things differently.

May our faith and trust in you anchor our souls amidst the turbulence of life and hold us fast in the assurance of your love. May we never be afraid or lonely, but always seek your presence in whatever situations we may find ourselves. By faith help us to put our trust in you and never judge your love for us by either the tranquillity or ferocity of the world around us.

Our Father, who dwells in Heaven, we pray for all fathers. Strengthen and bless fathers to be faithful, loving and present; and for those fathers who you have brought into your Kingdom ahead of their children, and children ahead of their fathers, enfold them with your Holy Light and enfold us with your comfort. Now and forever, we pray. Amen.

## Proposed Changes to the North Bedford Methodist Circuit

Putnoe Heights Church Council last week discussed proposals from the Methodist Circuit for a reorganization of ministry across the circuit from 2016 as follows. A Methodist Minister living at the Coles Close Manse (Rev. Gayne Worgan is currently invited to 2016) would be responsible for Priory Methodist Church, Howard Memorial Church, Cardington, Putnoe Heights (LEP) Church and St. Mark's (LEP) Church. Deacon Jane Mills, invited to 2017 would do a missional role across the circuit 2016/17, then part time lay Mission/Evangelism Enabler. Following a meeting of the Partnership Council and a request from them Sam and Charlie have made an alternative proposal to the circuit for the Partnership. The proposed circuit changes for the Partnership are only a small part of a much wider deployment of staff across the circuit which tackles the wider issue of serving 28 Methodist Churches with a decreasing number of Methodist Ministers whilst at the same time as maintaining the current circuit focus on youth. The circuit proposals were confirmed at the circuit at Putnoe Heights 22 June, with the possibility that there may be some changes. In the meantime if you have any questions the please feel free to speak with any member of the Church Leadership Teams who have been discussing this in some detail.

**Mother Teresa Support Group** meet at St Mark's every other Tuesday at 2.30pm to knit and natter. (Wool and needles provided.) Donations of wool are always very welcome. Please call Maureen Watling Tel.262225. New people always welcome. Next meeting Tuesday 23 June.

**Pilgrims on a Journey** the Prayer Handbook of the Methodist Church will be available in August. Please let me know by end of June if you would like a copy for personal or community use, including public worship. Vera Pearson 270737 (St Mark's)

**Footprints** and others, extra to the annual programme of walks we are trying to organise an all day walk encompassing a ride on the Cambridge guided busway into St Ives for lunch and a visit to Fen Drayton Lakes and RSPB reserve on the way back to our vehicles. The 29 August is the date. The distance walked will be about 3 miles the same as on a normal Sunday walk. Further details nearer the date. Alan and Margaret Tel No 327219

### **Partnership Mission**

Bishop Richard is joining us in the Partnership on the week commencing 13 July and he will be preaching at both services on Sunday 19 July During the week he will be visiting schools, lunch Club, Anjulita Court, and as many church activities as possible. Please put these dates in your diary

### **Brass Band and the Bishop**

**Tuesday 14 July** at St Mark's Church

An evening exploring the Christian faith with Bishop Richard addressing questions. There will be a brass band, refreshments on arrival and an opportunity to ask Bishop Richard questions about faith, life and the universe. Please do give us questions now so that we can plan the event. This is a free event and we want you to invite along people who do not usually come to church - Who can you bring ?

### **Saturday 18 July**

- During the day we will be providing a Church marquee for the Brickhill on the Green Fete.
- In the evening we are having a Caribbean Evening at Putnoe Heights with food and entertainment.

### **Caribbean Evening**

On Saturday 18 July we will be having a Caribbean evening at Putnoe Heights Church, beautiful Caribbean cuisine, entertainment etc.

Tickets are £10 from Putnoe Heights Church Office.

### **Ways you can help**

- Make sure that you invite the Bishop to any activities which you have going on - speak with one of the ministers
- Please remember the Bishop and the Partnership Mission in your prayers and use these great opportunities to invite friends,
- Invite them along to the Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday services.

**Relaunching in September Daytime Discussion Group** Tuesdays at St Mark's Church. If you are

interested please talk to Jean Bank or Martin or Sue Fannon.

**The Annual Arthritis Collection** Envelopes will be available in the foyers of both churches on Sunday 21 June and Sunday 28 June. Please hand donations into the office. All contributions welcome Marion Goddard

**The Pilgrims' Friend Society** is holding their Annual Prayer Day on 23 June 2015 10am -4.30pm we at Dorothea Court in Bedford invite our friends and supporters to meet in our lounge to have fellowship in prayer. There will be four sessions of prayer with refreshment breaks in between. See notice board at St. Mark's for more information

**A Service for Mid-summer** will be held at Highfield Residential Care Home on Sunday 28 June at 2.30pm. All welcome. Vera Pearson

**The Great Gappo At Putnoe Heights Church** on Monday 20 July 2015 12 noon to 2.00p.m. including sandwich lunch. Tickets £2.00 or £3.00 on the door Free to children under 1 yrs old. Raffle in aid of Church funds. For further details contact: Carolyn Morris Youth team leader Tel: 07751348925 email: youth@thisischurch.com Putnoe Heights Church office on Tel: 01234 365630

**Help Wanted.** On Friday 17 July we will be erecting the church marquee on the green in Brickhill. If you can lend a helping hand then please join us any time after 10.00am. There will be jobs for people of all physical abilities from putting up poles to making tea.

**Methodist Women in Britain** Open House will be held at the home of Jenny Broadbridge, District President, at 25 Cambridge Way. Langford, SG18 9SG on Thursday 16 July from 11am to 3pm. Refreshments and lunches available. (In aid of Dalit Solidarity project). See notice in foyer for details.

**Footprints Rockingham Weekend.** September 18th-21st A few rooms are still available at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on the outskirts of Corby close to Rockingham Castle. Dinner, bed and breakfast £40.00 per person per night. Beautiful countryside for walkers and many attractions in the area for non-walkers. Contact Barry Snelson 344417 for more details.

**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.

**St Andrews Church Fete** Saturday 11 July 10am-12.30pm. Proceeds in aid of St Andrew's Church organ fund. For further details see poster on St Mark's notice board.

**Encyclical by Pope Francis, Laudato Si' - Care of our common home.** A letter circulated by the Pope to Catholic churches worldwide and addressed to all people of good will addresses care for the environment and environmental justice. In Laudato Si' Pope Francis speaks openly about the devastating effects of climate change on people and the planet. He says that climate change is real, urgent and it must be tackled. He also describes the climate as "a common good, belonging to all and meant for all". It highlights the greatest threats facing the human family today: climate change, growing global inequality and the destruction of nature. This is not the first time Pope Francis has spoken about climate change. During his trip to the Philippines earlier this year, journalists asked him whether he thought that mankind was responsible for climate change, to which he replied: "I don't know if it is all [man's fault] but the majority is, for the most part, it is man who continuously slaps down nature". He has also expressed relief that there is a growing movement to tackle climate change. He said, "Thank God that today there are voices that are speaking out about this."

Pope Francis urges society to move away from the myth of perennial progress at the expense of the Earth's resources, and calls on us to recognise that development which fails to respect the Earth is a false economy. Far from telling us how we must live, he calls for an open dialogue in society about how best to tackle the global issues we face, including climate change, and a bottom up approach that puts care for the very poorest at the centre of the way we live our lives.

Pope Francis' encyclical emphasises the connection between environmental degradation and poverty, between the love for creation and poverty reduction and the interconnection between human dignity, human development and human ecology.

### **Message sent to African Methodist Episcopal Church**

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have sent a letter of solidarity to the African Methodist Episcopal Church following the killing of nine people at a church in Charleston, South Carolina. In their letter the Revd Kenneth Howcroft and Ms Gill Dascombe express their horror and sadness over the killings. The full message and a prayer follow:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

We are horrified and deeply saddened to hear of the vicious killing of nine people at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The hearts of the members of the Methodist Church in Great Britain go out to the families and friends of those killed; to the Church; and to the wider communities in Charleston. We thank God for the lives of those who have died.

We thank God and pray for you all in these difficult times; and will try to pray for the killer and any of similar mind. We will stand alongside you all in bewilderment, grief and, above all, prayer. May God bless you all.

#### **Prayer**

Gracious God, When sudden death makes the world go dark, help us to mourn with those who mourn, to hunger and thirst for righteousness with them, and to be peacemakers in a violent world. Where our minds seem confused, our spirits disordered, and the world in chaos, may your Spirit bring order, and the blessing of hope. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

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## *Friends for Life* **Friends for Life Care Home Ministry Conference** St John's Church Hall Wednesday, 24th June 2015 11.30am

We are seeking somebody to attend this conference on behalf of our churches to discuss the provision of Christian Ministry in the care homes. This is a free event and lunch will be provided. Please speak with one of the ministers if you would like to be our representative

### **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

**Gwyn Morgan  
Reg Frank**

*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 Raymond Frederick Sexton** at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 3 July at 2.30pm.

**The funeral of Edward 'Ted' Davis** at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 6 July at 12.15pm

**The funeral of Samuel David McCullogh** at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on Thursday 2 July

**The funeral of Barbara Harpin** at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 29 June at 10.00am