



# Partnership News

## Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

### 21 September 2014

#### 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

#### 21 September - Ordinary 25

##### St Marks - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden

Leadership - Mr. Edward Parry

Intercessions - Ministers

Organist - Mr Martin Thompson

##### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden

Leadership - Mr. Barry Southam

Intercessions - Ministers

Organist - Mr Martin Thompson

#### 28 September - Ordinary 26

##### St Marks - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Alan Davis

Leadership - Mrs. Wendy Waters

Intercessions - Mrs. Margaret Appleton

Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

##### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Alan Davis

Leadership - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae

Intercessions - Mr. Tim Wilkes

Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

**Readings** 1. Exodus 17: 1-7 2. Philippians 2: 1-13  
3. Matthew 21: 23-32

**Midweek Holy communion** at St. Mark's Chapel every  
Wednesday at 10am and at Sir William Harpur House on  
first Monday of every month at 10.00am.

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week are given by Veta Hudson-Rae to celebrate her birthday and that of her grandson Samuel Hudson-Lett

*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

Bind our souls to your own, O Christ, so that we may never be separated from you. Only in you are we fully alive. Only in your light can we truly see and only in your strength can we safely pursue our way. To you we come, O wisdom without end. In you we rest, O mercy without limit. Amen.

*Mechtild of Magdeburg (1210-1280)*

#### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

#### Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535

jane@thisischurch.com

#### The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

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

**Partnership News is also archived on our church website [www.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 Monday to Friday 9am - 12pm,**

**Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com**

**Centre Manager Geoff Gypps 365630**

**Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417**

**Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com**

**Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188**

**Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com**

#### St. Mark's Church Centre

**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**

**Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com**

**Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613**

**Leadership Team - Mrs Jean Bank 355698**

**Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892**

treasurer@thisischurch.com

**Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605**

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm

For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or [www.hazeldeneheights.com](http://www.hazeldeneheights.com)

**8.30-12.30pm St Mark's Pre-School Nursery**

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's

**9.00-3.45pm 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 M. Berry 211955

**10.30am U3A Play reading** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**11am-12noon Pilates** St. Mark's. Liz Mason 07816522200 (starts 8 Sept.)

**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 8 September

**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](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com) 365630

**2pm 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 Emily Taverner 01234 792013

**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 in month) Pat Nicholson 353518

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

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

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

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's ( Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting– 29 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 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking** at Putnoe Heights. For more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

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

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

Lorrie Pearson 01234 340473

**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Contact Janet King 313946

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

**1.3pm 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

**2pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.

**4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**7.30-8.30pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957

**7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

**7.00pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455 (Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in January 2015.

**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightl 30 September 'Harvest' Details Janet King 313946

**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.

**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 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

**10am U3A Diet and Nutrition-** Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

**11.15am U3A Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights

**12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery**

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 24 September Putnoe Heights Office 365630

**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811

**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** at St Marks.Contact Janet King 313946

**2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966

**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 15 Oct.

2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

**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

**6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel. 01234 353865**

**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

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

**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 1 October Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's ( Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

### Thursday

**8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Pre School Nursery** Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. Will not meet on July 31 and August 7

**9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus** at Putnoe Heights

**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 Restarts September 11

**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 Restarts 4 September

**1.30 - 3.00pm 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 07805408811.

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

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale 406094

**7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's (3rd week in month). Carol Plant 01832710504

**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

**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Susan Perugi 300219

### Friday

**8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery** Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**8.30am Diabetic Centre** St Mark's (1st week in month) Deborah Hennessey 792013

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . 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-8.15pm Stars School of Dance** Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation** St Mark's. Cheryl Green 07729187399

**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.** St Marks(2nd week in month )Carol Brown 01438 233385

### Saturday

**9.00am Faith Temple Ministries** St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593

**10.00am Theatretrain** St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard 01234 782414

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

**2.15pm Society of Recorder Players** at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

### Sunday

**9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School** at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

**10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre.** 1st Sunday Feb/Apr/ Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

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

**2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls** at St. Mark's 1st and 3rd Sunday. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

**Messy Church Dates** 15 Oct, 19 Nov, 10 Dec



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – 14 October

**St Mark's Leadership Team** -

**Annual Congregational Meetings—**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 1 October

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** -25 September

**Putnoe Church Council** - 16 October

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Commemoration Service** - 2nd November

**Circuit meeting** –

**Deanery meeting** -

**Woodland Burial Trustees—**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** - 29 September at 2.00pm

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



# Ordinary 25

## Sentence of Scripture Jonah 4:2

You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

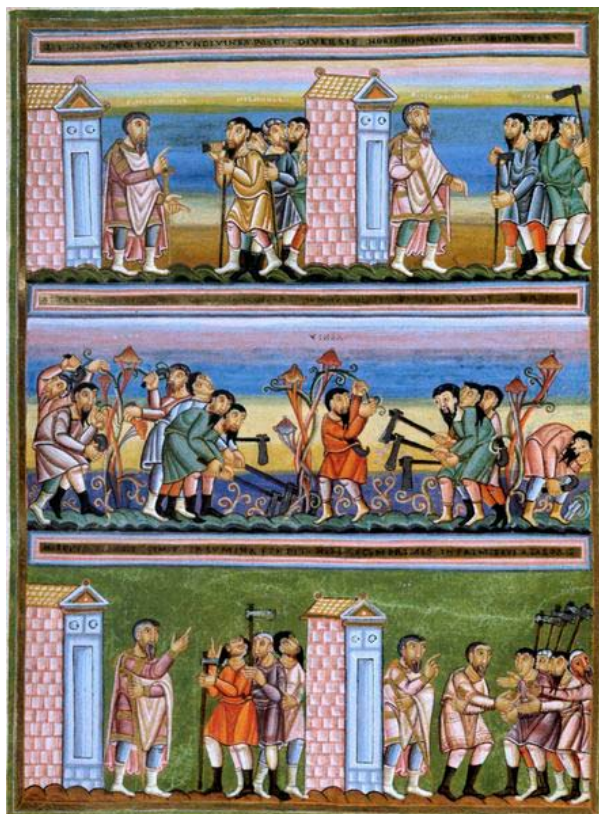
Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Common Worship*

## First Bible Reading - Exodus 16: 2-15

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat round pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death. Then the Lord said to Moses, I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days. So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us? Moses also said, 'You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord. Then Moses told Aaron, Say to the entire Israelite community, Come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling. While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked towards the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud. The Lord said to Moses, I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God. That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, What is it? For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

## Second Bible Reading Philippians 1: 21-30

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me. Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have. (This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)



## **Gospel Reading Matthew 20: 1-16** (When announced - **Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. "About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. "He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' " 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' "The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." (This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

## **Post Communion Prayer**

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. Amen

## **Hymns** (*Please distribute Holy Communion booklets and Hymn Sheets*)

1. Through all the changing scenes of life MP 702
2. Who is on the Lord's side" HP 722 (Armageddon)
3. Safe in the shadow of the Lord MP583
4. Jesus calls us here to meet him .
5. God is love, let heaven adore him HP 36 Abbot's Leigh

## **Commentary**

Jesus had a way of communicating which gripped his hearers because he told them great stories which they could remember and think about. The message behind these stories were provocative and challenging, never simplistic and yet they could be understood by his hearers and gave lots to think about. The words of Jesus captivated his audience so that they remembered his teaching, it stuck in the mind.

### **1. The parable is about the Kingdom of Heaven**

At the very beginning of the story Jesus says, 'the Kingdom of Heaven is like.....' So much teaching about this passage suggests that Jesus is teaching about the idleness of the workforce, just conditions of work etc. However Jesus is not making a political point about labour relations, the right to work or socialism, the parable is about God.

### **2. The teaching deliberately challenges our views of justice and fairness**

If we had been the landowner we would have bargained with the ones who did not work so long and offer to pay them less money. However all the labourers are paid the same, irrespective of what they had done, and this seems to be unfair to us. The workers who had worked the longest day said 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day'.

When we put these two points together in a simple and straightforward way we have the essence of what Jesus was teaching. God does not have a system of justice which is anything like a human one. God does not give to us according to what is fair or what we deserve. When we arrive in the Kingdom of Heaven, God willing, humanly speaking there will be people there who do not deserve it. In that respect God is totally unfair, God gives in a way which defies common or business sense, it is irrational and it goes against everything which we think of when we calculate reward. God's love and acceptance of us has nothing to do with fairness, it doesn't have anything to do with what we deserve. That is the

wonderful thing about this parable, we can never earn or contribute towards God's favour. Not one single one of us deserves God's love, if Heaven were about what we deserve, about what was fair, then it would be empty. The beautiful reassurance of the Gospel is that God treats us according to our needs and not what we deserve. We often hear people demand human rights, and quite rightly the Gospel is often used to support this. But - there is a sense in which this undersells the gospel. In Jesus we learn that God is not working according to our rights. He simply loves us and that love, - not our rights, is what is at the heart of God's being.

This parable, like the parable of the prodigal son, and so many others, tells us that God turns human values of fairness, of rights and wrongs upside down, yet we can trust God totally, knowing that we all will receive from his goodness. It is interesting that the workers complain and moan, not saying 'we want more money', but rather 'you have made them equal to us'. The parable is concerned about the generosity of the landowner, not on the hard work of the labourers. We like to think that we are really better than others, they need forgiveness more than us.

This is not an isolated theme, it is in fact the essence of what Jesus came to say and do. To preach the forgiveness of God which was not deserved by human effort, to hold out his arms wide to encompass an ungrateful race, whose only response to God's goodness is to spend time trying to decide who else should not receive it. In this we are envious and greedy just like those workers who wanted it for themselves but denied it to the others who were less deserving.

We have images of the Kingdom of God as a happy time with the faithful few enjoying the benefits of the well deserved feast. The stories Jesus told about the Kingdom were very full of conflict and challenge. Perhaps we need to be reminded, like those workers, that we may be disappointed too. We may find that there are 'latecomers' those who we resent and think don't deserve it. Perhaps we just need to be grateful that for ourselves we can trust in God to keep his promise. **Charles Royden**

## **Meditation**

The Church of England is calling on its members to pray, act and give to those suffering in Iraq under the actions of ISIS. The Archbishop of York issued three prayers for Mosul (page four) and the third of these can be used for all those fleeing persecution across the country.

Churches are being encouraged to act by download a poster and to display it in homes, churches and noticeboards to display their support for all religious minorities fleeing persecution. The poster uses the Arabic letter, "N", which has been daubed on the homes of Christians (often called 'Nasrani' in Arabic) in Mosul to identify them as targets for persecution or execution. This symbol has been picked up around the world as a way in which the Church can identify with those from all religious and ethnic communities who are being targeted by ISIS. The Church is committed to championing freedom of religion and belief worldwide as a fundamental and internationally recognised human right. The Archbishop of Canterbury issued a statement on the situation in Iraq. In the statement, the Archbishop said "It is extremely important that aid efforts are supported and that those who have been displaced are able to find safety. I believe that, like France, the United Kingdom's doors should be open to refugees, as they have been throughout history." Churches and individuals are also being encouraged to write to their local MPs urging them to press the Government to increase Britain's humanitarian efforts for all those affected by the crisis and to ask for asylum to be granted to a fair number of those who will be unable to return to their homes. Finally, donations can be made to the Anglican Diocese for Cyprus and the Gulf which is part of the Church network functioning alongside the Kurdish authorities in the absence of the normal international relief agencies. The immediate need is funds for food, and further priority is to providing accommodation for those sleeping in schools or even in the streets. Further resources including the 'We Are N' poster (left), the Archbishop of Canterbury's statement and the Archbishop of York's prayers are available at: [www.churchofengland.org/iraq](http://www.churchofengland.org/iraq)

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

Holy God, your Holy family was driven into exile and many holy innocent boys were massacred, we hold before you today the suffering people of Mosul. Amen

Lord, in this city where Christians and Muslims have lived together for over 1400 years, we pray for healing, peace and restoration. Bring light out of this present darkness and hope from despair that guided by your Holy Spirit, all your children may find a new way forward together based on your love for us all. Amen

Hold in your loving arms, all those who have been caught up in this conflict. We pray for those forced to flee their homes, all who have lost friends, family and possessions and who now face an uncertain future. Bless our Christian brothers and sisters who have seen the destruction of their churches and communities and for our Muslim neighbours who have also experienced destruction and suffering. Amen



**Beds, Essex, Herts. District Methodist Women in Britain (Network) Autumn Craft Day** on Saturday 4 October from 9.45am to 4.30pm at Priory Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to come and learn a new skill. 16 Workshops available at £4.00 per half day session. Closing date for bookings is 25th September. Details of workshops and booking forms are available from Pam Seymour Tel 305695 email –pams@tgis.co.uk or Ruth Watkins Tel 01296 485087 email- ruthwatkins@aol.com

**'Together We Stand'** Mini Exhibition & Classical Concert in aid of Cancer Research UK at St. Mark's Church 11 October. Starring Elaine Huckle - Mezzo Soprano, Philip Bond and Ian Clarke - piano and Peter Gyles -violin. Exhibition open from 6.30pm concert at 7.15pm. Tickets £12, students and OAP's £10, children under 16 free. Available from Bedford Tourist Information Centre and Bedford Box Office 01234 718112. Also from St. Mark's on the day from 2.30pm. Includes an alcoholic or non alcoholic beverage. Local artist paintings, various displays and raffle.

**Putnoe Heights Church Harvest Lunch**  
Tickets are now on sale in the Putnoe office for the lunch on October 5 at 1.00pm after the Harvest Festival Service. Adults £6.00, children (under10) £3.00. Soft drinks provided, please bring wine if preferred. Bring friends and family along, all are welcome.

**Celebrate 100 Beer.** We have a limited supply of very nice Celebrate 100 beer for sale at £2.50 for 500ml. This is a nice hoppy blonde session beer brewed by the award winning Nene Valley Brewery. Even more discount for cases of 12 bottles - See Sam or Charlie

**Highfield Residential Care Home** A group from St. Mark's Church will be conducting a "Service for Harvest Festival" at Highfield Residential Care Home on Sunday 21st September. You are welcome to assist. *V. Pearson*

**World War 1** Advance Notice—Saturday 15 November at 6.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church 'Innocence and Experience' : recollections of the First World War' using poetry, prose and pictures. Trench grub will be served at tables of 8 people. Tickets £10 each will be available shortly. All proceeds to church funds.

**St. Andrew's Church Concerts.**  
27 September 7.30pm Bring & Sing. Singers £7.00 Audience £8.00/£7.00 concessions. 28th September Concert of English Song 2pm £5.00 followed by workshop £3.00. See posters on St. Mark's notice board for more information. Tickets from St. Andrew's Church Centre Office 216881 or Central Box Office 718112.

**Peter and Valerie Littleford** invite friends old and new to their coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on September 26. 10am –12noon. Raffle, Bring and Buy stall and refreshments. Our address is 1, Bindon Abbey, Riverfield, MK41 0AZ. Please come and support this worthy cause.

**Partnership Quiz-** date for your diary. This year's quiz will be held at Putnoe Height on Saturday 1 November 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets are available from both church offices, £7.50 to include fish/chicken and chips supper. You are invited to make up a team of 6-8 or just buy a ticket and come along.

**Would the friend** of Margaret Martin who donated craft materials please contact Marion on Bedford 303254 or at Church so we can thank her.

**Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2014**  
Following the success of last year's donation of 54 boxes by Messy Church and the wider congregation, we will be packing boxes at our Messy Church session on 15 October. 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.

**Money Advice at St Andrew's Annual Service** Anyone interested would be most welcome to share in our Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication for Money Advice on Sunday 21 September 2014 at 6 pm.

**Open House** The splendid total of £321 has been raised from the donation of foreign currency. Many thanks to Stuart Green for taking on this task. More contributions are especially welcome.

**Bike & Hike 2014** May I say a big thank you for the enthusiasm you put into this year's event. I visited all the churches in our area and received warm welcomes and many offers of drinks and biscuits. I enjoyed chatting to the welcomers I met. Alan Colley

**Many thanks** to Judith Stanton and the members of her whist drive for their donation to St. Mark's Church of £109.



**St Albans Flower Festival**

Thursday 25 September - 10am – 5pm, Friday 26 September - 10am – 5pm, Saturday 27 September - 10am – 5pm, Sunday 28 September - 1pm – 6pm  
Last admission one hour before closing.

Your Day Ticket allows you to come and go throughout the day. Ticket Prices- Thursday, Friday and Saturday - Adults £10 (under 16s free accompanied by adult)

Sunday - Adults £8 (under 16s free accompanied by adult) Groups of 15 plus £8 and £7 on Sunday  
Advanced booking is highly recommended. You can book online now below, pop into the Cathedral Box Office or call the Box Office on 01727 890290. The Box Office is open Monday to Saturday 10.00am - 4.45pm, Sunday 1.00pm - 4.45pm. Tickets will also be available on the door.

**Dr. Rowan Williams** is coming to BELIEF to speak on “Why is Jesus different?”. Priory Methodist Church, Saturday 27th September 10am—1pm. £10 per person payable on the day. To book please contact BELIEF c/o St. Andrew’s Church Centre 01234 330314 or email belief@standrewsbedford.org

**Autumn Mission Project**

This year in our Autumn Mission Project we will be supporting Emmaus, more fully known as the Emmaus Village Carlton, which is part of the wider Emmaus organisation which was started in France just after the Second World War. Emmaus communities enable people to move on from homelessness, providing work and a home in a supportive family environment. Companions, as residents are known, work full time collecting and selling donated goods. This work supports the community financial-

ly and enables Companions to develop skills and rebuild their self-respect. At Emmaus Carlton there are some specific projects which would be facilitated by additional support and it is such projects we will primarily be supporting. Look out for further details soon.

**Received in Good Faith** -The Belief Autumn Course. This 5 week course is held at St. Andrew’s Church Centre on Wednesday evenings in October at 8pm beginning on Wednesday 1 October. Open to all who have questions about Christian faith in the modern world. A donation of £3 is welcome at the door.

**Putnoe Heights** Will be holding a social evening on 18 October starting at 6.30 pm to approx. 9.00pm. Come and enjoy a game of Steeple Drive. Hot dogs and soft drinks. Everyone welcome . Tickets will be available from Putnoe Heights Church Office from 5 October onwards Adults £5 Children £3.Proceeds to Church Funds. Contact Church Office 365630. or Sue, Carolyn or Val.

**St Mark’s Christmas Craft Fayre Saturday 2 November 2014** It comes round faster and faster each year. Our Craft Fayre is on 22nd November and your help is needed in so many ways. We will be having the usual Church stalls again and donated items will be greatly appreciated. **New Tombola:** New and unused items needed so please look in your cupboards etc. **Homemade Cake Stall:** Homemade cakes, **Secondhand Book Stall:** Books in good condition plus any jigsaws (with all the pieces) please. **Indoor Plant Stall:** Now is the time to plant cuttings and bulbs etc. **Refreshments:** Donations of tray bakes to sell with our teas and coffees. And of course the **Christmas Prize Draw:** Any new items suitable for raffle prizes would be really welcome. Raffle tickets will be on sale in October. We will need a lot of help nearer the time with leaflet delivering, selling of raffle tickets distributing posters etc. Please let me know of any locations where you think a poster would go. If you are able to help us with manning a stall, on the 22nd November, helping in the kitchen or in any other way, we would love to hear from you. As always your help is very much appreciated and we could not run this large fundraising event without your help. Please contact Avril Williams.

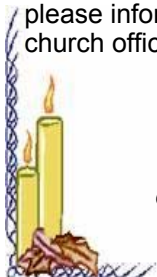
**St Mark’s Church Churchyards Committee** Monday 29th September at 2.00p.m. probably in the Chapel.

**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

**Suzanne Jane Kumar**

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



**Forthcoming Funerals**



There are no funeral this week