



# Partnership News

## Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

### 22 June 2014

### First Sunday after Trinity

### Feast of St. Alban



#### 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

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

**9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship**

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman

Leadership – Mr. Mick Ovenden

Intercessions - The Ministers

Organist – Miss Marion Prior

**11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship**

Preacher – Revd. Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr. Martin Fannon

Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen

Organist– Mr. Alan Bunker

#### 29 June - Second Sunday after Trinity

**9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion with PCH**

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden

Leadership – Mr. Edward Parry

Intercessions - The Ministers

Organist – Mr. Clive Simmonds

**11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion with PCH**

Preacher – Revd. Canon Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs. Jenny Snelson

Intercessions - The Ministers

Organist– Mr. Clive Simmonds

**Readings** 1. Genesis 22:1-14 2. Romans 6:12-23

3. Matthew 10:40-42

**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 Church this week have been given by Harry and Margery Charie in memory of Margery's sister Jeanne, who died on Sunday, 8 June 2014.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Vera Pearson in remembrance of family and friends.

*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

Be to us, O Lord, the closest of our companions, our everlasting love and our enduring happiness. Through your Spirit, create in us holy fire and purity of life, that loving you above all things and our neighbours ardently, we may come to the glories of your everlasting kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471)*

#### 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.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)**

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#### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@thisischurch.com

*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,*

*housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.*

*Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

#### Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

#### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Monday to Friday 9am –12pm,**

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

**Centre Managers** Barry & Jenny Snelson 344417

**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

**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

**12.00 noon Story box** 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— 21 July 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. Helen Skinner 07989080389

**10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704

**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 September.

**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly) 24 June 'Jaffa Orchard'. At 3pm. 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 2 July 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 17 Sept 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 2 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) 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.

**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

**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

**1.30 - 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.

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

**Messy Church Dates** 17 Sept, 15 Oct, 19 Nov, 10 Dec.

## Diary Dates

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

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 9 September

**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** – 15 September

**Deanery meeting** -

**Woodland Burial Trustees—**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting**

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



# Ordinary 12

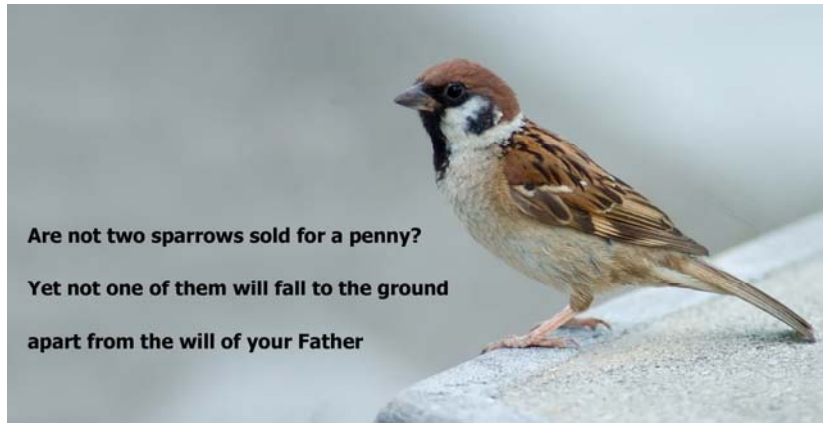
## Sentence of Scripture Psalm 86 v 4

Bring joy to your servant, for to you O Lord, I lift up my soul.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus, you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will; that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**



## First Bible Reading - Genesis 21: 8-21

The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, 'Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.' The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, 'Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.' Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down about a bow-shot away, for she thought, 'I cannot watch the boy die.' And as she sat there, she began to sob. God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, 'What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.' Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

## Second Bible Reading - Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)

## Gospel Reading - Matthew 10:24-39

"A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household!" "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. "Whoever

acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law-- a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

### **Hymns** (Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise )

1. Fight the good fight, 143
2. Seek ye first, 590
3. Take my life, 624
4. He who would valiant be, 224
5. Lord for the years, 428

### **Commentary — God is with us**

The story of Hagar sometimes seems to sit a little uncomfortably in the Old Testament, recounting as it does the shunning of one of Abraham's sons, Ishmael and his mother Hagar apparently at the whim of Sarah, Abraham's first wife who was to bear him Isaac. This is especially so as it was Sarah that had 'offered' Hagar to Abraham as a second wife as a way of fulfilling God's promise that Abraham would father a great nation and have offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky when she herself could not bear him the son and children they so wanted. So Abraham take Hagar and she gives birth to Ishmael who some in the Islamic tradition consider as the father of most of the Arab people and it is from Ishmael that the Israelites are descended. Some Rabbinic traditions have Hagar as a daughter of Pharaoh who he gave to Sarah to saying '...it is better that my daughter should be a slave in the house of such a woman than a mistress in another house'.

Initially it appears that Sarah treated Hagar well but that relationships turned sour when Hagar was pregnant with Ishmael and began to look down on Sarah, who now 'counted as nothing in her eyes'. This must have been hard for Sarah, who yearned for a child of her own, and understandably Sarah reacted to this and treated Hagar so badly that ultimately she ran away into the dessert. It was here, by a spring in the dessert on the road to Shur, that an angel found Hagar and instructed her to return to Sarah, name her son Ishmael and promised her that her descendants too would be too numerous to be counted. It's a profound experience for Hagar who declares that she has 'seen the God who truly sees her'. The experience is so deep that despite all she has experienced she does return. Sarah, who laughingly had not believed she would bear a son, even when told so by God Himself, now gives birth to Isaac and the next phase of the story begins.

In today's reading we read that as Isaac grows and is weaned, Ishmael, who by now may be around 14 years old, mocks him. This rekindles Sarah's anger and resentment against Hagar and her son, which has possibly been smouldering away for all the past 13 or 14, presumably uneasy, years between the two women. Sarah demands Abraham send mother and son away and, after consulting with God, Abraham does so, even though this was very much against the cultural norms of the day, again Hagar finds herself in the dessert where, once again, she encounters an angel of God just as she had the first time. The angel not only reveals a well to her so that she and Ishmael can drink and live, but also confirms that the boy will be made into a great nation, echoing the words that God has spoken to Abraham about them when Abraham enquires of the Lord whether or not he should agree to the demands of his wife to send them away.

It's perhaps difficult for us to imagine the depths of Hagar's misery, loneliness and sense of isolation and of being used and abused over many years. It would seem her life has been one of hardship and uncertainty. One where she never seems to be in full control of her destiny or her life. Even when she has Ishmael, the choice of becoming pregnant is not hers – but at least then it would appear she feels as if she has an advantage, perhaps for the first time in her life. Little wonder then that she does not quite know how to handle it. For the first time it appears she has become of value. But soon, it all turns sour and she believes

her only option is to run away. But God does not let her go. He meets with her and assures her that He knows of her oppression. She is of value to him, as is Ishmael. God looks after them in a way in which she did not expect. After a life of powerlessness and mistreatment, of running away and being outcast she encounters a God who will not let her go. When she is sent away some years later, perhaps full of confusion and wondering what God is doing and whether her first encounter with God was real or in her imagination, God meets with her again and confirms His promise. Paul refers to the story of Hagar and Sarah and their sons in his letter to the Galatians, speaking of those born into slavery and those born into freedom. We, like Isaac, are children of the promise and live in the freedom and identity of Christ. But we do well to remember that the story of Hagar, with all of the challenges and difficulties she faced, reminds us that God can meet with people anywhere, in whatever state they find themselves in, however lonely, isolated, confused and lost they feel and reveal Himself to them so that all those who encounter Him can see Him as He sees them. It's also a reminder of God's great concern and compassion for the people who are powerless. Those we would see as the outcasts, the poor, the mistreated and those who themselves feel valueless and feel far from any faith and well outside the covenantal love of God. God's love always was, and always will be, completely indiscriminate and He will continue to show it to a world for which He cares without end! *Sam Cappleman*

### **Meditation**

All of our readings today pose a question regarding identity and personal value. Jesus challenges the believers to live out the new identity they have in Him rather than merely take on the one they inherited through their Jewish kinship. He's not calling for people to be anti-social, but to realise where their true identity lies. As part of this identity our loyalties too are defined. Jesus questions where His followers' deep loyalties lie - with the society in which we live, with our families and friends? These loyalties can be very important but should not override our loyalty to God, in whom we have our true identity and value. The reading from Romans speaks too of a new identity we have in Christ, where the old sinful ways are transformed into the way of truth and light as we die to sin and 'are united with Him in His resurrection' and are alive in Christ. Throughout his writings Paul sees the Christian life in the light of the wanderings of the Jews in the Dessert after they have come out of Egypt through the Red Sea. Unlike the Jews who enter into Sinai and are given the law, believers in Christ come into the new Pentecost and are given the Holy Spirit as a true mark of their identity. When the Israelites had been taken out of Egypt they needed the Egypt taking out of themselves, so we, as we live our new life and identity and have been taken out of our life of sin and death, so we need to continually to have the sin and death taken out of us, as we live in the life of the Spirit, ever open to Christ and His moving and guiding of our lives no longer hankering for or drawn to the apparent seduction and attraction of our former lives and identity.

### **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

O God the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your Kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour has gone before. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of all peoples, giver of life and health and love. Help us to see you in the world's needs, to see your presence in the poor and oppressed, and to serve you in as we serve others. **Amen**

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit, that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the broken hearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Father God, as you dance with your creation, embrace us with your love and affirm in us our true identity and value. Pour out your blessing on us that we may serve you in the power of the Holy Spirit to help others find their identity and home in you, as through us, you reveal more of yourself and your eternal Kingdom breaking through in our lives. **Amen.**

May God the Father or our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour out His blessing on all things created, and upon all His children, young and old, that we may use His gifts to the glory and well-being of all people; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**The Alban Prayer** Among the roses of the martyrs brightly shines Saint Alban.

Almighty God, We thank you for this place built to your glory and in memory of Alban, our first martyr. Following his example in the fellowship of the saints, may we worship and adore the true and living God, and be faithful witnesses to the Christ, who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Pray for us Alban, pray for us all Saints of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**Opus 18 Community Choir.** Come & join us for "A Summer Celebration" at St. Andrew's Church, Bedford on Saturday 12 July at 7.30. Tickets £6 (children £3) to include refreshments, from St. Andrew's Church Office. Proceeds to St. John's Hospice, Moggerhanger & Swaziland Schools.

**Bedford Town Band** A little bit of America comes to Putnoe. Bedford Town Band are celebrating American Independence Day with a concert at Putnoe Heights Church. Not on the 4th July but on Saturday 5 July. Come and listen to some familiar tunes and some that may not be so familiar. Tickets at the door £5 & £8 See the website at <http://bedfordtownband.org.uk>

**Pilgrimage Walk** is planned from St Paul's Church in Bedford to St Albans Cathedral. The main pilgrimage will take place over four consecutive days, from Thursday 17 July to Sunday, 20 July. If there is sufficient demand from those who cannot make the midweek walk, a pilgrimage could be arranged for the weekend of July 12 & 13. For more information contact [Celebrate100festival@gmail.com](mailto:Celebrate100festival@gmail.com)

**Route Day 1 – 14miles** Bedford St Paul's, along River Ouse then to John Bunyan's birthplace near Elstow. John Bunyan Trail (JBT); JBT to Medbury Farm, then cross-country to All Saints Wilstead & All Saints Houghton Conquest; Marston Vale Trail to St Andrews Ampthill, then JBT to Flitwick station;  
**Day 2 – 11 miles** East to Greenfield & rejoin JBT at St John the Apostle Pulloxhill, Continue on eastern JBT to St Margaret's Streatley, Keech House, and Leagrave station.  
**Day 3 – 15 miles** Icknield Way Path to St Lukes, Dunstable Priory, Dunstable Downs [Robertson Corner]; Cross-country to St Mary the Virgin Kensworth,  
**Day 4 – 5 miles** Herts Way / Ver River Walk to Verulamium and the Abbey. The starting and ending points of the pilgrimage are at railway stations, with the exception of Redbourn which has a bus service.

**Footprints Summer Evening Walk and Meal** will be on Thursday June 26, and led by Alan Kirk. Please meet at The Pheasant (Avon Drive/Kimbolton Road) at 6pm, and pre-order your meal at the bar. There will be a walk from the pub to Renhold and return (about 1 1/4 hours) – no stiles and mainly paths. A table is reserved for us in the name of Kirk and we should be sitting down by 8pm. The extensive menu can be viewed by going to [www.itsallaboutgoingout.com](http://www.itsallaboutgoingout.com) ; select 'venue' and type in 'pheasant'. Click on The Pheasant Bedford, and there is a link to the full menu.

**A Great Evening** with Bedford Town Brass Band and The Zimbabwe Community Singers at Priory

Methodist Church on Saturday 28 June at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £5 proceeds to Zimbabwe Victim Support Fund to relieve hunger and poverty, Reserve tickets on 01234 353523 or from Priory Church Office.

**Friends for Life** Meeting for Ministers and Pastoral Visitors in the Holt Room at St Andrews at 6.30 on Tuesday July 1. *For more details contact Joanne Barrow 01234 213038*

### **This Saturday, the Methodist Church in Great Britain will celebrate forty years of women's ordination.**

Although women were permitted to become deacons in the Methodist Church from 1890, they were not ordained as presbyters until 2 July, 1974, at the Methodist Conference in Bristol.

Three of the original seventeen ordinands - the Revd's Marjorie Hopp, Elizabeth Hodgkiss and Jennifer Lunn - will participate in the celebration, which will take place at Wesley's Chapel in London on Saturday 21 June. All are welcome to attend and details of the event can be found here.

"It was an honour to be one of the first," said the Revd Lunn, "and I am grateful to the Barnsley Circuit who were delighted when there were only seventeen and they got one!"

"Women have often been, and often are among the voiceless and the unnamed," added the Revd Ruth Gee, President of the Methodist Conference, who will be preaching at the service. "I am proud that there is no role that women cannot play in the Methodist Church in Britain. As one of their successors, I want to thank those women who paved the way. As a female follower of Christ, I want to stand alongside others who do not have a voice, who are unnamed and unseen, even in the Methodist Church. We will celebrate, we will give thanks and we will commit ourselves to the continuing journey towards the time when we can truly affirm that all are one in Christ. This is a celebration for the whole church."

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Thank you for shopping using the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase.

Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases and we receive a commission. You can shop at John Lewis, M&S etc - please always shop through [www.thischurch.com](http://www.thischurch.com)





**Commemorative Book** - A Book has been produced by the Diocese to commemorate 100 years. Copies are available this week for the special price of £4. They will be available after the service and from the church office during the week

**The Plant Stall at Putnoe Heights** on June 8th raised £75.00 for Church Funds. Thank you for all the support. A few remaining plants were donated to the Plant Week at the Retirement Centre. Our small regular monthly fund raising activities, including Bring and Buy Stall, Easter Chicks, Car Boot Stall and Plant stall, have now raised £360 since March.

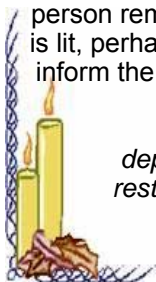
**Strawberry Afternoon Tea Sunday 20th July**  
Join us from 3.00 - 5.00pm for an elegant afternoon tea (i.e. china crockery, finger sandwiches, home made cakes and scones ) with strawberries and cream in the beautiful garden of Margaret and Eddy Peck, 30 The Ridgeway or at the Church if bad weather. Admission including afternoon tea £5.00. An estimate of numbers will be useful so please sign the lists at either church..  
**Thank you** to Judith Stanton and her group for a donation of £108 towards the work of the church. Proceeds from their last whist drive.

**Arthritis Research Annual Appeal** Owing to a shortage of collectors many areas could not be covered in house to house collection. There

### 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

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



will be donation envelopes available today and next week in the welcome areas for those that would like to support this worthy cause. Please return the envelopes to the baskets or hand in at the church offices . Thank you Marion Goddard Hon. Sec. Bedford Branch, Arthritis Research UK

**Shivas Home-Care** are recruiting now for West Mid Beds and Chiltern Vale areas.. Would you like to become part of a friendly and caring support team. Shrivas Home-Care provides a range of care related duties within the private homes of elderly and disabled adults. You do require your own transport and training can be given. For more information please contact . Sam or Natasha on 01582 848488 or 01234 802437 or e-mail your details to sam@shivashomecare.com.

**For one lunchtime last Thursday**, one of the more traditional national institutions, the House of Lords, was moved to consider the state of another - the English parish church. Peers lined up to express their enjoyment of the 16,000 parish churches that cover the nation, and to sound notes of caution over the various threats that face them. Lord Mawson suggested that churches needed to be used more often, for more functions, by more people - and to become income generators. Entrepreneurial ability was needed, and if that was not present in the clergy and congregation, partnerships must be built with sympathetic local businesspeople, he said.

**Rest in Peace** Friends at Putnoe will be saddened to hear news of the death of Ken Wigginton, one of our long standing members at Putnoe Heights Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with Beryl and the family. The funeral will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Tuesday 8 July at 1.00pm



### Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Lorenzo Troiano** will take place at Norse Road Cemetery Chapel at 10.00am on Tuesday 24th June.

**The funeral of Rose** Gwendoline Ott will take place at Bedford Crematorium at

12.15pm on Wednesday 2 July

**The funeral of Ronald Harbinson** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 4.00pm on Tuesday 1 July