



Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
22 November 2015
Christ the King**



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 November - Christ the King

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard
Leadership - Mr. Jim Williams
Intercessions - Mrs. Morag Stewart
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

29 November

First Sunday of Advent

9.30am St Mark's – Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions - Mrs. Delia Shephard
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mr. Barry Southam
Intercessions - Ministers
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Jeremiah 33: 14-16

2. 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 3. Luke 21: 25-36

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 St Mark's Church this week have been given by Carolyn Tatman in loving memory of John.



The flowers in the Chapel have been given by Jean, Sylvia, Ann, Reg and all the family in loving memory of Alice Chappel.

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

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of truth, present everywhere, filling all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us from every stain, and, O good One, save our souls. Amen.

Orthodox Daily Prayer

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mills

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

The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

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

Partnership 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

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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

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

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 Hilary Holt 01234 342557
9.45am - 10.45am & 11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's Liz Mason 07816522200
12.00 noon Storybox Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630
1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481
2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Hilary Holt 01234 342557
2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights– fortnightly contact Hilary Holt 01234 342557
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–30 November 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 Hilary Holt 01234 342557
1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Hilary Holt 01234 342557
1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Hilary Holt 01234 342557
2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Hilary Holt 01234 342557
2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Hilary Holt 01234 342557
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 Hilary Holt 01234 342557
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (Alternate Tuesdays) Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.00-3.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's. A social and Bible Study group. Meets alternate Tuesdays. Mrs Jean Bank 355698
3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393
7.15-8.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571
7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390
7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 8 December - Christmas Event 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 Hilary Holt 01234 342557
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Hilary Holt 01234 342557
11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 2 December Contact Putnoe Office 365630
1.15pm Social Bridge Club St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2-4pm Ukulele Group at Putnoe Heights. Beginners welcome. Contact Alan 340448
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks. 1st week of the month. Contact Hilary Holt 01234 342557
2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Hilary Holt 01234 342557
2.00pm - 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 9 December Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698
4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
5.00–6.00pm Rainbows at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill

Lake 218091

6.00pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731

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

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

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

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

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

7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 2 December 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.

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 Hilary Holt 01234 342557

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Contact Hilary Holt 01234 342557

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's

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 Hilary Holt 01234 342557

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. 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 Hilary Holt 01234 342557

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Contact Hilary Holt 01234 342557

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Hilary holt 01234 342557

2pm U3A Gardening—Putnoe Heights Contact Hilary Holt 01234342557

4.50pm-7.00pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email: phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

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

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

Saturday

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

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

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

Sunday

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

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre at St. Mark's. 1st Sunday Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's . A crèche is also available.

2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th Sunday. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council -

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Annual Congregational Meetings - 24 April

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 19 January

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 13 January

Putnoe Church Council - 26 January

Pastoral Group Meeting-

Churchyard Committee - TBA

Circuit meeting -

Deanery meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees -

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -

Messy Church Wednesday 9 December 3.45pm

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

Christ the King

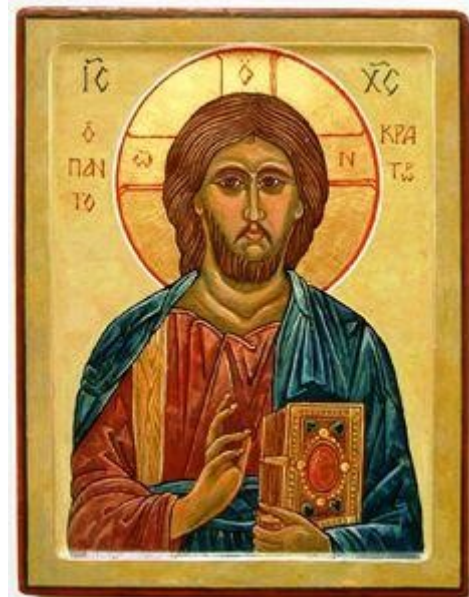
Sentence of Scripture Psalm 1:1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God God, now and for ever. Amen

Common Worship



First Bible Reading - Daniel Chapter 7:9-10,13-14

As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

"Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - Revelation Chapter 1: 4b-8

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - John 18:33-37

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns for Sunday (Please distribute Morning Worship booklet and hymn sheets where required)

1. Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;(Vulpius)
2. Sing of the Lord's goodness Father of all wisdom,
3. 'We rest on Thee', our Shield and our Defender!
4. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
5. Ye holy angels bright,

Commentary

This Sunday is the one in which we celebrate Jesus as King, he is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end of all things, those who seek truth will find it in him. But what does the Kingship of Jesus mean?

This would have been a lot easier to answer once, when kings were great and celebrated figures. They held high honour and were seen as having God's seal upon them. Kings had a Divine Right, they were chosen by God to do be kings and they were accountable to no person except God. Now we often regard kings with contempt, instead of them demanding taxes of us we demand that they pay taxes. No wonder Pilate must have laughed when Jesus was referred to as a king. For Pilate, Jesus could not be a king, because he did not fit the mould of a king. Kings are powerful figures, they demand respect and get it. When Pilate put 'King of the Jews' over Jesus, it was not in recognition of the kingship of Jesus, it was rather a mockery, kings do not belong on crosses.

Do we think of Jesus as our present King, or do we think that his kingship is something for the future and so no of much concern to us now? Today we ask these questions of ourselves
*'To whom or what do we give our allegiance? Who holds dominion over us?
What are we living for? What energizes and gives meaning to our lives each day?*

We pray in the Lord's Prayer 'thy kingdom come.' This prayer is not supposed to be a prayer asking God to bring the world to an end. Rather it is asking that God's kingdom would be established in our lives. The kingship of Christ is something which Jesus expects us to be able to share now. This will happen if we let our lives be the place where God's reign extends. Today, above all days perhaps, is the day when we are encouraged to own Christ in our hearts.

Today we stir one another up and we remind ourselves that Jesus should be king of every part of our lives, our manners, our behaviour towards other people, are decisions about important life choices. The kingship of Jesus is not recognised by many of this world, Jesus is King, yet he is not a king who demands obedience. Jesus is a different kind of king, he is a king who leads by example to show us the way that we should behave. This is a new kind of kingship, and one not of the worlds standards. The kingship of Jesus is a radically different kind of kingship. While human kings gain power in order reign over us, Jesus in his kingship demonstrates his authority by showing his love for his people, so much so that he gave his life for us.

There is a very good movie called 'We Were Soldiers.' The main character is played by Mel Gibson, it was adapted from Harold G. Moore and Joseph Galloway's 1992 book "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young." Moore was the lieutenant colonel who in 1965 led the First Battalion of the Seventh Cavalry (ominously, the same regiment headed by Gen. George Armstrong Custer at Little Big Horn) in the battle of Landing Zone X-Ray in Vietnam's Ia Drang valley. Moore lost more than 70 men from his regiment alone at Ia Drang, and a total of more than 300 died during the Pleiku campaign of which it was a part. Mel Gibson plays Moore, a devout Catholic family man with a wife, Julie (Madeleine Stowe), and five children. One the best scenes involves Moore warning his troops before they go into battle. He uses the following speech.

"We are moving into the Valley of the Shadow of Death where you will watch the back of the man next to you, as he will watch yours, and you won't care what colour he is, or by what name he calls God. We are going into battle against a tough and determined enemy. I can't promise you that I will bring you all home alive. But this I swear... when we go into battle, I will be the first to step on the field and I will be the last to step off. And I will leave no one behind... dead or alive. We will all come home together."

A man of his word, Lt. Col. Moore set foot on the field of battle first only to find himself and approximately 400 of his men surrounded by roughly 2000 North Vietnamese soldiers. The ensuing battle was one of the most savage in U.S. history, and the first major encounter between the soldiers of North Vietnam and America. The film shows the two scenes where he lands first and leaves last. He was in the words of Revelation this morning the Alpha and the Omega. Now that is the kind of a leader that a soldier wants, somebody who will not tell them what to do, like an earthly king, but rather who will lead with his own life

and if necessary lay his life down first. That is exactly what Jesus did with his kingship. He warned the disciples that they would face death and horror, but he said that he did not expect them to do anything which he was not prepared to do himself first and he would be alongside them until the end.

When Revelation was written the Christians faced horrors, the real horror of martyrdom. Revelation is not a prediction of some horror some time in the future, for which we are still waiting. Revelation described for the Christians the very real and present danger which they faced in their daily lives. This is significant because throughout history many faithful Christians have considered that their own times were the most dreadful things which had ever happened and that an end to the world must be nigh. This happened to Martin Luther who believed that the Pope was the antichrist and he saw the end time near. It also happened with the American revolution and the Crusaders, and following the events of the last year with so many people killed or left to die you could be forgiven for thinking that we are living in the worst of times.

However Revelation is not about prophecy of the end of the world, it is a type of writing (apocalyptic writing), a genre that used to be around, just like soap operas are a type of writing today. That type of writing does not describe actual future events any more than we are supposed to believe that the actors of Eastenders or Friends are real. The purpose of the apocalyptic writing of Revelation is to tell us that real evil exists, that it wins battles, but that ultimately good will conquer evil and that whilst that fight is going on we have Christ at our side. This is a message of reassurance for each one of us when we look at the world and wonder who is in charge of what is going on. Jesus is Alpha and Omega, he is the first one over the trenches and he will be the last one to leave. Christ is in this battle with us, we are not alone. When we have Christian work to do Christ will be with us. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, Jesus is the beginning of all that we do and the end of all that we do. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

We often end our service with the words

'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord - in the name of Christ. Amen'

The two go together, love and service. It is the love of Christ which we see when people care for each other. Care for others is self validating, it does not have to have a Christian badge on it, it is good in itself a holy act. God has a people who are known to him alone, his friends are characterised by their actions towards those in need. Today is the last Sunday in the church calendar, next week we begin Advent. The special theme for today in the church year is a celebration of Jesus as King. Of course today is also named a special Sunday after the collect which we use. We are on that special Sunday before Christmas which we call stir up Sunday. The collect uses those beautiful words

'Stir up O Lord the will of thy faithful people.'

Today is a day when we are meant to encourage each other, when we remind ourselves that Christ is our King. It is a day when we draw close to Advent, that season in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. As we think of King Jesus coming at Christmas, so we welcome him into our own hearts.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

O most gracious and sovereign Redeemer, come and dwell within us and reign where you have the right to reign. By your Holy Spirit take possession of our souls and lead us in the ways of righteousness and peace; through Christ our Lord. Amen. John of Kronstadt (1829-1908)

Draw near to your flock, O Shepherd of Israel, that we may rejoice at the sound of your voice; walk through the darkest shadows at your bidding and climb the rugged steeps under your protection. May we come at the last to the sight of your unclouded beauty where, in the glory of eternal light, you are worshipped for evermore. Bede Jarrett, 1881-1934

God of new beginnings, your love to us knows neither measure nor end. Reveal yourself to us in the ordinary things of life, so that each day's tasks may be done for love of you and each day's living may bring us nearer you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. Michael Townsend, Chair, Leeds District

Eternal God, in whose perfect realm no sword is drawn but the sword of justice, and no strength known but the strength of love: guide and inspire all who seek your kingdom, that peoples and nations may find their security in the love which casts out fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Gracious God we pray for ourselves, that we might remember who is in control in creation, who it is who holds together all things. So may we give complete control to you of our lives. Help us to entrust to you our fears and worries and to rest ourselves in Christ Jesus. Help us to grow in faith, to rejoice always in what you have done, to submit our will and our plans to your will and your plan for our lives. Amen

Lenten Cathedral Pilgrimage 2016

We are organising an evening pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral on Wednesday 16 March 2016.

Depart Bedford at 5.00pm. Cost is £7.50

Arrival at Cathedral and buffet 7.00pm

Pilgrimage and tour 7.45pm

Compline and procession to shrine 9.00pm

Depart St Albans 9.30pm

Arrive back in Bedford 11.00pm

If you would like to take part then please speak with Charlie so that we can book numbers and arrange transport.

Partnership Quiz to be held at St Mark's Church on Saturday 28 November at 7.30pm. Do come and bring/make up a team. Tickets £7 includes Fish and Chip Supper. Please put this date in your diary.

Tickets available from Church Office.

St Mark's Weekly Offering Envelopes

Replacement sets of Weekly Offering Envelopes are available after the service this morning. If you do not currently use the envelope scheme or would like to find out more about regular giving to the Church please contact Jim Williams tel. 01234 360605.

Vicarage Christmas Party. Members of our Partnership Council are invited to the Vicarage on Sunday 20 December at 1.00pm. Please respond to Corinne if you are able to come and join us corinneroyden@gmail.com

Christmas Carols in Harpur Square 4pm

Sunday 6 December Following on from Christmas Carol events in Church Square and Kempston Rovers football ground in the last few years, Hope is organising a Christmas Carol event in the centre of our town in the lead up to Christmas. The Borough have kindly agreed to our being able to use Harpur Square for this. We would like to encourage as many as possible from our churches to come and bring praise to God and join in witness to the wonder of the Christmas story. As well as singing traditional Christmas carols, we will also have a few short drama presentations relating some of the events of the Christmas story and a short preach from Gavin Calver, the new director of Mission at the Evangelical Alliance. Towards the end of our time (we will run for a maximum of 1 hour) we plan to pass candles across the square and have a blaze of light and heat (from the candles!!) across the square as we sing our final carols. Volunteers of those who could help with stewarding would be most welcome. Please contact Simon Mushonga

simon.mushonga@threeriversbedford.uk
Hope Coordinator Three Rivers Church
Bedford Tel: 01234 217 519 Mob: 07508 449 042

Putnoe Provender Sunday 6 December

Sales of the ever popular Christmas puddings, cakes, mince pies, jam, marmalade and much more in the Welcome Area after Morning Service. Proceeds in aid of Partnership Autumn Project. All contributions gratefully received. John and Sally Gunning (305925)

Christmas Voices Friday December 11 at Putnoe Heights. 7.30 pm Come and enjoy once more a selection of seasonal poetry and prose and a little music around the Christmas tree as some of our regular Putnoe readers help us capture the Christmas spirit. Mulled wine & mince pies during the interval. Admission free. Donations welcome for the Karibuni Appeal

Community Coffee Mornings at Putnoe Heights Church at 10am on Wednesday November 25, with the final one this year on December 9.

Carols by Candlelight Revd. Cass Howes and the Community & Faith Centre, on behalf of the University of Bedfordshire invite you to Carols by Candlelight Tuesday 8 December at St. Paul's Church, Bedford, starting at 18:30hrs. The theme is 'Leaving home - refugee Jesus', featuring carols and readings, with the Chamber Choir from Bedford Choral Society, University of Bedfordshire Theatre Society, University of Bedfordshire Dance Society, Marc James - singer, songwriter with Gospel singers from Three Rivers Church Bedford, Ben Haynes - English studies student, Representatives from BRASS. Donations will be collected on the evening for BRASS - Bedfordshire Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support. Our celebration will be followed by traditional Christmas refreshments. Please also invite your family, friends and colleagues. To get your ticket please click on the link <https://uobcarolsbedford.eventbrite.co.uk> We look forward to welcoming you.

St Mark's Christmas Tree. We will be dressing the Church Christmas tree on Friday 27 November at 5pm. All help welcome.

Scouts are looking for a Treasurer and Secretary. If interested please contact Group Scout Leader Michelle Davis at michelle.davis@phxg.uk.

Open House have increased the amount raised on their coffee morning held recently from £867 to £921 for Children in Need. Congratulations to all concerned.



Messy Church Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2015

Many thanks for all who contributed in any way to this year's appeal. At

Messy Church on 18th November we packed 50 boxes, which have now been collected by local Samaritan's Purse volunteers. We were delighted by the wider congregation's generosity of both gifts and financial donations towards transporting the boxes abroad. *Wendy Waters*

Mission Update A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously to our Mission Project this year. Already over £2500 has been donated between our two churches. This significant sum will make a real difference to the many children and families who Karibuni are able to support and otherwise would be ensnared in poverty and lacking the opportunity to gain an education. Through this they are then able to develop employment prospects and have hope for the future. If you have not yet been able to make a contribution but would like to do so there is still time. Please pick up a letter with details after church or pick one up from the church offices during the week. Thank you once again for your generosity and for your prayers.

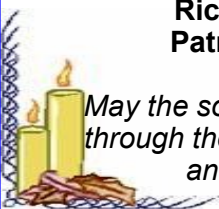
St Andrews Church Bedford On Sunday 22 November our evening service will be on the theme of 'Caring for our planet' and will be held in the church centre foyer at 6.00pm. We do extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to share with us this unique celebration of our environment.

My sincere thanks for the kind messages following my recent operation and to Putnoe Heights Church for the gift of flowers. *Eric Royden*

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

**Richard George Marriott
Patrick Oliver McNamara**



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

North Bedfordshire Circuit Advent Service will be held on Sunday 6 December at 4pm at Kempston East Methodist Church. Refreshments will be available after the service and everyone is welcome.

Thank You — to all of those who helped us with the Christmas Fayre at St Mark's. we had yet another fantastic day and raised over £2,000. This money will be specially allocated towards the painting and repair of the woodwork around the church centre.

Christmas Online Shopping

Please shop at ThisisChurch.com Use Amazon and Easyfundraising



On our website homepage you will see these banners. Please shop by using these links on our website and make a point of always going to Amazon through the link on www.ThisisChurch.com. If you look at an item through Amazon direct they put a cookie on your machine and we don't get any commission! Please make it a habit to always go through the church website. This costs you nothing and we get a bit of commission.

ww.easyfundraising.com. This works exactly the same when you shop with over 2,500 shops including John Lewis, M&S and a whole host of other main shops. This has an added benefit that you will also get some special offers - you can't lose ! Please click the link on the church website go online and sign up now.

Both of these cost you nothing and we can receive commission so please sign up please always go shopping on Amazon through the link on www.ThisisChurch.com. This costs you nothing and we get a bit of commission.

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Mary Nicholls will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12:15pm on Wednesday 2nd December 2015

The funeral of Harry Russell will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 1 December