



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
23 August 2015
Ordinary 21



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

23 August Ordinary 21

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mrs. Morag Stewart
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr. Barry Southam
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

30 August Ordinary 22

9.30am St Mark's – Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mr. Ian Farthing
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9
2. James 1: 17-27 3. Mark 7: 1-8, 15, 23-23
Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's
Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur
House on first Monday of every month.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have been given by Carolyn and Tim Morris to celebrate their wedding anniversary and Ron Simmonds in loving memory of Maureen on their 50 wedding anniversary

The flowers at St Mark's Church have been given by Jean and Roger Bank in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

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

O good Jesus, brightness of the Father's glory, teach us to do your will that, guided by your Spirit, we may come to the city of everlasting day, where all are one in heart and mind, where all is safety and eternal peace, and where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end.

Gregory the Great (c. 540-604)

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 Janet King 313946
11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's Liz Mason 07816522200
12.00 noon Storybox Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630
1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts on 14 September
2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights– fortnightly
4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Zoe Wilcox 07767311424
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 07928483418 email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk
6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571
6.30pm-8pm Cubs at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
6.30pm Fit For All Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Mary Daly 217127
7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.
7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399
7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting—31 August Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567
7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. 9.30, 11.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30. Lorrie Pearson 340473

11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946
1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895
2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (Alternate Tuesdays) Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's 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 September Tea Details Diane Bayliss 268101
8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.
10.00-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.
10.00am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Janet King 313946
11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 9 September Contact Putnoe Office 365630
1.15pm Social Bridge Club St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.Contact 1st week of the month. Janet King 313946
2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946
2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966
3.30-4.30pm Vita Fit St Mark's starting 29 April for 6 weeks Liz Roe 07901684538
3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 16 September 2015 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698
4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
5.00–6.00pm Rainbows at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091
6.00pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall

Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

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

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

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

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

7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every
month except August Mrs Jo Street 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 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only
£1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham
406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week
1 in the month) Jill Cooper 357960

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie
Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the
prayer diary on the information table.

10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival at Putnoe Heights.
Elena 01234 266968

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for
Mums & toddlers.0-5 Restarts 17 September Contact St
Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234
297481

12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and
their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a
sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and
singing. Lots of fun.Restarts 10 September Contact Jaana
Swaby 342613

1.00-2.30pm 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
Janet King 313946

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

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

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna.
07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284

7.00pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week
in month)Contact Janet King 313946

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th
week in month) Rosemary McNeilage 405594

7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd
week in month) Linda Stephen 409493

8.00pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers)
Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers

each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50
Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or
Shirley 01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in
month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

Friday

9.30am -3.30pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe
Heights, 2nd week per month.. Contact Marion Sutton
217647

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week in
month) Contact Janet King 313946

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St.
Marks Contact Janet King 313946

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month)
Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King
313946

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

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

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

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

Saturday

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

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry
Fletcher 357198

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

Sunday

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

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

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

2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th
Sunday. Closed for summer break. Re opens 13
September. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council -

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Annual Congregational Meetings -

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 6 October 2015

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting –

Putnoe Church Council - 23 August, 15 October 2015

Putnoe Centre Manger Meeting - 29 September

Pastoral Group Meeting– 15 September 2015 4.00pm

Churchyard Committee - TBA

Circuit meeting –

Deanery meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -

28 September 2015 2.00pm

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

Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 27
September.

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

Ordinary 21

Sentence of Scripture

Psalm 34:18,22

The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit, The Lord redeems His servants; no-one who takes refuge in Him will be condemned.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

O God, you declare you almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity; mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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



Gathering Manna in the desert oil on canvas 1750

First Bible Reading Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Joshua said to all the people, “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our fathers up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we travelled. And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.”

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

Second Bible Reading - Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

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

Gospel Reading - John 6:56-69

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father

sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live for ever.” He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no-one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.” From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns for Sunday (*Please distribute Morning Worship booklet and hymns sheet where requested*)

1. Filled with the Spirit's power (Farley Castle) HP 314
2. Come, let us praise the Lord (Gopsal) MP 92
3. Jesus comes with all his grace (Orientis Partibus) HP 168
4. Come down, O love divine (Down Ampney) MP 89 / HP 281
5. To God be the glory (To God be the glory) MP 708 / HO 463

Commentary

We are at a point in the Gospel of John today where Jesus has recently healed a lame man on the Sabbath and angered the religious authorities, whom John calls "the Jews." Even more recently, Jesus fed 5000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. The result of that great act of care and compassion is that Jesus developed a huge following of regular folks who want more miracles but he also gathered more enemies along the way as well, especially Jewish leaders.

Today Jesus is preaching in Capernaum, his adult hometown, and his listeners are disgusted by what he has to say. The words which Jesus uses are comforting to our ears, he describes himself as 'bread.' We think of him as the Bread of Life and these are comforting and familiar words. When we hear Jesus tell people to eat his flesh and drink his blood we naturally reflect upon the Holy Communion and the taking of the bread and wine. We need to take a step back to appreciate why people who heard these words who were his disciples decided that the things he said meant that he was no longer a leader they wished to follow.

For a start it is important to remember that these people were hearing these words before Jesus had died, there had been no last supper, no institution of a last meal with his disciples. Indeed the episode of the Last Supper is not even recorded in John's Gospel. The disciples heard these words only in the context of a literal understanding of eating Jesus body and blood. We can understand why the early Christians were accused of cannibalism. The shocking nature of what Jesus said is made even more acute within the religious culture of Judaism. Jesus was teaching in the synagogue, a place where the scriptures were read and taken extremely seriously. Although the crowd were enthusiastic about Jesus being a leader like Moses who could provide miraculous bread, they cannot stomach the words which Jesus uses about eating his body and drinking his blood. Even today Jews eating Kosher food will follow the food laws of Leviticus 17 which provides important rules about the way that meat is eaten and killed.

Leviticus 17:10-14

If anyone of the house of Israel or of the aliens who reside among them eats any blood, I will set my face against that person who eats blood, and will cut that person off from the people. For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you for making atonement for your lives on the altar; for, as life, it is the blood that makes atonement. Therefore I have said to the people of Israel: No person among you shall eat blood, nor shall any alien who resides among you eat blood. And anyone of the people of Israel, or of the aliens who reside among them, who hunts down an animal or bird that may be eaten shall pour out its blood and cover it with earth. For the life of every creature—its blood is its life; therefore I have said to the people of Israel: You shall not eat the blood of any creature, for the life of every creature is its blood; whoever eats

it shall be cut off.

These views are not considered changeable. Even today when you read that meat is Kosher you will know that the animal has been slaughtered in a specific way. The animal is not stunned, it has its throat cut whilst conscious and the blood drained away from the animal.

A good portion of the Book of Leviticus concerns itself with what to do with the blood and body parts of sacrificial animals. When animals were sacrificed to God in the rituals that are carefully laid out in Leviticus, various portions of the carcass were given back to the person making the offering, given to the priests to consume, or burned on the Altar and totally given over to God. The same thing always happened with the blood: it was always given to God. Usually it was poured onto the Altar directly as it was considered holy because the blood of the animal embodied its very life. So, when Jesus says that his followers are to drink his blood, what he's saying in the ancient biblical language of Leviticus is: take my life, and pour it into your bodies, your lives, your souls.

Those who heard Jesus would have had their stomachs turned by this talk of eating flesh and drinking blood and they declare, 'This *logos* is difficult; who can accept it?' English translations say 'teaching' or merely 'this'" but *logos* is a key word in John from the start. From the outset of the Gospel we know that Jesus is the *logos* and, crucially, that the *logos* became flesh (1:14). Jesus asks them a question: 'Does this scandalize you?' Our translations often use 'offend' but the Greek word 'skandalizo' is a more powerful word. It is difficult to imagine how these disciples could have felt anything other than revulsion with all of this talk about 'chomping flesh' and 'drinking blood'. It would be provocative in any situation, but especially provocative when spoken in a synagogue.

So why was Jesus so offensive? Jesus had spoken about 'eating' the bread from heaven, using a very common word *esthio*. In verse 53, however, Jesus switches to a less common word, *trogo*, a word that has a connotation closer to 'munch, gnaw or chomping.' it is a graphic word of noisy eating, the sort of eating an animal does. The audibility of the eating, however, is not the important point; this is eating that is urgent, even desperate. It is eating as though life depends on it, because it does. The crowd wanted Jesus as the new Moses, they wanted bread. Many Jewish people believed that one day God would restore manna. The point which Jesus is making is that his people will benefit from drinking his blood which will be spilled. However it would be a spiritual feeding. For Jesus, the new Moses, not only gives bread to the people, but also in his passion, death and resurrection he gives us himself. This is why the Church has always linked the events at Easter with the celebration of Eucharist.

'Flesh and blood' means the whole person. Choosing the way of Jesus is a matter of life and death. Eating the body and blood of Christ is about taking all of Christ within us to sustain and empower us, body and soul for the Christian life. Being a Christian is not just about getting up early on Sunday morning and coming to church, it is about a change of person, a way of special living.

Meditation

This week is the feast of St Augustine who was born in 354 AD in the time of the Roman Empire, in what is now the north African country of Algeria. In his lengthy book called "Confessions", Augustine tells us that he was influenced to become a Christian when, somehow, he heard God telling him to "take up and read". Augustine started to read the Bible and discovered God. The example and prayers of his mother Monica contributed to his becoming a Christian at the age of 33. Augustine wrote these words:
"Leave the past to God's mercy, the present to his love, and the future to his providence."

Let us pray

Lord, we give you thanks, for the assurance that the past can be left to your mercy, the present to your love, and the future to your providence. Help us to grow more aware of your loving presence, that we may live more authentically and proclaim by our words and actions the good news of the fullness of your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

St Mark's Church Car Boot Sale This will take place on Monday 31 August. Please take time over summer to clear out your cupboards so that we can have lots of items to sell on the church stall. Items brought on Sunday 30 August should be left in the Wren room which will be open all day. As we finish off another year there is a barbeque in the Vicarage garden in the afternoon to which all of our car boot helpers are invited. Our sincere thanks to all of those who have given up their bank holiday Mondays to help raise money for church funds.

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

St Mark's Junior Church will begin again on 13 September when we will look forward to welcoming the children back

Story Box restarts 10 September. A big thank you to all our volunteers.

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church will start again on Monday 14 September at 12 noon. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help with this children's group without whom it could not take place. We are looking for new volunteers to help with this group in September.

Junior Church at Putnoe Heights Church will take a break from 9 August. We will meet again for our first Sunday service on Sunday 6 September. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help with this children's group without whom it could not take place. We are looking for new volunteers to help with this group in September.

Footprints:- On Saturday 29 August 2015 there will be an all day walk 2-3 hrs actual walking. We meet outside the waiting room Long Stanton Park and Ride bus stop Cambridgeshire 11.00am. The first part of the day will be a trip on the Cambridge Busway to St Ives where we will have lunch. Where you go for lunch is up to you. You could have a packed lunch by the River Ouse or use one of the local cafes. Meet back at the bus stop at two PM for the trip back. On the way back we stop at Fen Drayton Lakes for the walk which is flat and easy. Then on the Busway back to Long Stanton and home. Any problems contact Margaret or Alan Tel 07851202296

Extraordinary Church Council Meeting, at Putnoe Heights, open to all, will be held after morning service on Sunday 23 August The one agenda item is to discuss the recent development of The Ecumenical Partnership and the way forward for Putnoe Heights Church.

Concerts at St. Andrew's 10th Anniversary Weekend Friday 9 October 7.30pm Urban Folk Quartet Saturday 10 October Bring & Sing Handel's Messiah 2.30pm—5pm rehearsal 7.30pm performance. Sunday 11 October Recital 2.30pm, Tenth Anniversary Tea 4.30pm Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of Music 6pm. Details from www.standrewsbedford.org or Church office 01234 216881.

Afternoon Tea at St Mark's 3 – 5pm Saturday 19 September

We invite you to enjoy a traditional sandwiches, cakes and scones tea. We hope those who can't usually get to our evening social events will join us on this occasion. Lifts will be available for those who live locally but don't have transport. Tickets are £5 and available after services or from St Mark's church office. Any proceeds will be divided between Christian Aid and Action for Children.



If anyone has china tea sets, cake stands, or embroidered tablecloths, that they are willing to loan, would like to offer other help, or would like a lift, please contact: Janet Day 295592; Jean Bank 355698; Linda Parry 216724; Wendy Waters 401834.

Please shop at ThisisChurch.com



Please can you 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.

Thank You - to Judith Stanton and the members of the Whist group for their very generous donation of £103.

Community and Faith (Chaplaincy) Assistant

Role: Bedford Campus - SeedBeds Centre, from 1st September 2015 Are you interested in: Working as part of a multifaith Community and Faith team, helping to meet the spiritual and pastoral care needs of students and staff from diverse faith and cultural backgrounds?

Being part of the social and spiritual life of the SeedBeds Centre

Do you have good admin and communication skills? Are you creative and resourceful? Would you enjoy the challenge of;

Providing administrative and general support to the Coordinating Chaplain and Team on the Bedford campus,

Offering hospitality and promoting a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere in our SeeBeds Centre, Building community through organising (often with others) events and activities,

Working in a team committed to providing great service and sometimes working out of hours?

If you are interested in this role, then write an Application Letter outlining why you are applying and what you have to offer and submit with your CV to Careers: hireme@beds.ac.uk by Monday 24th August 2015 at 5 pm. Interviews will take place on Thursday 27th August and you will be contacted if you are invited to attend for interview. For further information or if you have any queries please contact Revd Cass Howes on cass.howes@beds.ac.uk

Footprints Walk Sunday 6 September Meet at Roxton Parish Church in School Lane, at 2.30pm for a circular walk on river side paths. Optional tea afterwards at Roxton Garden Centre. More details from Margaret and Eddy Peck

Congratulations to Mick Ovenden and his team for the excellent work in refurbishing the toilets.

Lord God, father of all people we bring our prayers knowing that you will hear us and help us.

As the summer draws to a close and we approach the start of a new academic year we remember and pray for children and young people everywhere, for those children about to spend their first hours away from home in school or nurseries, those who are eager and active as they welcome new experiences and relationships and for those who are apprehensive at what lies ahead.

May the power of your presence be with all who seek to learn and we pray that they may be worthy of the best in our society and society be worth of their potential.

Lord God hear us as we pray for those who bear the heavy burden of leadership among the nations of the world. Give them in all their deliberations wisdom to know your true will, regard for your laws and respect for human rights that they may seek to lead all people in the paths of truth freedom and peace for the glory of your name.

We pray for refugees and asylum seekers, for those whose lives have been torn apart by war. We pray for the wounded and injured, those terrified and living in shock, the hungry and homeless, refugee and exile.

We pray for protection for those bringing humanitarian aid, those administering medical assistance, those offering counsel and care. For all making the sacrifice of love, give the strength of your Spirit and the joy of your comfort. In the hope of Christ we pray.

We pray for those who are ill in hospitals at home and wherever they may be. Give them courage hope and peace and the knowledge that you are present in their weakness pain and suffering. Lord God our Heavenly Father we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them. Give to them, the strong comfort which no one else can give, and let them know the comforting power of the resurrection of Jesus.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

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

Laura Patricia Heath

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 funerals this week