



# Partnership News

## Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

### 24 August 2014

### 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

#### 24 August - Ordinary 21

##### St Marks - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Bank  
Intercessions - Mr. Ian Farthing  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

##### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership Team - Mr. Barry Southam  
Intercessions - Mr. Alan Bayliss  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

#### 31 August - Ordinary 22

##### St Marks - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton  
Intercessions - Mrs. Morag Stewart  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

##### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mrs. Jenny Snelson  
Intercessions - Ministers  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

**Readings** 1. Exodus 3: 1-15 2. Romans 12: 9-21  
3. Matthew 16: 21-28

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

#### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by Carolyn and Tim Morris to celebrate Carolyn's 50th birthday, her mother Anne's 75th birthday and Stella Alabi's birthday, all on 23rd August.

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Erica and David Coleman in memory of their beloved daughter, Celia Jane Gorham.

*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

Let me prefer your presence,  
O God, to all other company.  
Let me exalt your name  
above all others names,  
and let me love your will  
beyond all other desires;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897)*

#### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

#### Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre  
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535  
jane@thisischurch.com

#### The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

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

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

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

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#### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com

*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

#### Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

#### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Monday to Friday 9am - 12pm,**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Geoff Gypps 365630  
**Leadership Team** Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417  
**Treasurer** Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
**Youth Team Leader** Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

#### St. Mark's Church Centre

**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Mrs Jean Bank 355698  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892  
treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

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

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

**9.00-3.45pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

**9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955

**10.30am U3A Play reading** Putnoe Heights Contact

Janet King 313946

**11am-12noon Pilates** St. Mark's. Liz Mason

07816522200 (starts 8 Sept.)

**1.30pm Chat & Make.** Term time for babies and

toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments

£1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234

342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts 8 September

**12.00 noon 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– 18 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 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking** at Putnoe Heights. For

more details please contact Olivia Tornye 01234 276826

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights.

Pat McCart 365507

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

Lorrie Pearson 01234 340473

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

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

**1.3pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895

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

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

Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

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

**4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe

Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

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

0789187957

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

07980447390

**7.00pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455

(Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in January 2015.

**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightl 2 September Afternoon Tea at 2.30pm 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 10 September Putnoe Heights Office 365630

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

Mr Barnes 261811

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

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

**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights

Mrs Webster 856966

**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers.

Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 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 3 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) Greta Cansfield 215016

### Thursday

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

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

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

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

**9.45am Chat and Play** St. Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts September 11

**12pm Storybox** . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 342613 Restarts 4 September

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic** at St Mark's ( Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

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

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

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

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

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

**5.45pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

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

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

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

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

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

**Bedford Folk Dancers** (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week. Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or

Shirley 01767 651767

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

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

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

### Friday

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

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

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647

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

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

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

**2pm U3A Gardening** - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance** Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

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

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

### Saturday

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

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

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

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

### Sunday

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

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

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

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

**Messy Church Dates** 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** - 16th September 4pm

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Commemoration Service** - 2nd November

**Circuit meeting** – 15 September

**Deanery meeting** -

**Woodland Burial Trustees—**

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

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

# Ordinary 21

## Sentence of Scripture Romans Chapter 11

O, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

## Collect Prayer for the Day *Before we read we pray*

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Common Worship*

## First Bible Reading Exodus Chapter 1:8 - 2.10

Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labour, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with harsh labour in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labour the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?" The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive." So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

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

## Second Bible Reading - Romans Chapter 12:1-8

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the



pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. (This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)

### **Gospel Reading - Matthew Chapter 16:13-20**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ. (This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and in one joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

1. Fill your hearts with joy and gladness (Regent Square) 147
2. Give thanks with a grateful heart 170
3. I the Lord of sea and sky (as set) (Mission Praise 857)
4. There is a higher throne (On Partnership News)
5. Ye holy angels bright (Darwell's 148th) 783

### **Commentary**

In the passage from Exodus today we read about the killing of male Hebrew children as ordered by Pharaoh. When Pharaoh gave an instruction he was like a God and you disobeyed that power at your peril. Yet we read today of those brave midwives who were prepared to stand out against the power of Pharaoh. We read that the midwives feared God, and their belief in the authority of God, trumped any allegiance or obedience that was owed to Pharaoh. Instead of killing the children they let the boys live.

The disciples were also faced with a choice over which authority to obey. In the passage from Matthew today we read of their journey with Jesus to Caesarea Philippi. This was a town so named because it was rebuilt by the Tetrarch Herod Philip in honour of the emperor Tiberius. Lying 25 miles north of Galilee, it was a beautiful place in the foothills of the snow capped Mount Hermon. This was formerly the area which had been called Paneas in honour of the Greek god, Pan. This is Gentile territory, a place in which there were many competing religious voices. They saw clearly who Jesus was and it was their commitment to him that enabled them eventually to decide to show their obedience to Jesus rather than any human authority, which led most of them to eventual execution.

We need to ask ourselves from time to time whether we would be prepared to stand up for our beliefs and how far would we go to support the cause of right over wrong. Would we be prepared to send a letter, or go on a march, or stand outside the Houses of Parliament, or speak on the news. Would we be prepared to go to prison because we feared God rather than other men? Increasingly Christians around the world are faced with life threatening choices everyday as their faith is seen to run counter to the prevailing authority.

We may not be faced with the demand to convert from our faith we are challenged by competing voices which call for allegiance. In our society there are many different and competing religious movements

which try to claim our attention, we are exposed to more religions than ever before. Many people are searching for religious faith, and yet there is a vast array of choice between religions from all over the world. We need not be ashamed of a willingness to live and speak of our commitment to God.

Likewise in our secular society, pursuit of wealth and beauty are presented in such an overpowering way that many people struggle to understand life beyond things like consumerism of certain brands. It is our Christian mission to impart to others an awareness of where real wealth and beauty lie. The midwives refused to bow the knee to Pharaoh, Peter and disciples refused to bow the knee to Caesar. In our day we too much be defiant against the gods of our age who try to steal hearts and minds. In the words of the new hymn which we will sing this morning - ***There is a higher throne ! Charles Royden***



### Mediation

Inspired by Matthew: 25, this sculpture is a representation that suggests Christ is with the most marginalized in our society. The Christ figure is shrouded in a blanket the only indication that it is Jesus are the visible wounds on the feet. The life-size version of the work has enough room that someone is able to sit on the bench. Pope Francis blessed a copy of the statue in St Peter's Square in November

You can buy miniature versions of this piece or prints from the website [www.sculpturebytps.com](http://www.sculpturebytps.com). They would perhaps make imaginative and thought provoking presents for Christmas?

### Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Heavenly Father, may your Holy Spirit lead the rich nations to support the poor, and the strong nations to support the weak; so that every nation may develop in its own way, and work together with other nations in true partnership for the promotion of peace and the good of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Diocese of Melanesia*

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ cared for the welfare of everyone and went about doing good; grant us the imagination and perseverance to create in this country and throughout the world a just and loving society for the human family, and make us agents of your compassion to the suffering, the persecuted and the oppressed, through the Spirit of your Son, who shared the sufferings of men, our pattern and our redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Norwich Cathedral*

God, we know that every person is your beloved child. When anyone suffers, you suffer also. may we have the courage to bring equality among people, so that your life, as well as ours, is free from the pain of injustice. Amen. John W. Riggs O Lord, vouchsafe to look mercifully upon us, and grant that we may ever choose the way of peace. *Sarum Missal*

### From Bishop Alan

We are now just a few days away from our Diocesan Celebration event at Keysoe on Bank Holiday Monday. I do encourage you to remind your congregation of this on Sunday, and to offer a strong lead for attendance. The website at [www.celebrate100.org.uk](http://www.celebrate100.org.uk) is a valuable resource for information on travel, events on the day and the background to this important occasion.

The main event will take place from 10.00am until 5.00pm, but please feel free to arrive early and depart later in the day as this will help avoid traffic congestion. Some people are camping the night before and the night of the event and you may wish to remind people of this opportunity. The event is entirely free, apart from the motor car driving skills and the food outlets.

There is still time to make a cake. There will be two age groups: 12 and under; teens and adults. Cakes should be no bigger than 8"/20cm, round or square. Junior cakes should only be one tier, senior cakes can be up to three tiers. There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in each age category. There will be some surprise judges. There will be refreshments provided on the day and we have over 1,000 seats, but you may wish to encourage folks to bring their own picnics, chairs and blankets to sit and enjoy the events on the stage. We are grateful to those who have sponsored the occasion.

Neville Funeral Service, Peter Chalk & Co, Clergy Tax, Routen Chaplin IFA Ltd, St Albans Woodland Burial Trust, Verulam House Trust Fund, Black Rock Investment Management, Wests Group, Lee Bolton Monier-Williams, Rumball Sedwick

This is a very special opportunity to gather, to worship God and to celebrate both what has been achieved over the last 100 years and to look forward with confidence and faithful commitment. Please come if you can, and do also join me in prayer, for Celebrate 100 and for the Diocese. **+ Alan**



## Holiday Children's Activities

**Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church will start again on Monday 8 September 2014 at 12 noon. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help to make this group such a success.

**Junior Church** at Putnoe Heights Church will have a break during August and meet again on Sunday 7th September for our All Age Family service. Thank you to all our volunteers who help with this group. We are constantly looking for new volunteers for this group. If you would like to be part of our Junior church group to help our children grow in faith please speak to Carolyn Morris or one of the Ministers.

**St Mark's Chat and Make / Play** start again on Monday 8 September at 1.30pm and Thursday 11 at 9.30am Please contact Janine 01234 297481 for more details.

**Storybox** at St. Mark's starts again on 4 September at 12 noon.

**Action for Children** September House to House Collection. Action for Children has a 140 year history of working with children, young people and parents living in tough circumstances in Britain today. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church where it has its roots. Our annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in September. St. Mark's Church is allocated the Brickhill collecting area and last year we raised £572 (inc. Gift Aid). If you could spare a few hours during September to distribute and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. *Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)*

**Wanted:** Car Booster seat on loan for approx. 1 week from 31st August .Please contact Brian & Janet Ibberson tel: 403497

**Putnoe Heights Office** - It is good to hear that Geoff Gypps is back in situ as Centre Manager at Putnoe Heights. Welcome back! The office will be open from 12 noon during August, not mornings.

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

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



**The bowls taster session** was a great success and further sessions will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the month 2pm - 4.30pm. Contact Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

**Offertory Envelopes** Members of the envelope scheme at Putnoe Heights Church are invited to collect their packs of envelopes for the next twelve months from a table in the welcome area.

**Footprints Walk.** The next walk will be on Sept. 7th starting at 2:30pm. Meet at Clophill Village Green, just off the A6. The walk varies from minor roads to woods and fields; and is about 3 miles. No stiles and good firm ground. Queries please ring Warwick Holden Tel: 01234 403551

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

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We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Keysoe on bank Holiday Monday. This promises to be a day not to be missed, so please join us. You can see information about the time of events on the celebrate 100 website [www.celebrate100.org.uk](http://www.celebrate100.org.uk)

Something not to be missed will be the mains service at 3.30pm.

### Hymns for Sunday

- 1 **There is a higher throne**  
 than all this world has known,  
 Where faithful ones from every tongue  
 will one day come.  
 Before the Son we'll stand,  
 made faultless through the Lamb;  
 believing hearts find promised grace:  
 Salvation comes.

*Hear heaven's voices sing,  
 their thunderous anthem rings  
 through emerald courts and sapphire skies,  
 their praises rise.  
 All glory, wisdom, power,  
 strength, thanks and honour are  
 to God, our King who reigns on high  
 forever more.*

- 2 And there we'll find our home,  
 our life before the throne;  
 we'll honour Him in perfect song  
 where we belong.  
 He'll wipe each tear-stained eye,  
 as thirst and hunger die;  
 The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King:  
 we'll reign with Him.

**I, the Lord of sea and sky.**  
 I have heard my people cry.  
 All who dwell in dark and sin,  
 my hand will save.  
 I who made the stars of night,  
 I will make their darkness bright.  
 Who will bear my light to them?  
 Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, is it I Lord?  
 I have heard you calling in the night.  
 I will go Lord, if you send me.  
 I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
 I have borne my people's pain.  
 I have wept for love of them,  
 they turn away.  
 I will break their hearts of stone,  
 give them hearts for love alone.  
 I will speak my word to them,  
 whom shall I send?

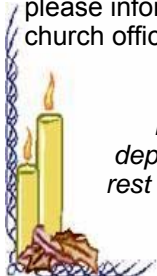
I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
 I will tend the poor and lame,  
 I will set a feast for them,  
 my hand will save.  
 Finest bread I will provide,  
 till their hearts be satisfied,  
 I will give my life to them,  
 whom shall I send?

### New Porch

Thank you to all groups who have been very patient whilst the new porch has been fitted at St Mark's. The porch will be completed on schedule by the end of next week before the return of all the children for pre-school. many thanks to all of the volunteers who have worked hard to enable groups to continue meeting and keep the building open every day during the building works.

### 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.'*



### Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Eileen Alexander** will take place at St. Mark's Church at 2pm on 27th August.

The funeral of Alistair Buchanan will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.00am on Friday 5 September