



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
Christ the King
24 November 2013 -



8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

Christ the King — Stir up Sunday Today – 24 November 2013

9.30 St Marks -Morning Worship

Preacher – Mrs Claire Peck
Leadership Team – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mr Warwick Holden
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher – Mrs Claire Peck
Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen
Intercessions —Dr Tim Wilkes
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

1 December – First Sunday of Advent

9.30 St Marks – Family Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team – Mr Edward Parry
Intercessions –Mr Richard Ledger
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe – Family Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - TBA
Intercessions — TBA
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Readings 1 Isaiah 2: 1-5 2 Romans 13:11-14
3.Matthew 24: 36-44

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

Flowers this Sunday

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by daughters Jean, Sylvia, Ann and son-in-law Reg in loving memory of our mum, Alice Chappel

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Barbara Keighley and family in loving memory of Brian on his birthday.

Thank You

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
(Sam also works full time as a Vice
President for Hewlett Packard)

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 Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
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 - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

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

Partnership News is also archived on our church website
www.ThisChurch.com

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

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

9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery

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 Berry 211955

10.30am U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)

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 365630

1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make St Mark's for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk .

2pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights(see contact details below)

4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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 Pat Nicholson 353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 16 December 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

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Charlotte Williams 07968 207442

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

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)

1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp. St Mark's (contacts details below)

1.3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's (contacts details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details

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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. 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

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648

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

7.00pm Laughter Club. St. Mark's Meeting (meets monthly) 12 Nov & 17 Dec. Cheryl Green 354339 or 07729187399

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly). 26 November Jaffa Orchard/Hand Bells. Details Janet King 313946

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 below)

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe (contact below)

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 4 December Putnoe Heights Office 365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)

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

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.(see contact details below)

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights

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

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 20 November Wendy Waters 401834

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.

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Yvonne Blain 350241 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 4 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 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

Thursday

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

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

9.30am Spanish for total beginners.at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07932616468
12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 342613

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's 1st and 3rd Contact 267444

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

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's (contact below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Mary Rich 272470

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

7.30pm Gentle Birthing St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231

8 -10pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers)

Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. Next meeting 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. Mr Newton 01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass 294220

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

Friday

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

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

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks (see contact details below)

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (contact details below)

2pm U3A Italian-Putnoe Heights (contact details below)

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights

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

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

7.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

Saturday

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

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

Sunday

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

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

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

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

Messy Church Dates Weds 20 Nov, 15th Jan., 12th Feb., 19th March, 16th April, 21st May, 18th June.

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –

St Mark's Leadership Team - 21 January 2014

Annual Congregational Meetings

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council -

Pastoral Group Meeting - 10 January at 10.00am

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 3 pm

Circuit meeting - Deanery Meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees–

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –10th

February 2014 1.30pm

New Year Lunch 19 January at Putnoe

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

Christ the King

Sentence of Scripture - Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read we pray

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

First Bible Reading - Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD .Therefore this is what the LORD , the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the LORD "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD . "The days are coming," declares the LORD , "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. (This is the Word of the Lord— **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Colossians 1: 10-20

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross (This is the Word of the Lord— **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Luke 23: 33-43

When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals-- one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)



**He is the image
of the invisible God,
the firstborn
of all creation.**

Colossians 1.15

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of heaven, in this Eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect: as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns *(Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymns and Psalms)*

1. Praise to the Holiest 231
2. Go Tell it on the mountain 135
3. Meekness and Majesty
4. Thou didst leave thy throne 154
5. Rejoice the Lord is King 243

Commentary

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 brought to us by Pius XI in 1925, only in 1970 was it moved from October to the last Sunday before Advent. It is a good theme for today because our Bible reading from Luke has the words fixed over Jesus on the cross THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Of course today is also named Stir Up Sunday and we have that beautiful collect prayer with the 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 King Jesus at Christmas.

What does the Kingship of Jesus mean? Jesus said 'My Kingdom is not of this world, ' it is totally and radically different from any other kingship, it is not one of coercion, it is not imposed. The kingdom of Jesus is about love, justice and mercy. This kingdom will come in all of its fullness at a day in the future and it will never end, it has already arrived in the hearts of those who show allegiance to Jesus the King. Those who serve him pray 'Thy Kingdom come...' and they know that in Jesus they have found the one who is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end of all that is. He has been from the beginning of time itself and he will be with them forever.

Of course the last thing we think of kingship is crucifixion and suffering. So the words inscribed over Jesus are mocking and part of a tragic irony, to call a man on a cross a king is a cruel joke. 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 did not belong on crosses.

Yet as Christians we see in this episode not a tragedy but a triumph. Jesus on the cross redefines what it means to be a king. Power is seen in the very powerlessness which allowed Christ the King to be killed. Jesus on the cross challenges our ideas about God and in a sense he redefines the human idea of what God is. The Old Testament idea of a powerful God who helped people win battles and who ordered the genocide of the conquered people is gone. In its place we have a God in Jesus who to some might be regarded as a cissy. Jesus spends his time caring for the weak and frail, cries at funerals and ends up being tortured and stuck up on the cross. This is not the ideal of great leadership which has inspired other human kings. The crucifixion confronts our normal expectations with a new way. Make no mistake, Jesus was a radical, he was a revolutionary of that there can be no doubt, but he was not the kind of revolutionary that Pilate was used to dealing with, in characters like Barabbas.

So what was the kingship of Jesus like? Jesus was not harmless and neither was he only concerned with the inner or spiritual world, he was truly subversive. In this Gospel of Luke, Jesus begins by addressing Israel's hopes of liberation. The songs of the birth narratives are full of it. Jesus marches into the synagogue to link his mission to Isaiah 61 in 4:16-20. He announces good news to the poor, to the hungry and to those who weep. He asserts and expresses the value of those considered valueless. He gathers people and announces change. Jesus is not announcing a message of personal enlightenment, to make us personally enriched; neither is he promising a utopia at another time and in another place. Rather he is announcing change and embodying it already in himself and in his community. This is dangerous for those with a vested interest in the status quo, no wonder that so many people were threatened by him and wanted him dead.

To affirm that Jesus is king is to affirm a different kind of kingship. But it is not a weak kingship or one which abdicates into an inner or spiritual world. Jesus was enormously powerful and assertive. He did not come to create a set of doormats, but to spread a revolution of love and grace, which entailed identifying and embodying a new kind of power and priority. The feast of Christ the King is a challenge to us all because the kingdom which he brings places some considerable challenges to us all. The saviour of all humankind is a man hanging on a cross, yet still the king, opening the gates of his kingdom to the bewildered, misled, rabble around him. I ponder on whether these words of Jesus from the cross are the most powerful words in all scripture, surely the cross is the central feature of our faith, the words spoken there hold extraordinary power. How can a king call forgiveness upon those who drive nails into his hand and hang him to die ? Make no mistake about what is taking place here, the one by whom all things were created things in heaven and on earth, who has supremacy over all things, is making peace through his death even on those who kill him. While human kings gain power in order reign over us, Jesus in his kingship demonstrates his authority by showing his forgiveness and love for his people, so much so that he gave his life for us.

Do we take the kingship of Jesus seriously? Do we think of Jesus as our 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 this question 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. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

In the summer I went to Amalfi Cathedral, the resting place for the relics of St Andrew the Apostle, it is his day on November 30. It was an uplifting experience not least because I thanked God to still be alive after travelling the coastal road with Italian drivers. Saint Andrew is believed to have been crucified on a saltire (X-shaped) cross in Patras, Greece. Around 357, Roman emperor Constantine had his remains transferred to the Church of the Holy Apostles, Constantinople. During the Fourth Crusade, Cardinal Pietro Capuano (Peter of Capua) took the saint's remains to Amalfi. The relics arrived on 8 May 1208 and were placed in the crypt of the Cathedral of St Andrew. It is vital to remember the saints and to honour their sacrifice for us. The saints encourage us to be faithful, they help 'Stir us up' and as we remember their sacrifice we too are encouraged to live lives of holiness. Not everybody appreciates relics but for some they are helpful because it is important to treat with respect and reverence something which physically connects us with those we love who have died. The physical reminder helps us to focus upon the reality of the saint and as we honour them we honour God who has made the person holy. *Charles Royden*



Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

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*

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 you and your plan for our lives. **Amen**

Dementia Support in Bedfordshire: Alzheimer's Society provides a vital confidential network of support services for people with dementia, their families and their carers. If you are affected by dementia, the following services are available to you:

- Peer Support – a support group for people with dementia and their carers
- Singing for the Brain – a singing group for people with dementia and their carers
- Cognitive stimulation Group – specifically for people with dementia
- Dementia support – support and information to people living with dementia, their carers and families
- National Dementia Support line: 0300 222 1122 - Bedford office: Alzheimer's Society, 2a Duke Street, Bedford, MK40 3HR Phone: 01234 327380 email: bedfordshireandluton@alzheimers.org.uk

Mission 2013 Ethiopian Honey Appeal

We are joining with the St Albans Diocese and Christian Aid to help the Ethiopian Honey Appeal. If we help provide farmers in Ethiopia with the equipment they need to keep bees, then they will be able to make honey and enough money to be able to provide for their families and develop a sustainable community. Bees are vital pollinators; flying from flower to flower, they make connections that are fundamental to the life of our planet. The Bishop's Harvest Appeal is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our connected world and to make life changing, loving and lasting connections with people in Ethiopia. The appeal will end on December 1 - Please take one of Harvest Appeal leaflets with a gift aid form and donation envelope.

- £3.50 can buy a honey knife
- £14 buys a net and gloves
- £85 Pays for a modern hive
- £207 pays for a community honey extractor for harvesting honey from the hives effectively.

Christmas Voices – Come and enjoy once more a seasonal celebration with a selection of nostalgic & amusing readings around the Christmas tree + mulled wine and mince pies during the interval. Friday December 13th at Putnoe Heights at 7.30pm. Admission free with retiring collection in aid of the Sweeter Deal Appeal.

Back by popular request, Bedford Town Concert Brass has arranged another concert with the choir "Alive & Singing" This was almost a sell out last year and we expect a similar number this year. It is to be held at St Mark's Church, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY on Friday 29th November at 7.30 - Tickets at the door £8 & £5 with accompanied children under 14 Free - Not To Be Missed - If you didn't come last year, come and see what you missed!

Putnoe Provender Sunday 1 December. Sales of the ever popular Christmas puddings, cakes, mince pies, jam, marmalade, chutney and much more in the Welcome area after morning service. Proceeds in aid of the Ethiopian Honey Appeal. All

contributions gratefully received. John & Sally Gunning 305925

An Invitation from Tuesday Club to a Christmas Celebration on Tuesday 26 November at Putnoe Heights at 7.30pm. Jaffa Orchard will have their Christmas cards and gifts for sale and U3A handbell ringers will entertain us. £2 entrance fee includes tea/coffee and cake. Everyone welcome

Christingle Service Sunday 8 December

The Christingle Service will be led by Richard Ledger and Wendy Waters in the Messy Church style.

St Marks Christingle Refreshments will be served from 09.00. to 9.25. Service 09.30 to 10.15. Followed by drinks and cake. We look forward to welcoming some of our Messy Church families, brownies and guides to our Sunday Worship.



Worship.

Doreen Smart 's family would like everyone to know that she has been admitted to Charter House, 1A Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2NT for respite care for four weeks. She will greatly appreciate hearing from her friends and having visitors except at meal times 12.30-13.30 and 17.15-18.15. Charter House Tel No. 01234 321400. Her direct line is 01234 321425 and she is in Room 2.



Christmas Tree If anyone, especially children, would like to dress the Christmas tree at St. Mark's on Friday 29th November at 4pm, it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible.

North Beds Circuit Methodist Women in Britain.

A Circuit Advent Service will be held on Sunday 1st December at 4.00pm at Priory Methodist Church. Refreshments will be served after the service. The collection will be for this year's project "Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund" and everyone welcome.

Thank You to Avril and all those who helped with the Christmas fayre at St Mark's. This year we made an astonishing £3,000 which is a record and will greatly help us this year.

Priory Autumn Fayre Saturday 30 November from 11am - 3pm. Gifts, crafts, cards, paintings etc. Light lunches and refreshments available. Entry £1 Accompanied children free. All welcome.

Bishops Book The magnificent book by Bishop Alan 'Saints and Pilgrims' has arrived and those who ordered signed copies can collect them from Charlie or from St Mark's Office. Please make cheques for £20 payable to St Mark's Church. Having sold out of the first order I have managed to get hold of six signed books at the launch price, first come first served !

Messy Church Event for the Diocese at St Albans Cathedral on Saturday 7 June. Celebrate Messy Church, see what it is all about, experience Messy Church. If you would like to attend contact youthoffice@stalbans.anglican.org T 01727 818160

Please note that on 29 December the service at both churches will be morning worship with preacher Mr Richard Ledger not Holy Communion

Meekness and Majesty

Meekness and Majesty,
Manhood and Deity,
In perfect harmony,
The Man who is God.
Lord of eternity
Dwells in humanity,
Kneels in humility
And washes our feet.

*O what a mystery,
Meekness and majesty.
Bow down and worship
For this is your God,
This is your God.*

Father's pure radiance,
Perfect in innocence,
Yet learns obedience
To death on a cross.
Suffering to give us life,
Conquering through sacrifice,
And as they crucify
Prays: 'Father forgive.'

Wisdom unsearchable,
God the invisible,
Love indestructible
In frailty appears.
Lord of infinity,
Stooping so tenderly,
Lifts our humanity
To the heights of His throne.

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and you're done.

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shop at [www. ThisIsChurch.com](http://www.ThisIsChurch.com)**

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

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



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.

**Nicola Sykes
Doreen Elizabeth Monico**

*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 Howard Lawrence will take place on Monday 25 November 2.30pm at Priory Methodist Church.

The funeral of Mrs Sylvia Germano will take place on Wednesday 27 November at 10.45am