



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
26 January 2014
3rd Sunday after Epiphany



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

Today – 26 January 2014

9.30 St Marks - Morning Worship
Preacher – Video from Bishop Alan
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mr Warwick Holden
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

11.00 am Putnoe — Morning Worship
Preacher – Video from Bishop Alan
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions — Mr Alan Bayliss
Organist - Mr Alan Bunker

2 February 2014 - Candlemas

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship
Preacher – Revd Canon Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship
Preacher – Revd Canon Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions — YPG
Organist - Mr Ben Mason

Readings 1. Malachi 3: 1-5 .2. Hebrews 2: 14-18
3. Luke 2:22-40

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

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week
have been kindly given by Norma Taylor and family in
loving memory of their Mother and Sisters

*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

God of love,
we hear your call to follow.
May we see that
the foolishness of your word
is more powerful
than the wisdom of this world.
May we lay aside our differences
for the sake of the gospel.
Your realm of light and life
has drawn near;
we hear your word of truth.
Turn our hearts toward you
and give us the wisdom
to walk in your ways. Amen.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

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

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

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators
Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@thisischurch.com
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

Churchyards Administrator
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to 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

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

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

10.30am U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

1.30pm Chat & Make. For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email-chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk

2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's (2nd week in the month) Contact Janet King 313946.

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

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

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 92nd 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– 17 February 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 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Charlotte Williams 07968207442

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

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

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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

1.30pm 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

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

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly) February 4 Afternoon Meeting 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 29 January 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 15 January 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

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 29 January Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

Thursday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Pre School Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

9.30am 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 (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 Watkins .

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

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. 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 in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

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

Friday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

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

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

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

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

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

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

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

Saturday

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

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

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

Sunday

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

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

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

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

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

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 25 February
St Mark's Leadership Team - 20 May, 9 September
Annual Congregational Meetings
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
Putnoe Church Council - 18 February
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee -
Commemoration Service
Circuit meeting - Deanery Meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees–
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –
10 February 2014 1.30pm

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

Epiphany 3

Sentence of Scripture -Psalm 27 v 1

The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?

Collect Prayer for the Day -

Before we read we pray

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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.



Immediately they
left their nets
and followed him

First Bible Reading - Isaiah 9:1-4

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan - The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

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

Second Bible Reading - 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, I follow Paul; another, I follow Apollos; another, I follow Cephas; still another, I follow Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptised into the name of Paul? I am thankful that I did not baptise any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no-one can say that you were baptised into my name. (Yes, I also baptised the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptised anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the gospel— not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 4:12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali — to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. From that time on Jesus began to preach, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near. As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers; Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men. At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father, whose Son Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of His glory, that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for He is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise)

1. Christ is made the sure foundation, 73 (*Westminster Abbey*)
2. For I'm building a people of power, 151
3. Will you come and follow me, *On Partnership News*
4. May the mind of Christ my saviour, 463 (*Tune St Leonards*)
5. The Kingdom of God, 651 (*Tune Hanover*)

Commentary

We don't really know why James and John followed Jesus, or why their father who was in the boat with them at the time, did not. John's gospel tells us that Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist so perhaps the men already know about Jesus, or even knew Him. It's not clear whether Jesus has done lots of supernatural things to attract people to Himself, or done great healing or miracles, if so they are not recorded in the Gospels. According to Matthew all He seems to have done is go to the local synagogues and preached a few times. Preached just a simple message of repentance and the fact that the Kingdom of God had come near. And perhaps the four fishermen were not so much attracted to the message of repentance, but more to the message that Jesus was preaching about the Kingdom of Heaven being at hand, and saw in Jesus the personification of the popular vision of the promised Messiah as a military leader who had come to overthrow the Romans and restore Israel to the Jews. But follow Jesus they did, and it is as a result of their faith and the faith of others like them that we find ourselves here today. And our call to follow Jesus is the same as theirs.

Following an itinerant preacher like Jesus implied that life was never going to be static and that they were therefore always going to be on something of a journey. There was an initial decision to follow Him, followed by the actions (and upheaval) that it would entail. The disciples did not know where it would lead them or the joy and hardships which were to come, but they followed Jesus. They embarked on their own personal journeys, drawn by the attraction of Jesus and what He said. In the same way,

Jesus invites us as His followers on that same journey, invites us to come to know more and more about Him and His relevance for us and the world as we walk with Him on the journey of our lives. And in the same way, our spiritual lives should not remain static and our faith should develop from our early understandings as we follow Him. Like the early disciples we may not know what we are being called to. Like them, we may not have witnessed miracles of healing or acts of supernatural activity. But like those early fishermen, we are called to leave our own nets, those things which give us earthly security, and follow Him.

We know that the fishermen disciples from time to time went back to their nets. But when they did it was with a different outlook. Jesus, the Messiah was their security, not their earthly skills or possessions. 'Come, follow me', says Jesus. The invitation is His, the response is ours. A response we are called to make and remake every day of our Christian journey, as last week's Covenant Service and Renewal of Baptism vows reminded us. It was an invitation that was in one of the very opening paragraphs of Pope Francis' recent encyclical, *Evangelli Gaudium*. In it he says this,

'I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord". The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realise that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus, "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once again into your redeeming embrace".'

He goes on to quote Pope Benedict, *'Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction'*.

He continues, *'Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter... ...we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.'* **Sam Cappleman**

Meditation

When we are following Christ, God does not mind if we have questions, does not mind if we don't always understand what is happening and why things are the way they are in the world. He wants us, as spiritual descendants of those first disciples, to follow in their footsteps, faithfully following Him as best as we are able with our imperfect understanding of Him and His ways. The uniqueness of the Christian faith is that it is dependent on the uniqueness of Christ, not on a perfect knowledge or understanding of God. And in that uniqueness there is absolute unity, based on the unshakable truths of the gospel message. A unity that Paul was keen to stress to the Corinthian Church. We may express our Christian faith in different ways, but as Christians we are all uniquely united in Christ. Our challenge is to live out that unity every day.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

As the beautiful, dew covered rose rises from amongst its thorns, so may my heart be so full of love for you my God, that I may rise above the storms and evils that assail me, and stand fast in trust and freedom of spirit. Amen. *Hadewijch of Brabant - 13th Century*

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

God of dawning light, hear our prayers today and give us the strength to put aside all cares and follow you in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen



The St Albans Diocese of the Church of England, which covers Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, are holding an event at Keysoe in Bedford to celebrate 100 years of the Diocese.

This is a unique opportunity which will see the largest ever gathering of the Diocese on 25 August 2014 at the College Equestrian Centre, Keysoe. Coaches are already being booked by churches from places as far afield as Watford, Stevenage, Leighton Buzzard and Sharnbrook.

Plans are already in place to provide facilities for over 5,000 visitors to be accommodated safely as we know that this free event will attract many people who have little or no connection with churches but will be attracted by this free event, with no charges for parking.

Entitled Celebrate 100 the event will combine fun activities, shows and displays from 10.00am until 5.00pm. Classic car displays will include cars from across the last 100 years, including a special display of vehicles from the entire history of MG. There will be a large outdoor stage and if weather is good we would expect that bands will continue to play into the evening. Hosted by Pam Rhodes of Songs of Praise there are many professional performers who have been booked to contribute to the entertainment. In the event of wet weather the event not be cancelled but moved indoors into the equestrian arena.

This special day will start at 10.00am and run into the early evening. Please put this date in your diary and come and help Celebrate 100

The Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John Dean of St Albans Cathedral will be returning to BELIEF to speak on **'Means of Grace'** Saturday, 22 February, 2014 10.00am to 1.00pm St Andrew's Church Centre, Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2PF £10 per person, payable on the day register in the 'Contact' section of www.beliefbeds.org, email belief@standrewsbedford.org phone 01234 330314

County Ecumenical Development Officer
Are you passionate about working alongside Christians from other traditions? Are you a self starter with organisational skills? Churches Together in Bedfordshire needs a County Ecumenical Development Officer 10 hours a week Starting Salary: £24,564 pro rata Closing date for applications: 31st January 2014 Interviews: Week commencing 17 February 2014 Further details: <http://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/bedfordshire/>

Footprints walk Sunday 2nd February.
Meet at 2.00pm at Marston Country Park Visitor Centre (where there are toilet and refreshment facilities) for circular walk including paths round Stewartby Lake. Distance can be agreed according to the conditions on the day. Sue & Gerry Allen.

Brickhill Green Day . Two great events on one great day to be held on Sunday 26 January 2014 from 12noon-4pm.

Big Energy Saving Show at St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise. Help and advice on energy saving, switching suppliers etc. Also face painting, drawing and games for children.

Admission free.

Brickhill Green Open Homes A number of residents are showing changes made to make them more energy efficient. Call into St Mark's Church Community Centre on the day to pick up a map and details or see <http://Brickhill.greenopenhomes.net> then visit the homes to meet the residents and get ideas.

Free Prize Draw Visitors to the Brickhill Green Open Homes and Big Energy Saving Show can also take part in the free draw with prizes totalling £100.

New Year Lunch The proceeds from the New Year Lunch at Putnoe Heights amounted to £250.00 which has been added to Church Funds. Thanks to all who supported the event and for all the help so freely and cheerfully given. Sue

Thank you to everyone at Putnoe Heights Church who has supported and continues to support our valuable missions project "Tiddlers" [donations of small change] on Sunday mornings. In 2013 we raised £446. This helped towards our donations to Christian Aid to support their work in helping Syrian refugees £250 and £350 to Save The Children in response to their appeal following the Philippines typhoon.

Congratulations. We have received the wonderful news of the safe arrival of Douglas Gait a son to Hannah and Jonnie, making proud grandparents of Sam and Jennie. We send them all our very best wishes.



Photo of Bishop Alan who was introduced to the House of Lords on 4 November 2013

Visit of Bishop Alan

Bishop Alan has recently agreed to come and visit us and preach at our services of February 9. Please do put this date in your diaries as we would like to give him a special welcome. There will be cake served after the service with refreshments.



Lent 2014

This year we are going to do something very different for Lent and we want as many people as possible to join and hopefully also invite friends to come along. On Wednesday 9 April we will be hosting a performance of the Passion Play Inheritance by the Riding Lights Theatre Company at St Mark's. This is a meditative and reflective opportunity to consider the Passion and our response. We will be issuing tickets soon but for now it is important to have the date in your diary

A Hymn for Sunday

Will you come and follow me,
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

If you are elderly or living alone

then it is important for us to be able to keep in contact with you. Please sign up for Telecare and we will give you a telephone call every week or fortnight to check if all is well. This enable us to keep track if somebody is ill and cannot come to church. We would like more people to join so just give St Mark's office a ring and they will put you on the list.

This is a telephone service, nobody will call without your request



Jesus, the light of the world, calls us to follow.
Go and tell the news of God's love.
Cast the nets of grace wide,
that all may see the glory of God.
Go forth and shine with God's light!
May God—Source, Word, and Spirit—
bless you with the radiance of love.

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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.

Kathleen Hooley

*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 Kenneth
Sylvester** will take place at
St Mark's Church on Monday
27 February at 11.00am