



# Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church**  
**27 August 2017**  
**Trinity 11 Ordinary 21**



## Sunday Services

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

### 27 August 2017 - Trinity 11 Ordinary 21

**9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship**  
Preacher - The Reverend Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mr Jim Williams  
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship**  
Preacher - The Reverend Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mr Barry Southam  
Intercessions - Ministers  
Organist - Mrs. Pam Kinselley

### 3 September 2017 - Trinity 12 Ordinary 22

**9.30am St Mark's - Morning Family Worship**  
Preacher - The Reverend Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Wendy Waters  
Intercessions - Mrs Wendy Waters  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds  
**11.00 am Putnoe - All Age Worship**  
Preacher - The Reverend Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Sue Allen  
Intercessions - Young People  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

**Readings** 1. Jeremiah 15: 15-21  
2. Romans 12: 9-21 3. Matthew 16: 21-28  
Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Marilyn and Tony Bailey to celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary.



*We are always pleased when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the Foyers.*

## Prayer for Sunday

O 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*

**The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman**  
Assistant Rural Dean of Bedford  
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41  
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

**The Reverend Wendy Evans-Wood**  
c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre  
Tel: 346317 wendyevanswood@yahoo.co.uk

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

**Reader: Mrs Wendy Waters**  
**Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator**  
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.*

**Partnership News** is sent out by email every Saturday in a colour edition. To receive a copy please email vicar@thisischurch.com. 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)**

**St Mark's Churchyard Administrator**  
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

**Putnoe Heights Church Centre**  
**Open Mon-Thur 9-5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm**  
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager:** Post vacant. 365630  
**Leadership Team** Mrs Sue Allen 407264  
**Treasurer** Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
**Youth Team Leader** Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

**St. Mark's Church Centre Charity No 1164416**  
**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**  
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Mrs Wendy Waters  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892  
treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Jim Williams 360605  
Music Copyright CCL1501



# Regular Weekly Activities - Putnoe Heights Church

## 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  
**9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates** –Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430  
**12.00 noon Storybox** Welcomes under 5's and carers to between 12noon and 1pm. Sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630  
**2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation** Chris Fordham 217396  
**2.00pm U3A Italian** – fortnightly Chris Fordham 217396  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths** Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**6.15 pm Brownies** . Sharon Tanner 01767 699399 email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk  
**6.15-7.15pm Pilates** Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**7.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**6.30pm-8pm Cubs** Ages 8 –10.5 Michelle Davis 07711916870 email: michelle@putnoescouts.org  
**6.30pm Fit For All** – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567  
**7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit** Diane Field 01234 404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Jenny Snelson 344417  
**11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit** Chris Fordham 217396  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** meets monthly. Jo Fordham (President) 01234 217396 Margaret Bull (President) 01234 267866 Cheryl Gardner (President) 01234 261584  
**2.30pm. Ladies Tuesday Club** (meets monthly) Next Meeting Tuesday 18 July - Priory Marina. Details Diane Bayliss 268101  
**2.30-4.30 U3A Play Reading** Chris Fordham 217396  
**6.30pm– 8.00pm Cubs** 6.30pm—8.00pm Ages 8-10.5 michelle@putnoescouts.org

## Wednesday

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.  
**10am-12 Community Coffee Morning** (Fortnightly) Next date 21 June contact Jenny Snelson 365630  
**11.00am U3A Keep Fit.** Chris Fordham 217396  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Fortnightly. Next meeting 12 July, Closed till 6 September - Putnoe Office 365630  
**2-4pm U3A Ukulele Group.** Beginners welcome. Contact Chris Fordham 217396  
**2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Mrs Webster 856966  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Mrs Rakha Mistry 01908 392698  
**5.00–6.00pm Rainbows** Mrs Gill Lake 218091  
**6.15-7.15pm ATSK Karate** Kevin Stark 01234 353865  
**7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts** ages 10.5-14; Michelle Davis 07711916870 email:michelle@putnoescouts.org  
**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095  
**7.15pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

## Thursday

**8.15-2.15pm Sing & Sign.** Julie Warriner **01767 691488**  
**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.  
**10.00-12pm U3A Painting & Sketching** Chris Fordham 217396  
**1.30pm-3.00p.m Play and Learn**(Dropin) Trudy 341977  
**2pm –4pm U3A Current Affairs** Chris Fordham 217396  
**2.30pm-3.30pm U3A Spanish** (Weekly) Chris Fordham 217396  
**5.15-8.15pm NHS Eat Smart Think Active** Laura Rocket 355122  
**6.00pm-7.30pm Beavers** 6-8 michelle@putnoescouts.org  
**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Brennan. 07919402797.  
**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Monthly second Thursday in the month. Sandra White 313645  
**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale 406094  
**8.00pm Bedford Folk Dancers** (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly with different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2. Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

## Friday

**9.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival** Elena 01234 266968  
**9.30am –3.30pm Machine Knitting** group 2nd week per month.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647  
**10am-12 U3A French Conversation** Chris Fordham 217396  
**2pm U3A Gardening** Chris Fordham 217396  
**6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers** Ages 6-8 Michelle Davis 07711916870 email: michelle@putnoescouts.org

## Saturday

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Terry Fletcher 357198  
**2.15pm Society of Recorder Players** at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

## Sunday

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

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** - 26 September, 22 November & 21 February 2018  
**St Mark's Leadership Team**-18 September, 6 Nov  
**Annual Congregational Meetings** - 15 April 2018  
**Putnoe Leadership Team** – 9 Oct.  
**Putnoe Management Meeting** – 11 Oct  
**Putnoe Church Council** - 17 October  
**Pastoral Group Meeting** – 12 September 4pm  
**Churchyard Committee** -  
**Circuit Meeting** —  
**Deanery meeting** -  
**Woodland Burial Trustees** –  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** -  
**St Marks Messy Church** - 20 September

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

# Regular Weekly Activities - St Mark's Church

## Monday

**7.30am-6.00pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's

**7.30am-6.00pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's

Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

**9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery**

Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** Mrs M. Berry 211955

**10.00am U3A Playreading** Chris Fordham 217396

**9.45am - 10.45am & 11.00am-12noon Pilates** Liz Mason  
07816522200

**6.00pm Brownies** Mrs C Mathew 826190

**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's (1st week in month)  
Mary Daly 217127

**7.00pm Cancer Care Society.** (1st week in month)  
Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.

**7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club** on 2nd week each month  
Cheryl Green 07729187399

**7-9pm Rangers.** Nikki Lake 07584028653

**7.15pm Guides.** Mrs Gill Lake 218091

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** Weeks 3 & 5 in the month. Next meeting- 18 September  
Judith Stanton. 823313

## Tuesday

**9.15am-11.15. Chat & Make** A term time group for Mums and toddlers 0-5. For more details ring St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World**

9.30, 11.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30. Lorrie Pearson 340473

**1.15pm U3A Cinema Group.** Chris Fordham 217396

**1.30pm U3A Choir.** Chris Fordham 217396

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** (3rd Week in month)

Contact Chris Fordham 217396

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** (2nd Week in month)

Contact Chris Fordham 217396

**2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3** (1st Week in month)

Contact Chris Fordham 217396

**2.30pm Knit & Natter Group.** (Alternate Tuesdays)

Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

**2.00-3.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** A social and Bible Study group. Meets alternate Tuesdays. Mrs Jean Bank 355698

**6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga** Amanda Alcock  
07769747393

**7.15-8.15pm Pilates** Jane Butcher 07891879571

**7.30-9pm Faith Community Church** Audua Ogilvie  
01234 308644

**8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee** (4th week in month)  
Mrs N Aspey 309816

## Wednesday

**10.00-2pm Open House** for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters  
342613.

**10.00am U3A Gardening Group 3** Chris Fordham  
217396

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

**10am U3A Card Making,** Chris Fordham 217396

**10-4pm Sewing group** 4th week of the month. Contact Sue Sewell 07979797747

**1.15pm Social Bridge Club** Mr Barnes 261811

**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** 1st week of the month  
Chris Fordham 217396

**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 20th September. Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

**6.00pm Brownies.** Mrs C Warden 219731

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 6 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Call Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details or come and join our friendly group and have a try.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** ( Week 1 in the month) Jill Cooper 357960

## Thursday

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

**12pm Storybox** . We 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

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** Chris Fordham 217396

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society**

**5.15-6.45pm Weightwatchers** Jodi Henderson  
07449890830

**6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga** Amanda Alcock  
07769747393

**7.00pm U3A Singing for Fun** (1st & 3rd week in month)  
Chris Fordham 217396

**7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild**

(3rd week in month). Carol Plant 01832710504

**7.30pm Magpies Ladies Group** St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month ) Next meeting 14 September - Our Annual Charity Sale in aid of B.O.L.D.Call Rosemary 405594 for more details and visit our friendly group.

**7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Rose Beal 212157

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

## Friday

**10am -12.00 U3A Photography** (4th week in month)  
Contact Chris Fordham 217396

**10.45am - 12 U3A Poetry & Literature** St. Marks

Contact Chris Fordham 217396

**2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist** (2nd week in month) Contact Chris Fordham 217396

**7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation** Cheryl Green 7729187399

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

**6.30 -8.30pm Pakua Martial Arts** John Waugh  
07802755914

## Saturday

**9.00am Faith Community Church** (1st week in month)  
Audua Ogilvie 01234 308644

**10.00-1pm Theatretrain** Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard 01234 782414

## Sunday

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

# Ordinary 21

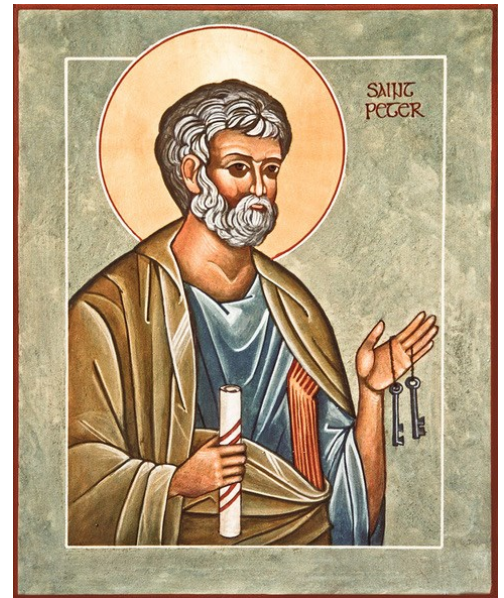
## Opening Verse of Scripture - Romans Chapter 11

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

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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.

*Common Worship*



## First Bible Reading - Isaiah 51: 1-6

"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD : Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many. The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. "Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: The law will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail. (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 & Hymn Sheets*)

Jesu, lover of my soul (Aberystwyth)  
Think of a world without any flowers (Genesis)  
God is working his purpose out (Benson) MP  
We are called to be God's people (Festival)  
Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go (Angel's Song)

### **Commentary**

Traditionally the Apostle Peter was martyred in Rome and buried on Vatican Hill, Constantine later built the basilica there to honour him. In 1950 Pope Paul VI announced that bone shards belonging to St Peter had been found, and there we have the continuity from today all the way back through the popes to Peter, the first Bishop of Rome.

I like Peter because he is the Patron Saint of fishermen and also because we know quite a lot about him from the gospels. There is also a lot of tradition which surrounds his life and subsequent death by crucifixion.

He was originally known as Simeon (Hebrew) or Simon (Greek). The change of name is described in the bible reading today. Jesus tells Simon that he will be called Peter, because he will be a rock upon which the church will be built. The Greek form of Peter is 'Petros' and it means 'rock'. In the Gospel of John these words are spoken to Peter at a different time, right at the beginning of the Gospel, just after his brother Andrew has introduced Simon to Jesus.

We are told in John that Peter was from Bethsaida (John 1:44) but we also know that Peter lived in Capernaum (Luke 4:31) and the house where he is believed to have lived is there today. He was married but we do not know much about his wife apart from the fact that she accompanied Peter on his mission trips (1 Corinthians Chapter 9:5) and we are told that Jesus healed her mother.

Peter and his brother Andrew were sons of a man called John. They were fishermen but they were summoned by Jesus to be his followers and they left their fishing nets and everything behind to follow Jesus. It was local men like these that Jesus selected from his own community to be his trusted followers. As a fisherman on Lake Galilee, Peter would have to be a strong and brave man, this was not the occupation of those who were afraid of hard and dangerous work. Galilee has strong storms which quickly occur and threaten the lives of those in wooden fishing boats. Peter was a man who also knew not just this physical, but also financial hardship as he tried to earn a living under heavy taxation from Rome. Archaeologists have found fishing boats, even from the first century, such as Peter would have owned and from which Jesus preached. These were not just small dinghies, but represented substantial investment and Peter might well have had many men he employed to work for him on the fishing boat. We know that Peter was the actual owner of one of these boats because we are told that it was his boat from which Jesus preached to the crowd on the shore (Luke 5:3). We know that after the death of Jesus, Peter was found back on his boat fishing again. He had returned to his old occupation and Jesus told him how to catch a huge haul of fish by casting on the other side.

In the Gospel today, Peter is shown to be special because he was the first of the disciples to declare Jesus to be the Christ. Peter was never slow to step forward and perhaps he said what others were thinking but were too afraid to say. What is clear is that his faith in Jesus was to set him on a path through life that would never allow him to just go back to the fishing. If Peter had any thoughts that confessing Jesus as Christ would mean that they had all won the equivalent of the spiritual lottery, those thoughts would immediately be shattered by Jesus telling that his purpose was not the traditional one associated with being a Christ. Jesus knows he must be nailed to a cross and having praised Peter for his confession of faith he rebukes him in words which we would hardly believe possible to come from Jesus. Peter had been anointed by Jesus as a leader, then he had been rebuked and his words linked with Satan. It is interesting for Christian Leaders of all kinds to reflect upon the burdens associated with service. Sometimes it might feel easier to be one of the quiet ones who follows where the Peter's of this world lead!

Whatever Peter felt after his rebuke it never changed him that much. When Jesus was arrested by night in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter was not going to stand idly by and see anybody just march off with his Lord. We know that those who came to arrest Jesus came fully prepared, there was a Roman Commander with a detachment of soldiers. Peter acts like a swashbuckling hero and draws a sword and

attacks the would be captors. Scoring a direct hit he chops off the ear of a man called Malchus who was the servant of the High Priest. Jesus replaces the man's ear and this healing miracle was the last miracle which Jesus performed before the crucifixion. Jesus understood that it was necessary for him to be arrested as part of the work of God's kingdom. Peter makes the mistake in using violence, the normal means for establishing kingdoms.

Having displayed courage in the presence of overwhelming military odds he goes on to commit what appears to be a monumental act of cowardice by denying Jesus. However Peter doesn't run away when they arrest Jesus, he follows with another disciple and ends right up in the courtyard of the High Priest's house, sitting by a courtyard fire while Jesus is held inside as prisoner. We mentioned that Peter came from Bethsaida and Capernaum, that is significant because it meant that he had a northern accent. It was this which made him stand out and three times he is accused of being associated with Jesus who was also from 'up north' and they would both have sounded the same. He had placed himself in a very dangerous situation close to the high priest and those he had personally attacked with a sword. We will never know how afraid he was when he denied Jesus, but he was no coward. He was willing to fight to protect Jesus and it is reasonable to expect that he was ready and willing before all others to die fighting with a sword in his hand. What he seems to be afraid of was taking the path of non resistance which Jesus had decided he would take. For a hard, brave and courageous man such as he, it was almost unthinkable to allow your master to be taken without a fight and he is left feeling bewildered as he sits in the most dangerous place imaginable outside where Jesus is prisoner.

Peter had promised that he would never deny Jesus, he had been told in response by Jesus that he would deny him three times. However that prophecy now comes true as Peter three times denies that he knows Jesus. One of those challenges even comes from another of the high priests servants who was also a relative of Malchus. No wonder that Peter would not have wanted to own up to having attacked his relative with a sword!

When Jesus is eventually led to death on a cross the world which Peter knew was turned upside down and he was forced to change his expectations of what God's kingdom was really like and how it would be established. After Jesus death Peter ends up fishing once more and Jesus appears while the disciples are out in a boat fishing. Jesus has a barbeque going on the shore and they have fish for breakfast. Jesus asks Peter if he loves him three times, and as Peter answers positively each time, Jesus commissions him to take on the work of caring for his followers. Apparently Jesus wants people like Peter. Folks who want to serve him and are willing to get stuck in, even if they don't have all the answers and are willing to make mistakes and accept forgiveness.

In the days ahead Peter went on to be a faithful servant. He continued to make mistakes, some of them quite big ones! One big issue was whether Gentiles must become Jews if they want to become also followers of Jesus. Peter and Paul believed that Gentiles do not have to become Jews before they become Christians, all are equal. Yet we know that Peter stumbled over this and briefly succumbed to a challenge by James the brother of Jesus who had become the leader of the church in Jerusalem. It was the Apostle Paul who rebuked him on this occasion and brought him to his senses.

Peter was a man of some considerable contradictions; first out of the boat he was inevitably the one who would sink beneath the waves, the one who could not bear to have Jesus wash his feet - he then wanted Jesus to wash his head and hands. However make no mistake his role was crucial to the growth of the early church. He was the first person to go inside the empty tomb. He was spokesperson for the disciples and he is one of those chosen by Jesus to be at the big occasions such as the Transfiguration.

We know that he went on to preach at Pentecost, to be arrested and defend the faith to the Jewish leaders and subsequently to conduct mission tours with his wife to spread the faith. We sing a song '*Silver and gold have I none*' which reminds us that miracles are attributed to Peter including the one in which he healed a man who was unable to walk. The death of Peter is not recorded in the Bible but we believe that he died about AD64 in Rome. Traditionally he was martyred in Rome under Nero by crucifixion, but insisted that he be crucified upside down as he was not worthy to die like Jesus. *Charles Royden*

### **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

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*

## **St Mark's Church Bank Holiday Monday Car Boot Sale 28 August 2017**

Our last car boot is coming up on Monday 28 August. This will be your last chance to clear out your cupboards etc. As usual the Church will be open on Sunday 27 if you would like to bring your donations up for the Church Stall. We are appealing for Homemade cakes and tray bakes which can also be brought up on the morning or the afternoon before and left in the kitchen. If anyone is willing to help on the day we would very much like to see you. Your support is very much appreciated.

Please also remember that this will be followed by a barbeque at the vicarage at 2.00pm for our hard working volunteers Many thanks Avril Williams.

**St Mark's Junior Church** restarts on Sunday 10 September. **Chat and Play** will take place on 31 August from 9.30 - 11.30 during the holidays and restart on 14 September. **Story Box** restarts 7 September 2017

**Putnoe Heights Junior Church** will not be meeting during August. We will meet again on Sunday 3 September for our All Age Service at 11am. **Storybox** will start next term on Monday 11 September at 12 noon.

**Footprints walk 3.September** - We will be exploring Sandy Smith Nature Reserve near Clophill. A walk of about 3miles on grassy tracks with a few up and downs but no stiles. Meet at 2.30 by Speeds Dairy Farm SG17 5PL. Drive straight through Clophill Village, road bends right. Follow track sign post to reserve Liz and Mike Little 347966



**St Mark's Country and Western Night** with live band Nine Blind Ravens. Tickets go on sale this week for a great night out on Saturday 2 September. It is a little while since we had one of themed nights so expect this to be a fantastic night. Tickets at £8 include all entertainment and food. Please bring your own drinks.

**Putnoe Heights Fairtrade Stall.** We are now on Facebook - find us at Fairtrade/GoldingtonPutnoe and follow for stall news, Traidcraft campaign updates, Fairtrade events in Bedford and beyond, sneak peeks at new lines and much more. The next stalls will be 3 September and 5 November 2017.

**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. Anyone who would like to join the scheme is asked to speak to John Hitt or Lawrence Wyatt.

**Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch.** Tickets are now available for Harvest Lunch on Sunday 1 October. Pie, mash and veg with seasonal desserts. Soft drinks included. £7.00 (£3.50 for under 10's)

**Data Protection** Please note that if you hold any data on behalf of St Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church you must read the policy and complete the data protection form.

The church councils have notified the Information Commissioner (A8185767) in respect of their activities in relation to the Data Protection Act. We are therefore lawfully registered to hold data but we must do so in accordance with the legal requirements of the Act. It may be that you have questions about the process or the method of handling data, if you do wish to have any support then please contact me and we I go through this process with you and offer all the help required. Thank you once again for all that you do and for helping us keep data safe.

**Bedford Deanery Synod** You are invited to the Annual General Meeting of Trustees and members of Synod when David and Suzette Maguire will give a report on their work in Great Denham and West Kempston on Monday 11 September 2017 at 7.30pm at The Barn, Church End, Biddenham. This is sponsored by the Bishop's Mission Order for Great Denham and West Kempston. Please support this meeting.

**St Mark's Church Sunday Rota** until after Christmas is available for you to make changes on the master copy. Please do so and then in a week or so we will email it out to everybody and make it available for download on the church website. Can I take this opportunity to thank all of you for all that you do to enhance our Sunday worship by helping in this way. *Charlie*

**Putnoe Heights Centre Manager.** Krystyna Oborn has accepted the position as Centre Manager at Putnoe Heights and will be in post from 4 September 2017. We welcome Krystyna and look forward to working with her in the future.

**Bedford Food Bank** are very grateful for all the donations given via St Mark's. They are running low on the following items Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned fruit, Tinned Spaghetti Hoops, Tinned soup, Tinned Tuna, UHT Milk, UHT Fruit Juice, Tinned Rice Pudding, Jam, Cup-a-soup, Tinned Meat eg Beef, Chicken—not corned beef or ham please) Granulated sugar (500g + 1kg bags), Tinned custard, Rice (500g or less).

## Telecare



### Telecare

We have dedicated pastoral volunteers who make regular telephone contact with everybody on Telecare. 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.

### Supporting Putnoe Heights and St Mark's Church

How can you show your support for the work and mission of our churches?

1. Set up a regular donation
2. Make a one-off donation or gift for the work of the church
3. Leave a gift in your will
4. Offer some time as a volunteer

### Partnership News by Email

As part of our move to implement better Data Protection in our churches, Partnership News is now being sent out by Mailchimp a programme which also allows you to subscribe and unsubscribe easily. This has involved building a new subscriber list so if you have stopped receiving partnership news please email me and let me know - vicar@thisischurch.com



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On our website homepage you will see these banners. Please shop by using these links on our website and make a point of always going to Amazon through the link on [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com). If you look at an item through Amazon direct they put a cookie on your machine and we don't get any commission! Please make it a habit to always go through the church website.

**www.easyfundraising.com.** This works exactly the same when you shop with over 2,500 shops including John Lewis, M&S and a whole host of other main shops. This has an added benefit that you will also get some special offers - you can't lose ! Please click the link on the church website go online and sign up now. Both of these cost you nothing and we can receive commission so please sign up. Please always go shopping online via [ThisisChurch.com](http://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.



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



### Forthcoming Funerals

**There are no forthcoming funerals**

*All funerals at Bedford Crematorium can be found @ [www.bedford.gov.uk/obituaries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/obituaries)*