



# Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
28 June 2015  
Ordinary 13



## Sunday Services

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

### 28 June Ordinary 13

**9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship with Baptisms**

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean  
Intercessions - Mr. Mike Elliot  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

**11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship**

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon  
Intercessions - Dr. Tim Wilkes  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

### 5 July Ordinary 14

**9.30am St Mark's- Family Worship & Baptism**

Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters  
Leadership - Mr. Jim Williams  
Intercessions - Mr. Richard Ledger  
Organist - Mr John Mower

**11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Family Worship**

Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters  
Leadership - Mrs. Jenny Snelson  
Intercessions - Young People  
Organist - Mr. Peter Twitchin

**Readings** 1. Ezekiel 2: 1-5 2. 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10  
3. Mark 6: 1-13

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

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights have been given by Doreen Denny in memory of her husband Len on his birthday and by Harry and Margery Charie to celebrate their wedding anniversary.



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

## Prayer for Sunday

Your love has never slackened nor ever shall. In love all your works have begun, by love you sustain them and in your love our life is everlasting. So let the beginning and ending of all our loving be to see our God for ever and ever. Amen.

*Julian of Norwich (c. 1343-c. 1417)*

### 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  
itsjanemills@gmail.com

### The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

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

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

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

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### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

### Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Mon-Thur 9-5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm**  
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Geoff Gypps 365630  
**Leadership Team** Mr Barry Southam 219714  
barrysoutham@aol.com  
**Treasurer** Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
**Youth Team Leader** Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

### St. Mark's Church Centre

Charity No 1160981.

**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**  
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Mrs Margaret Appleton 354708  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892  
treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm -  
**3.45pm** For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com  
**8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634  
(See website for more details)  
**9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery** Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634  
**9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430  
**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955  
**10.00am-12 U3A Play reading** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946  
**11.00am-12noon Pilates** St. Mark's Liz Mason 07816522200  
**12.00 noon Storybox** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630  
**1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time** for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts On April 20  
**2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Italian** Putnoe Heights– fortnightly  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active** at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Zoe Wilcox 07767311424  
**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190  
**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 07928483418 email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk  
**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859  
**6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**6.30pm-8pm Cubs** at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509  
**6.30pm Fit For All** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081  
**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's (1st week in month) Mary Daly 217127  
**7.00pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.  
**7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club** at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399  
**7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091  
**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's ( Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting–29 June Judith Stanton. 823313  
**7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club** St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567  
**7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

## Tuesday

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

**11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Contact Janet King 313946  
**1.15pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946  
**1.30pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895  
**2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's (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. Mrs Jean Bank 355698  
**3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468  
**6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga** St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393  
**7.15-8.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390  
**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 7 July Bring and Share with raffle Details Diane Bayliss 268101  
**8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee** St Mark's ( week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

## Wednesday

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.  
**10.00-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.  
**10.00am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946  
**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.  
**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks Contact Janet King 313946  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 1 July Contact Putnoe Office 365630  
**1.15pm Social Bridge Club** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811  
**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** at St Marks.Contact 1st week of the month. Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966  
**3.30-4.30pm Vita Fit** St Mark's starting 29 April for 6 weeks Liz Roe 07901684538  
**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 15 July 2015 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**5.00–6.00pm Rainbows** at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091  
**6.00pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731  
**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

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

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

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

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

**7.15pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 3446008.

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

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

### Thursday

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

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

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

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

**1.00-2.30pm Wiggles & Jiggles** Putnoe Heights. Drop in.

**1.00 - 2.30pm 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 07768481499

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

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

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284

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

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

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

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

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

**8.00pm Bedford Folk Dancers** (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50

Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

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

### Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Saturday

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

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

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

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

### Sunday

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

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

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

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

## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council—Thurs. 25 June 7.30pm**

**St Mark's Leadership Team -**

**Annual Congregational Meetings -**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -**

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting -**

**Putnoe Church Council -**

**Pastoral Group Meeting— 15 September 2015 4.00pm**

**Churchyard Committee - TBA**

**Circuit meeting -**

**Deanery meeting -**

**Woodland Burial Trustees -**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 28**

**September 2015 2.00pm**

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

**Harvest Festival** service will be on Sunday 27 September.

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

# Ordinary 13

## Sentence of Scripture 2 Corinthians 8

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

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

Lord of heaven and earth, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and power of your Church. Sow in our hearts the seeds of your grace, that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit, in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## First Bible Reading - Wisdom of Solomon 1: 13-15 2: 23-24

God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. For he created all things so that they might exist; the generative forces of the world are wholesome, and there is no destructive poison in them, and the dominion of Hades is not on earth. For righteousness is immortal. God created us for incorruption, and made us in the image of his own eternity, but through the devil's envy death entered the world, and those who belong to his company experience it.

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

## Second Bible Reading - 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15

But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little."

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

## Gospel Reading Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?" Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe." He did not let anyone follow him

except Peter, James and John the brother of James.

When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha kum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat. (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

### **Hymns for Sunday** *Please distribute Morning Worship and Baptism booklets*

1. We praise, we worship thee, O God (Tune: Church triumphant, Words: HP 443)
2. Come on and celebrate (Words: MP 99)
3. Safe in the shadow of the Lord (Tune: Creator God, Words: MP 583)
4. There's a wideness in God's mercy (Cross of Jesus, Words: MP 683)
5. Forth in thy name (Tune: Angel's Song, Words: MP 159)

### **Commentary**

#### **Two stories or one?**

At first reading it looks like Mark has interspersed one story with another. As the reading opens we hear about a Synagogue ruler called Jairus (probably the President of the Synagogue), coming to Jesus with a request. Just as this story begins to unfold another story seems to break into the narrative, that of a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years. Is it two stories or is it just one? There are certainly common elements. Both Jairus and the woman with bleeding, who interestingly remains anonymous throughout the story, come to Jesus driven by a fear that overcomes all of their other fears. Albeit for different reasons, they are both at their wits end and utterly desperate. No matter what else they may fear as a result of coming to Jesus, it falls into insignificance if there is even the slightest hope that in coming to Jesus things might change.

Jairus was an important man in the hierarchy of the Synagogue, probably one of the most important and influential members of those in authority. It was those associated with the Synagogue and the Jewish ruling party which had been so questioning of Jesus and everything He did. Now here was one of their elders coming to Jesus, falling at His feet and pleading with Him to save his daughter. Jairus risks the disapproval of his community, almost certain questioning and disapproval from his colleagues, friends and family to fall before Jesus. Jairus himself probably still had doubts and uncertainties about who Jesus was and what He was doing. But he is prepared to risk everything to save his daughter.

For the woman who had been bleeding for so long, her fears were probably less about status but about never being well again and always being tired and an outcast, seen as unclean by the people she lived with. She fears embarrassment of being found out and discovery and rejection by the crowd. She is even too frightened to ask Jesus for anything but merely hopes by touching Him something might happen to change her life. She too is desperate.

Probably coming from different directions both Jairus and the woman push and elbow their way to the place in the crowd where they can encounter Jesus. Jesus agrees to go with Jairus and they set off towards his house, with the crowds in tow, all looking to be in on the action. It's whilst they are on their way that the woman touches Jesus and the entourage comes to a halt. You can imagine the crowds almost willing Jesus on to Jairus' house, they don't want to get distracted by a woman who has just touched his clothes.

You can imagine Jairus thinking, 'Come on Jesus, we're losing time here, what's going on, don't allow yourself to get distracted. If you get distracted now we'll never get there and it will all be too late'. For neither Jairus nor the woman there seems to be no great statement of faith, it might seem as if they are reaching out to Jesus as a last resort, thinking 'I've tried everything else so I might as well see if this works.' But it is more than that. Whilst there is no great expression of faith there is for both of them a profound belief that Jesus could heal. They seemed to have heard what was possible, and whilst perhaps not understanding it, they believed that meeting Jesus and asking him to intervene would make a difference to their circumstances. They knew it was possible, and that Jesus could make a difference, He could heal and perform many other wonders, the doubt in their minds was would He for them. We see from Jesus' responses that He did. Even though He was held up going to meet Jairus' daughter He had time for both and restored both to healing and health.

Underlying the story there is also great symbolism, linking back as far as Genesis. A symbolism we might more often associate with the Gospel of John. But we should not confuse this symbolism with the

compassionate act of Jesus. Jesus may have wanted to make a point in the timing and manner in which these people were healed. Mark, the Gospel writer may have wanted to make a point in the way in which he retells the story and where he places it in His gospel. But central to the story are the compassionate acts of Jesus as He goes about His way, restoring creation to the way in which it was intended to be. This too is central to the theme of Mark. Mark shows Jesus in action, using the deeds of Jesus to emphasise who He is and why He has come into the world. He shows through these actions of Jesus that He is indeed God's Son.

The two stories in today's reading come immediately after Jesus has calmed the storm and the casting out of demons from the Gerasene man. Jesus has shown His power over the forces of nature. Jesus has shown His power over dark and demonic forces. Jesus now shows His power over sickness and death, seen by some as the ultimate sickness. In so doing we see the two stories become one. Underpinning all of the stories is the sense of hopelessness. The disciples thought they were beyond hope and about to die in the boat, the demoniac was beyond hope, Jairus felt he was in a hopeless situation and the woman with bleeding felt she too was beyond all hope. Yet in all of these hopeless situations Jesus acts and brings peace and hope and restores creation to its rightful state. He still does. Sometimes though, we too like Jairus, have to wait until God's good time. Sometimes we wonder why God does not appear to act in the way in which we would like or with the speed we would like. Sometimes it feels like we're just left tapping our feet and God does not care.

Just after these stories Jesus goes to His home town of Nazareth where He is rejected and the people question where His wisdom and power came from. Jesus is amazed at their lack of faith and He appears to say and do little while He is there. For both Jairus and the woman, their faith and belief in Jesus appear to be probably very fragile and uncertain. But in contrast to the people of Nazareth both Jairus and the woman understand that Jesus is more than just a miracle worker. Both show a faith which understands that in some way God Himself was at work in and through Jesus. Sometimes are we more like the people of Nazareth, just wanting Jesus (or God) to perform miracles, rather than like Jairus or the woman with bleeding who saw Jesus as able to offer hope and healing to broken lives and a fallen creation because of who He was, not just because of what He did? Jesus shows in healing both the woman and Jairus' daughter that He has healing power enough for all. His resources never run dry and He continues to want us to reach out to him in our need, even if we feel we only have the faintest glimmer of faith in Him and who He is. *Sam Cappleman*

### **Meditation**

Our first reading today comes from a group of 12 books known as the Apocrypha. Apocrypha is a Greek word meaning 'hidden'. Many of the Apocryphal writings are similar in style to Old Testament books such as Esther, Jeremiah, Chronicles and Daniel and date from the inter-testamental period. They were probably originally written in Hebrew or Aramaic but are only really known in their Greek form and included in the loosely defined Septuagint which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible. The books were included in the Canon of the Catholic Church in the Council of Trent held between 1545 and 1563 which had been prompted by the Reformation. Protestant understanding varies with some seeing these books more for 'private edification' whilst others use them in liturgy and worship too. The reading today comes from the book called 'The Wisdom of Solomon' seen by some to be the highlight of Jewish Wisdom writing. The book urges its readers to seek the wisdom that is to be found in God and not to abandon their ancestral faith and all the blessings that come from a unique relationship with God. In the times when the book was written there must have been increasing pressures from a modernising and more secular Greek culture but rather than be subsumed into this culture the writer of the Wisdom of Solomon urges the readers not to be conformed to the world in which they now find themselves living, but to live out and interpret their faith with and for those they find around them. It's a challenge we face today. How do we make our faith and the certainty of the risen Christ known in a relevant and meaningful way to those we meet so that they too can know the fullness and freedom this brings in a broken and fragmented world.

### **Prayers for Sunday and the Week ahead**

Lord, I know that you always respond to my most feeble cry, my most tentative reaching out towards you. Increase and strengthen this confidence in me that I shall never fear to bring all my need to you and come to you in faith to receive healing of body and spirit. Make me whole, as it is your will that all people should be whole, to praise your wonderful life and witness to the world. **Amen** *Raymond Chapman, Following the Gospel through the Year*

Father God, you give us stewardship over your creation. We are fellow workers with you in tending and caring for your world. Give us wisdom to use the resources you have given us fairly and equally, that all at the present time, and in the generations to come, may know the depth of your generosity and goodness. **Amen**

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen** *New Zealand Prayer Book*

**Footprints** and others, extra to the annual programme of walks we are trying to organise an all day walk encompassing a ride on the Cambridge guided busway into St Ives for lunch and a visit to Fen Drayton Lakes and RSPB reserve on the way back to our vehicles. The 29 August is the date. The distance walked will be about 3 miles the same as on a normal Sunday walk. Further details nearer the date. Alan and Margaret Tel No 327219

**Footprints Rockingham Weekend.** September 18 -21 A few rooms are still available at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on the outskirts of Corby close to Rockingham Castle. Dinner, bed and breakfast £40.00 per person per night. Beautiful countryside for walkers and many attractions in the area for non-walkers. Contact Barry Snelson 344417 for more details.

### **Partnership Mission**

Bishop Richard is joining us in the Partnership on the week commencing 13 July and he will be preaching at both services on Sunday 19 July During the week he will be visiting schools, lunch Club, Anjulita Court, and as many church activities as possible. Please put these dates in your diary

### **Brass Band and the Bishop**

**Tuesday 14 July** at St Mark's Church

An evening exploring the Christian faith with Bishop Richard addressing questions. There will be a brass band, refreshments on arrival and an opportunity to ask Bishop Richard questions about faith, life and the universe. Please do give us questions now so that we can plan the event. This is a free event and we want you to invite along people who do not usually come to church - Who can you bring ?

### **Brickhill Fete Saturday 18 July**

- During the day we will be providing a Church marquee for the Brickhill on the Green Fete.
- In the evening we are having a Caribbean Evening at Putnoe Heights with food and entertainment.

### **Caribbean Evening**

On Saturday 18 July we will be having a Caribbean evening at Putnoe Heights Church, beautiful Caribbean cuisine, entertainment etc. Tickets are £10 from Putnoe Heights Church Office.

### **Ways you can help**

- Make sure that you invite the Bishop to any activities which you have going on - speak with one of the ministers
- Please remember the Bishop and the Partnership Mission in your prayers and use these great opportunities to invite friends,
- Invite them along to the Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday services.

**Relaunching in September Daytime Discussion Group** Tuesdays at St Mark's Church. If you are

interested please talk to Jean Bank or Martin or Sue Fannon.

**The Annual Arthritis Collection** Envelopes will be available in the foyers of both churches on Sunday 28 June. Please hand donations into the office. All contributions welcome Marion Goddard

**A Service for Mid-summer** will be held at Highfield Residential Care Home on Sunday 28 June at 2.30pm. All welcome. Vera Pearson

**The Great Gappo At Putnoe Heights Church** on Monday 20 July 2015 12 noon to 2.00p.m. including sandwich lunch. Tickets £2.00 or £3.00 on the door Free to children under 1 yrs old. Raffle in aid of Church funds. For further details contact: Carolyn Morris Youth team leader Tel: 07751348925 email: youth@thisischurch.com Putnoe Heights Church office on Tel: 01234 365630

**Help Wanted.** On Friday 17 July we will be erecting the church marquee on the green in Brickhill. If you can lend a helping hand then please join us any time after 10.00am. There will be jobs for people of all physical abilities from putting up poles to making tea.

**Methodist Women in Britain** Open House will be held at the home of Jenny Broadbridge, District President, at 25 Cambridge Way. Langford, SG18 9SG on Thursday 16 July from 11am to 3pm. Refreshments and lunches available. (In aid of Dalit Solidarity project). See notice in foyer for details.

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

**St Mark's Junior Church** The last Junior Church, before the summer holidays will be held on 12 July. Junior Church will begin again on 13 September when we will look forward to welcoming the children back.

### **Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra.**

Summer Concert Presenting a Night at the Opera including: Barber of Seville Overture and Grand March of Aida.

Putnoe Heights Church Saturday 11th July 2015 at 7.30pm. details on [www.bcco.org.uk](http://www.bcco.org.uk). Tickets on the door.

## Bishop Richard's Partnership Mission

Please see below our provisional calendar of events for the Bishops Mission. This is very much a work in progress but we would like comments, requests etc so that we can finalise the events. Please put the Tuesday and Saturday in your diary and think who you can bring along. *We want to invite people to our church !*

	Tuesday 14 July	Wednesday 15 July	Thursday 16 July	Friday 17 July	Saturday 18 July	Sunday 19 July
<b>Morning</b>	School Visit  Preschool visit to Putnoe 10.30am	School visit  Holy Communion  Open House	No activities Bishop not available			8.30am Service 9.30am St Mark's 11.00am Putnoe
<b>Afternoon</b>	St Mark's Preschool  Anjulita Court  Homegroup	Putnoe Lunch Club  Messy Mission			Brickhill on the Green event  Partnership Church Marquee	
<b>Evening</b>	'Brass Band and the Bishop' Question time, entertainment at St Mark's (Free event)				Caribbean Evening at Putnoe Heights Church	

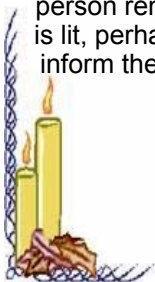
**Community Coffee Mornings** to be held at Putnoe Heights Church Centre on Wednesday July 8 and Thursday July 23 from 10am to 12 noon. Come and Enjoy a coffee and chat with friends.

**St Andrews Church Fete** Saturday 11 July 10am-12.30pm. Proceeds in aid of St Andrew's Church organ fund. For further details see poster on St Mark's notice board.

**St. Andrews Music for a Summer's Evening**  
Flute Recital 18 July 7.30pm  
Joanna Reveley - Flute Simon Gilliver - Piano  
An evening of charming music by JS Bach, Reinecke, Gaubert, Martinu and Ian Clarke.  
Admission by donation. Proceeds to the Organ Fund. Interval Refreshments.

### Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office



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

### Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Barbara Harpin** at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 29 June at 10.00am

**The funeral of Samuel David McCullogh** at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on Thursday 2 July

**The funeral of Raymond Frederick Sexton** at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 3 July at 2.30pm.

**The funeral of Edward 'Ted' Davis** at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 6 July at 12.15pm