



# Partnership News

28 February 2010



## Second Sunday in Lent

### Partnership Church Services Today

#### 8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

#### 9.30am St. Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart  
Intercessions – Mrs. Delia Shephard

#### 11.00am Putnoe Heights – Celebration of 100 years of Guiding

Preacher – Led by 1st & 4th Putnoe Brownies  
Leadership — Mrs Sam Ware  
Intercessions – 1st & 4th Putnoe Brownies

### Third Sunday of Lent, 7 March 2010

#### 9.30am St. Mark's Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher - Mrs Liz Little  
Leadership – Mr M Ovenden  
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

#### 11.00am Putnoe Heights

Preacher – Mrs Liz Little  
Leadership – Mr Lawrence Wyatt  
Intercessions – Mrs Claire Peck

**Readings** 1. Isaiah 55: 1-9 2. 1 Cor 10:1-13 3. Luke 13: 1-9

### Thank You

The flowers at St. Mark's this week have been given by Geoff and Margaret Appleton in loving memory of their parents Richard and Millie Meads and James and Mary Appleton.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Diana Johnson in memory of her mother, Jean Brown, and by Julia Furnell in loving memory of her husband, Hugh, on the first anniversary of his death.

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

Create within us, O God,  
a longing to obey your commandments  
and a thankfulness for all your mercies.  
Let us honour you in the thoughts of our hearts,  
let us glorify you in the words we speak  
and let us magnify you in the things that we do;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*John Wesley (1703-1791)*

#### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

#### Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE  
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#### For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

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

#### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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.*

#### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm  
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417  
Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349

#### St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628  
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

- 9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**  
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634  
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.00pm 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. Liz ☎ 302349
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's. David Fowler ☎ 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. Liz Spavins ☎302349
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747
- 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 ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting March 15 Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

- 9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting March 2 'Tea and Chat.' Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎ 07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting March 9 'Palmistry' Mrs. Kibby. Details from Janet King 313946
- 8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

## Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966
- 10am U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month.
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 17 February Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731
- 6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.
- 6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725  
**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987  
**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎ 347073  
**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378  
**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867  
**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting 3 March 2010 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details  
**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016  
**7.45 for 8pm God talk** - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

#### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424 .  
*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*  
**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970  
**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070  
 11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at Putnoe Heights.  
**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 01234 363283  
**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic** St.Mark's ☎267444  
**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.  
**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991  
**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741  
**4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179  
**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.  
**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351  
**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059  
**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group.** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059  
**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale ☎406094  
**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517  
**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 Jean Birks ☎219607  
**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julie Nicholson ☎353642

#### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography** (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397  
**9.00am Clubhouse** St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.  
**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

**12.15pm U3A Photography** (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183  
**5pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468  
**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875  
**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton ☎297138 or 07910835994  
**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.** St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

#### Saturday

**10.00am Theatretrain** St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414  
**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198  
**2.15pm Society of Recorder Players** at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792  
**7.00pm Duplicate Bridge.** St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

#### Sunday

**9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School** at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's  
**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.  
**1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515  
**6pm T.N.T.** Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun. Please see Liz ☎302349 .



## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 22 June, 8 November.  
**St Mark's Leadership Team** – 7 June at the Manse, 18 October  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** –  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** ; 24 May  
**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting** - 16 Mar 2010,  
**Putnoe Church Council** - 21 June, 25 October.  
**Pastoral Group Meeting** - 20th April at 4.30pm  
**Churchyard Committee** - 26 May at 11am.  
**Putnoe Heights Mission Group—**  
**Partnership Council—TBA**  
**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings**  
**Deanery Meeting** - 5 May, 17 June.  
**Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting**  
**Circuit Meeting** 8 March at Oakley  
**Woodland Burial Trustees** – Sunday 21st March  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth** –

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

## Second Sunday in Lent

### Opening Verse of Scripture - .Psalm 27

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? We will offer sacrifices in the Lord's tent With shouts of joy; we will sing and make melody to the Lord.

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

Christ, Son of the living God, who for a season laid aside the divine glory and learned obedience through suffering: teach us in all our afflictions to raise our eyes to the place of your mercy and to find in you our peace and deliverance. We make our prayer in your name. Amen. Methodist Worship

### First Reading – Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward. " But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD , what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." 5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars-if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the LORD , and he credited it to him as righteousness. He also said to him, "I am the LORD , who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it." But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD , how can I know that I will gain possession of it?" So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon." Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates

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

### Second Reading – Philippians 3: 17 –4:1

Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

### Gospel Reading - Luke 13: 31-35

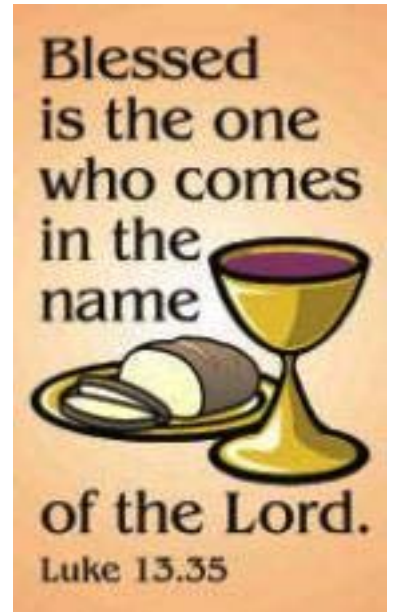
At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

### Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen





## Hymns - Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Morning Worship

1. All my hope on God is founded, 63;
2. Man of Sorrows! What a name, 228;
3. Lord Jesus, think on me, 533;
4. Jesus lover of my soul, 528;
5. The God of Abraham praise, 452



### Meditation

We may be tempted to think that when Jesus calls Herod a fox he is paying him some kind of back handed compliment. But in Hebrew, and to the hearers of the gospel, calling someone a fox was anything but a compliment. In Hebrew, foxes and lions were contrasted with each other to represent the difference between inferior and great men. The great men are called "lions", and the lesser men are called "foxes". The term was used to refer back to someone's lineage or pedigree and often carried moral overtones with it too. The Mishnah, the written codification of Jewish oral law, exhorts people to "Be a tail to lions rather than a head to foxes". Jesus called Herod a fox after some Pharisees reported that Herod wanted to kill Him. Jesus' response challenged any such plans: "Tell Herod I've got work to do first." Jesus was not implying that Herod was sly, cunning, or even wise, rather he was commenting on Herod's ineptitude and inability, to carry out his threat. In one, well chosen, phrase Jesus questioned the tetrarch's pedigree, moral stature and leadership, and put the Herod "in his place." When Jesus labelled Herod He implied that, despite what Herod himself might think, he was no lion merely a lowly fox, cutting him down to size in the ears of His listeners. Jesus' audience may well have had an inward smile of appreciation at His carefully chosen words. How ironic that it was Jesus himself that was to become known as the Lion of Judah, a symbol which still remains on the emblem of Jerusalem, over which Jesus wept.

### A Covenant relationship

In chapters 13 and 14 of Genesis Lot and Abram have divided the land between them, with Lot taking what seems to be the better region, a land that is described as being well watered and like the Garden of Eden. Abram's land, on the other hand, the land of the Canaanites, does not appear to be quite as good. Later, in chapter 14, Abram rescues Lot and defeats Kedorlaomer and the kings allied to him and is offered the goods of his conquest as reward. But Abram realises that his future lies not in the security of land or riches at the behest of men, but in trust in God alone and His provision. God's provision for Abram is outlined in the Old Testament passage from today's readings and is to be in terms of Abram's security (God will be his shield) and his reward (God will provide a son for Abram coming from his own body). Abram took God at His word, believed Him and it was credited to him as righteousness. Righteousness in the sense that God and Abram are in a right relationship, a relationship that is marked and symbolised by the covenant God then enacts with Abram by giving him and his descendants the land from Egypt to the Euphrates. Abram is rightly confident that the future of his people has been secured by this covenant God. And even though there is to be a 400 gap before God's promises are fulfilled, Abram keeps his faith, even at times of great testing such as when it meant potentially offering Isaac as a sacrifice. Faithful living, it would seem, is not just about seeing our desires fulfilled in the present but about being open to God for His future security and provision. Like Abram, we too can live in that hope and expectation. Like Abram our faith must be grounded in a God who does care and provides for us out of the riches of His grace, rather than out of our own strength and those who apparently can offer us human riches and advantage beyond our dreams.

The contrast between human security and future and God's security and future is seen in the gospel passage for today. Herod, presumably Herod Antipas, was ruler of Galilee. He was a tetrarch, which meant that he was a ruler over one quarter of the former kingdom of Herod the Great. He was, nonetheless, a powerful man. Presumably Herod Antipas saw Jesus as some kind of threat to his authority and rule, perhaps because he thought Jesus was some kind of successor to John the Baptist, or simply because of the following Jesus attracted. The end result was the same. Herod wanted Jesus killed. Strangely enough it is the Pharisees who come to warn Jesus and suggest he 'leaves this place and goes somewhere else'. At this stage it's not clear where Jesus is; we know He is on His way to Jerusalem from a verse earlier in the chapter (Lk 13 v 22) but He does not appear to reach Jerusalem until much later

around (Lk 19 v 28) so presumably He is somewhere in between and is pressing on relentlessly towards the city in which He will arrive some, perhaps three, days later (Lk 13 v 33). For Luke, just as God's meeting with Abram was, the events which are described are all part of God's larger plan for history where God's promises are not only fulfilled to Abram's descendants but are extended to the Gentiles too. We need to see today's gospel reading as part of the one story of God fulfilling His promises to His people of Israel and continuing them through Christ and the body of believers who are called Christians. For Luke, the very centre of his story of Luke-Acts is Jerusalem. The whole gospel of Luke moves towards Jerusalem,



with the early part of Luke's gospel which describes the Galilean ministry preparing for the journey to the city. A journey which ultimately closes with Jesus' death and resurrection there. The story of Acts then begins the move away from Jerusalem as the early believers become, '...witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.' Jesus' lament over Jerusalem therefore reflects not only back on past events where prophets have been killed and the people have fallen away from God as they trusted in their own strength, security and riches, but also forward to cosmic events which would happen in the coming days as Jesus enters the holy city to be crucified. Not only Herod, but the entire people of Jerusalem, the political and religious centre of the Jewish world, have refused to listen to the messengers of God, including Jesus Himself, who proclaimed the way of God's rule and Kingdom. For that reason there will be consequences and they will be judged. All that they have assumed was secure and certain will disappear as the divine security and future of God is once more revealed through the resurrection and ascension of the crucified Christ. For those in political and religious authority it's a dire warning, even today. A warning that those who exercise authority must do so in line with God's will or face the consequences themselves. We are in Lent, a time when we examine ourselves in the shadow of the cross and look towards the future of the resurrection that is Easter. Jesus closing words in His lament over Jerusalem, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord', will be shouted by the crowds when He enters the city. Jesus warns that the people will not see Him again until they say these words themselves. How many of those shouting His praise as Jesus rode into Jerusalem truly had seen Him as the one coming in the name of the Lord to proclaim an eternal future and security for all those who would acknowledge Him. How many, like Herod, seemingly secure in their own situation, would only come to realise that the rewards and securities of this world are only fleeting and transient when it was perhaps too late, failing to see that the only true and sure future and security is with God and His promises, a God who through His Son offers all eternal security, reward and life itself.

*Sam Cappleman*

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

Lord God in your holy word today we heard that you call us to come to you and more that you seek us out like hen seeks out her chicks, that you offer us the protection and the safety of your strong wings. Help us O God to stop each day and to listen for your call - to pause and allow you to overtake us—to wait and to have your warmth and your wisdom overwhelm us. **Amen.**

Father and Mother of us all - you have given us many images of what you are like in the law and the prophets and through the ministry of Christ Jesus our Lord—you have been compared to hen seeking out her chicks, to a rock which cannot be moved - to a mother suckling her child - to a wind which cannot be controlled and a fire which cannot be quenched - to a woman seeking out a lost coin—to a king who invites everyone to his wedding feast - to an eagle who stirs up her wings and shields the young in her nest—and in each of these images we learn more about you. Grant us, O Lord, a personal image of your presence - an image which will sustain us we seek to love you with all our heart and soul mind and strength and as we seek to love one another as Jesus loves us. **Amen.**

Loving God - we stop here today to think not only of ourselves and our needs - we pause not just to have our cups filled by your love - we stop as well on behalf of others. We hold before you those whose cups are filled with bitterness and anger, those who have lost their way and who worship success and the idols of our world. We ask that you give them new hearts - hearts that are filled with goodness and with faith. Lord hear our prayer. **Amen.**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow Him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you.

**Women World Day of Prayer** Friday 5 March  
2pm Bunyan Meeting— Mrs Jane Findley  
7pm Priory Methodist—Rev. Sheila Morton.  
Everyone welcome.

**Lent Materials** The Bishops of our Diocese have prepared excellent Lent Course materials for use in groups. These can be found at <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/Mission/Lent-Course-2010>. You may obtain copies of these materials for your own use from the church offices. You may also join two new Lent Groups which have been established over Lent. Other groups meet as usual .  
**Lent Group 1** led by Wendy Waters at 13 Farnham Way, Putnoe, 7.45pm on , 8 March and 22 March. Tel 401834.

**Lent Group 2** at home of Eileen and Peter Brown 9 Buckfast Avenue. 3 March , 17 March. Mornings for a 10.30 start

**Caring for Carers** Through my job as a Welfare Rights Adviser to the elderly in Bedfordshire over the last 5 years I have met many 'family and friend unpaid carers' of those with long term illnesses and disabilities. This experience has made me feel passionately about them as I have often seen the 'carer' becoming more ill than the original 'cared for person'. I was therefore delighted when St Alban's Diocese Community Care Group held a conference in November 2009 entitled 'Caring for Carers' which I attended. The purpose of the conference was to 'inform, empower and resource church leaders and members so that they can help and support carers within their parishes'.

I already knew that family and friend carers save the government £87 billion a year. What I did not know was that there are 540,000 people living in Bedfordshire and 10%, 54,000 are unpaid carers. This means that in our Parish there are over 1,000 carers! During the day we heard first hand from several carers how emotional, lonely, and resentful they can feel and how they often have to battle against a range of service providers to get the right care for their loved ones; this might be getting a place in a special school or the right medical or social care provision.

Thankfully the government are beginning to recognise the vital role these, often unseen, carers have and funding is beginning to be provided to ease their burden. A charity 'Carers in Bedfordshire' is taking a lead role in providing support for carers, who range in age from children to the elderly. They have an innovative approach in what they offer including; carers support groups across the county; free pampering therapy; free training and free social events. The church office will hold some leaflets on this charity, it includes a reply paid 'Carer Registration' form which will ensure carers are kept informed about all matters related to 'caring'.

As a church we might also like to ponder how we

currently support family and friend carers, both within our congregations and the wider community and consider if God is calling us to widen our support? *Wendy Waters*

**Living Oasis Bookshop** The new Living Oasis bookshop will open on Monday 1 March. Formerly the Wesley Owen bookshop, the new store will continue to supply Bibles, Christian books, music, cards and gift. There will be a special celebratory day on Saturday 6 March with special offers, drinks and nibbles. Please come and support this venture at 30 St Loyes Street, Bedford. Tel 01234 262517

**Footprints Circular Walk** on Sunday 7th March from Upper Dean to Swineshead, 5 miles long with fine views. The walk uses ancient tracks and footpaths, passing through Swineshead Wood and Spanoak Wood. Meet at 2pm near All Saints Church, Upper Dean. Details from Barry and Jenny 344417

### **Methodists raise more than £70,000 to help victims of the Cumbria floods**

A Methodist fundraising appeal has raised £74,432 to help victims of the floods which struck Cumbria in November.

Methodist Churches across the UK have sent individual donations to The Cumbria Foundation totalling £36,000 while contributions to The Mission in Britain Fund have reached £38,432.77 with money still coming in. The Methodist Church in Britain sent out a cheque for £38,432.77 to the Cumbria Appeal Fund this week.

The floods destroyed businesses and homes in the county, particularly in Cocker mouth, which was badly hit by the devastation.

Revd Richard Teal, Chair of the Cumbria District, said: "This money will make an enormous difference to people. Cocker mouth has been going through a sense of bereavement. All the media attention has subsided and people are left with the reality of it. Things have been held up because of the snow and the bad weather. People who were hoping to get back into their homes in the next few months will now have that put back by a few more months." Cocker mouth Lorton Street Methodist Church is opening from 10am to 12pm six days a week to offer people free coffee and advice. The Mana Credit Union is also using the Church as a base to help people with debt management.

Revd Sue Edwards, a Methodist minister in Cocker mouth, has been offering pastoral support to people in the town along with other members of the clergy. "The whole area was completely devastated," she said. "The housing estate on the other side of the River Derwent is like a ghost town. At the moment we are trying to help people out financially while they are waiting for their insurance, but there is a good community spirit."

## Bishops Lent Course Lent 2

Luke 13:31-35 - Jesus laments over Jerusalem (NRSV)

Words of Challenge  
Words of Life



*At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'*

**Jesus' ministry is creating waves.** The people of Nazareth were outraged at his claims and tried to kill him (Luke 4. 29); Levi the tax collector, a man who was very useful to the occupying Roman forces had left his job to follow Jesus (Luke 5. 27-28); Jesus was upsetting the Jewish religious establishment by healing those who were ritually unclean (Luke 8. 43-48); and he appeared to be teaching a radical social revolution that could lead to unrest (Luke 6. 20-25).

It appears from Jesus' abrupt response ('tell that fox...') that Herod has sent some Pharisees to warn Jesus to get out of his territory. Perhaps Herod hoped to avoid further hassle. Jesus is not willing to be influenced by these very real threats (remember that this is Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea, who has already had John the Baptist executed, John 9.9). Jesus' only concern is to continue doing what God has called him to do. Using the present tense to describe the healing and deliverance which has been the hallmark of his public ministry, he again returns to the theme of 'the third day' (Luke 9.22) when he will complete the work for which he has been sent. It is a subtle prophecy of his forthcoming crucifixion and death. Jesus then breaks out in a heartfelt prayer for God's chosen people (v.36) who do not want to listen to the words of the prophets. He uses the lovely image of himself as a protective mother hen, which contrasts sharply with the imagery of Herod as a predatory 'fox' (v.32). He finishes with a note of resignation, 'See your house is left to you' (v.35), echoing the words of Jeremiah 'If you do not heed these words...this house shall become a desolation' (Jeremiah 22.5).

### Questions for discussion

1. What are the words of challenge in this passage?
2. Read through the passage and identify the different things we can we learn about Jesus in these verses.
3. Who is he most concerned about?
4. How does Jesus pray in this threatening situation?

**Ideas for Action** One thing that has struck me What one thing am I going to do?  
What one thing will I pray about this week?

**Prayer** How we can pray for our enemies or those we feel threatened by? You may like to think which psalms may help us with such praying (e.g., Psalm 9 or 119. 153- 176). Also look at the teaching of Jesus Christ in Matthew 5. 1-12. Pray especially for the peace of Jerusalem and for all parts of the world where there is conflict.

### 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.

**Richard James Norman**  
**Annie Duncan Beveridge Groom**

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



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### Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Aubrey Booth will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 8 March at 1.45pm