



# Partnership News

## Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

### 28 September 2014

#### Ordinary 26



### 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 September - Ordinary 26

##### St Marks - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Alan Davis  
Leadership - Mrs. Wendy Waters  
Intercessions - Mrs. Margaret Appleton  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

##### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Alan Davis  
Leadership - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae  
Intercessions - Mr. Tim Wilkes  
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

#### 5 October - Harvest Festival

##### St Marks - Family Morning Worship with Baptism

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Bank  
Intercessions - Mr. Richard Ledger  
Organist - Mr John Mower

##### 11.00 am Putnoe - Family Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon  
Intercessions - Young People  
Organist - Mr John Mower

**Readings 1.** Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

**2.** 2 Corinthians 9:6-15     **3.** Luke 12: 16-30

**Midweek Holy communion** at St. Mark's Chapel every Wednesday at 10am and at Sir William Harpur House on first Monday of every month at 10.00am.

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week are given by Alan and Margaret Massey to celebrate their 12th Wedding Anniversary, and by Grace Foster as a 'thank you' to Stephen and Pauline Clare for their help, love and care since Bob died.

### Flower Festival

We were pleased to contribute towards the St Albans Cathedral Flower Festival. Thanks to Marion Prior for this arrangement & John Day for creating the rustic pedestal



The quote reads **"O for the wings of a dove.... In the wilderness build me a nest, There to remain forever at rest"**

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

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

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

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

**Partnership News is also archived on our church website [www.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 Monday to Thursday 9am - 5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com**  
**Centre Manager** Geoff Gypps 365630  
**Leadership Team** Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417  
**Treasurer** Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
**Youth Team Leader** Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

**St. Mark's Church Centre**  
**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com**  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Mrs Jean Bank 355698  
**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](http://www.hazeldeneheights.com)

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

**9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

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

**10.30am U3A Play reading** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**11am-12noon Pilates** St. Mark's. Liz Mason 07816522200 (starts 8 Sept.)

**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 8 September

**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](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com) 365630

**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00pm U3A Italian** Putnoe Heights– fortnightly

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

**5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active** at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Emily Taverner 01234 792013

**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.

**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

**6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571

**6.30pm Boot Camp** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

**7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's (1st week in month) Pat Nicholson 353518

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

**7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club** 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 September 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 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking** at Putnoe Heights. For more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

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

**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's.

Lorrie Pearson 01234 340473

**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Contact Janet King 313946

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

**1.3pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

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

**2pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.

**4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**7.30-8.30pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957

**7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

**7.00pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455 (Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in January 2015.

**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightl 30 September 'Harvest' Details Janet King 313946

**8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee** St Mark's ( week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

## Wednesday

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

**10am-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

**10am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

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

**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks Contact Janet King 313946

**10am U3A Diet and Nutrition-** Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

**11.15am U3A Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights

**12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery**

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 8 October Putnoe Heights Office 365630

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

**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** at St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

**2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 15 Oct.

2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

**6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel. 01234 353865**

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

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

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 1 October Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

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

### Thursday

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

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. Will not meet on July 31 and August 7

**9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus** at Putnoe Heights

**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 Restarts September 11

**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 Restarts 4 September

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic** at St Mark's ( Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

**1pm-2.30pm Drop in** (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552. 2pm - **Friendly Chicago Bridge** at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

**2pm U3A Current Affairs** - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St. Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210

3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650

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

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

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

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

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

**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

**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

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

### Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Saturday

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

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

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

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

### Sunday

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

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

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

**2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls** at St. Mark's 1st and 3rd Sunday. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

**Messy Church Dates** 15 Oct, 19 Nov, 10 Dec



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – 14 October

**St Mark's Leadership Team** -

**Annual Congregational Meetings—**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 1 October

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** -25 September

**Putnoe Church Council** - 16 October

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** - 29 September 2pm

**Commemoration Service** - 2nd November

**Circuit meeting** –

**Deanery meeting** -

**Woodland Burial Trustees—**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** - 29 September at 2.00pm

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

# Ordinary 26

## Sentence of Scripture **Philippians Chapter 2**

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

**Collect Prayer for the Day** *Before we read we pray* God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit, upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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. Amen *Common Worship*

## First Bible Reading - **Exodus 17: 1-7**

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarrelled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" (This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

## Second Bible Reading - **Philippians 2: 1-13**

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)

## Gospel Reading - **Matthew 21:23-32**

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?" Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?" They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'From men'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."



*Marc Chagall  
Moses strikes the Rock*

Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' " 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Hymns** (*Please distribute Hymns Sheet and Morning Worship*)

1. Risen Lord in splendour seated Tune Regent Square
2. Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour, Tune Fragrance
3. May the mind of Christ my Saviour Tune St Leonards
4. What if the One who shapes the stars Tune ye banks and braes
5. Though one with God, yet not by might Tune Jerusalem

### **Commentary**

The reading from Matthew today describes the discussion between the Jewish leaders and Jesus in which they clearly have rejected his authority and message and want to challenge the authority by which he is teaching, no doubt gathering evidence to be used against him. Their jealousy and anger towards Jesus is building and Jesus has overturned the tables in the Temple as a violent and physical rejection of their established religion. Jesus is therefore asked by the Jewish authorities to justify his actions and explain what authority he has. In good rabbinical style Jesus answers a question with another question 'Was John's baptism divine or merely human? This trapped the temple teachers. If they said it was merely human, they feared reprisals from the crowds. And if they admitted that John's baptism was from God, then they had no excuse for not accepting it and repenting. They were caught between fear and disobedience. Jesus is excused answering their question as they refuse to answer his. Then Jesus tells a story. A lazy son refused to work but then changed his mind and obeyed his father's request. His brother did the opposite: he promised to work but then didn't. Jesus asks, 'which is worse?'. The answer is simple, since breach of a promise was worse than never having promised in the first place. The son had violated his word.

In this illustration Jesus is comparing the temple authorities to the latter son, for they had made bold claims but showed no obedience. Tax collectors and prostitutes on the other hand had never made bold religious promises, yet they nevertheless believed John's message of invitation and indictment and they would therefore enter the kingdom of God. Jesus is really very abusive towards the chief priests and elders who have come to talk to him. He chooses to make them subordinate even to prostitutes and tax collectors, the people that the religious leaders looked down on, people they hated and persecuted. Jesus chooses these groups to make the strongest point.

There is a message for us, Jesus wants us to live out our faith in words and deed, saying the right words matters for nothing. We need to stop judging others and instead make it our goal to do God's will here and now, to live out lives of peace and justice. We have only to look to Jesus to find out how we should behave. His was a life of forgiving people who hurt him, caring for others in need - like the hungry and homeless. As St Paul says in the letter to the Philippians, we have to put on the mind of Christ and have the attitude of Christ, and love humanity as much as Christ does. We are to be a people who love our enemies, because that is what Jesus did and that is the will of God for us. Make no mistake, Christian faith is not a personal matter, obedience is not optional, the Christian life requires action and that will mean our faith is lived in the world, not contained in a private holy compartment.

Jesus was constantly confronted by the pious who were demonstrative in claiming to serve God by their strict observance of religious rules. Yet, Jesus criticized them for their lack of compassion for those they oppressed by their strict interpretation of their religion. He accused them of putting burdens on the shoulders of others while being unwilling to lift a finger to help them. So Jesus reserved the strongest criticism of all for the religious leaders and called them hypocrites. These were people who has lost touch with what religion was really all about. Jesus has launched an attack on the Temple's financial base and the ruling families who ran it. Jesus has again aligned himself in the popular mind with John the Baptist. He reminds the crowd that he and the Baptist had much in common. Jesus presents himself on the side of the popular martyred hero, and in opposition to the ruling circles which killed him, inevitably Jesus was now set to meet the same fate. *Charles Royden*

## **Meditation and Prayers for today and the week ahead**

*As we enter another period of armed conflict our prayers focus on our armed forces*

Holy God, the protector of all who trust in you: Grant to the Armed Forces of the Crown, and all who seek you, the assurance of your presence, the knowledge of your love, and the guidance of your spirit

- Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations: let your mercy rule all that we do.
- Be with all who defend your truth and your peace, that they may vanquish injustice and wrong.
- Give wisdom to leaders and commanders, that they may be a force for good on the earth.
- In your wisdom embrace our enemies, and those who wish us harm: turn, the hearts of all to kindness and friendship.
- Be with all medics and chaplains, and all who support the suffering: give them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience.
- Sustain the anxious and fearful, and renew them with courage from on high.
- Comfort all worried families, whose loved ones are in danger: surround them with your love, protect them from all harm.
- Be with the sick and wounded, stand by all prisoners and captives: let your mercy be shown to all, and your power to heal and save.
- Receive those fallen in battle, and all innocents who have died: surround their loved ones with compassion, and give them a patient faith.
- Confirm what is founded on truth, and establish your love in our hearts: that justice may abound on the Earth, and all peoples rejoice in your peace.
- Lord our God, our sure stronghold, hear the voice of our pleading and deliver us from evil. Strengthen us as we strive for the poor and oppressed, and establish your justice in all the earth. Amen

Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect the armed forces: grant that meeting danger with courage and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace; to the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
*From the Field Service Book of the British Army*

Almighty God, in you alone we find safety and peace. We commend to your gracious keeping all the men and women who serve in the Navy, the Army, or the Air Force, who face danger and put their lives at risk so that others might live in safety. Defend them day by day by your heavenly power; and help them to know that they can never pass beyond the reach of your care. Keep alive in them and in us your vision of that peace which alone we must seek and serve; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
*From the Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland*

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### **From Bishop Alan An occasion for Celebration and Rejoicing !**

I am delighted to be able to announce that the Archbishop of Canterbury will be making a pastoral visit to this diocese from Thursday 18 June to Saturday 20 June 2015, culminating in the Albantide Festival in the Cathedral when the Archbishop will preach at the Festival Eucharist. This is a huge encouragement and an occasion for celebration and rejoicing. The Archbishop's expressed aim is to support our diocesan mission and vision, and this will be reflected in the activities that are being planned. The programme will incorporate visits across the diocese to reflect some of the different aspects of the life and ministry of the area. A working group has been appointed to oversee the arrangements, in collaboration with Lambeth Palace and the Archbishop's staff. Please note the above dates and join me in prayer for this exciting opportunity. + Alan



I have been asked by Bishop Alan to co-ordinate the visit of the Archbishop to Bedford from noon until 2.00pm on Friday 19 June. Please speak with me if you have any ideas of how Bedford should provide a special welcome - *Charlie*



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## **Harvest Festival Service Sunday 5 October**

Please consider bringing gifts for Harvest next week  
Tinned or dried food is helpful as this can be stored

Food Gifts from St Mark's will be donated to Bechar (Homeless and Rootless)

Food Gifts from Putnoe Heights will go to the Bedford Food Bank

**Beds, Essex, Herts. District Methodist Women in Britain (Network) Autumn Craft Day** on Saturday 4 October from 9.45am to 4.30pm at Priory Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to come and learn a new skill. 16 Workshops available at £4.00 per half day session. Closing date for bookings is 25th September. Details of workshops and booking forms are available from Pam Seymour Tel 305695 email –pams@tgis.co.uk or Ruth Watkins Tel 01296 485087 email- ruthwatkins@aol.com'

**Together We Stand' Mini Exhibition & Classical Concert** in aid of Cancer Research UK at St. Mark's Church 11 October. Starring Elaine Huckle - Mezzo Soprano, Philip Bond and Ian Clarke - piano and Peter Gyles -violin. Exhibition open from 6.30pm concert at 7.15pm. Tickets £12, students and OAP's £10, children under 16 free. Available from Bedford Tourist Information Centre and Bedford Box Office 01234 718112. Also from St. Mark's on the day from 2.30pm. Includes an alcoholic or non alcoholic beverage. Local artist paintings, various displays and raffle.

**Putnoe Heights Church Harvest Lunch**  
Tickets are now on sale in the Putnoe office for the lunch on October 5 at 1.00pm after the Harvest Festival Service. Adults £6.00, children (under10) £3.00. Soft drinks provided, please bring wine if preferred. Bring friends and family along, all are welcome.

**Celebrate 100 Beer.** We have a limited supply of very nice Celebrate 100 beer for sale at £2.50 for 500ml. This is a nice hoppy blonde session beer brewed by the award winning Nene Valley Brewery. Even more discount for cases of 12 bottles - See Sam or Charlie

**World War 1 Advance Notice—Saturday 15 November** at 6.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church 'Innocence and Experience' : recollections of the First World War' using poetry, prose and pictures. Trench grub will be served at tables of 8 people. Tickets £10 each will be available shortly. All proceeds to church funds.

**Partnership Quiz-** date for your diary. This year's quiz will be held at Putnoe Height on Saturday 1 November 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets are available from both church offices, £7.50 to include fish/chicken and chips supper. You are invited to make up a team of 6-8 or just buy a ticket and come along.

**Would the friend** of Margaret Martin who donated craft materials please contact Marion on Bedford 303254 or at Church so we can thank her.

**Putnoe Art Group Saturday 25 October 2014**  
One day exhibition & sale of paintings. Free Entry 10am-4pm. Refreshments available.

### **Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal**

**2014** Following the success of last year's donation of 54 boxes by Messy Church and the wider congregation, we will be packing boxes at our Messy Church session on 15 October. We will be happy to accept donated items from now on. All items must be new. These include Toys, Educational supplies, Hygiene items, Other: Sweets sell by date at least March 2015. Gloves, scarves, sunglasses, hats, bangles, necklaces. Please do not donate: food ( especially chocolate), no hand knitted stuffed toys, medicine, no war related items, no clothing other than those above, no fragile items, no liquids. No sharp objects, no novels. We do not need any empty shoeboxes this year. Please see the Messy Church notice board for further details of what can and cannot be put in the boxes. If you require further information please speak to Wendy Waters Jean Bank or Carolyn Morris.



### **Friends for Life Autumn Forum**

**Friends for Life** is hosting “**Tackling Loneliness in Care Homes**” – a topic which is likely to be of interest to many people in the community. The forum will take place in St Mary's Church Hall, Goldington, Bedford on Wednesday, 8 October 2014 at 7pm. We are pleased to be able to welcome **Revd Dr Keith Albans**, Group Director – Chaplaincy & Spirituality of MHA (one of the largest Care Home providers in the country) to this event; he will be giving a key note presentation and there will be an opportunity to discuss related issues. If you would like to attend this free event, please contact Joanne Barrow on 01234 213038, [barrow.ffl@virginmedia.com](mailto:barrow.ffl@virginmedia.com) or via the website: [www.friendsforlifebedford.org.uk](http://www.friendsforlifebedford.org.uk)

**Friends for Life** is running a Volunteer Induction Session at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday, 15 November 2014, 10am – 4pm. Volunteering for Friends for Life is extremely rewarding and very flexible – no pressure, no rotas, perhaps you could find time to be a friend to someone who could use one. Places are also still available for the Tackling Loneliness in Care Homes Forum on Wednesday, 8th October, 7pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Goldington. An evening with a presentation from Revd Dr Keith Albans, a Director from MHA, refreshments and discussion opportunities. If you would like to know more about volunteering for Friends for Life or would like to come along to the Forum, please contact Joanne Barrow on 213038, [barrow.ffl@virginmedia.com](mailto:barrow.ffl@virginmedia.com) or visit the website [www.friendsforlifebedford.org.uk](http://www.friendsforlifebedford.org.uk)



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### Autumn Mission Project

This year in our Autumn Mission Project we will be supporting Emmaus, more fully known as the Emmaus Village Carlton, which is part of the wider Emmaus organisation which was started in France just after the Second

World War. Emmaus communities enable people to move on from homelessness, providing work and a home in a supportive family environment. Companions, as residents are known, work full time collecting and selling donated goods. This work supports the community financially and enables Companions to develop skills and rebuild their self-respect. At Emmaus Carlton there are some specific projects which would be facilitated by additional support and it is such projects we will primarily be supporting. Look out for further details soon.

**Received in Good Faith** -The Belief Autumn Course. This 5 week course is held at St. Andrew's Church Centre on Wednesday evenings in October at 8pm beginning on Wednesday 1 October. Open to all who have questions about Christian faith in the modern world. A donation of £3 is welcome at the door.

**St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre Saturday 22 November 2014** It comes round faster and faster each year. Our Craft Fayre is on 22nd November and your help is needed in so many ways. We will be having the usual Church stalls again and donated items will be greatly appreciated. **New Tombola:** New and unused items needed so please look in your cupboards etc. **Homemade Cake Stall:** Homemade cakes, **Secondhand Book Stall:** Books in good condition plus any jigsaws (with all the pieces) please. **Indoor Plant Stall:** Now is the time to plant cuttings and bulbs etc. **Refreshments:** Donations of tray bakes to sell with our teas and coffees. And of course the **Christmas Prize Draw:** Any new items suitable for raffle prizes would be really welcome. Raffle tickets will be on sale in October. We will need a lot of help nearer the time with leaflet delivering, selling of

raffle tickets distributing posters etc. Please let me know of any locations where you think a poster would go. If you are able to help us with manning a stall, on the 22 November, helping in the kitchen or in any other way, we would love to hear from you. As always your help is very much appreciated and we could not run this large fundraising event without your help. Please contact Avril Williams.

**Confidence Tricksters.** We are advised that confidence tricksters are working in the area and we all need to take care. If you are called on by anyone whom you do not know, claiming to be from the police, the bank, gas, electricity, water or anything similar, do not let them in your home. Tell them that you need to call someone to check that they are bonafide and make them wait outside (even if it is raining). Do not use any number that they suggest, but call the non-emergency police help line on 101 or 841212 and ask for advice. If they are legitimate they will not mind waiting; if they are miscreants they will disappear as soon as you pick up the telephone and leave the area. You will not only be helping yourself but your neighbours as well. Do not let strangers into your house !

**Defibrillator Training** The next session of training will take place at St Mark's on Sunday 19 October from 2.00pm—4.00pm The defibrillator will start the heart of somebody who would otherwise die. You cannot hurt anybody by using it—if their heart hasn't stopped it doesn't work ! So please come along and learn you might save a life.

### St Marks Junior Church Dates

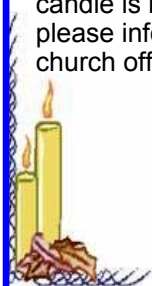
28 September 12 19 and 26 October.  
5 October Harvest Worship children stay in service.  
2 November All Saints Worship children stay in

### Putnoe Mission Emergency Fund

Following a number of requests and suggestions we have sent £400 from the Putnoe Mission Emergency Fund to Christian Aid to be split equally to support their work in Gaza, Iraq, Syria and the South East Asia floods. Thank you to all who contribute to all our Mission efforts.

### 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.'*

**Putnoe Heights** Will be holding a social evening on 18 October starting at 6.30 pm to approx. 9.00pm. Come and enjoy a game of Steeple Drive. Hot dogs and soft drinks. Everyone welcome. Tickets will be available from Putnoe Heights Church Office from 5 October onwards Adults £5 Children £3. Proceeds to Church Funds. Contact Church Office 365630. or Sue, Carolyn or Val.



### Forthcoming Funerals

There are no funeral this week