



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
29 July 2018
Trinity 9 - Ordinary 17



Sunday Services

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

29 July 2018 - Trinity 9 - Ordinary 17

9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion & PCH

Preacher – The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mr Edward Parry
Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion & PCH

Preacher - The Reverend Wendy Evans-Wood
Leadership - Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Mrs Julia Bailey
Organist - Mrs Pam Kinselly

5 August 2018 - Trinity 10 Ordinary 18

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Family Worship

Preacher - The Reverend Ross Royden
Leadership - Mrs Liz Jackson
Intercessions - Children
Organist - Mr Bill Fudge

11.00 am Putnoe - All Age Worship

Preacher - The Reverend Ross Royden
Leadership - Mr Martin Fannon
Intercessions - Young People
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

Lectionary Readings:

1. 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
2. Ephesians 4: 1-16
3. John 6: 24-35

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

Thank you

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Barbara and family in memory of her mother Vera Tippett

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week are given by Betty and Lance Wyatt to celebrate their 65 wedding anniversary and by the Charie family in memory of Harry.

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

Prayer for Sunday

Dispel, O Lord, O Father of light,
all clouds of doubt,
and the darkness about our earthly course,
that in your light we may see light,
and come both to know you as we are known,
and to love as we are loved;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

John Donne (1571-1631)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

Assistant Rural Dean of Bedford
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Wendy Evans-Wood

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel: 348091
wendyevanswood@yahoo.co.uk

The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

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

Reader: Mrs Wendy Waters

Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator
342613 office@Thisischurch.com

Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday. To subscribe visit our Partnership News archive at www.thisischurch.com. Any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted weekly on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also on www.ThisisChurch.com

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

www.putnoechurch.org.uk

Open Mon - Thur 9-4pm, Friday 9-1pm

Tel: 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager: Krystyna Oborn 365630

Leadership Team: Mrs Sue Allen 407264

Treasurer: Mr Andrew Dennison

treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator: Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188

Youth Team Leader: Carolyn Morris

youth@thisischurch.com

<http://www.facebook.com/PutnoeChurch>

St. Mark's Church Centre

www.stmarkschurch.com

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm

Tel/fax: 342613 office@stmarkschurch.com

Centre Manager: Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team: Mr Edward Parry

Treasurer: Mr Ian Farthing 210892

treasurer@stmarkschurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator: Mr Jim Williams 360605

Churchyard Administrator: Mrs Avril Williams 342613

Music Copyright CCL1501

Charity No 1164416

Regular Weekly Activities - Putnoe Heights Church

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm. For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates –Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation Chris Fordham 217396

2.00pm U3A Italian – fortnightly Chris Fordham 217396

4.15pm Kumon Maths Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.15 pm Brownies . Sharon Tanner 01767 699399 email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk

6.15-7.15pm Pilates Jane Butcher 07891879571

7.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga Jane Butcher 07891879571

6.30pm-8pm Cubs Ages 8 –10.5 Michelle Davis 07711916870 email: michelle@putnoescouts.org

6.30pm Fit For All – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Jenny Snelson 344417

11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Chris Fordham 217396

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. meets monthly.

Jo Fordham (President) 01234 217396

Margaret Bull (President) 01234 267866

Cheryl Gardner (President) 01234 261584

2.30pm. Ladies Tuesday Club (meets monthly) Next Meeting Tuesday 11 September— Bedford Marina.

Members House.. 'Details' Diane Bayliss 268101

2.30-4.30 U3A Play Reading Chris Fordham 217396

6.30pm- 8.00pm Cubs 6.30pm—8.00pm Ages 8-10.5 michelle@putnoescouts.org

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

11.00am U3A Keep Fit. Chris Fordham 217396

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Fortnightly. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

2-4pm U3A Ukulele Group. Beginners welcome. Contact Chris Fordham 217396

2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Mrs Webster 856966

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Mrs Rakha Mistry 01908 392698

5.00-6.00pm Rainbows Gayle email : 1stputnoerainbows@gmail.com

6.15-7.15pm ATSK Karate Kevin Stark 01234 353865

6.15-7.45pm GKR Karate Daniel Freer 07931 504 712

7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts ages 10.5-14; Michelle Davis 07711916870 email: michelle@putnoescouts.org

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

7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

Thursday

8.15-2.15pm Sing & Sign. Julie Warriner 01767 691488

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. Resumes 30 August.

10.00-12pm U3A Painting & Sketching Chris Fordham 217396

1.30-3.00p.m Little Fishes for the under 4's and their carers. Playtime, craft, story time, music and singing. For

further details please contact Carolyn Morris tel 07751348925 or email storyboxplus@btinternet.com

2pm –4pm U3A Current Affairs Chris Fordham 217396

2.30pm-3.30pm U3A Spanish (Weekly) Chris Fordham 217396

5.15-8.15pm NHS Eat Smart Think Active contact : Laura Rocket 355122

6.00pm-7.30pm Beavers Ages 6-8

michelle@putnoescouts.org

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brennan.

07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Monthly second Thursday in the month. Sandra White 313645

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

8.00pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers)

Meet weekly with different guest callers each week. Except August. All welcome, cost £2. Including refreshments.

More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

Friday

9.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival Elena 01234 266968

9.30am –12. 30pm Machine Knitting group 1st and second weeks per month. Contact Marion Sutton 217647

10am-12 U3A French Conversation Chris Fordham

217396

2pm U3A Gardening Chris Fordham 217396

6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers Ages 6-8 Michelle Davis

07711916870 email: michelle@putnoescouts.org

Saturday

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players G. Parry 01462 674792

Sunday

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

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council - 11 September, 13 November

St Mark's Leadership Team - 4 September, 6 November

St Mark's Church AGM - 28 April 2019

Putnoe Leadership Team – October 9

Putnoe Management Meeting – October 4

Putnoe Church Council - October 30.

Pastoral Group Meeting –

Churchyard Committee -

Circuit Meeting -

Deanery meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees – 14 October

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -

St Marks Messy Church -

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

Regular Weekly Activities - St Mark's Church

Monday

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

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

Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

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

Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

10.00am U3A Playreading Chris Fordham 07940072202

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

2-4pm U3A Meditation & Wellbeing Chris Fordham
07940072202

6.00pm Brownies Mrs C Mathew 826190

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month)

Mary Daly 217127

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

7-9pm Rangers. Nikki Lake 07584028653

7.15pm Guides. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.30pm Whist Drive. Weeks 3 & 5 in the month. Next
meeting 15 January 2018 Judith Stanton. 823313

Tuesday

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

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World

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

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. Chris Fordham 07940072202

1.30pm U3A Choir. Contact Chris Fordham 07940072202

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 (3rd Week in month) Contact
Chris Fordham 07940072202

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 (2nd Week in month) Contact
Chris Fordham 07940072202

2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3 (1st Week in month)
Contact Chris Fordham 07940072202

2.30pm Knit & Natter Group. (1st and 3rd week in month)
Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling
262225

2.00-3.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. A social
and Bible Study group. (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Jean
Bank 355698

6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga Amanda Alcock
07769747393

7.15-8.15pm Pilates Jane Butcher 07891879571

7.30-9pm Faith Community Church Audua Ogilvie 01234
308644

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

8.25-9.25pm Restoration Pilates Johanna Debnam
07753418170

Wednesday

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

10.00am U3A Gardening Group 3 Chris Fordham
07940072202

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

10am U3A Card Making, Chris Fordham 07940072202

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

1.15pm Social Bridge Club Mr Barnes 261811

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft 1st week of the month Chris Fordham
07940072202

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. (3rd Week in month). for
children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based
story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 19
September. Wendy Waters 401834

6.00pm Brownies. Mrs C Warden 219731

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. Yvonne Blain 350241 or Brian
Sallows 407725.

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

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

Thursday

9.30-10.40am Cook Stars Bedford fun cooking classes for
children between the age of 2-5yrs. Julia 07375472439

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

12pm Storybox . Welcomes 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.. Contact Jaana
Swaby 342613

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. Chris Fordham 07940072202

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society Jean Patterson 307210

5.15-6.45pm Weightwatchers Jodi Henderson 07449890830

6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga Amanda Alcock
07769747393

7.00pm U3A Singing for Fun (1st & 3rd week in month) Chris
Fordham 07940072202

7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild

(3rd week in month). Carol Plant 01832710504

7.30pm Magpies. Meet on 2nd & 4 Thursday Next meeting
13 September - Charity Fund Raising Evening..Call
Rosemary 405594 for more details.

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

Friday

10am -12.00 U3A Photography (4th week in month)

Contact Chris Fordham 07940072202

10.45am - 12 U3A Poetry & Literature St. Marks Contact
Chris Fordham 07940072202

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist (2nd week in month) Contact
Chris Fordham 07940072202

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

6.30 -8.30pm Pakua Martial Arts John Waugh 07802755914

Saturday

9.00am Faith Community Church (1st week in month)

Audua Ogilvie 01234 308644

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

Sunday

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

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre at St. Mark's. Sunday 5
August P Harris 01623 621143

11.30-2.30pm Faith Inspired Ministry. Pastor James
Mudokwani 07411154809

Trinity 9 Ordinary 17

Opening Verse of Scripture - Ephesians 3:20

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendour of your kingdom. Ps 145 v 10 - 12

Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read, we pray

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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 - 2 Samuel 11: 1-15

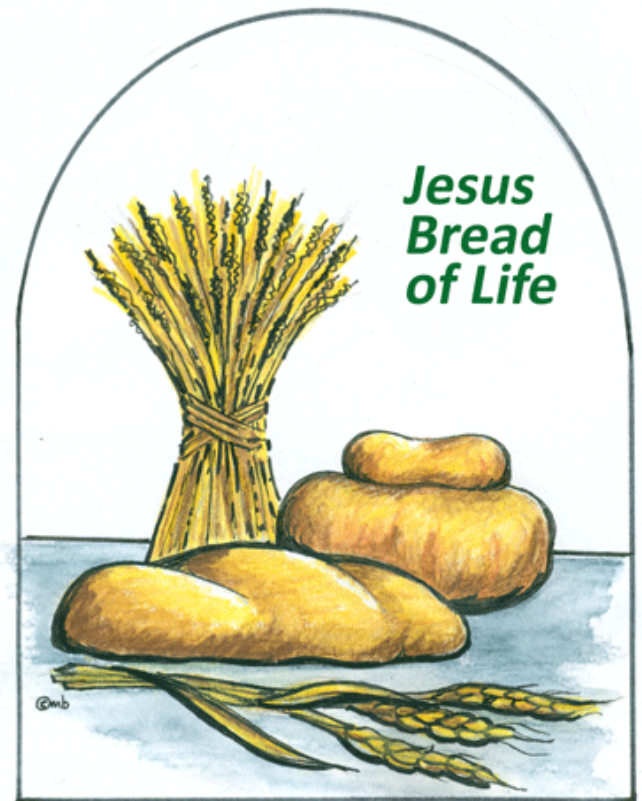
In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, 'This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite.' So David sent messengers to fetch her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, 'I am pregnant.'

So David sent word to Joab, 'Send me Uriah the Hittite.' And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, 'Go down to your house, and wash your feet.' Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, 'Uriah did not go down to his house', David said to Uriah, 'You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?' Uriah said to David, 'The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing.' Then David said to Uriah, 'Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back.' So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, 'Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die.' (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - Ephesians 3:14-21

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,



and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen. (This is the word of the Lord – Thanks be to God)

Gospel Reading John 6:1-21 — *Please stand as the reading is announced*

Reader - The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Response - Glory to you, O Lord.

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world. When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

(This is the Gospel of the Lord – **Praise to you, O Christ**)

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns St Mark's Church

1. Angel voices ever singing
2. A new commandment I give unto you
3. Break thou the bread of life
4. And can it be that I should gain

Commentary

Those fed by Jesus in today's gospel reading were hungry for Israel's restoration; they earnestly desired the Passover food of freedom, power and glory. They wanted a king and in Jesus saw the man they thought would fulfil their desires. Jesus will be King, but on His own terms. Jesus will rule, but over His own Kingdom which is far greater than just a restored Israel. This is Paul's prayer for the Ephesians - that they too would know the fullness of the riches of God's abundance, and not just as passive observers enjoying the Kingdom on their terms or according to their human and limited perceptions of it, but through their own lives which should be rooted and established in love.

The feeding of the multitude in John is loaded with meaning. To a people hungry for Israel's restoration Jesus fed them with Passover food and invited them into a life of freedom, power and glory, exactly what they were seeking. He would be their King and lead them into a new Kingdom, only not in the way they expected. The story is coupled with John's account of Jesus walking on the water. It is dark and Jesus had 'not yet joined them'. The evil and the cares of the world, in the form of the wind and the waves, threatened to engulf them. Jesus comes to them and speaks them in what can appear to be a very casual manner, almost as if He was saying, '*Don't worry chaps, I've arrived*'. But the words are much, much

stronger than this. They are the words that run throughout John's gospel. Jesus approaches them and says, *'I am'*, ego eimi. Jesus approaches them and says, 'I am the human being that is also God that walks unhindered over the panic and darkness, the Messiah that is above and over all the confusion that consumes them in their stormy world. He is the Saviour who has come to them and wants to join them in their world so that they can join Him in His.

It is a deeply profound exchange. There is nothing casual about the encounter at all and it continues. They will take Him on board and immediately the boat was on the shore. Their journey was over. As John tells us a few short verses before this story (Jn 5 v 24), Jesus says, *'I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; they have crossed over from death to life.'*

The ending of our gospel reading is a graphic visual aid to help us understand the deep meaning of what Jesus speaks about to His followers: the passing over into a new life which is filled with the glorious riches of God's grace. This is far broader and deeper than the Jews could have ever believed in their quest for a new kingdom. The people who have been fed want to respond by making Jesus their king. They have seen the power and now want the glory. Indeed, Jesus does demonstrate both in the feeding of the masses and on walking on water that He is the one who brings the power and presence of God into our world and that all creation obeys Him. But the key is how they (and we) respond to that power and presence of God in everyday life. The wind and waves respond to the presence of God walking on and through them. As we live out the presence of God that is Jesus through the Holy Spirit in our lives, so we learn more and more that we are created to respond to God too. As we look around we see the power of God in creation and at work in our world continuing to sustain all that has existence.

The reading from Ephesians speaks of us as being *'rooted and grounded'* in the love of Christ so that we see, experience and understand Him as the very source of our life itself. Being part of the salvation story itself, being part of that salvation for others. Like the boy whose food was offered (we don't even know how willingly!) Jesus took the gifts and used them so that the lives of those around Him would be changed forever. Sometimes we look at what we have to offer and think the same as the disciples, *what difference can my own small and seemingly insignificant and imperfect offering make?* Like the disciples, if we are thinking like that we are looking at the situation from our own small perspective. Jesus sees beyond the apparent, immediate and physical to the cosmic, eternal and infinite possibilities that our world, responding to and co-operating with the presence of God, holds for all when it is transformed by his shattering generous love.

The people in the gospels are captivated by the miracles of Jesus, the healings, the casting out of demons from the possessed, His authority over nature itself. But what they see is only a small sliver of the true magnificence and authority of God, the abundance of His riches which He wants to shower down on His people. This is Paul's prayer for the Ephesians - that they too would know the fullness of the riches of God's abundance, not just as observers but through their own lives which should be rooted and established in love. Paul prays that they would be filled to overflowing with the Power of God, the power that feeds thousands, the power that heals the sick and raises the dead, the power that brings new life from old. He prays that the Bread of Life would live in them and their hearts through faith. This is no Passover remembrance, this is new life. It's perhaps because Jesus know that the crowd wanted to make Him King by force He moves off with His disciples to another place, demonstrating His authority over creation as they go. And as if to emphasise who He is simply says to the disciples, *'I am, do not be afraid'*.

- The 'I am' who created the world is with you.
- The 'I am' who existed before the world itself was created is with you.
- The 'I am' who holds all of the earth's resources in His hand is here.
- The 'I am' who takes the small and seemingly insignificant and wholly inadequate offering of barley loaves and fish and shares it among thousands is here.
- The 'I am' who takes what is offered and uses it in abundance is here.

Through the gospel of John and Paul's letter to the Ephesians we see that our lives and sustenance are inextricably linked to the freedom and sustenance that Jesus offers to all. We are part of His creation and are nourished and redeemed through Him. We are also part of that nourishment and redemption. Jesus takes what we have and what we are prepared to offer him, however seemingly inadequate and insignificant and can use it in abundance. Perhaps if the boy had not offered the bread and fish the story would be different and those who were hungry may not have been fed. Being part of salvation's story also means being part of that salvation for others, offering the gifts that we have so that the world can be changed and transformed by the Bread of Life Himself who takes what we offer and uses it as He will to the glory of His Father. *Sam Cappleman*

Meditation

After the feeding Jesus withdraws and the disciples get in a boat to cross the lake. A storm builds up and Jesus comes to them walking on the water. Christ comes to them, but they need to accept Him for who He is, the one who walks on water, the one who is over all creation. They need to accept him not just as observers who are fed but people who are prepared to have their lives changed by Him eternally. Symbolically they invite Him into their boat and into their inner being. The message is beginning to get through. This is the theme that Paul picks up in the Epistle reading. He prays that the Ephesians would not only be strengthened (fed) but that Christ Himself would dwell (personally) in each one of them, and that they would know and experience that life changing and transforming love in their lives - the love that transforms water into wine, the love that transforms a few small loaves and fish into a feast for the crowds, the love that transforms whatever we have to offer into something more that we could have ever have expected. Paul prays that the Ephesians would know the reality of the 'I am' who walks on water in their lives. That's the invitation that Christ offers each one of us day by day. As we let Christ live in our lives so we too are transformed.

Prayer for Sunday

Jesus Christ, you had compassion on the starving and the needy, grant that we would have your mind in us that we may have the will and wisdom to strive so all may be fed and nourished and reflect your glory. **Amen.**

See it for yourself ! Methodist Modern Art

The North Beds Circuit are arranging a coach trip to Cromer to see the Methodist Modern Art Collection on Tuesday 14th August. There should be time to visit the Art Collection and have plenty of free time to enjoy Cromer. Further details from Marian Blyth marian.blyth@btinternet.com or Sue Allen.

St Mark's Summer Holidays

Chat and Make Will resume weekly on 11 September.

Chat and Play There will be two in the holidays on the 9 and 23 August and resumes weekly on 6 September.

Story Box will start again on the 6 September

St Mark's Junior Church will resume on Sunday 9 September 2018

Community Coffee Morning at Putnoe no meeting in August. Restart 12 September.

Putnoe Heights Fairtrade Stall - future dates

September 2 & November 4. Traidcraft catalogues are available to take home from the table in the foyer. Orders happily taken at any time - see the slip inside the catalogue for more details

Putnoe Storybox Val and Carolyn would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers they received on the last day of Storybox. We'd also like to thank everyone who gave their time and support to this group over the past 16 years. We've met some lovely families and watched many children grow, most of whom are now taller than me!

Little Fishes is a new children's group coming to Putnoe Heights Church for our under 4year olds and their carers. Starting on Thursday 6 September 2018, in the small hall at 1.30 to 3pm. play time, craft, story time, rhymes, songs and musical instruments. refreshments. All welcome. If anyone would like to help with refreshments or craft please speak to Carolyn Morris. Further details email: youth@thisischurch.com



Putnoe Heights said 'Farewell' to Laura

Leggett and Sharon Warner at the end of term. Laura has served the preschool for 20 years, and Sharon for 23! Our very best wishes for the future to both. Laura's successor as Preschool Manager, Nuru Lyria, will take up her post in September.

Putnoe Thursday Prayer Group. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. The group resumes 30 August.

A Farewell Bring and Share Lunch for Wendy Evans- Wood will be held Putnoe Heights at 12.30pm after her final service on July 29. Please sign the list in the welcome area if you wish to share in this event and talk to Jenny or Sue Allan about what you would like to bring (food or donation towards the food). Donations towards a presentation to Wendy may be handed to members of the Leadership Team or Putnoe Office.

Putnoe Office will only be opened for a limited time from the 30 July, normal hours will resume on 3 September. Any urgent matters can be addressed to Tel. 07938 708788

Prayers for Sunday cont

You have given so much to us O Lord, give one thing more, a grateful heart, a heart whose pulse may be your praise. **Amen**
George Herbert

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us paralysed, but whose presence is overwhelming, breathe on us with your abundant life; that where we cannot see we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you. **Amen**

The God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen

St Mark's Harvest Special Weekend

Tickets are now available for our Harvest Special Weekend when we will be joined by Adrian and Bridget Plass. The tickets are free but it is important for catering that we have accurate numbers. Adrian and Bridget are captivating speakers and present their Christian faith in an appealing manner. This is therefore a great opportunity to invite your friends to join us and see what St Mark's is all about !

Saturday We start with a Hog Roast and there will be a bouncy castle for the children. This will be followed by listening to Adrian and Bridgett and we finish off with cheese and wine

Sunday Adrian and Bridget will be our guest speakers at church and afterwards we have a time for follow up questions over coffee and then a lunch provided by caterers.



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.

Olive Mary Harvey
Harry Charie

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



Prayer for Sunday

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

Forthcoming Funerals



Father of all, we pray to thee for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them thy peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in thy loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of thy perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All funerals at Bedford Crematorium can be found @ www.bedford.gov.uk/obituaries