



# Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
30 August 2015  
Ordinary 22**



## 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

## 30 August Ordinary 22

**9.30am St Mark's – Holy Communion with PCH**  
Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger  
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton  
Intercessions - Mr. Ian Farthing  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH**  
Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger  
Leadership - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

## 6 September Ordinary

**9.30am St Mark's – Morning Family Worship**  
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mr. Jim Williams  
Intercessions - Ministers  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Family Worship**  
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs. Jenny Snelson  
Intercessions - Mrs. Clair Peck  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

**Readings** 1. Isaiah 35: 4-7a 2. James 2: 1-17  
3. Mark 7: 24-37  
Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's  
Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur  
House on first Monday of every month.

## Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church have been given by Erica, David and Jonathan Coleman, Lucy, Annabelle and Jack in loving memory of our darling Celia.



*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

Gracious God, light and guide of all who put their trust in you: grant us in all our doubts and uncertainties the grace to seek your will, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices and that in your light we may see light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*William Bright (1824-1901)*

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

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

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

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

**Churchyards Administrator**  
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

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

**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.

**St. Mark's Church Centre Charity No 1160981.**

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

**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-Ordinator**  
Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@Thisischurch.com

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - **3.45pm** For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com  
**8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634  
(See website for more details)  
**9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery** Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634  
**9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430  
**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955  
**10.00am-12 U3A Play reading** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946  
**11.00am-12noon Pilates** St. Mark's Liz Mason 07816522200  
**12.00 noon Storybox** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630  
**1.30pm Chat & Make.** Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts on 14 September  
**2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Italian** Putnoe Heights– fortnightly  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active** at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Zoe Wilcox 07767311424  
**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190  
**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 07928483418 email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk  
**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859  
**6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**6.30pm-8pm Cubs** at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509  
**6.30pm Fit For All** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081  
**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's (1st week in month) Mary Daly 217127  
**7.00pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.  
**7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club** at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399  
**7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091  
**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's ( Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting–31 August Judith Stanton. 823313  
**7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club** St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567  
**7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

## Tuesday

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

**11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Contact Janet King 313946  
**1.15pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946  
**1.30pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895  
**2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's (Alternate Tuesdays) Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225  
**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Alternate Tuesdays. Mrs Jean Bank 355698  
**3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468  
**6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga** St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393  
**7.15-8.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390  
**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 8 September at 2.30pm Tea Details Diane Bayliss 268101  
**8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee** St Mark's ( week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

## Wednesday

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.  
**10.00-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.  
**10.00am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946  
**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.  
**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks Contact Janet King 313946  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 9 September Contact Putnoe Office 365630  
**1.15pm Social Bridge Club** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811  
**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** at St Marks.Contact 1st week of the month. Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966  
**3.30-4.30pm Vita Fit** St Mark's starting 29 April for 6 weeks Liz Roe 07901684538  
**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 16 September 2015 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**5.00–6.00pm Rainbows** at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091  
**6.00pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731  
**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall

Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Thursday

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

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

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A term time group for  
Mums & toddlers.0-5 Restarts 17 September Contact St  
Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234  
297481

**12pm Storybox** . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and  
their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a  
sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and  
singing. Lots of fun.Restarts 10 September Contact Jaana  
Swaby 342613

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

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

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

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

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

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

**5.45pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin  
07768481499

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**8.00pm Bedford Folk Dancers** (formerly Barn dancers)  
Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers

each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50  
Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or  
Shirley 01767 651767

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

### Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Saturday

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

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

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

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

### Sunday

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

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

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

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



## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** -

**St Mark's Leadership Team** -

**Annual Congregational Meetings** -

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 6 October 2015**

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting – 29  
September**

**Putnoe Church Council** - 23 August, 15 October 2015

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

**Churchyard Committee** - TBA

**Circuit meeting – 14 September at Flitwick**

**Deanery meeting** -

**Woodland Burial Trustees –**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** -

28 September 2015 2.00pm

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

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

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

# Ordinary 22

## Sentence of Scripture James 1:22

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Common Worship

## First Bible Reading - Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9

Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you. Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

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

## Second Bible Reading - James 1:17-27

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does. If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

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

## Gospel Reading - Mark 7 (1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

*Please stand and when the Gospel is announced we say -* **Glory to Christ our Saviour**

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial

Every good and perfect gift  
is from above,  
coming down from the Father  
of the heavenly lights,  
who does not change  
like shifting shadows.

James 1:17



washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the market place they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.' "

For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'"

(This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Hymns for Sunday** (*Please distribute Holy Communion with PCH booklet and hymns sheet where requested*)

1. Praise the Lord ye heavens adore him (Tune Austria)
2. As the deer pants for the water
3. O for a heart to praise my God
4. O dearest Lord, Thy sacred head

### **Commentary**

Some of our gospel readings probably seem a bit far-removed from our experience, yet the argument between Jesus and the Pharisees and experts in the law is very important because it shows the great divide between Jesus and the Jewish leaders.

What the Law originally meant for Jesus was firstly, the Ten Commandments, and, secondly, the Pentateuch (the first 5 books of the Old Testament). But then the Scribes (legal experts) got to work to expand and provide detail for all rules and regulations - the oral law or tradition of the elders.

So there were detailed rules for almost everything, including especially, hand-washing for ceremonial cleanliness in order, so they believed, to be clean in the sight of God. And then there is the whole idea of what is unclean. A leper was unclean, anyone who touched a dead body was unclean, a Gentile was unclean. This is what Jesus was up against - and we know from his ministry that he didn't take any notice of this concept. And so he was regarded as wrong, as bad. After all, he touched a leper, welcomed Gentiles - though the early Church had great debates over this. And you can see why because what they had always believed and done had to change if God really did, as we read in John's gospel, love the world so much that He sent His only Son, so that whoever believes might have eternal life.

This is mind-blowing stuff - or rather was then. And verses 14-23 make up a really revolutionary New Testament passage. Jesus has shown that elaborate handwashing was irrelevant, and that sticking rigidly to the traditional law can actually mean disobeying the law of God. And then he goes on to say that nothing going into a person (i.e. food and drink) can possibly make them 'unclean'. He thus wiped out the laws for which Jews had suffered and died. No wonder the disciples were amazed. This was new doctrine - shatteringly new. Jesus is saying that things can't be clean or unclean. Only people can be clean or unclean, because of what they do - and that came from the heart.

And there are things that relate to us today. The clash still exists between worship as ritual, ceremony and the law, as the Scribes and Pharisees believed, and worship as a clean heart issuing in a loving life as Jesus showed. Today forms of worship remain an issue. Some say that worship is not real worship unless it is led by a priest ordained in a certain way, in a building consecrated in a certain way and follows a particular liturgy. Others, of course, say that that certainly isn't real worship! They want modern songs and no set pattern, so that the Holy Spirit can guide.

All these things are, of course, externals. Do they really matter?

William Temple defined worship rather differently. "To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God."

I wonder how we react to that definition? This is what we say in some of our services:

*We have come together  
as the family of God  
in our Father's presence  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
and to seek God's grace  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
We may give ourselves to the service of God.*

Just suppose that we found ourselves where the only two churches available to us were a full-on Charismatic fellowship and a traditional Roman Catholic Church. Where would we worship? And why? And what if only one was available (the one we didn't choose!). What would we do then? And why? Something to ponder here - perhaps a lot? Finally in the sermon I quote 5 Bible passages. They are: Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:5 and 10:12; Ezekiel 36:26; Jeremiah 24:7; Romans 5:5; Ephesians 3:17. Do look them up! May all this feed our thoughts and faith. *Richard Ledger*

## **Meditation**

### **Given to God**

Lord Jesus,  
I give thee my hands to do thy work.  
I give thee my feet to go thy way.  
I give thee my eyes to see as thou seest.  
I give thee my tongue to speak thy words.  
I give thee my mind that thou mayest think in me.  
I give thee my spirit that thou mayest pray in me.  
Above all, I give thee my heart  
that thou mayest love in me  
thy Father, and all mankind.  
I give thee my whole self  
that thou mayest grow in me,  
so that it is thee, Lord Jesus,  
who lives and works and prays in me.  
(*Lancelot Andrewes, 16th Century*)

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

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive thee, intelligence to understand thee, diligence to seek thee, patience to wait for thee, eyes to behold thee, a heart to meditate upon thee, and a life to proclaim thee:  
through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Attributed to St. Benedict of Nursia, sixth century*

Holy Spirit of God, source of knowledge and creator of fellowship; open our minds to recognise the truth and our hearts to welcome it, that in company together we may learn your will and be strengthened to obey it: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (*Basil Naylor*)

Here is my heart, O God, here it is with all its secrets; look into my thoughts, O my hope, and take away all my wrong feelings; let my eyes ever be on you and release my feet from the snare. (*St Augustine 354-430*)

Lord Jesus, I don't know much about you, but I am willing to learn; And I am ready to give all that I know of myself to all that I know of you: And I am willing to go on learning. (*Donald Coggan*)



Christ and the Pharisees Anthony van Dyck  
(Flemish, 1599–1641)

The Pharisees saw Jesus as impure, he ate with unwashed hands and declared all foods clean. Jesus saw that these laws created a distinction between those who were close to God and those who were sinners. Spiritual rituals had been used as a means to exclude people and Jesus had no time for putting some people above others in a religious pecking order. Jesus advocated an entirely different system which was characterised by compassion, not adherence to religious laws. Jesus taught that there should be no outcasts, not even Roman collaborators, lepers, thieves or prostitutes.

Lord! Give us weak eyes  
for things that do not matter  
and eyes full of clarity  
in all your truth.

May the Spirit of God give us more self-understanding and less self-consciousness, for a life of faith that is authentic and not in vain, more faultless and less worthless.

**Putnoe Heights Church Harvest Lunch.** Sunday 27 September 12.45pm. All welcome. Menu - Steak, Chicken or Veggy Pie, harvest desserts. Tickets £7.00 adults £3.50 under 10s. Available from Putnoe Heights Office on weekdays or after Sunday Service.

**St Mark's Church Car Boot Sale** This will take place on Monday 31 August. Items for the church stall brought on Sunday 30 August should be left in the Wren room which will be open all day. As we finish off another year there is a barbeque in the Vicarage garden in the afternoon to which all of our car boot helpers are invited. Our sincere thanks to all of those who have given up their bank holiday Mondays to help raise money for church funds.

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

**St Mark's Junior Church** will begin again on 13 September when we will look forward to welcoming the children back

**Story Box** restarts 10 September. A big thank you to all our volunteers.

**Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church** will start again on Monday 14 September at 12 noon. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help with this children's group without whom it could not take place. We are looking for new volunteers to help with this group in September.

**Junior Church at Putnoe Heights Church** will take a break from 9 August. We will meet again for our first Sunday service on Sunday 6 September. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help with this children's group without whom it could not take place. We are looking for new volunteers to help with this group in September.

**Footprints Walk Sunday 6 September** Meet at Roxton Parish Church in School Lane, at 2.30pm for a circular walk on river side paths. More details from Margaret and Eddy Peck

**Afternoon Tea at St Mark's 3 - 5pm Saturday 19 September**

We invite you to enjoy a traditional sandwiches, cakes and scones tea. We hope those who can't usually get to our evening social events will join us on this occasion. Lifts will be available for those who live locally but don't have transport. Tickets are £5 and available after services or from St Mark's church office. Any proceeds will be divided between Christian Aid and Action for Children. If anyone has china tea sets, cake stands, or



embroidered tablecloths, that they are willing to loan, would like to offer other help, or would like a lift, please contact: Janet Day 295592; Jean Bank 355698; Linda Parry 216724; Wendy Waters 401834.

**Putnoe Heights** The fax machine and cordless phone in the Putnoe office are in need of replacements as the fax has ceased working. Should you have a working fax and some cordless phones that you could donate or would like to sponsor these items please speak to Barry Southam or a member of the Putnoe Heights Leadership Team. Thank you

**MHA Appeal** £100 has been donated to the MHA appeal, thank you to every one who contributed.

**Community Fun Day** organised by young people with the National Citizen Service to bring communities together and raise money for Meningitis Now and Starlight. Sunday 30th August 1pm—5pm at St. Mark's. Food and drink stalls, face painting, bouncy castle and charity raffle.

**Youth Service - Reason** is a new event at Christ Church, Denmark Street (MK40 3TJ), designed to challenge, question and inform our beliefs and where they come from. It is an opportunity to strip back our world view to the fundamental questions that shape our understanding of life, the universe and everything. Take this chance and bring some friends to share food for thought and food for the body. Christ Church Bedford, 1st Sunday of every month 6 30pm, refreshments from 6 15pm  
Creation ...and what about science and faith? - 6/9/15  
Fall ...and why is there evil and suffering? - 4/10/15  
Redemption ...and how can we live life to the full? - 1/11/15  
Restoration ...and why should I be friends with God? - 6/12/15

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## Hymns for Sunday

**Praise the Lord! ye heavens, adore him;**  
praise him, angels, in the height;  
sun and moon, rejoice before him,  
praise him, all ye stars and light.  
Praise the Lord! for he hath spoken;  
worlds his mighty voice obeyed:  
laws, which never shall be broken,  
for their guidance he hath made.

Praise the Lord! for he is glorious;  
never shall his promise fail:  
God hath made his saints victorious;  
sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation;  
hosts on high, his power proclaim;  
heaven and earth, and all creation,  
laud and magnify his name!

**As the deer pants for the water,**  
so my soul longs after You.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship You.

I want You more than gold or silver,  
only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
and the apple of my eye.

You're my Friend and You're my Brother,  
even though You are a king.  
I love You more than any other,  
so much more than anything.

**O for a heart to praise my God,**  
A heart from sin set free,  
A heart that always feels thy blood  
So freely spilt for me;

A heart resigned, submissive, meek,  
My great redeemer's throne,  
Where only Christ is heard to speak,  
Where Jesus reigns alone;

A humble, lowly, contrite heart,  
Believing, true, and clean;  
Which neither life nor death can part  
From him that dwells within;

A heart in every thought renewed,  
And full of love divine;  
Perfect, and right, and pure, and good,  
A copy, Lord, of thine!

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart;  
Come quickly from above,  
Write thy new name upon my heart,  
Thy new, best name of love.

**O dearest Lord, thy sacred head**  
With thorns was pierced for me;  
O pour thy blessing on my head,  
That I may think for thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands  
With nails were pierced for me;  
O shed thy blessing on my hands,  
That they may work for thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet  
With nails were pierced for me;  
O pour thy blessing on my feet,  
That they may follow thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart  
With spear was pierced for me;  
O pour thy spirit in my heart,  
That I may live for thee.

## Harvest Festival 2015

Our Harvest Festival Services will take place on  
Sunday 27 September.

The Bible readings are as follows  
Deuteronomy 8:7-18 2 Corinthians 9:6-15  
Luke 12:16-30

Our service on 4 October will use readings for  
Ordinary 27

Job 1:1, : 2:1-10, Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 Mark  
10:2-16

## 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

**Aphrodite Hubbard**

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



## Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Jean Harrold**  
will take place at  
St Albans

Woodland Burial Ground at  
12.00 on Friday 18 September,  
followed by a service at  
St Mark's Church at 2.00pm