



# Partnership News

## Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

### 31 August 2014

#### 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

### 31 August - Ordinary 22

#### St Marks - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mrs. Margaret Appleton  
Intercessions - Mrs. Morag Stewart  
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds

#### 11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion PCH & Baptism

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mrs. Jenny Snelson  
Intercessions - Ministers  
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds

### 7 September - Ordinary 23

#### St Marks - Morning Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mr. Mick Ovenden  
Intercessions - Mr. Warwick Holden  
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds

#### 11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Family Worship

Preacher - Revd. Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mr. Martin Fannon  
Intercessions - Young People  
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds

**Readings** 1. Exodus 12:1-14    2. Romans 13: 8-14  
3. Matthew 18: 15-12

**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 have been given by Ann and John Hitt in celebration of their diamond wedding anniversary on September 4th.

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Doris Cooper in memory of her husband John and to celebrate their seventieth wedding anniversary.

### Baptism

We welcome you all to our worship today and at Putnoe we especially welcome the family of Samuel John Simmonds who has been brought for baptism.

### Prayer for Sunday

Be to us, O Holy Spirit, breath for our being, purity for our souls, healing for our wounds, fire for our hearts and light for our path, that with all creation we may rejoice in your presence;; now and for ever. Amen.

*Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)*

#### 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 Friday 9am –12pm,**  
**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 Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the

under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon

and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based

story and singing. 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– 15 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

**1.30pm 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

**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 2 September Afternoon Tea at 2.30pm 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 10 September 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 17 Sept 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 3 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) 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** 17 Sept, 15 Oct, 19 Nov, 10 Dec

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 14 October  
**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 9 September  
**Annual Congregational Meetings—**  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 1 October  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** -25 September  
**Putnoe Church Council** - 16 October  
**Pastoral Group Meeting** - 16th September 4pm  
**Churchyard Committee** -  
**Commemoration Service** - 2nd November  
**Circuit meeting** – 15 September  
**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 22

## Sentence of Scripture Psalm 105

Praise the LORD and pray in his name! Tell everyone what he has done. Sing praises to the LORD! Tell about his miracles. Celebrate and worship his holy name with all your heart.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

God of all creation, you call all peoples of the earth into your kingdom. Grant that we, with young and old of all nations, may boldly confess Jesus Christ as Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and praise, now and forever. **Amen** *Methodist Worship*

## First Bible Reading—Exodus 3: 1-15

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)



Moses with the burning bush

## Second Bible Reading - Romans 12: 9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)

## **Gospel Reading - Matthew 16: 21 - 28** (When announced - **Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom

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

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Hymns** (*Please distribute Holy Communion with PCH Booklet & baptism booklets at Putnoe* )

1. Morning has broken, 635
2. Give me joy in my heart, 492
3. One more step along the road I go, 746
4. He who would valiant be, 688

## **Commentary**

Think of what happened to Peter in the gospel reading. He went from being the rock on which the church was going to be built to the potentially the biggest stumbling block in the church's history in only 6 short verses because he momentarily lost sight of why Jesus had come. He'd just declared Jesus as Messiah and now Jesus rounds on him like his worst enemy. That's some change in how Peter must have felt if nothing else. One moment he seems to be the future of the church, the next he seems to be its end. Having been blessed by Jesus it's as if Peter now wants to begin to steer the Messiah's mission. Messiah's don't die. Messiah's have everyone worship them. Messiah's triumph over everything, there is nothing that is not in their control. Peter wanted the Messiah to come, but not like this, this isn't how he expected things to be. He wanted to see Israel and its people liberated and its oppressors smashed. But the reason Peter receives such a strong rebuke from Jesus is not just because He knows where the temptation comes from, but because He does not want to get side tracked away from listening to His Father and doing His Father's will. He's not here to be a popular Messiah, He's here to be the true Messiah, with all that will entail. To be Peter's type of Messiah might in some ways have been easier, but would have brought violence and death. Jesus' sacrificial way, though it would bring about His own death, would, in the end, bring life. That's some focus from Jesus, who then goes on to describe the kind of self-sacrifice which will be require as disciples, as those who serve God and have a right relationship with Him. Jesus explains why the path He offers is ultimately the only way to go, the only way to life. They are therefore to deny themselves, take up His cross and follow the self-sacrificial way of Jesus the Christ. It's much harder, but ultimately the only way.

And it's a challenge to us - are we as serious about serving God as that, or do we let trivial things get in the way? Do we get obstructed by the things of the world which seem to stop us serving God? In the Methodist covenant prayer we ask God to use us as He will, to rank us with whom He wills, to be exalted or brought low, to be used for something big or for something small, whatever He wishes, we are to be obedient to Him. To let God love us as we are, and to love others as they are too, loving our neighbour as ourselves. For in turning to God, in serving Him, we have a responsibility to others. The path of true discipleship which encompasses serving God and serving others, is a path not of self-satisfaction but self-giving. A path of denying ourselves, taking up the cross and following the way of Jesus, putting others first and serving them. Not that we are asked to lose all self-identity or sense of responsibility, but to abandoning the agenda for living which sees life as some sort of race or competition against all others. All easy stuff to write but very hard stuff to live out in practice, so what's the key? Is it that in serving God we have a responsibility not only to God and to others, but to ourselves too, to find out what it is He wants us to do? If we only have some vague vision of what we are supposed to be doing, doing it is quite hard. Apparently there is a Chinese proverb which states, 'If we don't change direction we'll end up where we



are going'. How true that is. And its fine if we were going in the right direction. But if we aren't, how can we find out? There is a reason that God called us as individuals. He has something mapped out for each one of us. It's not guess work, more like Sodoku. We can try to guess and put the numbers in the squares without spending time thinking about it, but if we do, the chances are we won't get it right. It's the same with God. Do we spend time with God so we might have a better chance of understanding how He wants us to serve Him or do we just try to guess what He wants? Are we prepared to change what we are doing now, to be challenged to do something different? If so, what's God got in store for each one of us this week? *Sam Cappleman*

### Mediation

Moses stood before the flame of God in the burning bush to learn God's name and to understand how God would bring hope and freedom to his people through the remembrance of His name and the significance of it. Peter, in declaring Jesus' new name of Messiah, God's hope bringer and liberator still has to learn what it really means and its true significance. The God of Abraham, the Messiah who has come is not like the warrior kings of old but a King who was born in a stable in humble surroundings, apparent poverty. He would rule not from a position of implied power, military might or inherited human authority, but would overcome and transform the entire world, including sin and death itself, from weakness, obedience and with an initial following of outcasts, strangers and misfits. But through His sacrifice of self-giving and overflowing love demonstrated on the cross He showed that the God of the cross and the burning bush has triumphed over evil and will, in the end, right all wrong. For those who are lost in the desert, or in the society in which they live, the cross offers the light of the burning bush for those who are seeking direction and life.

### Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

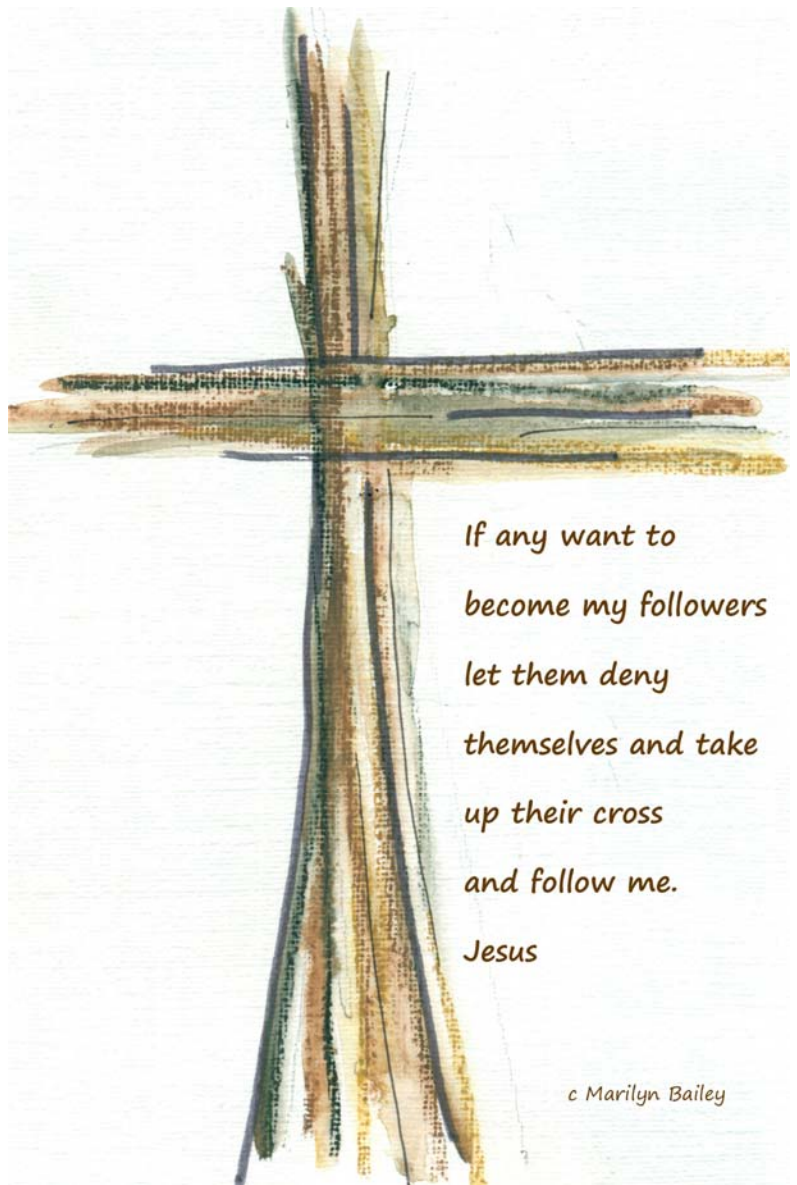
Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Redeemer God, you heard the cry of your people and sent Moses your servant to lead them out of slavery. Free us from the tyranny of sin and death and, by the leading of your spirit, brings us to our promised land, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lord Jesus Christ, who prayed for your disciples that they might be one, even as you are one with the Father; draw us to yourself, that in common love and obedience to you we may be united to one another, in the fellowship of the one Spirit, that the world may believe that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

I know what must be done. Only now am I beginning to be a disciple. May nothing of powers visible or invisible prevent me, that I may attain unto Jesus Christ. **Amen** *Ignatius of Antioch*

May God grant that we who have worshipped Him may be witnesses to Him in His world, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen**



*If any want to  
become my followers  
let them deny  
themselves and take  
up their cross  
and follow me.  
Jesus*

*c Marilyn Bailey*

### **Holiday Children's Activities**

**Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church will start again on Monday 8 September 2014 at 12 noon. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help to make this group such a success.

**Junior Church** at Putnoe Heights Church will meet again on Sunday 7th September for our All Age Family service. Thank you to all our volunteers who help with this group. We are constantly looking for new volunteers for this group. If you would like to be part of our Junior church group to help our children grow in faith please speak to Carolyn Morris or one of the Ministers.

**St Mark's Chat and Make / Play** start again on Monday 8 September at 1.30pm and Thursday 11 at 9.30am Please contact Janine 01234 297481 for more details.

**Storybox** at St. Mark's starts again on 4 September at 12 noon.

**St Mark's Messy Church** Wanted , any spare cooking apples , please, leave at Church Office. Thank you

**Action for Children** September House to House Collection. Action for Children has a 140 year history of working with children, young people and parents living in tough circumstances in Britain today. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church where it has its roots. Our annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in September. St. Mark's Church is allocated the Brickhill collecting area and last year we raised £572 (inc. Gift Aid). If you could spare a few hours during September to distribute and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. *Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)*

**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 11th 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.

**The bowls taster session** was a great success and further sessions will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the month 2pm - 4.30pm. Contact Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

**Offertory Envelopes** Members of the envelope scheme at Putnoe Heights Church are invited to collect their packs of envelopes for the next twelve months from a table in the welcome area.

**Footprints Walk.** The next walk will be on Sept. 7th starting at 2:30pm. Meet at Clophill Village Green, just off the A6. The walk varies from minor roads to woods and fields; and is about 3 miles. No stiles and good firm ground. Queries please ring Warwick Holden Tel: 01234 403551

**St. Andrew's Church Concerts.** 27 September 7.30pm Bring & Sing. Singers £7.00 Audience £8.00/£7.00 concessions. 28th September Concert of English Song 2pm £5.00 followed by workshop £3.00. See posters on St. Mark's notice board for more information. Tickets from St. Andrew's Church Centre Office 216881 or Central Box Office 718112.

**Putnoe Heights Church Harvest Lunch** Tickets are now on sale in the Putnoe office for the lunch on October 5th 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.

**Shoulder Joint Replacement Surgery** Has anyone had this operation or knows anyone that has. I would like to discuss this and after care. Please contact Derrick on 01234 400279

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**From Bishop Richard, on behalf of the Celebrate 100 team**

Thank you on behalf of the organising team and myself for all of the hard work that you put into making Celebrate 100 such an amazing event. We have been overwhelmed by the number of people who came, the kind words everybody has expressed about the event and the number of emails sending thanks to everyone who contributed.

After making the decision to set up the stage for an outdoor event on Friday, the weather forecast changed and started to predict rain and eventually had deteriorated so far that Amber warnings were issued for a downpour. On Sunday morning we therefore decided that we should implement our wet weather contingency plan to dismantle the stage and move indoors.

We had to cancel some events such as the giant bouncy castles in the fairground for safety reasons and many of the open top classic cars were just not up to a day in the rain. However the College Equestrian Centre proved that it was the right choice for the event as it provided facilities which enabled us to continue with a full programme of activities.

Inside the indoor arena our speakers and worship all took place on schedule and the marquees protected Messy Church, crafts and all of the other activities planned through the day. From the covered veranda, we were able to watch dog and bird displays in the outdoor arena, we rang bells, drove motor cars and across the site, a real sense of British fortitude ensured we triumphed over the elements. Teams from across the Diocese played 'It's a Knockout', and the dodgems operating throughout the day offered free rides undercover, which were very popular.

'In spite of everybody knowing from the weather reports on the day that it was going to be very wet,

they still came from all over the Diocese. The Borough Council have advised us that throughout the day 4,500 people came and went and over 1,500 people stayed until the end and joined in the Celebrate 100 service. A retiring offering raised £2,200 for the Harvest Appeal.'

We were particularly moved by the number of people who made the pilgrimage to the prayer tents in the woodland burial ground in the rain. This will surely be a day to remember and we are deeply grateful to everybody who has helped in the arrangements over the past year. Thank you for the part which you played in helping us to Celebrate 100  
**Bishop Richard**

**The Centenary Prayer**

God our Father, in this centenary year we thank you for the life and witness of your Church in this Diocese of St Albans for making us your pilgrims and disciples in our own day. May we always be valiant for truth and ready to live your love in our lives, for Jesus' sake

Many thanks to all of our sponsors and donors

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**Special Sale of Spring Bulbs Saturday 6th**

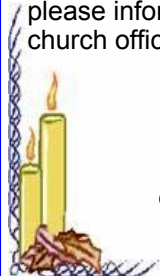
**September** A large variety of high quality bulbs will be available to purchase at Milton Ernest Village Hall, Thurleigh Road (just off the A6) from 9 am to 12 noon. There is no admission charge and you can indulge in a cup of tea or coffee and bacon roll. All proceeds are for Arthritis Research UK. If you are unable to attend but would still like to purchase bulbs please contact me on 01234 344617 and I can send you a full list and order form. Marian Goddard (Hon Secretary, Bedford Branch— Arthritis Research UK)

**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

**Eileen Alexander  
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 Alistair Buchanan** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.00am on Friday 5 September