



# Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
6 September 2015  
Ordinary 23



## 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

### 6 September Ordinary 23

#### 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 - Family Worship & Baptism

Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs. Jenny Snelson  
Intercessions - Mrs. Clair Peck  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

### 13 September Ordinary 24

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

Preacher - Mr. Keith Lilley  
Leadership - Mr. Edward Parry  
Intercessions - Ministers  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Keith Lilley  
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

**Readings** 1. Isaiah 50: 4-9a 2. James 3: 1-12  
3. Mark 8: 27-38

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

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.



## Welcome



You are all welcome to our worship this morning. At Putnoe Heights Church we welcome especially the family and friends of Cooper Barry Christopher Dunford who has been brought for baptism.

## Prayer for Sunday

Send forth your wisdom, O Lord, to live in our hearts, to work in our lives and to speak in our consciences; that all our thoughts, words and actions may conform to your will and reveal your glory; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Aelred of Rievaulx (1109-1167)*

### 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

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-Ordinator

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 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

### 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

# 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–21 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

**9.30am 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  
**2.00pm 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 16 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 Wriggles & 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 - Wednesday 23 Sept Annual Congregational Meetings** -

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 October 2015 Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** - 29 September

**Putnoe Church Council** - 15 October 2015

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

**Churchyard Committee** - TBA

**Circuit meeting** - 14 September at Flitwick

**Deanery meeting** - Thursday 10 September

**Woodland Burial Trustees** -

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** -

28 September 2015 2.00pm

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

September.

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

## Ordinary 23

We are surrounded by images of what constitutes success and encouraged to try and become like famous people by using their shampoo or cologne. They are presented as aspirational characters and young people especially are given role models of these people, who are usually stars of film or sport.

Yet these are poor examples for us or our children. With their failed relationships and

dysfunctional lifestyles they are usually more to be pitied than copied. We need to lay before ourselves better examples of authentic living, types of behaviour which are more constructive and contribute to the happiness of ourselves and others. In our reading today we read that people said of Jesus 'He has done everything well,' now that really is a lifestyle worth looking at.



### Sentence of Scripture Ps 107 (v. 1 & 19)

O Give thanks to the Lord for he is good for his loving memory is forever..... he satisfies the thirsty: and fills the hungry with good things.

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

O God, you bear your people ever on your heart and mind. Watch over us in your protecting love, that, strengthened by your grace and led by your Spirit, we may not miss your way for us but enter into your glory, made ready for all in Christ our Lord. Amen. Methodist Worship

### First Bible Reading - Isaiah Chapter 35:4-7

Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

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

### Second Bible Reading - James 2:1-10, 14-17

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favouritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong? If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good

is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

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

### **Gospel Reading - Mark 7:24-37**

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

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

### **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 for Sunday** (*Please distribute Family Morning Worship and hymn sheet where requested, also baptism sheets at Putnoe Heights Church*)

1. A Man there lived in Galilee
2. What a wonderful Saviour is Jesus
3. What a friend we have in Jesus
4. Sing of the Lord's goodness
5. Christ is made the sure foundation

### **Commentary**

Those of you who struggle with hearing problems will know that it is not pleasant being deaf. At the time of Jesus it was much worse because there were no hearing aids, no sources of help for disability. The poor man in the Gospel story who was deaf and dumb would have lived an isolated life and he would have been used to people pointing at him and making him feel humiliated.

In the Old Testament, seven hundred years before this incident was recorded in Mark's Gospel, the prophet Isaiah was describing the age of the Messiah, the time when God would act in the world. He said that when the Christ came, (*Isa. 35:5-6*).

*"the ears of the deaf would be unstopped . . . and the tongue of the dumb would shout for joy"*

In healing this man Jesus was taking upon himself the hopes and dreams of those who were waiting for God to appear on earth and do a new and wonderful thing.

Deaf mutes were protected under Jewish law but they were classed with other groups such as women, slaves, and minors, not considered educated enough to keep the law. Jesus acts towards the man in a way which is compassionate in every sense

**Jesus takes the man aside away from everybody else.** First of all Jesus takes the man aside, away from the crowd. Jesus gives him 'one to one' time. The man has been used to people looking at him and pointing and Jesus will not use him as a spectacle, Jesus understands that the man does not want to be embarrassed. By taking him aside Jesus shows that the man is important and he deserves his complete attention.

**Jesus communicates with the man** The man is deaf and dumb and so Jesus cannot speak to him. Jesus knows how important it is to communicate and because he cannot use words to speak to the man he uses actions.



**Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears.** The man could not hear and so Jesus touches his ears. He makes it clear that he knows what the problem is with the hearing.

**Then he spit and touched the man's tongue.** We are told that the man can hardly talk and so Jesus spits and touches the man's tongue. It was thought that spit had healing properties. The Roman Emperor Vespasian restored the sight of a blind man by spitting into his eyes. (*Suetonius Vespasian 7 Tacitus Hist 4.81*) Jesus touches his tongue to show that Jesus understand his difficulty with talking.

**Then we are told Jesus does another action.** Jesus looked up to heaven. Jesus is making it clear that the healing which is about to take place is not an earthly cure. The man is being told in visual terms that the place from where we can find help from the things which trouble us is by turning to God. There is no earthly answer to human need, we have to look to God. *Charles Royden*

**Meditation** Archbishop of Canterbury on the refugee crisis (Thursday 3rd September 2015)

In a statement on the refugee crisis facing Europe and the Middle East, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, said today:

This is a hugely complex and wicked crisis that underlines our human frailty and the fragility of our political systems. My heart is broken by the images and stories of men, women and children who have risked their lives to escape conflict, violence and persecution.

There are no easy answers and my prayers are with those who find themselves fleeing persecution, as well as those who are struggling under immense pressure to develop an effective and equitable response. Now, perhaps more than ever in post-war Europe, we need to commit to joint action across Europe, acknowledging our common responsibility and our common humanity.

As Christians we believe we are called to break down barriers, to welcome the stranger and love them as ourselves (Leviticus 19:34), and to seek the peace and justice of our God, in our world, today.

With winter fast approaching and with the tragic civil war in Syria spiralling further out of control, we must all be aware that the situation could yet worsen significantly.

I am encouraged by the positive role that churches, charities and international agencies are already playing, across Europe and in Syria and the surrounding areas, to meet basic humanitarian needs.

These efforts may feel trivial in the face of the challenge, but if we all play our part this is a crisis that we can resolve.

We need a holistic response to this crisis that meets immediate humanitarian need while tackling its underlying drivers. I commend the UK Government for its strong commitment to the world's poorest people through the delivery of the aid budget. It has shown global leadership by providing £900 million in aid since 2012 to the crisis in Syria. It has also shown moral leadership in using Royal Navy ships to save the lives of hundreds who have tried to make the dangerous crossing across the Mediterranean.

I hold in my heart particularly those who are most vulnerable in conflict, and those who we have a special duty to protect. In the past, the Government has rightly sought to provide sanctuary to unaccompanied children, women and those who have been victims of, or are at risk of, sexual violence.

I welcome this, while urging a renewed commitment to taking in the most vulnerable.

The Church has always been a place of sanctuary for those in need, and Churches in the UK and across Europe have been meeting the need they are presented with. I reaffirm our commitment to the principle of sanctuary for those who require our help and love. The people of these islands have a long and wonderful history of offering shelter and refuge, going back centuries – whether it be Huguenot Christians, Jewish refugees, Ugandan Asians, Vietnamese boat people or many, many more.

It has always been controversial at the time it happened, always been seen as too difficult. Yet each time we have risen to the challenge and our country has been blessed by the result.

We cannot turn our backs on this crisis. We must respond with compassion. But we must also not be naïve in claiming to have the answers to end it. It requires a pan-European response – which means a commitment to serious-minded diplomatic and political debate, but not at the expense of practical action that meets the immediate needs of those most in need of our help.

**Prayers for will mark longest reign**

On 9 September 2015, HM The Queen will become the longest serving monarch in British history, having reigned for over 62 years. At about 5:30 pm she will exceed the 23,226 day and just under 17 hour reign of Queen Victoria who acceded to the throne on 20 June 1837 and reigned until 22 January 1901. There is no formal Royal event marking this moment: it is business as usual for the Queen, who will be in Scotland, opening a railway in the Borders. She is not, currently, the longest serving monarch in the world. King Bhumibol of Thailand has reigned for 68 years. Prayers have been written specially for churches to mark the occasion:

**Collect for use after the Collect of the Day** (A modern-language prayer drawing on Philippians 2)

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ exchanged the glory of a heavenly throne for the form of a servant, we thank you that you have given Elizabeth our Queen a heart to serve her people, and have kept her devoted in this service beyond all who were before her: encourage us by her example to serve one another, and to seek the common good, until you call us all to reign with Christ in your eternal kingdom. Amen

**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.

**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

**Chat and Make** restarts at St Mark's on Monday 14 September at 1.30-2.45pm

**Chat and Play** at St. Mark's restarts on Thursday 17 September from 9.30 - 11.30 am.

**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 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.

**Concerts at St. Andrew's 10th Anniversary Weekend** Friday 9 October 7.30pm Urban Folk Quartet Saturday 10 October Bring & Sing Handel's Messiah 2.30pm—5pm rehearsal 7.30pm performance.

Sunday 11 October Recital 2.30pm, Tenth Anniversary Tea 4.30pm Thanksgiving Service for the Gift of Music 6pm. Details from [www.standrewsbedford.org](http://www.standrewsbedford.org) or Church office 01234 216881.

**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

**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

**Reign of Queen Elizabeth.** There will be a special service at 7.30pm next Wednesday, 9 September at St Paul's Church, Bedford for all the people of Bedfordshire in Honour of HM The Queen becoming the longest serving British monarch.

**Brickhill Parish Council** next meets on Thursday October 1 at 7.30pm at St Mark's Church Community Centre. All are welcome to attend these public meetings. This is preceded by a meeting of the planning committee which discusses local matter of planning and which is also a public meeting. The planning committee has powers to decide to direct any planning application to a full public meeting of the Bedford Borough Council Planning Committee.

**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

**Tuesday Housegroup** St. Mark's Church is home to a mid-week social and Bible study group which has been running for many years. A small group of like-minded members of St. Mark's and of Putnoe Heights, meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons from 2.00pm -3.30pm. The group's next meeting is on Tuesday 8th September, after the summer break and we would like to invite a few more people to join us. More information from Jean Bank, St. Mark's and from Sue and Martin Fannon, Putnoe Heights.

**Cooking Apples** If you have a glut of cooking apples, Messy Church would love to have them. Please leave in the office for Gill to collect.

**Harvest Service** A service for harvest will be held at Highfield Residential Care Home on 20 September 2015. All who would like to help are very welcome. Vera Pearson

**Equipping God's People** The Diocese runs many courses which you may find helpful and our churches will offer you encouragement and support if you wish to attend. You can find them all online [www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/find-a-course/](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/find-a-course/)

**Home group/Bible Study group Leaders' training** is a course run over two Saturday mornings for anyone who leads or would like to lead Bible studies/Home groups and wants to learn more about how adults learn and the skills of facilitating groups.

**Bereavement Ministry** This three session course will interest and help equip anyone who as a disciple of Christ wants to know more about caring for people who have been bereaved, whether within the church or wider community.

**A Welcoming church** This 2-session course will interest anyone and everyone who is keen that the welcome we offer to newcomers, visitors and enquirers is the best it can be.

**Dementia Friends Training**

A basic short friendly and interactive session on recognising the signs and tips on how to support people with dementia.

**Prayers for Sunday**

Lord Jesus on this day we remember when you opened the ears of the man who was deaf, open our ears to your voice and may we spread abroad the story of your love and compassion which reaches out and makes us well.

Open our ears O Lord to those who are lonely, the sick, those who are troubled in their hearts and minds and those who are spiritually hungry. May we be used by you to reach out with your healing touch to those who are in need.

Open the ears dear Lord we pray of the Nations, so that they might hear those who cry for justice. We remember those who are displaced from their own country by war and disaster. We pray for refugees asylum seekers and migrants who seek a place of peace and safety in which to live and care for their families. We pray for all of those who live in constant fear of war, those who have no peace because they are threatened for their race, colour or creed.

Open our ears Lord to the necessity for equality. Release all of those who are captive to prejudice and discrimination. Give perseverance to all who work for mutual respect and strive to remove intolerance.

Open our ears to those who cry out in suffering. To those who are trapped in broken bodies. To those who suffer from fragile minds, those have been broken through painful experiences or debilitating disease. Give hope to all who put their trust in you.

Open our ears to those whose lives have been crushed by the death of loved ones and who live in grief and loss. Give to all who mourn the knowledge of your compassion and of your everlasting love for all that you have created.

We remember those who have died and commend them to God.

**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

**Kathleen Margaret Stronner**



*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 on Friday 18 September, followed by a service at St. Mark's Church at 2.00pm.

**The funeral of Rosemary Alexander**, longstanding member of Putnoe Heights and Tuesday Club, will be at Norse Road, at 11.30am on Wednesday 16 September.