



# Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
8 February 2015  
Second Sunday before Lent**



## 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

## 8 February - Second Sunday before Lent

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

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard  
Leadership - Mr. Edward Parry  
Intercessions - Mrs. Mary Stubbs  
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard  
Leadership - Mrs. Jenny Snelson  
Intercessions - Mr. Alan Bayliss  
Organist - Mr. Alan Bayliss

## 15 February - Sunday next before Lent

### 9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mr. Mick Ovenden  
Intercessions - Mrs. Morag Stewart  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sam Ware  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

**Readings** 1. 2 Kings 2:1-12 2. 2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
3. Mark 9:2-9

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.

**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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## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week  
have been given by Elsie Slack in loving memory of  
her husband Hartley.

*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 con-  
tact 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

Let your outstretched arm  
be our defence, O Lord;  
your mercy and loving kindness  
in Jesus Christ, our salvation;  
your true and living Word  
be our instruction  
and the grace of your life-giving Spirit  
be our strength;  
now and for ever. Amen.

*John Knox, Book of Common Order (1564)*

**Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators**  
Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@Thisischurch.com  
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,  
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.  
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

**Churchyards Administrator**  
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

**Putnoe Heights Church Centre**  
**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Geoff Gypps 365630  
**Leadership Team** Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417  
**Treasurer** Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188  
**Youth Team Leader** Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

**St. Mark's Church Centre**  
**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Mrs Jean Bank 355698  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892  
treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

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

**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 (starts 8 Sept.)

**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

**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 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-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

**7.00pm 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– 16 February 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.

Lorrie Pearson 01234 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 (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.

**3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**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 3 March Easter Crafts 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 –4pm St Mark's Nursery** Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 11 February 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

**2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00pm - 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 11 February.

2014 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 3446008.00pm

**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  
18 February AGM 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

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights. Will  
meet again on 8 January 2015

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 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. Contact Jaana Swaby 342613

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

**1.00 - 2.30pm 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  
07768481499

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

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

**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

**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

**7.30pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's (2nd & 4th  
week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

**7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's (1st and 3rd

week in month) Kaye Logan 309105

### 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.** 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.

**2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls** at St. Mark's 2nd &  
4th Sunday. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

**Messy Church Dates** 11 Feb. 18 Mar. 15 Apr.



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – 10 February 2015

**St Mark's Leadership Team** -

**Annual Congregational Meetings** - 26 April 2015

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** –

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** –

**Putnoe Church Council** - 19 February 2015 at 7.30pm

**Pastoral Group Meeting** - 17 February

**Churchyard Committee** - 15 April 11.15am

**Circuit meeting** – 7.30pm 9 February at Amptill

**Deanery meeting** -

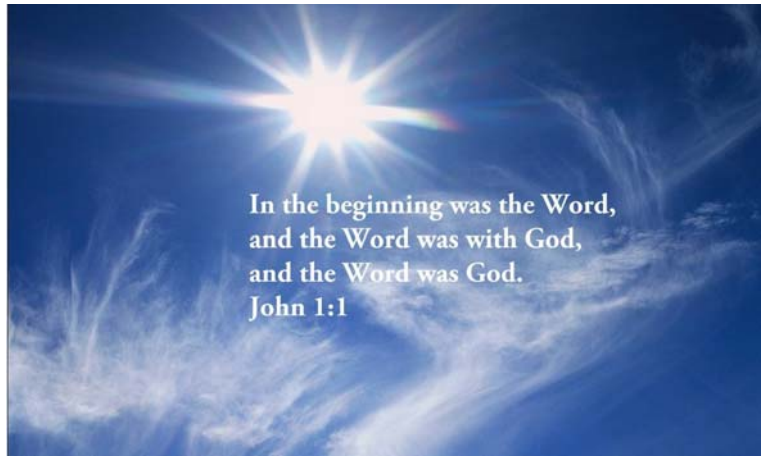
**Woodland Burial Trustees** –

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** - 1 June  
2015 2pm

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



# Second Sunday before Lent



## Introduction

If the Gospel reading for today seems a bit hard to understand then don't worry it's not just you who finds it difficult. Millions of pages of theology have been written trying to work out exactly what was going on in the mind of the writer. It is a little like when we were at school and you were asked to

write a piece about a poem and explain what the poet meant. Everybody had lots to say but there was no completely right answer, perhaps even the poet had different ideas of what was going on. We'll think of this opening passage as being like a poem about Jesus and where he came from. Perhaps the writer knew this poetry and incorporated it into the beginning of his Gospel. The poetry brings together ideas from ancient Israel and introduces us to the term about Jesus as the 'Word.' It would have made much more sense to the readers then who knew about the old Jewish Wisdom literature, or even the pagan philosophers who spoke of the 'Word' as the reason in the universe. The Good News is that the writer will go on to speak about how all this poetic stuff has come to be understood in Jesus who brings all of these ideas together and makes them flesh. Jesus makes sense of our philosophies and speculative religious ideas, thank God that in Jesus he comes to us in a way that we can finally understand.

## Sentence of Scripture - Psalm 104:31,34

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in His works. May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Common Worship

## First Bible Reading - Proverbs 8:1,22-31

Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?

"The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

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

## Gospel Reading - John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Hymns for Sunday** (*Please distribute Morning Worship booklet Hymn sheets*)

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies *Tune England Lane*
2. In a world where people walk in darkness,
3. In the cross of Christ I glory: *Tune All for Jesus*
4. At the name of Jesus *Tune Camberwell*
5. Long ago the Father's voice *Tune St George Windsor*

### **Commentary**

It is not easy for us to read the beginning of the Gospel of John because it is a strange and so utterly different from the beginnings of the other Gospels. Matthew and Luke describe the birth of Jesus with the stories surrounding Bethlehem and shepherds and kings. Mark begins with a grown up Jesus who is baptised in a river by John the Baptist. In John's Gospel we read 'In the beginning was the Word' ! It is confusing to say the least, so don't worry if you find it odd, it is not just you who wonders what on earth is going on. The reason for this is that the writer of John is using poetry, perhaps parts of an established hymn rooted in the writings of the Jewish Wisdom tradition. If you were studied in the poetic traditions of Proverbs, Sirach and the Wisdom of Solomon then it would all make much more sense, unfortunately most people are not. The writer is saying about Jesus what had been written in the Jewish tradition about Wisdom (Sophia). Wisdom is a part of God and in Proverbs Wisdom is shown as a woman, inviting us to learn from her. When the Hebrew scriptures were translated into Greek, the word used to translate 'wisdom' was a feminine noun 'Sophia.' So we have this earthly Wisdom seen in Books like Proverbs, seen as distinct from God and yet a part of God. In John's Gospel this 'Wisdom of God' is compared with the 'Word of God.' Just as Wisdom had been at work in the universe forever, so had Jesus.

When we read 'In the beginning' we can hardly help thinking of the resonance with Genesis and the theme of creation. In Genesis we read a poetic account of creation which uses language to convey the idea of God creating and making the world. Now in this Gospel the writer uses the term Word (logos) to indicate that Jesus, like Wisdom, is part of eternal history. In the verses of this introduction to the Gospel the writer weaves together themes and words which show that Jesus is the fulfillment of everything which has previously been thought about God in the history of Israel and God's working with these people. Jesus as Logos is the source of all life and light in the world. Using the term Logos was particularly effective because it would also have meant something to the pagan philosophers who spoke of the 'word' as the 'sense' the rationality which was embedded in all humanity and in creation itself.

The difference between God activity in the world up until this point is that until now God has been Wisdom (Sophia), in all things, but now God is made incarnate - in flesh. Jesus is God with skin, not just spirit. Now God can be seen and touched, God is not elusive or distant he has made his dwelling with us, he has 'tabernacled' with us - pitched his tent next to ours ! John is

placing Jesus as high as you can get in terms of intimacy with God, but he is also bringing Jesus low, so much so that we can in Jesus touch the living presence of God. If we want to know what God is like then we need look no further than Jesus.

Jesus has been around since the beginning, bringing light out of darkness, now he has come to us. The sadness is that he has been rejected by God's people, the Jews, the very people to whom he has been sent. The good news is that the story does not end there, those who do accept Jesus (verse 12) no matter what race, these people are children of God in a special way.

God has become flesh so that he might be revealed to all flesh. The writer is making clear the point that Jesus is for everybody, he is understood against the history of God's dealing with Israel, yet those dealings of God with that people have now been opened up to all people. *Charles Royden*



### **Meditation Saint Patrick**

Patrick was born somewhere on the west coast of Britain, his father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest - of course in those days priests were allowed to marry. When he was six years old he was captured by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave. Six years later he escaped and went to Gaul and eventually returned to his family. He trained as a priest and when he was 40 he was consecrated as a bishop and returned to Ireland as a missionary. He died in about 460AD.

He left behind a number of his writings, his 'Confessions' and 'Letter to Coroticus.' he may have used the three leaved Shamrock as an illustration of the Trinity. He did not as legend tells banish snakes from Ireland since like several other areas which were covered by the polar ice sheets during the Ice Age, Ireland has never had any!

One prayer attributed to Patrick is his evening prayer. It is a typical Celtic piece using very simple down to earth vocabulary and imagery to express deep spiritual truths. It expresses the conviction that we need fear not since even our dreams are under God's protective angels.

May your angels holy Son,  
guard our homes when day is done,  
when at peace, our sleep is best  
bid them watch us while we rest.

May no terror and no fright  
spoil our slumber in the night;  
free from care our eyelids close;  
Spirit, give us prompt repose.

Prince of everything that is  
High Priest of mysteries  
let your angels, God supreme,  
tell us truth dressed as a dream

We have laboured through the day:  
lift our burdens when we pray,  
then our souls in safety keep,  
that our sleep be soft and deep.

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

God of Wisdom and Word, you made all things out of your creative love. You breathed life into all that is living, it is in you that we live and move and have our being. We pray that your life giving power would inflame our hearts with love for your creation. Teach us to care as you care for all that there is. We pray that you would teach us how to care and protect for the water we drink and the air that we breathe, that we would no longer pollute or selfishly devour the world's resources. Give us compassion for all creatures, that your suffering children might be cared for and all creatures be treated with the respect and dignity.

We pray for the governments of the world, for those who negotiate to bring about peace and to stop the senseless killing which prevails in so many places across the world. We pray that people of violence would not triumph and that those who seek justice and peace would be given strength and courage to prevail in their opposition to forces of destruction and division.

Lord Jesus you came and lived among us and felt our humanity with all of its frailty and weakness. Give strength to all of those who are weak, whose faculties are diminished or bodies wearing out. May we find in your our wisdom and strength all our days. Amen.

**Clear out your wardrobe** St Mark's have installed a textile clothing bank in the car park and we want your old clothes, curtains, sheets, soft toys, belts, handbags and shoes. Every kilo which you give us will help raise money for church funds

**Singing the Faith Day** Saturday 21 February Wesley Church, Cambridge. 10.30am – 4.00pm. [alison.walker@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:alison.walker@methodistchurch.org.uk) or 01223 872862.

**International John Bunyan Society** Conference on Representing Dissent in the Long Eighteenth Century at University of Bedfordshire on Friday 10 April 10.00am - 5.00pm. Free of charge. Contact [bob.owens@beds.ac.uk](mailto:bob.owens@beds.ac.uk) for more information.

**Putnoe Heights Ladies.** I have booked for a group of us to have another evening meal at The Cappuccino Bar, in Newnham Street, on Tuesday March 3rd at 7.30p.m. Even if you didn't come last time, you are welcome to join us on this occasion. Please see me for further details. Maximum number 25. Margaret Massey. Tel. 327219.

**St. Mark's Church Pre-school.** Our lunchtime volunteer now feels unable to carry on so we are looking for someone to help out for 1 hour (or more) a week. We would prefer Monday 12noon to 1pm but volunteers are always welcome. A DBS (Data Background Check) will be required for the children's safety. Please speak to Helen Harpin/ Sue Jones at pre-school or Jean Bank/Janet Day at church.

**Confirmation.** Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which you affirm for yourself the faith into which you have been baptized and your intention to live the Christian life. The affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the support of the wider church. In the Partnership we welcome The Bishop and the Methodist Superintendent. If confirmation is something which you might be interested in then we would be delighted to discuss it with you. Please speak with one of the ministers.

### **Dates for your diary**

**St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015,**

6 April, 4 May, 25 May and 31 August.

**Putnoe Heights Church Council** Thursday 19 February at 7.30pm

### **Church of England Weekly Podcast**

You can hear a round up of news from the Church of England in a new weekly podcast. It's available on the front page of the Church of England website, [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org), or you can now subscribe to it on the 'podcast' section of iTunes. Search for 'Church of England podcast' in the iTunes store and opt to subscribe.

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

**Next Messy Church at St Mark's Church** on Wednesday 11 February 3.45 - 5.30pm. Messy Church takes place monthly on a Wednesday from 3.45pm - 5.30pm. For children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. For more details contact Wendy Waters 401834



**Registration of St Mark's Charity.** We were delighted to hear that our documentation for registration of St Mark's as a charity has been submitted to the Charity Commission by the Diocesan Solicitor. Once a successful registration has taken place we will use the same process to register Putnoe Heights, which we should be able to accomplish in a much shorter time having done it before! Charitable registration is something required by law for our two churches and due to the ecumenical nature of our churches we are the first churches in the UK to registered in this way. Hopefully other churches may be able to use our model in the future as more smaller churches are required to register. Very many thanks to Sam for doing so much work over the past few years to bring this together for us.

**A big thank you** to Bunyan Bridge for their donation of £100 to Open House.

### **The Cathedral and Abbey Church of Saint Alban**

Ecumenical Evening Pilgrimage on Wednesday 11 February 2015 7pm-9.30pm : following a prayer trail around the Cathedral, concluding with Compline by candlelight in the Quire and a silent procession to the Shrine of St Alban. Cost £6. (Including on arrival a sandwich and cake buffet.) Please Book in advance to Judith Card in the Cathedral Office. Phone: 01727 890200.

**'Lent Group** using extracts from the film 'The Kings Speech' and related Bible passages to explore fear, how it holds us back; how we can face and overcome it. To be held on Monday evenings 7.30 pm on 23 February, 2, 9 and 16 March. If you are interested please contact Wendy Waters.

**Lent Lunches** We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us for a simple lunch of soup, cheese and bread every Thursday during Lent, 26 February - 26 March, 12noon – 1.15pm in the Holt Room at St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford. Minimum donation £3 in support of the Bedford Hospital Challenge Cancer Appeal.



this Lent  
**live a difference**



sign up for a daily email or text at  
[www.livethechallenge.co.uk](http://www.livethechallenge.co.uk)  
The Diocese of St Albans



**Live a Difference  
Lent Challenge.**

Take up the challenge to Live God's Love in such a way that others see God and discover the life he offers.

For more information  
See  
[www.livethechallenge.co.uk](http://www.livethechallenge.co.uk)

Starts Ash Wednesday

From the Diocese  
of St Albans

This Live a Difference addresses issues that underly some of the debates in the General Election campaign. Faith invites us to think and live a little differently. God's love has a habit of turning things upside down. There is a range of publicity materials which can be printed off and perhaps used on your own or with a homegroup.

**Ash Wednesday Service**



There will be an Ash Wednesday service in the chapel at St Mark's on Wednesday 18 February at 7.30pm. The service lasts an hour and includes Holy Communion and the Imposition of ashes. The

preacher this year will be the Reverend Ross Royden, Vicar of Christ Church, Hong Kong

**St Mark's Church Council** takes place this week. The meeting starts with refreshments at 7.30pm and business from 7.45pm. Everybody is welcome to attend and this is an open meeting

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**www.easyfundraising.com**. This works exactly the same when you shop with John Lewis, M&S and a whole host of other shops. This has an added benefit that you will also get some special offers - you can't lose ! Please click the link on the church website go online and sign up now

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**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

**Edith Hudson**

*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 Mr Patrick Vincent Elms** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 11.30am on Thursday 19 February

**The funeral of Nina Margaret Allen** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on Monday 23 February