



# Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
9 August 2015  
Ordinary 19**



## 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

## 9 August Ordinary 19

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

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard  
Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean  
Intercessions - Ministers  
Organist - Mr Martin Thompson

### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard  
Leadership - Mrs. Jenny Snelson  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sam Ware  
Organist - Mr. Martin Thompson

## 16 August Ordinary 20

### 9.30am St Mark's – Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs. Wendy Waters  
Intercessions - Mrs. Wendy Waters  
Organist - Mr. Martin Thompson

### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs. Sue Allen  
Intercessions - Mr. Alan Bayliss  
Organist - Mr. Martin Thompson

**Readings** 1. Proverbs 9:1-6 2. Ephesians 5:15-20  
3. John 6:51-58

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

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church  
this week are given by Irene  
McKenzie in memory of her dearly  
beloved husband Eddie on their  
wedding anniversary.



The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been  
given by Lois Webb in memory of her husband Peter  
on their 60th wedding anniversary.

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

## Prayer for Sunday

O Holy Spirit, giver of life and light, breath of all  
creatures, purifier of all souls and healer of all wounds:  
be fire to my heart, light on my path and friend for my  
journey; and this for your own love's sake. Amen.

*Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)*

### 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—17 August Judith Stanton. 823313  
**7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club** St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567  
**7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

## Tuesday

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

**11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Contact Janet King 313946  
**1.15pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946  
**1.30pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895  
**2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946  
**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's (Alternate Tuesdays) Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225  
**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Alternate Tuesdays. Mrs Jean Bank 355698  
**3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468  
**6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga** St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393  
**7.15-8.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390  
**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting September 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 3446008.

**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken  
Marriott 214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** at St Mark's  
(1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be  
2 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only  
£1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham  
406359 for more details.

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

### Thursday

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

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

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A term time group for  
Mums & toddlers.0-5 Restarts b17 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.

**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

**6-7pm 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 Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

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

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



## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** -  
**St Mark's Leadership Team** -  
**Annual Congregational Meetings** -  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 October 2015**  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** -  
**Putnoe Church Council** - 15 October 2015  
Putnoe Centre Manger Meeting - 29 September  
**Pastoral Group Meeting**- 15 September 2015 4.00pm  
**Churchyard Committee** - TBA  
**Circuit meeting** -  
**Deanery meeting** -  
**Woodland Burial Trustees** -  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** - 28  
September 2015 2.00pm  
**St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015**, 31 August.  
**Harvest Festival** service will be on Sunday 27  
September.  
*Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of  
your meetings.*

# Ordinary 19

## Sentence of Scripture John 6:35

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty".

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Common Worship

## First Bible Reading 1 Kings 19:3-8

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he travelled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

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

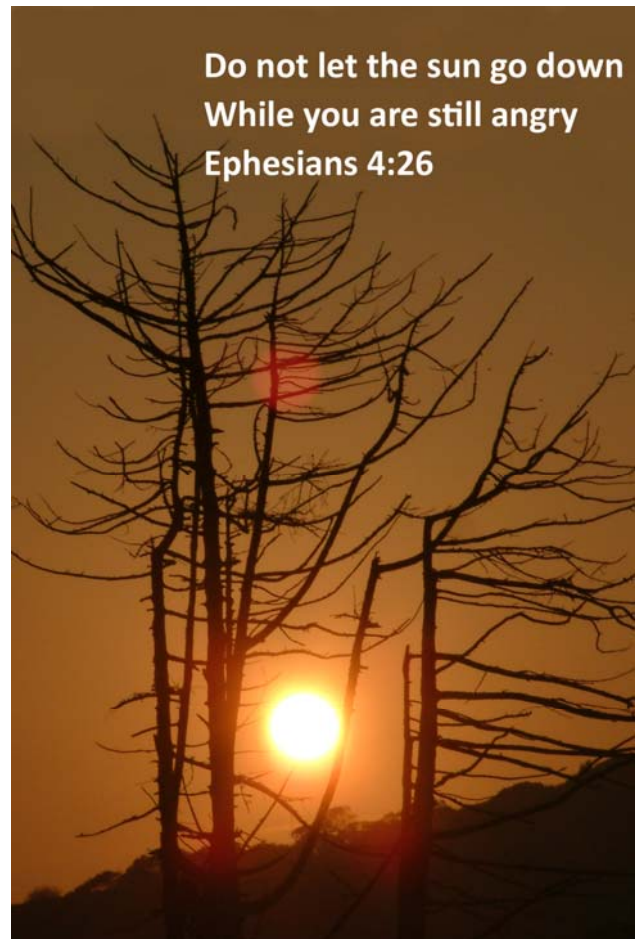
## Second Bible Reading Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body. In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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

## Gospel Reading - John 6:35, 41-51

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven?'" "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. I tell



you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."  
(This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

### Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.

### Hymns for Sunday *(Please distribute Morning Worship booklet and hymns sheet where requested)*

- |    |                                     |                          |                |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Awake my soul and with the sun      | <i>Morning Light</i>     | HP 632         |
| 2. | Sing to God new songs of worship    | <i>Ode to joy</i>        | MP 600         |
| 3. | Lord for the years                  | <i>Lord of the years</i> | MP 428         |
| 4. | Blest are the pure in heart         | <i>Franconia</i>         |                |
| 5. | Come, let us join our cheerful song | <i>Nativity</i>          | MP 93 / HP 810 |

### Commentary

Elijah was frightened, exhausted, and dispirited. He became depressed in spite of his great triumph. So he prayed to God to give immediate death to his worthless self. Then, as depressed people will do, he went to sleep. He was under a broom tree (a tall hedge with which desert people shielded themselves from the sun in the day and the wind at night). God could have been harsh to Elijah as a result. But instead, a quiet touch from God's angel awakened the prophet, and the angel whispered: get up and eat. Lo and behold, "there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water." Elijah did eat and drink, but then settled right back into sleep again. With tender care the angel whispered, "Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!" He did and was strengthened for the unknown mission he was to be sent on. Today's other readings are all about God's kindness to us too, his goodness even in small things. In the Gospel, Jesus offers nourishment too, but this time the provisions are for a very long journey: eternal life. The people listening will not have a bit of it. They argue among themselves, ridiculing his silly offer of miraculous food. They "murmur" that they knew his parents, which made him just a local boy acting crazy. Jesus ordered them to stop complaining and listen. He made the same comparison that we saw last week, between manna that came down from heaven in the desert and Himself, "the living bread that came down from heaven." Jesus as living bread can be a difficult concept to understand. But leave that aside for a moment and just concentrate on the deliberate kindness God shows to his people: feeding them, giving them drink, pursuing them again and again in order to offer the greatest gift of all, God's sacrificial love for us. God follows us quietly, gently. How can and should we respond? Receiving the living bread in Communion is a beginning. Reflecting on the mellowness of God is another. And simply slowing down. Stop running away and let the Lord find you. God's kind-hearted and also tough love is quite worth the struggle.

Elijah wanted to give it all up and most of us have been there and were tempted to do that as well. But God so often sends angels to "touch" us, to give us the "Bread from Heaven" and continues to urge us "get up and eat" and then get up and get on with the living. Our comfort is more than bread, it is that we have been taken by Christ from underneath the "broom tree" and he keeps us as His real presence in the society in which we live. Elijah moaned, "This is enough, O Lord! Take my life," Jesus says to us, "I am enough! You take my life, eat it all, live it all and you will be already living the eternal life I came and come to share."  
*Sam Cappleman*

### Meditation

There are times when people we know and love despair to the point of wanting to die. Perhaps there have been times when we ourselves have thought death a better alternative. Our journey through life takes us through some very dangerous country, our pilgrimage of life can lead us into some very desolate wilderness. Think of the words of the angel to Elijah, the words "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you."

To survive on our journey, to have the strength to go through the barren places of life, those places where we are alone - because of divorce, or illness, or death - we need to eat to drink the food and the drink that God has prepared for us. God does provide food in the words of his scriptures, in the lives of good people around us. We reach out to God when we are in need, when we are in despair, it is then that we must wait upon that still small voice which encourages us to believe, to trust, to rise up and feed upon the living bread. It is only as we do this that we all gain strength to enable us to complete our journey.

## *A Pastoral Letter to the congregations at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights*

On 19 June 2015, plans were presented to the Methodist Circuit meeting for a change to Methodist ministerial deployment across the Circuit, including at St Mark's. These plans had significant implications for all churches in the circuit.

It was only after much careful consideration and prayer that the St Mark's Leadership Team and Church Council arrived at the decision that they did not wish to be included in the new plans.

It was necessary to make this decision and to inform the Circuit that St Mark's did not wish to be included in the plans, and therefore the process for the appointment of a new Methodist Minister in 2016, before the process to find a minister commenced. This process is now underway having started at the end of July 2015. Putnoe Heights are fully involved in the process.

For many years now, serious concerns have been expressed by the Leadership Team at St Mark's regarding the Circuit and decisions taken by it regarding ministerial deployment. It has also been increasingly apparent that there are fundamental differences in approaches to ministry, especially with regard to issues such as continuity of ministry.

The Methodist Circuit plans for the Partnership, which included St Mark's sharing a Methodist Minister with three other churches in the Circuit, were far removed from the original understanding of the Partnership between Putnoe Heights and St Mark's. We do recognise, however, that, on this occasion, circumstances are being dictated by a lack of Methodist ministerial resources that are affecting churches across the Circuit. Both St Mark's and Putnoe Heights are fully supportive of the Circuit Leadership Team as they seek to deploy decreasing ministerial resources across a wide number of churches.

As an outcome of the position at St Mark's, however, the Church Council of St Mark's Church have taken the decision to dissolve the formal Ecumenical Partnership with the Methodist Church, expressed in its Charitable Incorporated Organisation and become an Anglican Church.

St Mark's remains completely committed to unity between Christians of all denominations. However, because of the Methodist ministerial changes, it is not believed that a formal ecumenical partnership with the Methodist Church at St Mark's is the best way serve the mission and ministry there in the future. There continues, nevertheless, to be a significant commitment at St Mark's to go on working ecumenically.

We have been asked whether the Partnership between St Mark's and Putnoe Heights will continue and our answer to this is that not only will it continue, but also that we very much hope that it will flourish, albeit in a changing way. The Partnership News, Telecare, alternating services of Holy Communion at 8.30am, social and many other activities need not be affected.

Putnoe Heights Church will remain a single congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Methodist Church and the Church of England. Pastoral care will continue to be shared by Anglican and Methodist ministers, and Methodist and Anglican leading of worship will continue.

The Ministers have also been asked, going forward, whether there will be inclusion of Methodist ministers or local preachers in the worship at St Mark's. The answer is, of course, yes! There is no need for a formal LEP to exist to allow such participation since the Church of England has specific rules (Canon B43) that allow ministers or lay people of other churches to share in Anglican services, if the person participating is entitled to do so in their own church.

Our ministers have met with the Circuit Superintendent, the Reverend Andrew Hollins, and a very positive working agreement has been drawn up to ensure a Methodist ministry at Putnoe Heights supported by the ministry team from St Mark's.

As we prepare for the new arrangements, there will be no changes for the coming year and the usual shared activities will continue as before and our pattern of worship will be unchanged. This will give everyone plenty of time to make preparations and to share in prayer as we seek God's blessing on the continuing mission and ministry at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Churches and in the churches of our wider Circuit and Deanery.

*Charles Royden      Sam Cappleman*

**St Mark's Church Car Boot Sale** This will take place on Monday 31 August. Please take time over summer to clear out your cupboards so that we can have lots of items to sell on the church stall.

As we finish off another year there is a barbeque in the Vicarage garden in the afternoon to which all of our car boot helpers are invited. Our sincere thanks to all of those who have given up their bank holiday Mondays to help raise money for church funds.

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

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

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

**Chat and Make** will meet on Mondays 3 and 17 August from 1.30-3pm

**Chat and Play** will meet on Thursdays 6, 13 & 20 August from 9.30 - 11.30am during the holidays. Details Janine 297481

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

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

**Footprints:-** On Saturday 29 August 2015 there will be an all day walk 2-3 hrs actual walking. We meet outside the waiting room Long Stanton Park and Ride bus stop Cambridgeshire 11.00am. The first part of the day will be a trip on the Cambridge Busway to St Ives where we will have lunch. Where you go for lunch is up to you. You could have a packed lunch by the River Ouse or use one of the local cafes. Meet back at the bus stop at two PM for the trip back. On the way back we stop at Fen Drayton Lakes for the walk. Which is flat and easy. Then on the Busway back to Long Stanton and home. Any problems contact Margaret or Alan Tel 327219

**Called to Service** I am delighted to report that Bishop Alan has asked our very own Rev Dr Sam Cappleman to become Assistant Rural Dean for

Bedford Deanery. Since his retirement from business life, Sam has already taken on a national role as Executive Chair of the Lee Abbey Movement. This new additional responsibility is an acknowledgement of the extraordinary gifts which Sam brings to his ministry. Sam will carry out these new duties alongside his ongoing ministry and commitment to our Partnership Churches at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights. The appointment is with immediate effect and so please continue to support Sam in your prayers. This is the first time that a minister from our churches has been invited to take this responsibility in our Deanery. *Charlie*

**Extraordinary Church Council Meeting**, at Putnoe Heights, open to all, will be held after morning service on Sunday 23 August. The one agenda item is to discuss the recent development of The Ecumenical Partnership and the way forward for Putnoe Heights Church.

### **Concerts at St. Andrew's 10th Anniversary Weekend**

Friday 9th October 7.30pm Urban Folk Quartet

Saturday 10th October Bring & Sing Handel's Messiah 2.30pm—5pm rehearsal 7.30pm performance.

Sunday 11th 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.

**Thank you.** The toilets at St Mark's are now well on with their upgrading and the ladies toilets are finished. Our sincere thanks to Mick and all those who have helped with the work

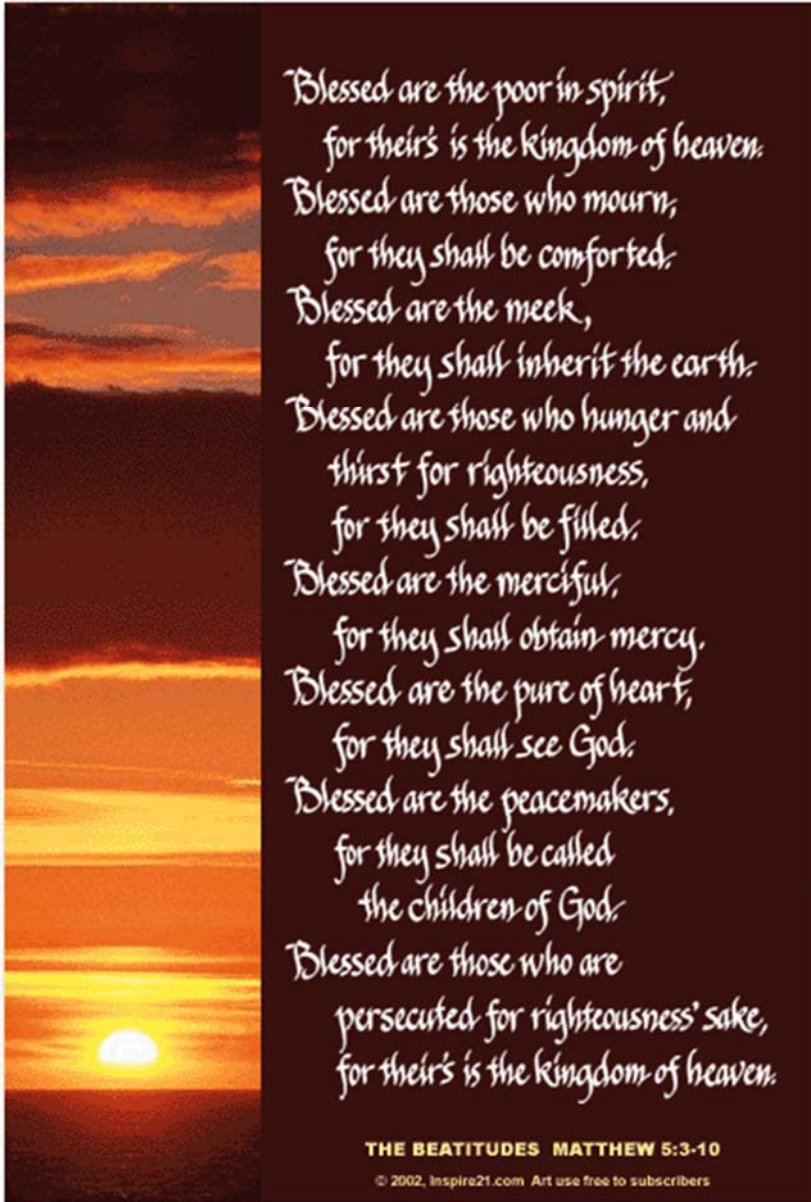
**The third Annual General Meeting of Friends for Life** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church, on Monday 14 September 2015 at 2pm [www.friendsforlifebedford.org.uk](http://www.friendsforlifebedford.org.uk)

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## **Telecare**

If you are elderly or living alone then it is important for us to be able to keep in contact with you. Please sign up for Telecare and we will give you a telephone call every week or fortnight to check if all is well. This enable us to keep track if somebody is ill and cannot come to church. We would like more people to join so just give St Mark's office a ring and they will put you on the list. This is a telephone service, nobody will call without your request.





Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
 Blessed are those who mourn,  
 for they shall be comforted.  
 Blessed are the meek,  
 for they shall inherit the earth.  
 Blessed are those who hunger and  
 thirst for righteousness,  
 for they shall be filled.  
 Blessed are the merciful,  
 for they shall obtain mercy.  
 Blessed are the pure of heart,  
 for they shall see God.  
 Blessed are the peacemakers,  
 for they shall be called  
 the children of God.  
 Blessed are those who are  
 persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

THE BEATITUDES MATTHEW 5:3-10  
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## Prayers for the week ahead

O Lord, who has taught us that all our doings without love are worth nothing, send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the very bond of peace and of all virtue.

Heavenly Father, you are the fountain of all truth, the bottomless sea of all understanding. Enlighten our minds with the beams of your heavenly grace. You command the stormy sea, be within our restless souls and grant unto us the stillness and peace of your blessing. Let us not be carried hither and thither by wandering thoughts, but, forgetting all else, let us see and hear you.

Lord God, draw your church deeper into you and give us grace that we may be seen to be the living expression of your presence. May we in all things seek to imitate the example of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

We pray for courage and endurance when the going is hard to save us from despair of faltering. Help us to set aside our fears and renew us with your heavenly food that our lives might be known by a song of thanksgiving and praise.

Heavenly Father we pray for all of those who are weak and weary. In your tender love sustain them and give us your eye of compassion to draw us to help your children in whatever situations of need they may find themselves.

Heavenly Father you promise to us in our human frailty the gift of your redemption. Hear our prayer for all we know who have died. May we with them pass through death to eternal life with you.

Thou hast given so much to me, give one thing more - a grateful heart.  
 Not thankful when it pleaseth me, as if thy blessings had spare days,  
 but such a heart whose pulse may be thy praise

## 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

**Delph Coleman**  
**Iris Payne**  
**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 Laura Patricia Heath** will take place at Woodland Burial ground at 2.00p.m. on Monday 17 August.

**The funeral of Molly 'Tim' Morton**, long time resident of Anjulita Court, will be on Tuesday 11 August at 3.15pm at Bedford Crematorium

**The funeral of Mr Eric Kirsop Scorer** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1,45pm on Friday 14 August