



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church



9 June 2013 - Ordinary 10

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

Today 9 June Ordinary 10

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd. Dr. S. Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions – Mrs. Margaret Appleton

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Sue Allen
Intercessions – Mrs. Sam Ware

16 June Ordinary 11

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion

Preacher – Mrs. Rebecca Fugill
Leadership – Mrs. Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mr. Richard Ledger

11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion

Preacher – Mrs. Rebecca Fugill
Leadership – Mrs. Vita Hudson-Rae
Intercessions – Mrs. Claire Peck

Readings 1.1 Kings 21:1-10, 2.Galatians 2: 15-21
3. Luke 7: 36-8:3

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

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Dawn Allinson in loving memory of her dear husband, Maurice.

The flowers at St. Marks are given by Jan Green in loving memory of her husband Ray.

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 on the foyers

Prayer for Sunday

Grant us, O God, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that the spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your path we may not stumble; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

William Reed Huntingdon (1838-1909)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a Vice President for Hewlett Packard)

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@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 - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
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 - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685
8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**
(See website for more details)
.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955
10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)
12.15pm Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630
1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk .
2pm U3A Music Appreciation (see contact details below)
4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.
6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571
6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081
7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson 353518
7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020
7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 17 June Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567
Putnoe Heights Children and Youth meeting - Monday 23rd September

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016
9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507
9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389
10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704
11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)
1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552
1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp. St Mark's (contacts details below)

1—3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's (contacts details below)
2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details below)
2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895
2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs 406784.
4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights.. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957
7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390
6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648
6.30pm MT Karate (all ages) Karen King 07941264885
7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455
7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club (Meets fortnightly). Next meeting June 11 Keech Hospice talk and raffle. Details Janet King 313946

Wednesday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly Changing to Fridays from 5 April (Same time an place.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647
9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.
9.30am Discover & Do (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666
10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.
10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. (contact below)
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)
10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe (contact below)
11.15am U3A Keep Fit
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting June 19 at Putnoe Heights Office 365630
1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)
1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)
2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights
2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966
3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 19th June Wendy Waters 401834
4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994.

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King 079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Yvonne Blain 350241 or Brian Sallows 407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004
7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378
8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 19 June 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 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

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.
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green 244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07932616468
110-11.30am Gentle Yoga For more details contact Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305
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 363283
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays St. Mark's 267444
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
2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's (contact below)
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Mary Rich 272470
5.00pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094
7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Carol Plant 01832710504
7.30pm Gentle Birthing St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231 (as from 4th April)
8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton 01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass 294220
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

Friday

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)
10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks (see contact details below)
2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (contact details below)
2pm U3A Italian-Putnoe Heights (contact details below)
2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights 4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker (07900 232648
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994
7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd week) Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

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
6.45pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger 212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday Feb/Apr/ Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143
11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.
7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

Messy Church Dates

Weds 17 April; Weds 17 May; Weds 19 June; Weds 18 Sept; Weds 16 Oct; Weds 20 Nov,

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎ 405119



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –11 June, 8 October
St Mark's Leadership Team -
Annual Congregational Meetings
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
Putnoe Church Council - 10 June, 24 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 3 pm
Circuit meeting -
Deanery Meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees– AGM –Sunday 9 June
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –
Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Ordinary 10

Introductory Sentence. Psalm 8:1

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

Collect Prayer for the Day—

Before we read we pray

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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.

First Reading — 1 Kings 17:8-16,17 - end

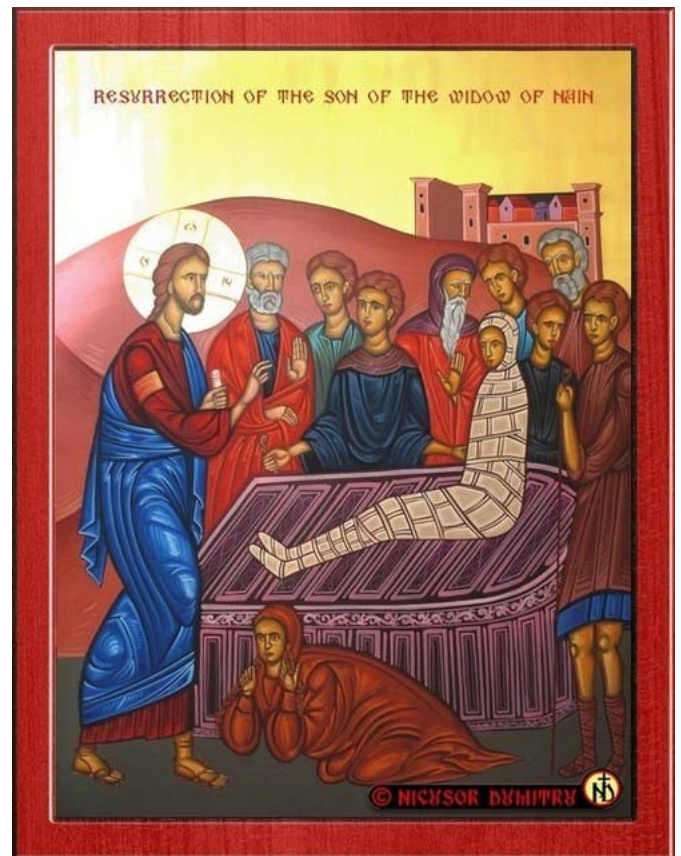
Then the word of the LORD came to him: "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks.

He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread – only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it – and die." Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.'" She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah. Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?" "Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then he cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!" The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!" Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."

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

Second Reading — Galatians 1:11-24

I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days. I saw



none of the other apostles – only James, the Lord’s brother. I assure you before God that what I am writing to you is no lie. Later I went to Syria and Cilicia. I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only heard the report: “The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” And they praised God because of me. (This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – Luke 7:11-17

Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out – the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.” Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country. (This is the Word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us in hope, and make us grow in love, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns (*Please distribute Morning Worship, and Mission Praise*)

1. Jesus the Name High over all 385
2. Awake my soul and with the sun, (on Partnership News.)
3. As the deer pants 37
4. Lord for the years 428
5. Rock of ages 582

Meditation – seeing things the other way round

The French Jesuit Pierre Teilhard de Chardin said in one of his works. ‘We are not human beings having a spiritual experience – we are spiritual beings having a human experience.’ When we see the world and ourselves in this light, Elijah’s raising of the widow’s son in Zarephath or Jesus raising the widow’s son in Nain is perhaps not so remarkable. As humans we far too often just see things from our own human perspective, and we become blind to the seemingly impossible being possible. When we see things from God’s perspective, and our own true God given perspective, the impossible becomes possible and we become part of that world which transcends human understanding and catch a glimpse of God at work as he continues to create and renew the world in which we have our human experience as a spiritual being.

Commentary A New Start

Larry Gillick describes today’s readings as stories which show how we as humans often can distrust in the hard times of loss and fear but then find how much easier it is to thank God when we see how things do work out. We hear a wonderful story about Elijah in today’s First Reading from the First Book of Kings, about the recovery of a son’s life and the recovery of faith for his widowed mother. Elijah is one of the great prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures. Unlike many of the other prophets he does amazing things, usually for the poor and needy. The others have their duties of denouncing the present causes of God’s coming punishments and announcing calls of repentance. Elijah walks around doing the good deeds which announce the presence of the living and active God.

We hear today how Elijah is taken into the house, as a guest of a widowed mother. While he is staying there, the mother’s son has a breathing attack and seems to be dying on his mother’s lap. She questions whether Elijah has brought the sickness upon her son to punish her for some free-floating guilt she has. Elijah takes the son from his mother and celebrates a kind of liturgy where he calls upon God and seems to press life into the lad’s body and lungs. Elijah then returns the boy to his mother who makes her faith statement of praise. In great joy and gratitude the mother acknowledges Elijah not as a punisher from God, but as a Holy Presence of God. It is

a little story of how we, as humans, distrust in the hard times of loss and fear and how much easier it is to thank God when we see how things do work out.

The Gospel has a similar little story about a widow who is accompanying the funeral procession of her only son. These are two important elements, her being a widow and her having only one son who is now dead. A husband and a son were signs of God's blessing to a woman in the times of Jesus. He is moved by the sight and approaches the dead man. "Young man, I tell you, arise." In the same way that Elijah rose the son up, Jesus gives the mother back her son who begins to speak. All who heard him and saw what Jesus had done responded in great proclamations of faith, saying that God had visited his people. The Jewish telegram service began sending reports of this Jesus who is now living out exactly what he announced he would be doing when he unrolled the scroll in his hometown. He was going to be the fulfillment of all the predictions of the coming Anointed One. We will spend the remainder of these Ordinary Times watching, listening to our Savior at his best.

One of the points about today's stories is that they not only demonstrate a prophet's wonderful power but that they also validate his work. The story in Kings shows how the widow's faith gradually increased until she is in the position to acknowledge Elijah as a man of God and his words as the words of Yahweh. Luke, points forward to Jesus' own resurrection story where Jesus Himself will emerge from the other side of death and validating too all that He has said and done. In so doing Jesus graphically shows that there is more to life than death, and that death is not necessarily the end of life. It's seeing things the other way round to how we normally view them. Interesting too that there is no evidence of, or apparent need of, the widow's faith. This seems even stranger because just prior to this encounter Jesus has just commented on the faith of the Centurion and seemingly linked this to healing his servant. In one sense the act of Jesus raising her son from the dead seems completely random. He happened to be travelling by and just raised the man in passing. Perhaps the two stories are linked by a common theme of faith, salvation and healing coming to all the world, not just Israel. There are also two 'rising ups' in the gospel story arising out of Jesus' compassion. The word used in both cases is the same. We have the widow's son who is 'raised up' and we have Jesus being 'raised up' as a great prophet.

As we show God's compassion in the world not only are those we touch renewed and 'raised up' by his presence and power, we too are renewed and 'raised up' as we see God continually active among us in our world and lives. *Sam Cappelman*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength, now and always. **Amen**

O consuming fire, O Spirit of love, descend into the depth of my heart and there transform me until I am fire of your fire, love of your love, and Christ himself is formed in me. **Amen**

Elizabeth of Schonau, d.1184

Jesus our Savior, we thank you for incorporating us into your body the Church, that we may work together as limbs and organs to do your will. Give us that organic unity without which the body will fail, that in your obedience to you as head, we may go where you need us, work for you and speak for you, and, shining in our lives, the world may see your love in action. **Amen**
Michael Counsell

To you, O Son of God, Lord Jesus Christ, we pray, as you pray to the eternal Father: make us one in Him. Lighten ur personal distress and that of our society. Receive us into the fellowship of those who believe. Turn our hearts, O Christ, to everlasting truth and healing harmony. **Amen**
Philip Melancthon 1497 - 1560

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of the God; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Telecare

We would like to sign up as many people as possible to Telecare, it is one of our ways of keeping in touch with church members. We are especially keen to sign up people who are elderly and who may from time to time be unable to come to church.

Telecare is a non-intrusive way of us being able to see if everything is alright or if you would like a visit.

Please sign up by giving your name to one of the ministers, or tell us of anybody that you think might like to be included and we will get in touch.

St Mark's Garden of Remembrance

A new area for interment of ashes has been created at St Mark's in the original garden. If you would like to have first opportunity to reserve a plot in this location then please speak with Avril Williams who would be pleased to make the arrangements.

St Mark's Defibrillator Training. A public access defibrillator will be fitted at St Mark's in the near future and we want to have as many people as possible trained to use it. Please give your name to the church office if you are willing to be trained. You might help save a life

Circuit service: 23 June: Matt Fugill's testimonial and visit of the president of the Methodist conference at Kempston East at 6.00pm

For this occasion Matt has requested that we have a circuit choir to lead the singing as well as singing an introit and an "anthem". Rehearsals will be at Kempston East on Friday 7 and Friday 21 June at 7.30. All singers are welcome. It would be helpful if we had a rough idea of numbers. Please contact either Barbara Tipping (Kempston East-telephone 01234 852101) or Julie Fisher (Shefford-email stjfisher@redborne.beds.sch..uk)

Summer Fete St. Mary's Church, Goldington
Saturday 29th June 11.30am - 3pm.

Bedford Show Co Youth Theatre will be performing Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat at The Place Theatre in Bradgate Road, Bedford between Thursday 27th June and Saturday 29th June. Tickets are available online at www.theplacebedford.org.uk/tickets

Car Wanted. Do you know anyone selling a 5 seat, 5 door reliable run around car for a family? Any reasonable price considered. Please ring Jaana Swaby 363283

Kittens available shortly to good responsible homes. £25 each : 2 rag dolls, 2 black & 1 Russian blue. Adults only to ring Delia 328721.



New Community Agent Service

Agents are now available to help in some areas of Bedford with free advice, regarding benefits & allowances, filling in forms, help and advice regarding general wellbeing, arranging for free home safety checks by Bedford Police Trust or to liaise with agencies such as Social Services or the Benefits Office. Please ask if you need our help by calling your Community Agent free on 0800 039 1234.

The Next Circuit Meeting will take place on Wednesday 12 June at 7.30 pm at Kempston East Methodist Church.

The women of Christ Church Bedford warmly invite women of all ages from your congregation to an afternoon tea on Saturday 15 June at 3pm Christ Church, Bedford. It will be an informal time for fellowship, relaxation and teaching. Speaker Fiona Gibson. Tickets available at £6 from the church office, tel 01234 327150.

Methodist Homes for the Aged

During June we shall be holding the annual Envelope donation in aid of MHA; these envelopes will be available for your contribution to this very worthwhile cause and your support will be gratefully accepted. Thank you for your help *Pam Kinselley*

Putnoe Heights Book Stall

I am setting up a book stall for the loan of books at a charge of 25p. At the moment this is in the Small Hall but it is hoped to have it in a more prominent position before long. If you care to donate any books, these will be welcomed. Any suggestions on the running of this project would be appreciated. Pam Kinselley

Concert by Shannon Express. Award winning male close harmony chorus from Potton : Including Newnham Middle School Choir. Saturday 29th June at 7.30pm, Newnham Middle School, Polhill Avenue. Tickets £8.00 (£5.00 16 years and under) Concert in aid of Canine Partners. Contact Jim Devlin 07956 305032 or email: Jim.devlin2@ntlworld.com

Easter Offering 2013 The total amount raised in North Bedfordshire Circuit for the Methodist Church World Mission Fund was £2303. Thank you for your generous contributions. Pam Seymour

The Great Gappo will be at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 29th July 2013 at 12 noon to 2p.m.

"The Great Gappo" 12 noon to 1pm, Sandwich lunch provided 1pm to 2pm. Raffle. Tickets: £2.00 in advance for children over 1 yrs old, £3.00 on the door, FREE to children under 1 yrs old and £1.00 Adults. Available from the church office. For further details contact: Carolyn Morris Tel: 07751348925 Email: youth@thisischurch.com or Putnoe Heights Church office on Tel: 01234 365630

Church Leaders Call on the Government to apologise

An alliance of Churches representing Christians from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland has written to the Prime Minister asking for an apology on behalf of the Government for misrepresenting the poor.

Church leaders, including the Right Revd Tim Stevens, Bishop of Leicester, the Right Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Bradford and the President of the Methodist Conference The Revd Dr Mark Wakelin, pointed out that in recent weeks senior members of the Government have given out misleading and inaccurate information about people on benefits. Outlining the inaccuracies, they asked for them to be corrected and for an apology to be offered to those who were misrepresented.

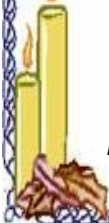
"We are concerned that these inaccuracies paint some of the most vulnerable in our society in an unfavourable light, stigmatising those who need the support of the benefits system," the letter states. "No political or financial imperative can be given to make this acceptable."

April saw some of the most controversial and wide ranging changes to the benefit system in a generation. In their letter, Church leaders, including the leaders of the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the United Reformed Church, said that while they hold no common view on welfare reform, they all share the belief that those in receipt of benefits are loved and valuable. "What unites us is the belief that the debate around these reforms should be based on truthful information," they write. "We ask you, as Prime Minister and as leader of the Conservative Party, to ensure that the record is put straight, and that statistics are no longer manipulated in a way which stigmatises the poorest in our society." For more information visit <http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events>

"Be kind," said the Jewish philosopher Philo of Alexandria, "for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle."

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.



**Jean Olive Panter
Patricia Roberts**

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

A Hymns for Sunday

- 1 Awake, my soul, and with the sun
thy daily stage of duty run;
shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
to pay thy morning sacrifice.
- 2 Redeem thy mis-spent time that's past,
and live this day as if thy last;
improve thy talent with due care;
for the great day thyself prepare.
- 3 Let all thy converse be sincere,
thy conscience as the noon-day clear;
think how all-seeing God thy ways
and all thy secret thoughts surveys.
- 4 Wake, and lift up thyself, my heart,
and with the angels bear thy part,
who all night long unwearied sing
high praise to the eternal King.
- 5 Glory to thee, who safe has kept
and hast refreshed me whilst I slept;
grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake,
I may of endless light partake.
- 6 Lord, I my vows to thee renew;
disperse my sins as morning dew;
grant my first springs of thought and will,
and with thyself my spirit fill.
- 7 Direct, control, suggest, this day,
all I design or do or say;
that all my powers, with all their might,
in thy sole glory may unite.
- 8 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below,
praise him above, angelic host,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

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Forthcoming Funerals

No funerals this week