



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
9 March 2014
1st Sunday in Lent



8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

Today – 1st Sunday in Lent

9.30 St Marks - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger

Leadership – Mrs. Jean Bank

Intercessions – Ministers

Organist - - Mr. Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe — Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger

Leadership Team - Mrs. Jean Kirk

Intercessions — Mrs. Sam Ware

Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

16 March 2014 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Wendy Evans-Wood

Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean

Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion

Preacher– Revd Wendy Evans-Wood

Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Snelson

Intercessions — Mrs Sue Allen

Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Genesis 12: 1-4a 2. Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 3. John 3: 1-17

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 Richard and Claire Peck to mark the 1st birthday of their daughter.

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

Be to us, O Lord,
the affection of our hearts,
the closest of our companions,
our everlasting love, our enduring happiness
and the fulfilment of all our desires.

Through your Spirit,
create in us holy fire and purity of life,
that loving you above all things
and our neighbours ardently,
we may come at last to the glories
of your everlasting kingdom;
through Christ our Lord. Amen
Thomas a Kempis, 1380-1471

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com

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

Gift Aid Administrator 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

8.30-12.30pm St Mark's Pre-School Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's

9.00-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955

10.30am U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

1.30pm Chat & Make. For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email-chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk

2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's (2nd week in the month) Contact Janet King 313946.

12.00 noon Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630

2pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights— fortnightly

4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Emily Taverner 01234 792013

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571

6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Pat Nicholson 353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.

7.00-8.00pm **Laughter Club** at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting— 17 March Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking at Putnoe Heights. For more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Charlotte Williams 07968207442

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 Contact Janet King 313946

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

1.3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.

4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.30-8.30pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957

7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.00pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly) 18 March TBC Details Janet King 313946

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Janet King 313946

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 12 March Putnoe Heights Office 365630

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 19 March 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel. 01234 353865

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe

Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 19 March Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

Thursday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Pre School Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

9.30am Spanish for total beginners.at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07932616468

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

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's (Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

1pm-2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552. 2pm -Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210

3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's (3rd week in month). Carol Plant 01832710504

7.30pm Gentle Birthing St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231

8 -10pm 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). Mr Newton 01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Susan Perugi 300219

Friday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

8.30am Diabetic Centre St Mark's (1st week in month) Deborah Hennessey 792013

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd week in month)Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

9.00am Faith Temple Ministries St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard 01234 782414

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday Feb/ Apr/Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

Messy Church Dates Weds 19th March, 16th April, 21st May, 18th June.



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council –

St Mark's Leadership Team - 20 May, 9 Sept

Annual Congregational Meetings—27th April

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 30th April

Putnoe Church Council - 10 July

Pastoral Group Meeting - 1 April 4pm

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service - 2nd November

Circuit meeting – 19th June

Woodland Burial Trustees—

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting – Monday 9 June 1.10pm

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

First Sunday of Lent

Sentence of Scripture Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

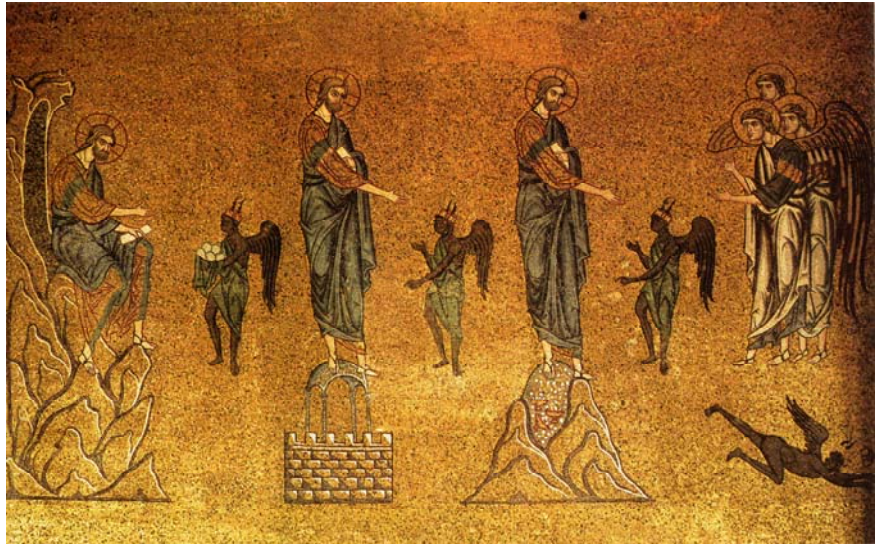
Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus

Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to

discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *Common Worship & Methodist Worship*



The Temptations of Christ,
12th century mosaic at St Mark's Basilica, Venice

First Bible Reading - Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - Romans 5: 12-19

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 4: 1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty

days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.
(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

1. Praise to the Holiest in the Height 563
2. God forgave my sin 181
3. Jesus, tempted in the desert. (On Partnership News) Tune: Lux Eoi
4. My Faith looks up to Thee 469
5. The Kingdom of God is justice and joy 651

Commentary

It is a familiar story. We are told not to do something—but it seems very attractive and someone says. "Go on. You know you want to do it— everything will be all right." So we do it, but get found out. We try to blame others, to evade responsibility, but ultimately it is our fault and we have to face the consequences. That's what our reading from Genesis, and the verses beyond where our reading ended in Chapter 3 is all about. There are one or two nice touches! The serpent was crafty. The woman saw that the tree was 'good for food, pleasing to the eye and desirable for gaining wisdom.' How very attractive. Later Adam says to God. " The woman you put here with me gave me fruit, so I ate it." So it is almost God's fault....but for the woman all would have been ok. And she, of course, blames the serpent. Yes—the blame game—we've all played it. Children do—"He told me to do it" And we reply "would you have done x if he'd told you?" Human nature hasn't changed. We all recognise ourselves in this Genesis story and Paul in our reading from Romans deals with God's response to our predicament—our human frailty and sin that so often leads us astray. Jesus came to redeem , to transform human nature. To give life instead of death. Elsewhere in the New Testament we read "if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come." Through Jesus we can be transferred from darkness into light; there is a new start on offer. Note in verse 15 of Romans 5 the how much more of God's grace. Through Jesus it overflows to many. And in verse 17 "how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ" God's generosity, his amazing generosity, is evident in Jesus' life and ministry, but he needed to work out exactly what God wanted him to do. So immediately after the high-point of his baptism, when he was confirmed as God's beloved Son, he finds himself in the wilderness dealing with the options. The temptations, or tests, that he faced were real. He could have gone that way. They were not easily brushed aside—40 days is a long time (and a significant number in the Bible—Israel 40 years in the wilderness and 40 days from Easter to Ascension). Satan tries to seduce Jesus by offering him celebrity status. Think about the response if he had gone that way. He'd have been the centre of media attention in our present age, and think of all the good that would have done for his cause. But ultimately, there would have been failure –for it was not God's way for him. He had come not to deal with symptoms but to change peoples' hearts. As the psalmist said "Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men who cannot save. Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob...the Lord who remains faithful for ever." Jesus offers us all release from the past, resources for the present and reassurance for the future. And he delivers!

So as we begin Lent we can explore our relationship with God and our view of him and how he acts - noting that his thoughts are higher than ours by as much as the sky is above the earth. This is a theme taken up by the Dean of Perth, Western Australia, in an article in 'The Times' entitled "How wide will the gate of mercy be on Judgement Day?" He says that what is important for Christianity isn't that it gets its

beliefs crystal clear, because if its really God we're talking about we can never hope to do that; he is so far 'above us'. What matters, the Dean says is that we make the spirit of God a living reality for others in our acts of love, generosity, forgiveness and caring. We make God a reality for others more by what we do than by what we say. (How does the saying go? - "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day!") The Dean quotes 1 John chapter 3, verse 7 "He who does what is right is righteous, just as Christ is righteous.

Judgement, he says, is knowing ourselves - seeing ourselves as we really are - not as we'd like ourselves to be seen. He says this is daunting and even scary except for one thing - that when we do see ourselves as we really are we'll see ourselves as God sees us. It won't be destructive for us because the way God sees us is by looking at our potential.. He doesn't focus on our failures but on what we are capable of - the good we have done and can do.

So God's judgement will be affirming - never destructive. It is not something to be feared, but something that we can thank God for. He is both our maker and our mender.

We may not all agree with all the Dean says. But it can be food for thought, prayer and response this Lent, as we seek, with God's grace, to do what is right. *Richard Ledger.*

Meditation

Frail children of dust and feeble as frail, in thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, defender, Redeemer and friend.
O Lord of all might, how boundless Thy love. (*Robert Grant, 1779—1838*)

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Spirit of integrity, you drive us into the desert to search out our truth. Give us clarity to know what is right, and courage to reject what is merely strategic; that we may abandon the false innocence of failing to choose at all, but may follow the purposes of Jesus Christ. Amen
(*All Desires Known*)

Lord, do not let me hide behind pretence; do not let me deceive myself. Give me the courage to see not only what I am, but what I was meant to be, a child of God, growing into the stature of your love.
(*Frank Topping*)

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made,
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent.
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness,
we may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect forgiveness and peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
(*Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556), collect for Lent*)

Lord, you are the love that outlives all hatred. You are the peace that no anger can destroy. You are the life that defeats the death that lurks in every sin. You are the way, the truth and the life. Wretched man that I am, from all my failings, Lord, deliver me. (*Frank Topping*)

We thank you, Father, for those days in the desert when, through our prayer and fasting, Jesus discovered you will for his life and overcame the temptations of the Evil One. Help us, during these days of Lent, to come close to you and to listen to your voice. Give us strength to overcome the temptation to please ourselves and live life without you. Teach us your way. For Jesus' sake. (*From the Alternative Service Book*)

Let the fragrance of your glory draw us into your presence, O Christ. Let the perfume of your love be our salvation and let the scent of your sacrifice bring us your blessing. Amen.
Aelred of Rievaulx (c.1110-1167)

Lord of all light, in your light, we see light, and in you is no darkness at all. In our darkness, bring light to our path;; in our confusion, give us hope. May your light shine through us to show your way that is love. For the sake of Jesus, the light of the world. Amen.
Jennifer Hurd, Synod Cymru Chair

Putnoe Heights Bring & Buy Stall.

In the welcome area on Sunday 9 March. Please bring any saleable items to the Church Office or on the day, eg bric-a-brac, gifts and cakes. Then come along to BUY. It is hoped that this will be the first of a series of modest monthly fund-raising events for church funds. We have recently had some expenses which were not in the budget so funds are urgently needed. If you would like to help with future events please speak to a member of the Leadership Team.

Putnoe Book Stall : Our bookstall is now up and running; the books are to be found on a Library Trolley which is being kept in the Quiet Room. This can be wheeled anywhere in the building and if any Groups using Church premises wish to have it in their room, please take advantage of it (we would ask that it be returned to the Quiet Room afterwards). The loan charge per book is 25p, purchase price of any book is £1 and an honesty box is attached to the trolley. We will still have some books in the Small Hall and the same charges apply here. Until this project gets going, perhaps anyone with any books for the stall will be patient and keep them until later. Thank you to everyone who has donated books up to now. Pam Kinselley

Christian Aid News: Christian Aid Oxford are organising a sponsored abseil down Elstow Abbey tower. They are busy looking for volunteers to abseil as well as sponsors. more details to follow shortly. Speaker Sarjon Toma from Iraqi Christian Aid partner REACH will be at Stopsley Baptist Church, St Thomas Road, Luton LU2 7XP on Tuesday 11 March, 7pm. An evening to hear about your impact in Iraq and beyond, as well as discussing faith, hope, conflict, and the role churches can play in building peace this Christian Aid Week. Carolyn

Annual Congregational Meetings

These will take place after Church on Sunday 27 April. Everybody is invited to attend.

Organ Recital by William Heywood on 21 March at All Saints Church, Renhold at 7.30pm Tickets £10 each (Refreshments included) Tickets available at the door or in advance from Ann Timms 01234 772605 or Ian Johnstone 01234 871614.

Lent Soup Lunch for Christian Aid.

Make a donation to Christian Aid and enjoy a home made soup, bread and cheese lunch at Putnoe Heights Church after morning service on Sunday 16th March. No tickets but please sign the list in Putnoe Welcome Area.

St Mark's Craft Group have their Easter novelties on sale after morning service and from the office during the week. Everything £1. Please support us, all profits to the Church. Thank you.

Putnoe Men's second Fellowship meal will take

place at the Cappuccino bar on Tuesday 18 March at 7.30pm. If you would like to join them please ring Barry Southam 219714 or email barrysoutham@aol.com for more details.

Join the Real Easter Egg 2014 Campaign.

Out of 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one with the Easter story in the box. This year there are two versions available at £3.99 and £9.99. See St. Mark's notice board for further details and order at the office
By 24th March.

St. Mark's Church Preschool are now collecting Sainsbury's kids vouchers. Please pass to Helen Harpin or pop them into the box provided.



INHERITANCE

Lent 2014

This year we are going to do something very different for Lent and we want as many people as possible to join and hopefully also invite friends to come along. On Wednesday 9 April we will be hosting a performance of the Passion Play Inheritance by the Riding Lights Theatre Company at St Mark's. This is a meditative

and reflective opportunity to consider the Passion and our response. We will be issuing tickets soon but for now it is important to have the date in your diary

1st Putnoe Brownies will be hosting a fund raising evening on Monday 10th March at 6.30pm to 7.30pm in the large hall. All welcome.

Churches Together in Bedfordshire Annual Forum Thursday 22nd May at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Flitwick. Speaker Revd. Dr. Janet Wootton. Buffet meal from 6.30pm AGM at 7.30pm Speaker at 8pm. All Welcome.

From Tears to Laughter a recital on April Fool's Day followed by refreshments. ! April at St. Andrew's Church. Joanna Reveley-Flute Simon Giliver-piano. Admission by donation-proceeds to Christian Aid.

Church Member requires cleaner, once a fortnight in North Brickhill area. Please apply to Derrick on 01234 400279

Highfield Residential Care Home St. Mark's group will hold an Easter Service on April 13 (Palm Sunday) At 2.30pm. All well wishers are welcome to come and help. Vera Pearson.

Hymn for Sunday

Jesus, tempted in the desert,
lonely, hungry, filled with dread,
“use your power,” the tempter tells him;
“turn these barren rocks to bread!”
“not alone by bread”, he answers,
“can the human heart be filled.
Only by the word that calls us
Is our deepest hunger stilled!”

Jesus tempted at the temple,
high above its ancient wall:
“Throw yourself from lofty turret;
angels wait to break your fall!”
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,
feats that fickle crowds request:
“God, whose grace protects, preserves us,
we must never vainly test.”

Jesus, tempted on the mountain
by the lure of vast domain:
“Fall before me! Be my servant!
Glory, fame, you’re sure to gain!”
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,
turns his eyes another way:
“God alone deserves our homage!
God alone will I obey!”

When we face temptation’s power,
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter’s hour,
come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us
lest we fall, your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices,
be the Word we hear, obey.

Herman G. Stuempfle (1923 –2007)

Tune: Lux Eoi

Archbishop Justin’s Pause for thought on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show this week

I woke up the other night and could not get back to sleep. It does not often happen, and what I have to do is work out whether it was a curry before going to bed, or something on my mind. As it happens it was the curry.

But worries that keep you awake are usually really difficult to deal with. Fears that seem small at breakfast are really bad at three in the morning. Most of us can just about deal with it most of the time, but for many, perhaps one in five, something in your mind and brain and soul becomes a real problem, and depression or other mental illness attacks you. Then everything becomes overwhelming, and you need really good help.

Mental illness is just illness, no more or less bad. The problem is that it often does not involve physical signs and people with mental illness gets stigmatised, isolated, ignored and that makes them worse.

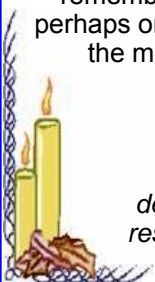
A big and happy family is something I first experienced as an adult. My family are all my heroes, I learn such a lot from them. Our eldest daughter writes blogs and tweets from her own experience of depression, and works a lot with others.

From her and from someone else whose story I have heard recently I have begun to understand more. Both of them are Christians, and both talk about God loving them even when depression shuts them off from every emotion and hope.

Love that does not change even when the person loved does change – now that is something fantastic. My own experience is whether I do well or badly, whether life is hard or easy, that I know I am loved by Jesus regardless, and that is what gets me out of bed in the morning

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.



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

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Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases and we receive a commission. You can shop at John Lewis, M&S etc - please always shop through www.thisschurch.com



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Sylvia Blitz will take place at St Mark’s Chapel on Tuesday 18 March at 12.30pm