



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

## 9 September 23rd in Ordinary



Church of  
England

### Partnership Church Services Today

#### 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 September - 23rd in Ordinary

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

Preacher Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart  
Intercessions – Mrs Delia Shephard

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev. Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mr Barry Southam  
Intercessions - Dr. Tim Wilkes

### 16 September - 24th in Ordinary

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

Preacher Rev. Andrew Gale  
Leadership - Mrs. Laura Farthing  
Intercessions – Mr. Warwick Holden

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev. Andrew Gale  
Leadership - Mrs. Jenny Snelson  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen

**Readings** 1 Proverbs 1:20-33 2 James 3:1-12  
3 Mark 8:27-38

**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 this week have been given by Deryck Cutler in loving memory of his beloved wife and daughter Mollie and Jean.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Joyce Bean in memory of Ray on their 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 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  
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a Vice  
President for Hewlett Packard)

#### Deacon Jane Mills

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE  
348091 Mobile 07807 146535 jane@thisischurch.com

#### The Reverend 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.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.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. Jean Kirk 317699  
**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** - Morag Stewart 360103

# 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](http://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)

**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@thischurch.com](mailto:youth@thischurch.com) 365630

**1.30-2.45pm Chat and Make** For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– [chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk) . Restarts on 10 September

**2.00pm U3A History Group** St Marks.(see contact details below)

**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 Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

**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 September Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

**8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## 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 Folbigg ☎351223

**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 Wriggles and Jiggles** 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552

**1.15pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's (see contact 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)

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

**2pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Wk) (see 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.

**3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** 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

**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

**7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

**7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 18 September Harvest Details call Janet King 313946

**8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

## Wednesday

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

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

**9.30am Discovery & 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.(see contact details 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)

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 12 September 2012 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

**1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** St Marks.(see contact details below)

**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 19 September. Wendy Waters401834

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

**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol 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 Brian Sallows ☎407725

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Mrs O Holt ☎266004

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

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

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 19 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring ,Valmai 219555 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 07719670624 Restarts 13 September.

**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 Restarts 6 September.

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays** St. Mark's ☎267444

**1pm—2.30pm Drop in (large hall) Children's Chatty Time** 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

**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.

**1.45 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights** £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Mrs. P. Cass ☎294220

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St.Marks. (see contact details below)

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Marks Mary Rich ☎272470

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights 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

**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 Law 825574.

**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 Whist** St Marks. (see contact details below)

**5-8pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

**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

**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.

**1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's (not 25 March) Contact Adrian Felice [www.bedfordtkd.com](http://www.bedfordtkd.com) 07964356355

**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** – 9 October, 19 Feb, 11 June

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 11 September

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** -

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting**

**Putnoe Church Council** - 15 October,

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -

**Commemoration Service** 4 November 3.00pm

**Harvest Festival** 30 September

**Circuit meeting** -

**Deanery Meeting** - 16 November

**Woodland Burial Trustees**– 30 September

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** -

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

## Ordinary 23

### Opening Verse of Scripture James 1:22

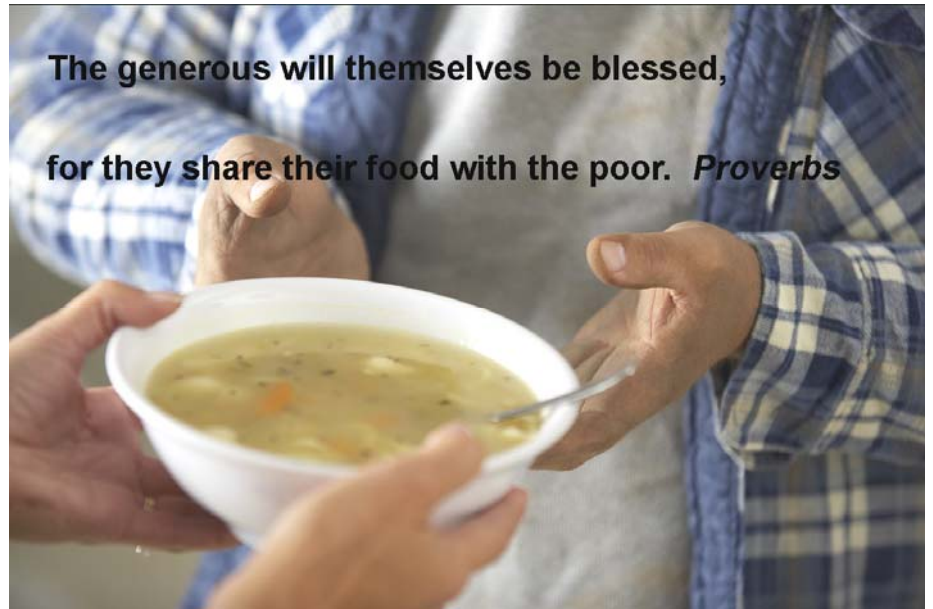
The Lord gives sight to the blind, lifts up those who are bowed down. The Lord protects the stranger; He sustains the orphan and the widow. The Lord loves those who are upright.  
Ps 146 v 8 - 9

### Collect Prayer

*Before we read we pray*

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to

proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Common Worship.*



### First Bible Reading - Proverbs 22 v 1-2, 8 – 9, 22 - 23

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all. Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken. The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, for the Lord will take up their case and will exact life for life. (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God** )

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

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

### Gospel Reading— Mark 7 v 24 – 37

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman

was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

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

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Hymns** (*Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and morning worship* )

1. Awake my soul 632
2. The trumpet sounds (*On Partnership News*)
3. From all that dwell below the skies 489
4. All hail the power of Jesu's name 252
5. For the healing of the nations 402

### **Commentary Wise Words**

The book of Proverbs is more than just a book of wise sayings. It provides a framework for wise and right living which is based on reverence for God, a concept which is sometimes translated as the fear of the Lord. It is this fear of the Lord that is the essence of all true wisdom and understanding, rather than a person's intellectual or academic capacity for learning and fact retention. In reverse, the book of Proverbs also underlines the fact that true religion can only develop to its full potential if it is based on the grounds of common human decency. How much Solomon himself played a part in the writing of the book of Proverbs is open to debate. The writings almost certainly dates from the times of the first Israelite kings, but continued to be edited for hundreds of years afterwards, probably being finalised close to the form we have it now around 180 BC. Solomon's name appears in the title and he is generally considered to be the author of at least two significant parts of the book, chapter 10 v 1 – 22 v 16 and chapters 25 – 29. Through marriage to Pharaoh's daughter Solomon had close links with Egypt and he and his wise men collected wisdom from across the Eastern world, some of which appears in our reading today. The principles and themes contained in the book of Proverbs are as relevant for us today as they were when they were written. They speak of wisdom and folly, the difference between living by God's standards and going our own way. They cover how we respond to life and are judged either righteous or wicked according to how we live out our beliefs. They speak of the power of words, both for good and for bad. The book of Proverbs stresses the importance of the family and strong family relationships and compares and contrasts the life of the hard working and the lazy. Poverty and wealth are subjects which are also covered, often in terms of the rich and poor, as in today's reading. And perhaps one of the most familiar sections of Proverbs is the last half of the last chapter of the book which is in the form of an acrostic poem on the topic of an ideal wife. Whilst this is a standalone passage in its own right, it does in some way summarise the whole book. It speaks about the importance of being responsible, caring, hardworking and trustworthy. It covers the importance of integrity in business dealings and the importance of caring for spiritual needs, not just immediate and physical requirements. Above all, it emphasises that her wisdom is achieved through the fear of the Lord. 'Charm is deceitful, and beauty is empty; but the woman who fears the Lord is the one to praise'. The book of Proverbs is part of the Old Testament known as the

writings part of which is the wisdom literature where we find Proverbs. In Proverbs wisdom is sometime personified, for example 1 v 20 where we read that, 'Wisdom calls aloud in the streets, she raises her voice in the public squares'. The word wisdom is feminine in both Hebrew and Greek!! Some would see this as a reference to Christ Himself, who Paul calls, '...the wisdom of God', 1 Cor 1 v 24. Indeed, wisdom participated in the creation story, echoing the words of Paul in Colossians who describes Him there as the 'first-born of all creation', in whom all things were created.

There is also coherence between the book of James and the wisdom passages in the Old Testament, especially Proverbs. The concept of the fear of the Lord underpins both. James knows and uses Proverbs in his writing, James 4 v 6 references Proverbs 3 v 34 for example and Jas 5 v 20 seems to refer to Proverbs 10 v 20 and there are many other parallels. He refers to wisdom explicitly in 1 v 5 and 3 v 13 – 18 and nearly half of the verses in James have parallels with the Old Testament wisdom literature. Key themes of James such as concern for widows and orphans, respect for all people, how we use our words and the power of the tongue and caution regarding future planning are all key elements of wisdom literature. James sums this up by saying, 'Any of you who lack wisdom must ask God, who gives to all generously and without scolding; it will be given.' Jas 1 v 5.

Why does James write in this way? It's not just that he probably was familiar with the wisdom literature of the Old Testament (and some later Hellenistic influenced texts such as the book of Sirach, also known as Ecclesiasticus, which we find in the Apocrypha) but that the principles that underpinned wisdom and how these are worked out in daily life remained as important as they ever had been. The same is true today. There is a sense in which James' readers were seeing their faith as a kind of insurance policy, useful to keep unpleasantness at bay and comforting to know that God was on their side when things got tough but not letting it impact their daily lives and belief structures. Indeed, insurance policies are geared to helping life carry on in its current way knowing that there is some kind of safety net should things go wrong. But this is not the way faith and a belief in God should be viewed. For James, faith changes the way people live, changes their outlook on life, changes their perception of people, changes how we look at the rich and poor, the haves and the have-nots, the privileged and the less well off. The same is true today. Our faith, which is underpinned by the wisdom to be found in the whole bible, the Old Testament, the Gospels, the epistles and the entire New Testament, and in the person of Jesus is not an insurance policy in case something should happen to us, our loved ones or the world, but is a relationship with the living God who cares about us and our world in a way that challenges us to change our lives and our perspective on the world so that His abundant, lavish and indiscriminating love permeates the very fabric of our own lives and society. *Sam Cappleman*

## **Meditation**

To the Jewish authorities who preached segregation and ethnic separateness, Jesus' words in Mark are something of a seismic shock. The words and teaching that He has been speaking come into sharp focus in today's reading where the equality of all in the Kingdom of God is graphically demonstrated. Even for Jesus there is a sense that this appears to be happening more quickly than expected in the exchange with the Syrian Phoenicia woman. No more privilege for the children (of Israel?), all can eat of the bread of the Father, all can be healed. Life is changing, and fast. Shortly after this passage the deaf-mute will hear and speak out. A new world order has arrived.

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

God our Father, may we love you in all things and above all things and reach the joy you have prepared for us beyond all our imagining. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead. Lord, you hide your face when we trust in ourselves; strip us of false security and re-clothe us in your praise, that we may know you as the one who raises us from death, as you raised your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

*Daily Prayer, Refrain from Psalm 30*

Loving God, who chose to send your Son into our world, be with us today as we make our daily choices. Help us keep our eyes fixed on you, that in your eyes we may be wise, that we may grow in wisdom and reflect the glory of your incarnation, Jesus Christ who is with us always in the power of your Spirit. **Amen**

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us paralysed, but whose presence is overwhelming, breathe on us with your abundant life; that where we cannot see we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you. **Amen**



**Messy Church** on Wednesday 19 September will have an Olympic theme. We would like items that will help create an 'Olympic' atmosphere e.g Olympic ring flag, bunting of

national flags, posters, pictures. If you can give us any items please phone Wendy Waters 401834 or leave them at St Mark's office.

Future dates: all 3.45 to 5.30pm

Wednesday 19 September

Wednesday 17 October

Wednesday 21 November

Wednesday 12 December

**Chat and Make** at St Mark's starts again on Monday 10 September at 1.30pm.

**Chat and Play** at St Mark's starts again on Thursday 13 September at 9.30 am.

**Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church will start again on Monday 17 September at 12.15 for details please contact Carolyn at youth@thisischurch.com. *Carolyn*

**The Big Sing** If you like singing hymns, come and sing with us at Putnoe Heights Church this evening at 6.30p.m. when we celebrate the Cross in tunes you know and love Light refreshments served (Eric Royden)

**Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch** Sunday 30th September 2012 at 1.00pm. Tickets now available from Putnoe Office on weekdays or Leadership Team on Sunday. Adults £6.00 Children under 10 £3.00. Two courses inc.drinks.

**Offertory Envelopes** (Putnoe Heights). Sets of envelopes for the next twelve months are available for collection from a table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the envelope scheme (or contribute to church funds by standing order), is invited to contact John Hitt, 404186

**Thank You** to everyone for your prayer support, visits, messages and cards whilst I was in hospital and since I have come home and also for the lovely flower arrangement from St. Marks. I hope to be fit enough to be back worshipping with you very soon. Jean Bank.

**St Andrew's Money Advice** Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Re-dedication on Sunday 16 September 2012 at 6pm On Thursday 16 September, two years ago we opened our new service for the first time. Please come to reflect and celebrate all that we have achieved in those two years. The service will be followed by wine and cheese in the Main Hall at 6.45



pm (contributions of drinks or nibbles welcome) please let Suzanne Clackson or Fiona McLeod know if you will be joining us.

**Wedding thanks** Please accept our grateful thanks for all the people who helped make our wedding day so special for us. For those who did so much and gave of their time to prepare cakes, food, decorations and entertainment, for those who attended the service as well as for the very generous gifts and many kind wishes we have received. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity and enthusiasm of so many people and look forward to seeing you again soon. Please would anyone who took any photographs on the day share them with us? please either send by email to jane@thisischurch.com or leave them in Janes' draw in either church office. With Love from Maurice and Jane Mills.

**Concert at St Mark's** we are delighted to announce that there will be another concert held by Clive Simmonds at St Mark's. Clive will once again be supported by his guests Taylor Wilson (mezzo soprano) and Stewart Kempster (bass). The concert will be held on Saturday 9 February at 7.30pm. This year there will also be some music from the musicals and some more 'jazzy' numbers. Clive has obtained a reconditioned piano for St Mark's and whilst entrance will be free the concert will help raise funds towards this.

**Pond Refurbishment.** We are having a special pond day in the Garden of Remembrance at St Mark's on Friday September 21. We have been increasingly disappointed by the appearance of the pond and have decided to build a new one. Work starts at 9.30am for any aquatic lovers with spades.

amazon.com  
and you're done.



**Thank you for Shopping at  
WWW. ThisChurch.com**

Thank you for shopping using the links on thisischurch.com. Please always use the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. 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 help raise money.

### Accommodation wanted

The Christian Aid Tax Justice Bus will be coming to Harpur Square on Thursday 20th September and we are looking for bed and breakfast for three male Christian Aid workers for the night of Wednesday 19 September. They don't have to be put up in the same house and will probably not arrive until 9.00 -ish in the evening, and be on their way by 8.30 on the Thursday morning. Christian Aid will provide a subsistence allowance so hosts are not out of pocket. If any recipients of your email system could ask in their churches for help in this way, then perhaps they could contact me (tel 01234 356645 or email) if they get a positive response. Many thanks  
Peter Littleford Chairman, Bedford Christian Aid Committee

**Highfield Services** will recommence at 2.30pm Sunday 16 September. Helpers welcome. Vera Pearson

**Coffee Rota** at St. Mark's. Additional volunteers to assist with coffee after church on Sundays would be very welcome. The more volunteers the less frequent the duty! Please see Milly if interested.

**Hazel Caine** would like to thank everyone for the flowers she received last week.

**Contemplative Group** meet on the 14 and 28 September, 1.45pm in the quiet room at Putnoe Heights. *Eileen Brown*

### Never give in never let them in

Last week we printed information from the police about a criminal who was targeting people attending churches trying to obtain money. He approached somebody after the service at Putnoe Heights Church, who had fortunately read the police warning.

He was seen to be driving an older blue car. Please continue to be vigilant about anybody asking for money. These people are very plausible but you should never give anybody money, please direct them to the police at Greyfriars and dial 101 to report what has happened.

### A Hymn for Sunday

The trumpets sound, the angels sing,  
the feast is ready to begin;  
the gates of heaven are open wide,  
and Jesus welcomes you inside.  
The trumpets sound, the angels sing,  
the feast is ready to begin;  
the gates of heaven are open wide,  
and Jesus welcomes you inside.

*Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight,  
come and revel in heaven's love and light;  
take your place at the table of the King,  
the feast is ready to begin,  
the feast is ready to begin.*

Tables are laden with good things,  
O taste the peace and joy he brings;  
he'll fill you up with love divine,  
he'll turn your water into wine.  
*Sing with thankfulness.....*

The hungry heart he satisfies,  
offers the poor his paradise;  
now hear all heaven and earth applaud,  
the amazing goodness of the Lord.  
*Sing with thankfulness.....*

### Publication of Marriage Banns

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Andrew James Lennon and Michelle Louise Butler both single of this parish. ( 9, 16 Sept)

### 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.

**Ruth Miriam Newby  
Carl Misir**

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



### Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

**The funeral of Hilda Marjorie Demkowski** will take place at St. Mark's Church at 3.30pm on

Monday 10 September followed by burial at St Albans Woodland Burial Site, Keysoe at 4.15pm

**The funeral of Hazel Irene Smith** will take place at 11.30a.m.on Tuesday 11 September at the Crematorium

**The funeral of Harold Alexander Lawton** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 12 September at 4.00pm