



# Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
8 March 2015  
Third Sunday of Lent**



## Sunday Services

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

### 8 March - Third Sunday of Lent

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

Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger  
Leadership - Mrs. Jean Bank  
Intercessions - Deacon Jane Mills  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger  
Leadership - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

### 15 March - Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mr. Mick Ovenden  
Intercessions - Mr. Wawick Holden  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs. Jenny Snelson  
Intercessions - Mr. Alan Bayliss  
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

**Readings 1.** Exodus 2:1-10 **2.** 2 Corinthians 1:3-7  
**3.** Luke 2:33-35

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

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Eddy and Margaret Peck in celebration of various family birthdays.

*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.*

## A Prayer for Sunday

Grant us, O Lord,  
to pass this day in gladness and peace,  
without stumbling and without stain,  
that reaching the day's end  
victorious over all temptation,  
we may again praise you,  
the eternal God,  
blessed over all things  
now and for ever. Amen.

*Mozarabic Sacramentary (tenth century)*

**The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman**  
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

**Deacon Jane Mills**  
c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre  
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535  
jane@thisischurch.com

**The Reverend Canon Charles Royden**  
The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY  
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

**Partnership News** is sent out by email every Saturday in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

**Partnership News is also archived on our church website [www.ThisIsChurch.com](http://www.ThisIsChurch.com)**

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

**Churchyards Administrator**  
Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

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

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

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

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

**8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's

**8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634  
(See website for more details)

**9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery** Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

**9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

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

**10.00am-12 U3A Play reading** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**11.00am-12noon Pilates** St. Mark's. Liz Mason 07816522200 (starts 8 Sept.)

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

**1.30pm Chat & Make.** Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

**2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**2.00pm U3A Italian** Putnoe Heights– fortnightly

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

**5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active** at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Zoe Wilcox 07767311424

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

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.

**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

**6.30pm-8pm Cubs** at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:[phxg.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com) Tel Tom 07974566509

**6.30pm Fit For All** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

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

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

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

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

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's ( Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting– 16 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

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507

**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Lorrie Pearson 01234 340473

**11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** Contact Janet King 313946

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

**1.30pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

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

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

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

**2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

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

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

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

**7.15-8.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571

**7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 14 April Rev. Sam Cappleman Details Diane Bayliss 268101

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

## Wednesday

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

**10.00-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

**10.00am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

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

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

**11.15am U3A Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 11 March. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

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

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

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

**2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966

**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 18 March 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

**5.00–6.00pm Rainbows** at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091

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

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

**6.00-7.00pm ATSK Karate** at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel.01234 353865

**7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts** at Putnoe ages 10.5-14; Email:[phxg.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com) Tel Tom 07974566509

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

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095

**7.15pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 3446008.

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

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 18 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

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

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

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

**12pm Storybox** . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 342613

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

**1.00 - 2.30pm NHS Baby Clinic** at St Mark's ( Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

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

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

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

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

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

**5.45pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07768481499

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

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

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

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale 406094

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

**8.00pm Bedford Folk Dancers** (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

**8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle.** St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

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

**7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Kaye Logan 309105

### Friday

**9.30am –3.30pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, 2nd week per month.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647

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

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

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

**2pm U3A Gardening** - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

**4.50pm-7.00pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers** at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email: phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

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

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

### Saturday

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

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

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

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

### Sunday

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

**10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre.** 1st Sunday 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.

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

### Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – tba

**St Mark's Leadership Team** -

**Annual Congregational Meetings** - 26 April 2015

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** –

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** –

**Putnoe Church Council** -

**Pastoral Group Meeting**

**Churchyard Committee** - 15 April 11.15am

**Circuit meeting** –

**Deanery meeting** - 19 March 7.30pm.

**Woodland Burial Trustees** – 15 March 12.30pm

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

**St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015**,6 April, 4 May, 25 May and 31 August.

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

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

# Third Sunday of Lent

## Sentence of Scripture - Psalm 19:14

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves. Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen  
Methodist Worship

## First Bible Reading - Exodus 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

"You shall have no other gods before me.

"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

"Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

"You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal.

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.

"You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour."

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

## Second Bible Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)



**I lift up my eyes to the mountains  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

*Psalm 121*

## Gospel Reading - John 2:13-22

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

## Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Hymns for Sunday *(Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise)*

1. Crown Him with many crowns 109 MP
2. O my Saviour lifted 516 MP
3. Beauty for brokenness (on Partnership News)
4. Heaven shall not wait (on Partnership News)
5. May the mind of Christ my Saviour 463 MP

## Commentary

At first sight our New Testament reading might seem to support those who were critical of the letter written by the Bishops recently about the moral basis of politics - urging a debate on broad issues about defence, poverty and justice. Critics say the bishops should focus on saving souls, not mixing religion and politics. But looking deeper, Paul saying we preach Christ crucified is not a narrow "pure" Gospel that excludes anything else.

He says it is a stumbling block to tears. They pointed to Deuteronomy 21 :23. " Anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse", so crucifixion disproved finally that Jesus was the Son of God. Despite Isaiah 53, they had never imagined a suffering Messiah.

To the Greeks Paul says the message was foolishness: they argued that God cannot feel so to them it was incredible that someone who had loved and suffered as Jesus had done could possibly be the Son of God.

And here's the key - loving and suffering. Jesus came to show us what God is really like. We see him to be the Servant King - coming not to be served but to serve. On Palm Sunday he enacts Zechariah 9:9. " Your King comes to you meek riding on a donkey" - he was a different kind of king. On the cross he shows us that God's love has no limits. As the Communion hymn says "Here we survey that love, which spoke in every breath, which crowned each action of his life and triumphed in his death."

Yes, love motivated Jesus. He reveals that God is love - unconditional, limitless. Jesus reached out to the despised , marginalised, shamed. At the very start of his ministry he quoted Isaiah 61: "The Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for the prisoners" and he says "today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:20).

So Jesus got involved in the stuff of life. Our Christmas tweet a couple of years ago said " God gets stuck into our lives regardless of who we are, unconditional". His life of prayer was also a living of active loving. There was no divide for Jesus between the good news of God's love and everyday life. His deeds reflected his intimate relationship with God his father. Amos, long before, had said " I despise your religious feasts... away with the noise of your songs. Let justice roll on like a river.....you take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts".

So it is when Jesus, in our Gospel reading, throws the moneychangers out of the temple. He is angry , not because the temple is being used as a sort of Community Centre, but because the system of temple tax had become utterly corrupt. There was extortion and almost blackmail:

glaring social injustice perpetrated in the name of pure religion. So Jesus acts. Because he loved God and people he couldn't just do nothing. He roots out corruption. And we shouldn't be surprised, for to Jesus the whole law is summed up as "Love God with all your heart and your neighbour as yourself". And this goes as far as loving our enemies - as radical as his Isaiah manifesto; reversing accepted values in a way that seeks to transform our world in a way that the Ten Commandments would, if they were truly lived! Jesus teaches us to pray "Your Kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven".

Living in Community, as we do, we need to live our faith if it is to make a real difference. Yes Martin Luther was right when he rediscovered the gospel fact that we are saved through grace by faith. Only faith. "Nothing in my hand, I bring" says the hymn. It is all God's gift out of love. But, equally, James is right when he says "Faith without works is dead". What good does it do merely to say "God bless you" to a hungry or homeless person? So we should thank God for Foodbanks, hostels, the Salvation Army, Street Angel - all those who show God's love to others. In a real sense they are almost enacting the parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25, where people are genuinely surprised by the outcome!

"So let us learn how to serve and in our lives enthrone him, each others' needs to prefer, for it is Christ we're serving.

This is our God our Servant King, He calls us now to follow him, to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King" That's how Graham Kendrick puts it, food for thoughts for us all. *Richard Ledger*

## **Meditation**

### **The Ten Commandments with New Testament Comments**

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other Gods before me  
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol. God is spirit and his worshippers must worship in spirit and truth.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Let us not give up meeting together; for the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.
5. Honour your father and your mother. Be devoted to one another so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.
6. You shall not murder. Do not be angry with your brother without a cause but overcome evil with good.
7. You shall not commit adultery. Honour God with your body which is a temple of the Holy Spirit.
8. You shall not steal. Try to do what everyone considers to be honest and good. Give everyone what you owe him.
9. You shall not give false testimony. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
10. Do not desire or set your heart on anything that belongs to your neighbour. Do to others as you would like them to do to you. Love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the fulfilment of the law. *(Based on 'The Baptist Hymn Book' 1962)*

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

Almighty and most merciful God, who has given us a new Commandment that we should love one another, give us also grace to fulfil it. Make us gentle courteous and forbearing. Direct our lives so that we may look to the good of others in word and deed. Hallow all our friendships by the blessing of thy Spirit for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen  
*(Bishop Westcott 1825 - 1901)*

Dear Father who hast all things made and carest for them all, there's none too great for your great love, nor anything too small. If you can spend such tender care on things that grow so wild, how wonderful your love must be for me, your little child. Amen  
*(G.W. Briggs (1875 - 1959)*

Lord, increase the sense of community that binds us one to another. Bless the work of the local church that it may: give a sense of identity where now there is none, provide a refuge to those who feel threatened by the anonymity of urban living, create a place of belonging where people know they are welcomed, remembered by name, valued as individuals, celebrate a faith that, in the Word, announces that we are forgiven and accepted and, in the Sacrament, gathers us again into the life of the Risen Christ. For your Name's sake.  
*(From further everyday prayers)*

**St Mark's Craft Stall** Easter novelties now available from £1 each. This year we have Shaun the sheep. All profits to St. Mark's.

**St. Mark's Pre-school** are collecting Active Kids vouchers. There is a box on the table or they can be handed into the office. Thank you Helen Harpin.

**1st Putnoe Brownies** are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids 2015 vouchers to purchase equipment. If you would like to donate yours? please either leave them in the Putnoe church office or pass them to Carolyn Morris. Thank you.

**Next Messy Church at St Mark's Church** on Wednesday 18 March 3.45 - 5.30pm. Messy Church takes place monthly on a Wednesday from 3.45pm - 5.30pm. For children of lower school age and carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and meal. For more details contact Wendy Waters 401834



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

**Lent Homegroup** If you would prefer something during the day then we have a homegroup at St Mark's 2.15pm alternate Tuesday afternoons and this group welcomes new members even if it is just through Lent. Next meeting 10 March.

**Christian Aid Soup Lunch** You are invited to our annual Lent Soup Lunch at Putnoe Heights Church at 12.30pm on Sunday 22nd March. Donations to Christian Aid. Please sign the sheet in the welcome area at Putnoe or give names to St Marks office.

**Lent 2014 Oscar Romero - Blood and Sweat** Will those who are coming to St Albans Cathedral to participate in an evening lecture 'Witness of Oscar Romero's Life and Death' Please give your £5 booking fee to Charlie to confirm you are still coming. The event takes place on Monday 23 March and we will need to be in St Albans for 7.30pm - so expect to leave Bedford around 5.30pm.

**St Andrew's Church** Monday 20 April at 7.30pm We are delighted that the R. Revd Richard Inwood, the former Bishop of Bedford, has agreed give us a follow-up on the talk he gave a few years ago about steam trains. Refreshments (cheese & wine) provided. Tickets are now available from the Church Office, £6.00 for members of The Friends and £7.00 for non-members.

## Bedford Credit Union St Mark's Church, Brickhill Launches This Week

Bedford Credit Union (BCU) is a not-for-profit organisation owned and run by its members, providing savings facilities and low-cost loans. The BCU provides an alternative to High Street banks and doorstep lenders. We encourage regular saving and aim to educate our members in money management. We can also signpost members to local debt counselling services. The BCU is run by the efforts of a group of local people who have come together with the aim of taking practical action. against financial exclusion.

If you would like to join then visit our office at St Mark's Church to complete an application form.

### Membership Fee

The annual membership fee of £3 covers administration costs then deposit at least £1 and you are a member.

### Junior Membership

Accounts can be opened for under 18 year olds. We run a number of School Savings Clubs. There is no joining fee. Our website shows schools involved. Contact us for details.

### You can save in a number of ways

- Cash or cheque
- Standing Order
- Internet
- Payroll Deduction from your salary.
- Benefit Payments directly into your account, with £2 per payment to savings

There is instant access to your funds and no tie-in penalties.

If we have a surplus at the end of the year a dividend may be paid to all savers, if agreed at the AGM, based on your savings over the year. Your savings are completely safe, covered by the National Compensation Scheme, up to £85,000 of each members savings.

Interest	3% per month	2% per month
Loan	£100	£800
Months	6	12
Per Month	£18.46	£75.65
Total	£110.76	907.77

# Living God's Love

## Partnership Mission 14- 19 July

In July, Bishop Richard will be joining us in the Partnership for a week of mission in our community. We will be holding special events and Bishop Richard will be visiting groups and meeting people leading up to special Sunday Services. If you have any ideas of events which you would like to hold or that you would like to participate in, then please speak with Charlie. During this week the aim will be to make contact with as many people as possible and offer them a welcome to our church family in Jesus name.

## Real Easter Eggs

A million sold and voted the UK's favourite Fairtrade Egg! The Real Easter Egg, the only easter egg sold with a copy of the Easter story in each box, has sold a million since it was introduced in 2010.



Initially turned down by supermarkets, as they were unsure that a 'faith egg' would sell, the Real Easter Egg was voted the UK's favourite Fairtrade egg in a national poll last year. How wrong they were. There is also a charitable donation for every 150g egg sold. More than £140,000 has been donated from sales. It also supports farmers and producers in the developing world by using Fairtrade chocolate. David Marshall, who heads up the Meaningful Chocolate Company, said; "The Real Easter Egg campaign aims to establish giving a Real Easter Egg as a tradition. We can be found in Tesco, Waitrose and Morrison's. However, we make very little from supermarket sales so we do rely on direct sales from churches and schools. Last year we sent more than 400,000 eggs through the post. This is a very positive example of putting our faith into practice so I hope churches will support this year's Real Easter Egg campaign by visiting [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk) and ordering.

New eggs Each year the content of the Real Easter

Egg changes. This year blue egg has a unique 3ft storybook/banner, the Premium Peace Edition contains an olive wood key ring made in Bethlehem and there is a dairy free dark chocolate egg. Visit [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)

**Date for your diary** Auction of Promises at St Mark's Church Saturday 18 April at 7.30pm. Please put this date in your diary. This will be a fund raising evening at which we can offer things we have, experiences, gifts etc. More information to follow. Ian Farthing

## Please shop at ThisisChurch.com



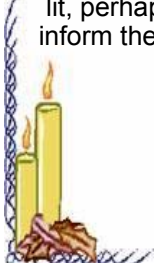
Please can you make a point of always going to Amazon through the link on [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com). If you look at an item through Amazon direct they put a cookie on your machine and we don't get any commission! Please make it a habit to always go through the church website. This costs you nothing and we get a bit of commission.

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

**Please always shop through  
[www.thisischurch.com](http://www.thisischurch.com)**

## 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.'*



## Forthcoming Funerals

**The funeral of Lily May Hostler** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 9 March at 1.45pm

**The funeral of Mr Peter Clough** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 16 March at 10.00am

**The funeral of Peter Parker** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday 18 March at 11.30am

**The funeral of Mr George William Stanwix** will take place at St Mark's Church on Saturday 14 March at 2.00pm and will be followed by woodland burial at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground, Keysoe

**The memorial service for Maurice Mitchell** will take place on Friday 20 March at St Mark's Church at 2.00pm.