



# Partnership News

## Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

### 10 August 2014

### Ordinary 19



#### Sunday Services

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

#### 10 August - Ordinary 19

##### St Marks - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard  
Leadership – Mrs. Margaret Appleton  
Intercessions - Mr. Mike Elliott  
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds

##### 11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Chris Izzard  
Leadership Team - Mrs. Sue Allen  
Intercessions - Mrs. Claire Peck  
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds

#### 17 August - Ordinary 20

##### St Marks - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mrs. Wendy Waters  
Intercessions - Mrs. Mary Stubbs  
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds

##### 11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae  
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen  
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds

**Readings** 1. Genesis 45: 1-15  
2. Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 3. Matthew 15: 21-28

**Midweek Holy communion** at St. Mark's Chapel every Wednesday at 10am 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 Christina and Paul Halsey, in loving memory of her granddaughter and his daughter, Davine Stuart.

*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

Almighty Father,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of all:  
govern the hearts and minds  
of those in authority,  
and bring the families of the nations,  
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,  
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**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 Friday 9am –12pm,**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com**  
**Centre Managers Barry & Jenny Snelson 344417**  
**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)

**8.30-12.30pm 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.** Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts 8 September

**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](mailto: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— 18 August Judith Stanton. 823313

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

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

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

## Tuesday

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

**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

**1.30pm 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

**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 (Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in January 2015.

**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightl 2 September Afternoon Tea at 2.30pm 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 10 September 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 17 Sept 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 3 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's ( Week 1 in the month) 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. Will not meet on July 31 and August 7

**9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus** at Putnoe Heights

**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 Restarts September 11

**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 Restarts 4 September

**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 Brenna. 07919402797.

**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

**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

**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

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 14 October

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 9 September

**Annual Congregational Meetings—**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 1 October

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** -25 September

**Putnoe Church Council** - 16 October

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Commemoration Service** - 2nd November

**Circuit meeting** – 15 September

**Deanery meeting** -

**Woodland Burial Trustees—**

**Putnoe Heights Children**

**& Youth Meeting** - 29 September at 2.00pm

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

# Ordinary 19

## Sentence of Scripture Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve:

pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our

conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Common Worship*



## First Bible Reading Genesis 37: 1-4. 12-28

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. This is the account of Jacob's family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him, more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph, 'As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them.' 'Very well,' he replied. So he said to him, 'Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me.' Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron. When Joseph arrived at Shechem, a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, 'What are you looking for?' He replied, 'I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?' 'They have moved on from here,' the man answered. 'I heard them say, "Let's go to Dothan."'

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. 'Here comes that dreamer!' they said to each other. 'Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams.' When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. 'Let's not take his life,' he said. 'Don't shed any blood.

Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him. Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father. 'So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe – the ornate robe he was wearing – and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it. As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, 'What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.' His brothers agreed. So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

## Second Bible Reading - Romans Chapter 10:5-15

Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your

mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

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

### **Gospel Reading - Matthew 14: 22-33**

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Hymns** *(Please distribute Special worship sheet)*

1. I vow to thee my country
2. O God our help in ages past
3. Through all the changing scenes of life
4. What shall I do my God to love
5. Love divine

### **Commentary**

There are all sorts of names for the different parts of traditional churches. The area where the congregation sits is known as the nave. It is named from the Latin word *navis*, meaning boat. The nave is the 'barque of Peter' the boat. Which originates from this idea of the disciples, the people of God in the boat together in the storm. This is a very ancient metaphor stretching back to this Gospel story from Matthew today, where Jesus comes to the disciples in the boat in the stormy sea. While Mark 6:45-52 and John 6:16-21 also tell this story, Matthew is the only one to include the story of Peter attempting to walk on the water to meet Jesus. The reasons for this might reasonably be that Matthew was writing at a time when Christians are being persecuted. By this time, Peter has most likely been crucified. The storm stories address issues of danger, fear and faith. In both stories, "the boat seems to represent the church, buffeted by temptations, trials and persecutions. Jesus appears as the church's champion, who is strong to save those who call on him in faith.

So the boat represents safety, the sea represents danger. It was thought the sea was a place where evil monsters lived, it was dangerous. The temptation might be to stay in the boat, but we like Peter have to be prepared to get out of the boat. Jesus encourages Peter out of the boat in the words he uses.

Matthew wants us to know that we too have to get out of the boat and take our faith into the stormy seas of life. Many people say that we Christians should keep our religious stuff contained in the boat, that our religion has no place outside of church. We however are obedient to a different master, our world does not need less reminding of the teachings of Jesus, it needs more.

The problem is that we cannot walk on water, if we get out of the boat we get wet ! Leonardo da Vinci did some drawings of shoes which could be put on to enable a person to walk on water, but no matter how hard we try nobody can ever walk on water. If we go in the water we get wet.

I say this because there is belief that if we get faith, then God suspends reality in miraculous ways. Yet from all of these TV evangelists with their extraordinary claims to be able to cure cancers and change world events, not a single one of them can walk on water. If we are honest miracles are very few and far between. Some commentators have even wondered whether Jesus himself ever walked on water. The famous William Barclay suggested that the text actually means Jesus walked by the water. This is not a sign of lack of faith. Indeed quite the opposite. It takes much more faith to believe that God is with us when we do not cling to vain imaginings.

O that it was not so. It would make my job so much easier if I could conjure up a bit of magic now and then. People want miracles and some people are either so desperate or gullible that they will believe the worst charlatans who proclaim to have magic powers to allow us to stop our loved ones from dying, or enable us to talk with them when they are dead.

So if we cannot walk on water does that mean that we stay in the boat? No! We know that as Christians we are called to go and reach out to a troubled world. In the week following the Commonwealth Games I am reminded of the phrase 'you've got to be in it to win it.' The point is obvious, we will never achieve unless we participate. The flip side is that as well as achievement, we can also fail in our endeavours. Perhaps it is that fear of failure which prevents so many people from making the effort, and trying to make dreams become reality. This is true of so many things, not least our willingness to serve God, to allow our talents to be used in his service. The Apostle Peter is a real example to us all, he made mistakes, he had failure in his life, yet he was prepared to have a go, and because of that Jesus called him 'the rock' the one he chose upon which to build his church. In the passage from Matthew today, Peter jumps out of the boat to meet Jesus. Whilst walking on water for a time he soon loses confidence and starts to sink. However we have to pay tribute to Peter because at least he had a go.

Theodore Roosevelt wrote

'It is not the critic who counts; not the one who points out how the strong stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the one who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly who errs and comes us short again and again; who knows great enthusiasm and great devotion; who spends him/herself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who, at worst, if he/she fails, at least fails while daring greatly. So that his/her place shall never be with those timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.'

You and I have to be prepared to leave the safety of the boat, knowing that the basic laws of physics will not be suspended. We will be subject to the same turmoil in life as everybody else. There will be no spectacular miracles to make our job easier. The disciples were not doing anything wrong when they got into trouble. They were doing what they were told to do; but that didn't prevent them from getting caught up in a storm. There they were in a storm which made them feel separated from Jesus, as we sometimes do.

"tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against them."

Does that describe situations in which you sometimes find yourself?

There are waves which we all struggle against in our lives, separation from loved ones, death and divorce, loneliness, questions about the meaning of our lives, concerns about family and friends, the church and the world. We are tempted to ask a question faithful people have always faced: Where is God when I am in need? Where is Jesus in the midst of the storm? Matthew tells us he came to his disciples "during the fourth watch of the night." What took him so long? We don't understand the delay, especially considering the intensity of the struggle.

Jesus is not a "Mr. Fix-it." He does not usually take away the storm, but instead enables us, with him, to walk on the stormy seas. He reprimands his disciples for not trusting his presence and strength. That strength will enable us to persevere. The storms we face will be manageable if we turn to Jesus. We are called to leave the safety of the boat and walk through stormy seas as we become involved in complex issues, as well as family and community need. The waters may not be calm, but we are not alone. We keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and one another. In times of need Jesus reaches out to each of us, his hands are present in one another.

Matthew says that Jesus and Peter got into the boat and the storm died down. The disciples worshipped Jesus saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." Jesus is no ghost. He is the living Lord. And he reaches out with his arms to save the last, the lost and the least. Are you in trouble? Call upon his name. He is the alpha and the Omega. He will not allow you to walk on water. But if you put your trust in him you shall be safe, even as you leave the safety of the boat. As Paul reminds us in Romans, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." *Charles Royden*

**Partners in Sacrifice** The new prayer handbook of the Methodist Church will soon be available. It is regarded as a source of inspiration and support in prayer and a spiritual gem for use throughout the year. If interested please contact Vera Pearson on Bedford 270737 for more information.

**Summer Fete at St. John's Hospice on Sunday 10 August, 11am-4.30pm.** Held in the grounds of the hospice in Moggerhanger MK44 3RJ, and the field behind. Something for all the family - trade stalls, steam engine rides, birds of prey, paintball, games, fun dog show - all this and much more. Admission £2.50, children £1, under 5s free. Free parking. Further information 01767 642424 or email fay.boissieux@sueryder.org

#### **Holiday Children's Activities**

**Storybox** (Age 0 to 5 yrs.) and **Storybox plus** (Age 6 to 13 yrs.) will meet at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 11 and 18 at 12 noon for a story, games and crafts with a Biblical theme. Please bring a picnic lunch with you, drinks provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For further details please contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

**.Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church will start again on Monday 8 September 2014 at 12 noon. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help to make this group such a success.

**Junior Church** at Putnoe Heights Church will have a break during August and meet again on Sunday 7th September for our All Age Family service. Thank you to all our volunteers who help with this group. We are constantly looking for new volunteers for this group. If you would like to be part of our Junior church group to help our children grow in faith please speak to Carolyn Morris or one of the Ministers.

**St Mark's Chat and Make / Play** Next holiday meeting will be August 21 from 9.30 to 11.30am. Chat and Make/Play start again on Monday 8 September at 1.30pm and Thursday 11 at 9.30am. Please contact Janine 01234 297481 for more details.

**Storybox** at St. Mark's starts again on 4 September at 12 noon.

**Messy Church at Celebrate 100** would appreciate empty cylindrical cardboard boxes and tubes. e.g. boxes from Bisto, Pringles; preferably white tubes from cling film etc. Please leave at St Mark's office by Sunday 17 August. Wendy Waters

**Action for Children** September House to House Collection. Action for Children has a 140 year history of working with children, young people and parents living in tough

circumstances in Britain today. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church where it has its roots. Our annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in September. St. Mark's Church is allocated the Brickhill collecting area and last year we raised £572 (inc. Gift Aid). If you could spare a few hours during September to distribute and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. *Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)*



On August 25 there will be a fabulous festival of fun, worship and praise at the College Equestrian Centre in Keysoe, to celebrate 100 years of the St Albans Diocese. We hope that you will all join us for this day from 10am onwards. There will be so much to do and it's all free. Expect to see the best international dog display team, flying birds of prey, a fairground, classic car display and a central outdoor stage with music and a special celebration service. (Plus - Lots More !) One of the things which we are hoping to do is organise a team from each church to take part in 'It's a knockout.' If you would like to take part in a team and you are over 16 then please speak to Ian Farthing at St Mark's or Sam Ware at Putnoe.

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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.thisischurch.com](http://www.thisischurch.com)

## **Meditation** The Great and Holy War

The Great and Holy War: Philip Jenkins

List Price £18.99 Hardback, £9.99 Kindle

Published by Lion, this highly detailed book reflects on how World War 1 had a profound effect on religion in every country which was impacted by the conflict, and particularly the lasting impact it had on Christianity and Christian thought. Philip Jenkins is a historian who shows how the world's Christian nations, who fought in World War 1, presented the conflict as a holy war which frequently called on language and images which spoke of crusade, of apocalypse and of Armageddon and reveals how belief in the supernatural, angels and apparitions were all prevalent and influential at the time. He details how the war shaped all three of the Abrahamic religions; Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and goes on to show how the outcomes of the war, including the moral compromises and the dashed hopes of many, went on to influence the political and social map of Europe to the present day. The book has been described as 'dense', which it is, but it's also readable and insightful and anyone with an interest in how we are as a society, people and church today will find this book fascinating. *Sam Cappleman*



### **World War 1 Commemorative Prayers**

Eternal God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord Jesus, you have taught us that we can only be forgiven as we ourselves learn how to forgive: help us to bear continually in mind our own shortcomings and our many failings. If we remember the injuries we suffer and never deserved, help us to remember the kindnesses we received and never earned, and the punishments we did deserve and never suffered. Help us to be thankful for your unfailing mercies and those of other people; for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

*(The Very Reverend Eric Milner-White, CBE, DSO)*

Lord God, you hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our anger and sorrow, and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(The Very Reverend Eric Milner-White, CBE, DSO)*

Eternal Father, the darkness is no darkness to you, and the night is as clear as the day. Accompany and protect us as we enter the night; give us eyes which watch for the dawn and hearts to learn again the lessons of love, that reconciled to one another and to you we may walk through this world's perils and sorrows as children of light. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



### **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

**Marjorie Cockings  
Aphrodite Hubbard**

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

### **Forthcoming Funerals**



**The funeral of Philip  
Andrew Benjamin  
(Phil) Sedgwick** will  
be on Monday August  
11th, 10am at Norse  
Road Crematorium.