



Partnership News

13 January 2013
Baptism of Jesus

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church



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 13 January

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship
Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions –Mr Mike Elliot
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher –Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership –Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Sunday 20 January—Covenant Service

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion
Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership –Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion
Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership – Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Readings 1.Neh 8: 1-3,5-6,8-10 2. 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31 3. Luke 4:14-21

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

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Joan York in loving memory of her husband Edgar on his birthday.

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

We commend to you, O Lord,
our souls and our bodies;
our prayers and our hopes;
our health and our work;
our life and our death;
our families and our friends;
our neighbours and
our fellow men and women,
this day and always. Amen.

Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

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

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
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685
8.30-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's
9.-3.45pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**
(See website for more details)
.9.45am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430
10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955
10.30am U3A Play reading St Mark's (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)
2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (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 365630
1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys,songs,story and refreshments £1. More details email– chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk . Restarts on 10 September
2pm U3A Music Appreciation (see contact details below)
4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.
6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571
6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081
7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson 353518
7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020
7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 21 January Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567
7.45pm Opus Choir at St Mark's Mrs Sutherland 269100
8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe 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 Skinner 07989080389
10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704
11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights (see contact details below)
1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552
1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's (contacts 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) (contact details below).
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs 406784.
4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957
7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390
6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648
6.30pm MT Karate (all ages) Karen King 07941264885
7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455
7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo 07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk
7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club (Meets fortnightly). Next meeting 22January 'Messy Church' Wendy Waters Details Janet King 313946
8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers Workshop 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. (contact below)
10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am U3A Card Making, St Marks (see contact details below)
10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe (contact below)
11.15am U3A Keep Fit
12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 16 January 2013 Putnoe Heights Office 365630
1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)
1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)
2.00pm Fifty Plus Keep Fit Mrs Webster 856966
2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan
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 January 16 Wendy Waters /401834
4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994.
6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King 079412 64885
7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows 407725
7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095
7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004
7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378
8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867
8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 16 January Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.
8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.
9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green 244970
9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624
110-11.30am Gentle Yoga For more details contact Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305
12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 363283
1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays St. Mark's 267444
1pm—2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552.
2pm -Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.
2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights
2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's (contact below)
2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Mary Rich 272470
6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059
7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)
7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094
7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Carol Plant 01832710504
8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767
8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton 01525 378193
8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass 294220
8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

Friday

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

Saturday

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard 01234 782414
Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198
2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792
6.45pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger 212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's
11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.
7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

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 – 19 Feb,11 June
St Mark's Leadership Team - 22 January
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 5 February
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 24 January
Putnoe Church Council - 19 February
Pastoral Group Meeting - 5 February
Churchyard Committee -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Commemoration Service
Circuit meeting - 7 February
Deanery Meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees–
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –4th Feb. 1.30pm

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

Baptism of Jesus

Opening Verse of Scripture Matthew 3: 16-17

When the Lord had been baptized, the heavens opened, and the Spirit came down like a dove to rest on him. Then the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with him I am well pleased.

Collect Prayer

Eternal Father, at the baptism of Jesus you revealed him to be your Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful to their calling as your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen. (*Methodist Worship*)



First Bible Reading – Isaiah 43: 1-7

But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush[a] and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honoured in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life.

Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’

Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

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

Second Bible Reading - Acts 8:14-17

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit

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

Gospel Reading - Luke 3:15-22

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them. But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison. When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased

(This is the Word of the Lord, **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise as per Clive's January suggestions
2. Morning has broken - MP 467
3. On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry - MP 538
4. Spirit Divine attend our prayer - MP 614
5. Name of all majesty - MP 481

Commentary

Baptism. It is very likely that at some point in our lives most of us will have been present at a Baptism. That may have been when we were baptised as a baby, so have no personal recollection of it; when our own child or children were baptised; when we have been a godparent; when a friend or family member's child has been baptised; or when we have been a member of a congregation where baptism has taken place. A few of you may have been baptised, like Jesus, as an adult. In which case it was probably a conscious decision of your own and was no doubt a very exciting and significant part of your Christian faith journey. Baptism marks a new element of our lives, so whatever our experience, the start of a new year is an appropriate time to think about what it meant for Jesus and therefore what it might mean those of us who have been baptised and those who haven't and might be considering it for themselves or their child.

The Church of England definition of Baptism states:

'In baptism, we thank God for his gift of life and publicly acknowledge his love. In the Anglican Church it is common to baptise young children; this is sometimes known as christening.'

'Christening' meaning 'to bring to Christ' is an alternative word used for the exactly the same service, but seems to be less commonly used by church members than it was perhaps some 20 years and more ago. In The Anglican tradition Baptism is regarded as a 'Sacrament', a visible channel or sign of God's grace. Since its first institution it has been a focus of discussion of diverse views (1 Cor 1: 10 -17; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3: 26 -29) and has led to the formation of different churches and denominations. In the early church it would seem from Biblical accounts of 'whole households' being baptised (Acts 16: 14 -15), that children as well as adults were included. In the early Middle Ages infant baptism became popular. In the Eastern Orthodox Church baptism is always by full triple immersion, even for babies. The Baptist church in Holland first used full immersion in water in 1609. About that time a John Smyth, who was a Church of England minister, performed what was considered a scandalous act of baptising himself by pouring water over his own head. In many old churches the font is situated near or at the entrance to remind congregations of their own baptism as they enter for worship.

The account in Acts 8 describes how the church in Jerusalem sent two of its leaders, Peter and John, to check on Philip's practise of baptising the Samaritans 'into the name of Jesus'. The choice to send John is interesting, because of his dislike of Samaritans as described in Luke 9: 54, where we read how, together with James, he asked Jesus if they should 'call fire down from heaven to destroy them'. 'Them' being Samaritan villagers who had not welcomed messengers sent to the village by Jesus. Initial reading of verses 15 – 17 could give the impression that Philip's method of baptising 'into the name of Jesus' was considered inferior to that of the other apostles, because people did not receive the Holy Spirit until Peter and John laid hands upon them and prayed for them. However this is considered unlikely in view of Acts 2: 38; 10:48 and 19:5. In each instance people were baptised 'into the name of Jesus' either before or after receiving the Holy Spirit.

However baptism is ministered there is no doubt of its significance in Jesus' life and ministry, no doubt that it was vital for the early converts to Christianity, no doubt that it was and is crucial in our Christian journey. There is no doubt that Jesus was baptised as all four Gospel writers give accounts of his Baptism. Each of the Gospel writers writes from their own perspective, puts their own particular slant on the life of Jesus, and portrays him in a way that they regard as important. This is not surprising, the gospel writers were human, the way they viewed life and faith would have varied according to their own experience, just as accounts by journalists and authors on today's local, national and international issues vary according to their own viewpoint. As we continue through this lectionary year of 'Luke' we will no doubt learn more about what he regarded as important, such as how he focuses on Jesus as a saviour of people rather than nations; includes women and non Jews; his social gospel highlighting the needs of sinners, the poor, hungry and out cast and, as in today's passage, the centrality of the Holy Spirit. Here at the very beginning of his ministry when Jesus is baptised with water, whilst praying, the

Holy Spirit comes down like a dove, a symbol of peace, and is affirmed by a voice from heaven saying 'You are my son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased'. Some points from Luke's account remember:

Jesus was baptised with other people, it was a community event, a community experience. This is reflected well in our own services with baptisms being part of our usual worship and by us saying 'we welcome you'. When we next say these words let us reflect on what it really means to welcome a new member into the church family.

Jesus was praying, according to Luke Jesus prayed at every crisis in his ministry including the moment of his death. A lesson for us to continue to pray throughout our lives especially during a crisis, even though we may not hear a voice reply from heaven.

Jesus relied on the Holy Spirit, in fact his very being was dependant on the Holy Spirit. Luke refers to the Holy Spirit 17 times in his Gospel, 7 of these in the birth narrative. The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at the start of his ministry and was the source of his strength. The power of the Holy Spirit was passed on to the first disciples who needed it in order for them to exercise their ministry. Just as we all, lay and ordained, need to rely on the Holy Spirit to exercise ours. Doing things in our own strength can lead to disaster.

At his baptism Jesus was affirmed by the voice from heaven by his heavenly Father's voice. A voice, no doubt heard by those around him, so they would be in no doubt that Jesus was 'The son of God'. Let us be ever open to the voice of our heavenly Father, whether we that is an audible experience or through the written word in the Bible, in other books, in hymns, in prayers, or the words of those we know. Let us to be ever ready to affirm those we know or strangers that cross our path. Wendy Waters

Meditation

This was the most formative day in Jesus' life. From his intense religious experience in the river Jordan came the unshakeable, burning conviction that dominated his life.

Most Important Day Unaware of burdening sins, Jesus came to be baptised by John. People were responding to John's preaching and he wanted to be with them, alongside them, fully immersed in being human.

God was clearly working in John's ministry so Jesus identified himself with it, and by his sharing and submission was himself open to God's presence. He came out of the river, water streaming down his face and hair, muffling the voices on the riverbank. But one clear strong and steady Voice filled his head and heart: You are my Son....

This was breathtaking

For years he'd had a growing awareness of a special work he had to do but this exceeded anything he'd dreamed of. Many had called God 'Father' before but never like this -not with such intensity or the intimacy of Abba. All his life was grounded here:

his message, and mission, and purpose, all his attitudes, and actions, and teaching. God is Abba, your Father, and, like a little child, you can trust him.

Whatever your condition or your present need he understands and shares, and is alongside you. You never know when this surprising God will come to you: so don't be missing when the table is set, or when his people meet, for that could be the day.

And don't be surprised that he speaks to you or by what he says. God is Abba, and you can trust him far more than you do.

Lord, I too have been baptised, signed with your sign, marked out for you; help me to learn and grow in faith and love. Ken Taylor (Sunday by Sunday)

Prayers for Sunday and the Week ahead

Heavenly Father we praise you for sending your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to show us your way. We praise you for the writings of Luke and all the Gospel writers who vividly convey to us Jesus' obedience to you and his calling.

Lord at Baptism we are welcomed into your church family, help us to be always welcoming to those searching for meaning in their lives. Enable us, through dependence on you and your Holy Spirit, to guide them along a path towards you.

Heavenly Father at Jesus' Baptism you affirmed him with your voice. We pray that above the murmurs of self will we will be ever alert to hear your voice. We pray also that we will be ever ready to affirm those we know, or strangers, who cross our path.

Holy Spirit open our eyes and ears to the social injustices of this world; open our minds to think as Jesus would think; open our hearts and wills to act in addressing such injustice, as is within our individual and corporate church capacity. Amen



Another Fabulous Concert at St Mark's Church

Concert on Saturday, 9 February 2013 at 7.30pm in St Mark's Church given by Taylor Wilson, Stewart Kempster and Clive Simmonds.

Entrance is free and there will be a retiring offering in aid of the St Mark's piano fund.

We were delighted that you were all so enthusiastic after

our concert last February to celebrate the arrival of the new organ at St Mark's. I'm delighted that Tracey (Taylor Wilson) and Stewart have agreed to join us for a second concert next February. This year we also have a new piano at St Mark's to enjoy and this will widen the range of items which we can include in our programme.

Stewart was a student at the Royal Academy of Music and has sung operatic roles in many venues both in this country and abroad. He and Tracey live now in a cottage just south of Glasgow and he has sung with most of the major choirs and orchestras in Scotland. He has made CD's with the National Youth Choir and the Scottish National Orchestra and been involved in performances and broadcasts from the Wexford Festival Opera and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. He was involved in the Academy Award winning soundtrack of "Lord of the Rings" and has sung operatic roles in music festivals in France, Switzerland and Russia. He recently sung a recital on the Danish island of Bornholm. In 2012 he was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

Putnoe Heights New Year Lunch. Sunday 20 January 2013 at 1.00pm. Tickets available from Putnoe Office and at coffee time after church on Sundays. Adults £8.00, children under 10, £4.50. Three courses with drinks included. Book early to secure tickets.

Putnoe Heights Church Children and Youth meeting on Monday 4th February 2013 at 1.30pm instead of 28th January. Carolyn

Christmas Gifts If you would like to re-gift your unwanted Christmas gifts we will be having our annual stall after the service on Sunday 3rd February 2013. Please leave things in the office. Thank you. Liz and Carolyn

Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meets at St Mark's on 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday from 8-10pm. All dances called. Come along and burn off some energy. Entry £1 including refreshments. More details Ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594.

Chat and Make restarts Monday 14 January 2013 at 1.30pm.

Want to know what's going on? You may find the following link helpful. It is put together by Church of England Communications and presents a daily digest

of stories from the media which are of interest to church folks. This is a way of keeping in touch with what's going on without the need to trawl !

<http://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2013/01/daily-digest-friday-4-january-2013.aspx>

Footprints Walks. Copies of the 2013 programme of walks now available. Next walk - Sunday 13th January. Meet at 2.00pm at Mowsbury Golf Club. Short circular walk in the Cleat Hill area and Mowsbury Hill Fort. Details from Sue & Gerry.

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church will begin their new term on Monday 14th January 2013. Thank you to all our volunteer and teams who help with this group.

Bike 'N' Hike At the moment the total raised in Beds and Herts for 2012 is £97,000 not quite the £100,000 hoped for but still a good effort.

Concert at St. Andrew's Church 19th January 7.30pm Ksenija Sidorova Classical accordion. Tickets £8, £7 concessions, student 16-21 £3. Children free accompanied by an adult. From St. Andrew's Church centre office 216881 or Central box office 269519.

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church will be 10 years old this May. If you would like to celebrate this milestone on Saturday 11th May 2013 please can you let me know. Carolyn email Youth@thisischurch.com

"Roots" Campaigns Training for Christian Aid, an evening of workshops, prayer and action to prepare for the year ahead will be held on Monday 28 January, 6-9pm at St Andrew's Church Bedford. if interested please book a place by calling the Oxford office on Tel: 01865 246818

St Mark's Messy Church Future dates: all 3.45 to 5.30pm , Wednesday 16 January, Wednesday 20 February

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Friday 18 Jan 12.30. Salvation Army Commercial Road

Sunday 20 Jan 6.30pm Russell Park Baptist
Monday 21 Jan 12.30pm Bunyan Meeting
Tuesday 22 Jan 12.30pm Bedford Hospital Chapel
Wednesday 23 Jan 12.30m St Andrew's
Thursday 24 Jan 12.30pm Friends Meeting
Friday 25 Jan 12.30pm Miracle Church of God



Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration Monday 28 January

12 noon at the Anne Frank Memorial Tree, Russell Park. 12.45pm Civic Commemoration Harpur Suite

Taken from the Queens Christmas Speech 2012

The importance of family has, of course, come home to Prince Philip and me personally this year with the marriages of two of our grandchildren, each in their own way a celebration of the God-given love that binds a family together.

For many, this Christmas will not be easy. With our armed forces deployed around the world, thousands of service families face Christmas without their loved ones at home.

The bereaved and the lonely will find it especially hard. And, as we all know, the world is going through difficult times. All this will affect our celebration of this great Christian festival.

Finding hope in adversity is one of the themes of Christmas. Jesus was born into a world full of fear. The angels came to frightened shepherds with hope in their voices: 'Fear not', they urged, 'we bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

'For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.'

Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves - from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person - neither a philosopher nor a general, important though they are, but a Saviour, with the power to forgive.

Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love.

In the last verse of this beautiful carol, O Little Town Of Bethlehem, there's a prayer:

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,

Descend to us we pray.

Cast out our sin

And enter in.

Be born in us today.

It is my prayer that on this Christmas day we might all find room in our lives for the message of the angels and for the love of God through Christ our Lord.

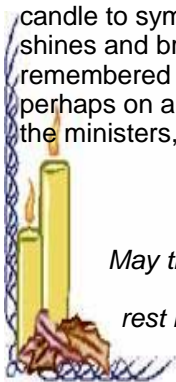
I wish you all a very happy Christmas."

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.

Maureen Rose Paul

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



Songs of thankfulness and praise

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar;
Branch of royal David's stem
In thy birth at Bethlehem;
Anthems be to thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding-guest
In the Godhead manifest;
Manifest in power divine,
Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
Mirrored in Thy holy word;
May we imitate Thee now,
And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we like to thee may be
At thy great Epiphany,
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

Tune: St George's Windsor



Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

The funeral of Nikolai Vivian Murray will take place at the Crematorium at 1.45pm on Monday 14 January

The funeral of Rosaline Greta Baines will take place at the Crematorium at 12.15pm on Wednesday 16th January

The funeral of Brian Keighley will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 11.00am on Friday 25 January

The funeral of Rosie Miriam Norris will take place at the Crematorium at 12.15p.m. on Friday 1 Feb