



Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
1 November 2015
All Souls — Ordinary 30**



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

1 November - Ordinary 31

9.30am St Mark's – Family Worship & Naming
Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions - Mrs. Wendy Waters and Young People
Organist - Mr. Martin Thompson
11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship
Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs. Vita Hudson Rae
Intercessions - Young People
Organist - Miss Marion Prior
3.00pm Commemoration Service

8 November Ordinary 32

9.30am St Mark's – Morning Worship
Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Wendy Waters
Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton
Organist - Mr Roger Evans Wood
11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship
Preacher - Rev Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Sue Allen
Intercessions - Mrs. Samantha Ware
Organist - Mrs Ben Mason
Readings 1. Micah 4:1-8 2. Romans 8:31-end
3. 1 Corinthians 15: John 11: 32-44
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 in memory of Mary Stokes by her loving husband Harry, and sons Howard, Richard and family; Also by Janet Smith to celebrate 25 years working in Hazeldene Heights PreSchool



The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Richard Ledger in memory of his mother Phyllis who died 10 years ago.

Welcome

We welcome you all to our services today. At St Mark's Church we give a special welcome to the family and friends of Alice Lauren Seymour who has been brought for a naming ceremony.

Prayer for Sunday

Lord our God, you dwell in unapproachable light, pure Essence and Perfection of being! Self-existent, Necessary, Infinite and Eternal! You comprehend within yourself all nature, all wisdom, all justice, all goodness, all truth and all holiness. Out of the abundance of our reason we adore you and out of the love of our hearts we magnify and praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Susanna Wesley (1669-1742)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
Assistant Rural Dean of Bedford
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
itsjanemills@gmail.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
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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator
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 Mon-Thur 9–5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Geoff Gypps 365630
Leadership Team Mr Barry Southam 219714
barrysoutham@aol.com
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 Charity No 1160981.
Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Margaret Appleton 354708
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
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
9.45am - 10.45am & 11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's Liz Mason 07816522200
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 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 07928483418 email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk
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 Tel Tom 07974566509
6.30pm Fit For All Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Mary Daly 217127
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 November 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. 9.30, 11.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30. Lorrie Pearson 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 (Alternate Tuesdays) Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225
2.00-3.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's. A social and Bible Study group. Meets alternate Tuesdays. Mrs Jean Bank 355698
3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock 07769747393
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 10 November - Christmas Craft and AGM 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 4 November Contact Putnoe Office 365630
1.15pm Social Bridge Club St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811
2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.1st week of the month. 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 21 October 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 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 344600

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
4 November 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) Jill Cooper 357960

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

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

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

6-7pm Supple Strength Yoga St Mark's Amanda Alcock
07769747393

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna.
07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284

7.00pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week
in month)Contact Janet King 313946

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th
week in month) Rosemary McNeillage 405594

7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd
week in month) Linda Stephen 409493

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

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 at St. Mark's. 1st
Sunday Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for
the under 9's . 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 -

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Annual Congregational Meetings - 24 April

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 19 January

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - 13 January

Putnoe Church Council - 26 January

Pastoral Group Meeting-

Churchyard Committee - TBA

Circuit meeting -

Deanery meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees -

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting -

Messy Church Wednesday 21 October, Wednesday

18 November, Wednesday 9 December 3.45pm

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

All Saints

Sentence of Scripture

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die
John Chapter 11 Verse 25

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through 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.

First Bible Reading Isaiah Chapter 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation." (This is the word of the Lord —**Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - Revelation Chapter 21:1-6

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)



For all the Saints

History was created last week with the consecration of seven new statues of Christian martyrs. It is a unique occurrence for painted figures to be placed in a church screen since the desecrations of the Reformation and the English Civil War.

St Alban Britain's first Saint, a citizen of Roman Verulamium, martyred by the Romans on the site of the Cathedral.

St Amphibalus The Christian priest to whom Alban gave shelter in the third century AD when Christianity was still proscribed

George Tankerfield A Protestant, burnt to death outside the west front of the abbey in 1555 because of his refusal to accept the restoration of Roman Catholicism under Mary

St Alban Roe A Roman Catholic, imprisoned for a time in St Albans Abbey Gatehouse and hanged in London in 1642, having been found guilty of treason for being a Roman Catholic priest

St Elisabeth Romanova A granddaughter of Queen Victoria who married into the Russian Royal Family and converted to the Russian Orthodox Church, who in her widowhood became a nun and Abbess, and was murdered by the Bolsheviks in 1918

Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lutheran pastor and theologian imprisoned in a concentration camp for his opposition to the Nazis, tried without witness or defence and executed by hanging in April 1945

Oscar Romero Roman Catholic Archbishop of El Salvador, who spoke out against poverty, social injustice and torture of the totalitarian regime in his country, and was assassinated in 1980 while celebrating Mass. The beatification of Oscar Romero was declared in San Salvador on 23 May

Gospel Reading - John 11:32-44

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

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

Post Communion Prayer

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns for Sunday (*Please distribute service sheets and hymn sheets where required, also special naming ceremony service at St Mark's*)

1. MP 564 Praise to the Lord the Almighty
2. MP 49 Be bold be strong
3. We are called to be God's people - see attachment we sung it at 2014 All Saints when I also preached
4. When the road is rough and steep - see attachment from Songs of Fellowship 3
5. MP 148 For All the Saints, verses 1,2,4,6,7

Commentary

If the extensive display of Halloween merchandise in a number of shops is anything to go by the popularity of this festival, which in the main focuses on the darker side of life and death, has increased significantly over the last 30 years or so. When my own children were small I saw no harm in them dressing up as witches or skeletons then knocking on neighbours doors expecting to receive a treat. I don't think 'tricking' was much on their mind, rather the expectation of the suitably prepared neighbour giving them sweets. Today I have concerns about the degree to which the ability to frighten children and adults through the products sold has developed. Several years ago, when I went to buy a birthday card in a branch of a chain of card shops, I was so taken aback by the imitation 'tomb stones' on display that I raised my concerns with the shop assistants (who of course have no say in what they sell) that I have never been into one of those shops again.

In sharp contrast to this are two Christian festivals about life and death we celebrate around the same time as Halloween. All Saints Day on 1st November, All Souls Day on the 2nd November and, as we do in the Partnership, give thanks for the lives of those who have died who we have loved and known. 'All Saints Day' was first introduced some 1400 years ago to remember all martyrs, then 200 years later the date was changed from 13th May to 1st November and changed to the 'Feast of All Saints'. It is the emphasis on 'All Saints', those living and those who have died which seems to me the appropriate approach today. 'All Souls Day' is more specifically a day to remember those who have died, hence our service later today of 'The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed', which is valued by many people who come to give thanks for their own loved ones and where, through God's grace, they may receive both comfort and hope. Hope in a new everlasting life, where, as promised in the word of God: 'There he will wipe every tear from their eyes'.

Tears, in life and death go together. Tears can, of course be shed as 'tears of joy', perhaps on the birth of a new baby, or on greeting a much loved family member, or friend, who we have not seen for a long time. Again 'tears of laughter' are not uncommon when enjoying a really funny comedian, or through an

unexpected but funny experience. In the context of today's Bible readings we are thinking about 'tears of sorrow'. Whether it be the tears shed on the news that you, or a loved one, is dying; or the tears shed on, or after the death of a loved one; or the tears shed when seeing the senseless loss of life and dignity of the refugees fleeing many forms of persecution, God's word offers comfort and hope. The words of praise, as written in Isaiah 25: 6 – 9, look beyond the suffering of God's people 'by ruthless nations' (25:3) to the time when the Lord Almighty 'will swallow up death for ever' and where 'The Sovereign Lord will wipe away every tear'. This, declares the writer, 'is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us' (v9). Words that surely describe a 'Saint', a saint being one who trusts and believes in God and his Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel reading John 11: 32 - 44 gives a moving account of tears shed on the death of a much loved brother and friend, Lazarus, whilst going on to describe his incredible restoring to life by his friend Jesus. John is the only gospel writer to record this specific event, which is interesting. One plausible reason that has been suggested for this is that, the other gospel writers did not record it to protect Lazarus, but by the time John wrote his gospel that danger had passed. Tears of grief, in this account, were shed not only by family and friends present at the time but by Jesus. Described in the shortest sentence in the NT as 'Jesus wept', or in a more dramatic translation by Bishop Tom Wright as: 'Jesus broke down in tears'. Jesus the Son of God, with all that this implies, is reduced to tears. Some have suggested these may have been tears of despair that Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, mistakenly did not trust that Jesus would arrive in time to save their brother. Perhaps it was a mixture of both grief and despair. Within this account of Jesus raising Lazarus to life there are several similarities to the accounts of Jesus' own resurrection, with one clear distinction being Lazarus would die again, but Jesus comes through death into a new sort of life. A new life which earlier, in John 1: 25- 26, Jesus tells the grieving Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?". Martha replies: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

In the NT the early Christians, like Martha, were described as 'saint's, or 'God's holy people'. Saints who went on to tell others what they believed, those of us today who believe and trust in Jesus are also expected to try and pass on what we believe to others, including the promise of eternal life, which the writer of Revelations 21: 3 - 4 describes as:

'God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

Wendy Waters

Meditation

Now let us take the idea of eternal life. It is far better to speak of eternal life than to speak of everlasting life. The main idea behind eternal life is not simply that of duration. It is quite clear that a life which went on for ever could just as easily be hell as heaven. The idea behind eternal life is the idea of a certain quality, a certain kind of life. What kind of life? There is only one person who can properly be described by this adjective eternal (aionios) and that one person is God. Eternal life is the kind of life that God lives; it is God's life. To enter into eternal life is to enter into possession of that kind of life which is the life of God. It is to be lifted up above merely human, temporary, passing, transient things, into that joy and peace which belong only to God. William Barclay, *The Gospel of John*, volume 1.

Prayers for week ahead

Lord of all the saints we give thanks for all those who have believed in you, trusted in you, and told others about you. We give thanks for all your holy people who live and work for you. May they be guided and strengthened by your Holy Spirit.

Lord of this world bring peace to all people, to those whose lives have been devastated by war; destroyed by violence; to desperate refugees and those disrupted by natural disasters and show us how best to help them. Help the leaders of all countries to view them with compassion; to respond with rigour and bring them relief from their suffering.

Jesus our friend, you wept when your friends wept on the death of one of your friends, be with all those who weep at this time; if they weep through anxiety, loneliness; through illness of their own, or family, or friend; or if they weep through grief, in your presence may they all find comfort and hope.

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Lutheran Book of Worship 1978

Messy Church Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2015

Following the success previous years, by Messy Church and the wider congregation, we will be packing boxes our Messy Church



session on 18 November. We will be happy to accept donated items from now on. All items must be new. These include Toys, Educational supplies, Hygiene items, Other: Sweets sell by date at least March 2016. Gloves, scarves, sunglasses, hats, bangles, necklaces. Please do not donate: food (especially chocolate), no hand knitted stuffed toys, medicine, no war related items, no clothing other than those above, no fragile items, no liquids. No sharp objects, no novels. We do not need any empty shoeboxes this year. Please see the Messy Church notice board for further details of what can and cannot be put in the boxes. If you require further information please speak to Wendy Waters or Jean Bank.

Lenten Cathedral Pilgrimage 2016

We are organising an evening pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral on Wednesday 16 March 2016.

Depart Bedford at 5.00pm. Cost is £7.50
Arrival at Cathedral and buffet 7.00pm
Pilgrimage and tour 7.45pm
Compline and procession to shrine 9.00pm
Depart St Albans 9.30pm
Arrive back in Bedford 11.00pm

If you would like to take part then please speak with Charlie so that we can book numbers and arrange transport.

Community Coffee Mornings at Putnoe Heights Church at 10am on Wednesdays October 28, November 11 and 25, with the final one this year on December 9.

Partnership Quiz to be held at St Mark's Church on Saturday 28 November at 7.30pm. Do come and bring/make up a team. Tickets £7 includes Fish and Chip Supper. Please put this date in your diary. Tickets available from Church Office.

Footprints Walk Sunday 8 November.

Please note change of date A 2.5 mile walk around Thurleigh on field paths and bridleways with a short distance on paved footpaths. The walk takes us by Thurleigh airfield and the reservoir built to take excess water from the runways. Meet at car park for the Playing Field

(Thurleigh Club) signposted to right of Keysoe Road, Thurleigh at 2pm. Ray & Pam Seymour 305695

Deanery of Bedford Evensong

Sunday 1 November, 2015 4.00 pm
at St Peter de Merton with St Cuthbert, Bedford (MK40 2TE) Followed by Refreshments
All Welcome

The Word Pop-up bookshop. Tuesday 3 November at 3 Rivers Church, Denmark Street, Bedford 7-9.30pm. Books, Christmas Cards, CDs and gifts. Light Refreshments. Presentations from The Foodbank, Street Angels, Pilgrim Homes and The Fountain.

Coffee Morning at Anjulita Court, Thursday 5 November, 10.30am -12.30pm. Sales of Christmas cards, diaries and gifts of all sorts for Arthritis Research UK. All are welcome.

Christmas Fair at Priory Methodist Church, Saturday 7 November 10am-3pm. Variety of stalls selling cakes, cards, gifts, paintings etc. Raffle, tombola. Children's activities, refreshments and lunches. Admission £1 (accompanied children free). All welcome.

The real advent calendar made by the meaningful chocolate company which also contains a 32 page Christmas Story activity book is now available in our Goldington road Tesco store. Carolyn has more details of this product.

Book review—Holiness and Mission by Morna Hooker and Frances Young. Learning from the experience and teaching of the Bible and the early church as it engaged in mission in the growing centres of population the writers give insight as to how the two concepts of holiness and mission, so often seen separately, are inextricably linked in the task of making God's kingdom known in our world today. A book which could be read as an Advent book, or studied and discussed in groups, this book is well worth a read as we seek to live out and share the gospel in our everyday lives.
Sam Cappleman

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St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre 21 November 2015

It is hard to believe that our Craft is only 3 weeks away on Saturday 21 November 2015. We will be having the usual Church stalls again and donated items will be greatly appreciated.

New Tombola

New and unused items needed so please look in your cupboards etc.

Homemade Cake Stall

Secondhand Bookstall

Books in good condition plus any jigsaws (with all the pieces) please.

Indoor/Outdoor Plant Stall

Now is the time to plant cuttings and bulbs etc.

Refreshments

Donations of tray bakes to sell with our teas and coffees.

And of course the Christmas Prize Draw

Any new items suitable for raffle prizes would be really welcome. Raffle tickets are on sale and will be available from the table in the foyer. Please take a few home to sell to family and friends.

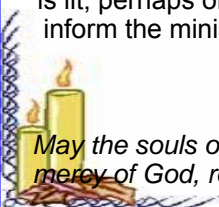
We will need a lot of help nearer the time with leaflet delivering, selling of raffle tickets distributing posters etc. Please let me know of any locations where you think a poster would go. If you are able to help us with manning a stall, on the 21 November, helping in the kitchen or in any other way, we would love to hear from you. As always your help is very much appreciated and we could not run this large fundraising event without your help.

Please contact Avril Williams. 360605

Thank you to all those who have been knitting for Kascare in South Africa. our first two parcels of 140 knitted squares that will make 4 children's blankets have been listed as received on their web site this week. Carolyn will now send the next parcel by surface mail. this takes several weeks. thank you to those who have donated to the cost of postage too.

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.'

All Saints Day



They will receive blessing
from the Lord and vindication
from God their saviour
Psalm 24:5

All Saints is a yearly celebration in which we are encouraged to remember that we are literally 'all saints!'

We tend to think of people like Mother Theresa as saints. They are special because their lives reflect the very best of human behaviour. As we think of them and the way that they lived we are encouraged to be more like them. We think of them as being holy, in the sense of living special godly lives, separated from the grubbiness of usual daily living.

This is all well and good but we need to also remember that you and I are saints as well. We might not live such remarkable lives as Mother Theresa, but we are still saints. This is because we are already holy by virtue of being God's children. We do not have to work hard trying to become God's children, we already are! In the same way that a child might work hard to please their parents, so we will want our lives to measure up, but we are already God's, we are already saints because we call Him father.

At this time of year we admire saints, we use them as role models to encourage ourselves that we can do better. But we do not lose sight of our special kinship to God.

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Pamela Vera Barnett will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 4 November at 10.00am