



# Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
25 January 2015  
Epiphany 3**



## 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

## 25 January - Epiphany 3

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

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton  
Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing  
Organist - Miss Marion Prior

### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mrs. Sue Allen  
Intercessions - Dr. Tim Wilkes  
Organist - Mr. Alan Bunker

## 1 February - Candlemas

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

Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs. Wendy Waters  
Intercessions - Mrs. Wendy Waters  
Organist - Mr. Mike Cooper

### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Family Worship

Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs. Veta Hudson-Rae  
Intercessions - Young People  
Organist - Mr. Ben Mason

**Readings** 1. Malachi 3: 1-5 2. Hebrews 2: 14-18  
3. Luke 2: 22-40

Midweek 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 St Mark's Church this week have been given by Valerie Edwards in memory of Mother and Father .

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Norma Taylor and family in loving memory of their mother and sisters, and by Carole Grinter in loving memory of her parents, Derrick and Marjorie Stoneham.

*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

Bind our souls to your own, O Christ,  
so that we may never be separated from you.  
Only in you are we fully alive.  
Only in your light can we truly see  
and only in your strength  
can we safely pursue our way.  
To you we come, O wisdom without end.  
In you we rest, O mercy without limit. Amen.

*Mechtild of Magdeburg (1210-1280)*

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

### Deacon Jane Mills

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

### The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY  
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

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

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

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### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

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

### Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

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

### St. Mark's Church Centre

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

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm

For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or [www.hazeldeneheights.com](http://www.hazeldeneheights.com)

**8.30-12.30pm 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

**11am-12noon Pilates** St. Mark's. Liz Mason

07816522200 (starts 8 Sept.)

**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

**12.00 noon Storybox** Putnoe Heights We welcome the

under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon

and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based

story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris

[youth@thisischurch.com](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com) 365630

**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-8pm Cubs** at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5

Email:[phxg.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com) Tel Tom 07974566509

**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— 16 February Judith Stanton.

823313

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

300218.

**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of

Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

**7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights Diane

Field 01234 404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights.

Pat McCart 365507

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

Lorrie Pearson 01234 340473

**11.15am 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

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

07891879571

**7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie

07980447390

**7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club** at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 3 February Indoor Games with raffle. 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.

**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 28 January 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 21 January.

2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha

Mistry 01908 392698

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

Lake 218091

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

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall

Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

**6-7pm 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

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 3446008

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

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 4 February 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. Will meet again on 8 January 2015

Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

**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

**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

**1.30 - 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

**7.30pm 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

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

**j10am -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

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

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

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

### Saturday

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

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

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

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

### Sunday

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

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

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

**Messy Church Dates** 11 Feb. 18 Mar. 15 Apr.



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – 10 February 2015

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - 26 January 2015

**Annual Congregational Meetings** - 26 April 2014

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** –27 January 2015

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** –

**Putnoe Church Council** - 19 February 2015 at 7.30pm

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** - 15 April 11.15am

**Circuit meeting** – 7.30pm 9 February at Amptill

**Deanery meeting** -

**Woodland Burial Trustees** –

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

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



# Epiphany 3

## Sentence of Scripture - Ps 128 v 1

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,  
who walk in His ways.

### Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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. Amen

*Common Worship*

### First Bible Reading Genesis 14: 17-20

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

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

### Second Bible Reading - Revelation 19: 6-10

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

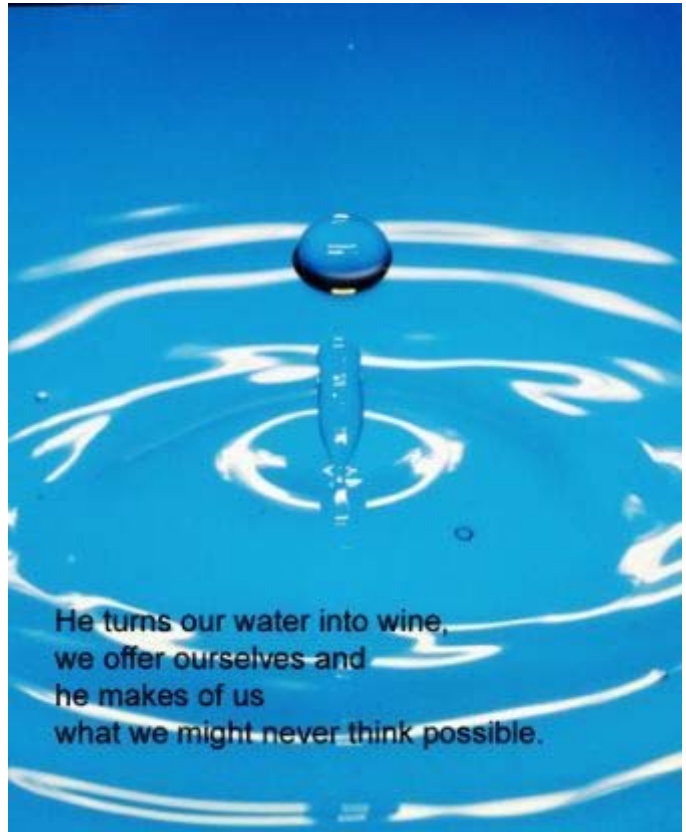
Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, "These are the true words of God." At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me. "Do not do it! I am a fellow-servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

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

### Gospel Reading - John 2: 1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

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



## Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

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

- 1 O for a heart to praise my God, MP 495;
- 2 The trumpet sounds, MP 667;
- 3 We have a gospel to proclaim, MP 728;
4. Take my life, MP 624;
5. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, MP 327



## Meditation

Between 1941 and 1945, the Nazis attempted to annihilate all of Europe's Jews. This systematic and planned attempt to murder European Jewry is known as the Holocaust (The Shoah in Hebrew). Many of the relatively small number of Black people who lived in Germany under the Nazi regime were also persecuted, alienated and murdered during this period, as were many disabled people and people from many other minorities. Every year on 27 January the world marks Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). This year 27 January marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. 2015 will also be the

20th anniversary of the Genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia and the theme for HMD in 2015 is 'Keep the Memory Alive'. On Holocaust Memorial Day we share the memory of the millions who have been murdered in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides not only in Bosnia but also in Cambodia, Rwanda and Darfur in order to challenge hatred and bigotry in our own society. As the Holocaust Memorial Day web site states, it's impossible for anyone who was not there to fully imagine what took place during the Holocaust or in subsequent genocides. But Holocaust Memorial Day is not simply about remembering. It is a time when we seek to learn the lessons of the past and to recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own, it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. In the UK we are not at risk of genocide. However, in communities and neighbourhoods hatred exists. Discrimination has not ended, nor has the use of the language of hatred or exclusion. All are equal in the sight of God, and as Christians we need to reflect and celebrate the equality of all people in God's creation and be prepared to speak out and take action when we see society fall away from God's standards and Christ's transforming power.

## Commentary "A New Beginning"

The miracle of turning the water into wine at Cana is only reported in John's gospel where he places it at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. He says that it was the first of the seven signs performed by Jesus and through it He 'revealed His glory and His disciples put their faith in Him'. It's because of this revelation of His glory that the episode at Cana, together with the visit of the Magi and Christ's baptism, came to be associated with Epiphany. There are a number of clues as to what will follow in the story of the wedding at Cana. It's the third day, it's a wedding, the wine runs out and more is needed, the purification pots assume a new and different role, and the glory of God is revealed. We know that weddings often came to symbolise the coming of God's Kingdom, as we see in the reading from Revelation. Water speaks of new birth and the spirit of new life. But without the intervention of Christ and His transforming power, the water may purify but it cannot bring true new life, for the Jews or for the rest of the world. It's only when water is transformed into wine we see the new creation revealed and we begin to understand the mission and purpose of Jesus and His glory is revealed. A glory that becomes fully revealed at Easter as we witness the death and life-giving resurrection of Jesus. Jesus' mother, who is present both at Cana and Calvary, is witness to the glory and mission of Jesus being increasingly revealed through His life as she looks on at the celebrations at Cana and as she looks up at Calvary to the cross and beyond. Perhaps she was wanting a simple solution at Cana to smooth over what could have been a difficult social situation. Perhaps she wanted to avoid the family losing face, or the wedding being remembered as 'the one that ran out of wine'. This was a big wedding, with celebrations probably going on for several days, a major logistics project and one where getting the catering right is no small feat. It would have been planned for some time and arrangements for the food and wine made well in advance. But despite all the planning and the good intentions the wine runs out. What an embarrassment! But Jesus is at no one's beck and call to offer simplistic solutions to complex problems or to merely save embarrassment. Neither is He some kind of genie to be pulled out of a bottle and asked to do what we like, however well intentioned. Our responsibility is quite often to offer a situation up in prayer, to ask Jesus to intervene as we lay what is on our hearts before God, and be patient as God responds as He will. Jesus' mother's

words give an example of the trust that we so often lack. Rather than being prescriptive she lays out the state of affairs before Jesus, speaking to Him and then trusting that He will take action. And He does. And as He intervenes in the situation His true purpose is revealed, certainly to His mother, the disciples and the servants who were personally involved. Others were more aware of the impact and outcome of Jesus' actions rather than the mechanics of what had happened. To those directly involved the instructions He gave would have seemed bizarre. Serve purification water as wine? But to do so was to be part of revealing God's glory in the world, perhaps without even realising it. Be part of demonstrating that the old Jewish way under the law has come to an end, it too had run out. There was going to be a new beginning. The old way had run out of steam, come to an end, and as such it wasn't a case of trying to breathe new life into it, but transforming it into something new and much richer. Something built on the old, but superseded with the new as God's glory was revealed.

All of today's readings speak of a life changing transformational encounter with God. In Revelation the bride is now ready and the final transformation will begin. In Genesis, Abraham recognises Melchizedek as a 'priest of God most high' and immediately gives him a tenth of everything he owned (including all the possessions he had just reclaimed after defeating Kedorlaomer, the king who had carried off Lot and his family and goods, the action which had precipitated the battle). Melchizedek, in Hebrew malki-sedeq, which can be translated as 'Sedeq is my king', or '(The God) Melek is righteousness' is the King of Salem (or Jerusalem as it became known) is a mysterious and enigmatic figure. The priesthood of Melchizedek is different and distinct from the Aaronic priesthood of the Old Testament; it is continuous and eternal. In some ways it foreshadows the new life that would come in Christ. The priesthood of Melchizedek does not need a line of succession in the earthly manner in which the Aaronic priesthood does. It is not based on tribal alignment from the tribe of Judah; Jesus would not have qualified as an Aaronic priest. As such the priesthood of Melchizedek would be a different and royal priesthood. As Christians, a priesthood of all believers, it is Christ Himself who is our great High Priest and it is Christ Himself who continues to transform our own lives as we encounter Him day by day. In the reading from John, the disciples and others witness the changing of water into wine. As a result many put their faith in Him. Others would be touched by the results of Jesus' actions and interventions, without perhaps fully realising the magnitude and significance of what was happening. Jesus had begun to reveal His glory and the understanding of how God was intervening in the world had to change. It could never be the same again. Today Jesus continues to transform the filthy water and dark situations of our world into the sweet and new wine of His Kingdom. A Kingdom which will be revealed in all its glory at the final wedding banquet which Christ has prepared for each one of us. Sam Cappleman.

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

As the beautiful, dew covered rose rises from amongst its thorns, so may my heart be so full of love for you my God, that I may rise above the storms and evils that assail me, and stand fast in trust and freedom of spirit. **Amen.** *Hadewijch of Brabant - 13th Century*

Almighty God, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world. May your people shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**  
*Methodist Worship*

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit, that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the broken hearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

God, you created us all in your own likeness.  
We thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in your world.  
Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellow feeling and understanding;  
show us your presence in those most different from us, so that in all our relationships,  
both by what we have in common and by things in which we differ,  
we may come to know you more fully in your creation;  
for you are Father, Son and Holy Spirit for ever. Amen

Prayer said on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the death of Anne Frank: Reproduced with kind permission of the Anne Frank Educational Trust and the Council of Christians and Jews

God of dawning light, hear our prayers today and give us the strength to put aside all cares and follow you in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen



**Clear out your wardrobe** St Mark's have installed a textile clothing bank in the car park and we want your old clothes, curtains, sheets, soft toys, belts, handbags and shoes. Every kilo which you give us will help raise money for church funds

**Singing the Faith Day** Saturday 21 February Wesley Church, Cambridge. 10.30am – 4.00pm. [alison.walker@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:alison.walker@methodistchurch.org.uk) or 01223 872862.

**Holocaust Memorial Day** Tuesday 27 January 12noon Anne Frank Tree, Russell Park, Bedford, 12.45pm Harpur Suite, Harpur Square, Bedford.. Further details [bcof.org.uk](http://bcof.org.uk) or [Denise.Malone@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:Denise.Malone@bedford.gov.uk)

**International John Bunyan Society** Conference on Representing Dissent in the Long Eighteenth Century at University of Bedfordshire on Friday 10 April 10.00am - 5.00pm. Free of charge. Contact [bob.owens@beds.ac.uk](mailto:bob.owens@beds.ac.uk) for more information.

**Concert** featuring "Piano Trio" at St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Rd, Bedford on Saturday 31 January at 7.30pm. Advance tickets available from St Andrew's Church Centre Office. tel 01234 216881. Adults £9; Concessions £8; Students (16-21) £4; children accompanied by a paying adult—FREE. Tickets available at the door.

**Thank you** to the catering team for the new year lunch. A profit of £105 was made plus a further £70 from the Bring and Buy stall which has been added to church funds. Sue Allan

**Footprints Walk** on Sunday 1 February at 2pm. To walk Keysoe Donkey Walk, part of Ancient trackway linking long gone windmills at Bolhurst and Keysoe. Park on Keysoe Row East on the opposite side to the farm entrance. Details Barry and Jenny Snelson 344417

**Putnoe Heights Ladies.** I have booked for a group of us to have another evening meal at The Cappuccino Bar, in Newnham Street, on Tuesday March 3rd at 7.30p.m. Even if you didn't come last time, you are welcome to join us on this occasion. Please see me for further details. Maximum number 25. Margaret Massey. Tel. 327219."

## 'What sort of country do we want?'

Two significant events will take place this year.

There will be a General Election on Thursday 7th May. Every five years there



is an opportunity for us to decide who we want to represent us in Parliament. We need to get to know what each candidate stands for and prayerfully use our vote for the common good.

Later in the year there will be celebrations to mark the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta. Those of us who live in St Albans have already had one celebration since the first meeting about the 'Great Charter' took place here in 1213, so we have already marked one of the main anniversaries. As usual, the rest of country is now catching up with us!

It is interesting in that in so many of the discussions about Magna Carta, the central role of the church and in particular that of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton, is almost completely missing. Indeed, it is significant that the first clause of Magna Carta is states 'we grant ... that the English Church is to be free and to have all its rights fully and its liberties entirely'. The Bishops had an important role in the difficult and complex process whereby King John was forced to make a number of concessions and commitments.

Last July the General Synod of Church of England held a debate about Magna Carta. The motion encouraged churches to get involved in the celebrations in 2015 and to continue to engage in social action. However, it did not seem to me to do enough. I therefore proposed an amendment – which was passed after a debate – to 'encourage churches to seek to increase the number of people voting in elections, for example, by hosting hustings and supporting National Voter Registration Day (5 February). This day is part of a UK-wide week of national action (2 – 8 February) to inspire young people to register to vote. You can find out more information at: <http://bitetheballot.co.uk/>

We can all encourage any young people we know to take an interest in politics and for those who are old enough, to register and to vote. I know there will be many cynics who feel there is little point because it does not make any difference. However, you have only to look at the civil war in Syria or the killing being committed by IS to realise how fragile democracy can be. It was Winston Churchill who said in a speech in the House of Commons in November 1947 "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time."

Let's use both the General Election and the celebrations for Magna Carta not only to encourage people to vote. Let's also use it to vote for a society which is motivated by the great Christian insight which have made this country great.

+ Bishop Alan

## Next Messy Church at St Mark's

Church on Wednesday 11

February 3.45 - 5.30pm. Messy

Church takes place monthly on a

Wednesday from 3.45pm - 5.30pm

For children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. For more details contact Wendy Waters 401834



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**Hello everyone,** Due to a mixture of circumstances & good fortune I have ended up on the Bedford MacMillan Cancer Fundraisers Committee. They are a small but very dedicated team of people who have been raising money for MacMillan for over 20 years. They raised the money for the MacMillan ward at Bedford's Hospital, a hospice with a full time MacMillan nurse & last year they raised £15,000. If you can help either with holding a collection tin outside a super market or doing some knitting? Please let me know. Maurice Mills

## Dates for your diary

**St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015,**

6 April, 4 May, 25 May and 31 August.

**St Mark's Leadership Team** meet on Monday 26 January at the home of Jean Bank. 7.30pm for 7.45pm start.

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** meet on Tuesday 27 January at the home of Barry Southam at 7.30pm.

**Putnoe Heights Church Council** Thursday 19 February at 7.30pm

**Credit Union Meeting at St Mark's Church** Monday 9 February 7.30pm

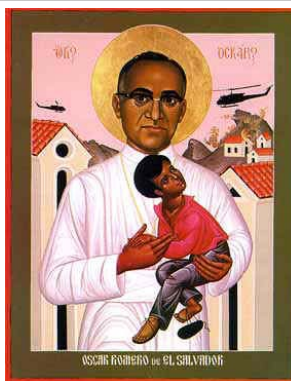
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We now have 47 people registered for [www.easyfundraising.com](http://www.easyfundraising.com). This works exactly the same when you shop with John Lewis, M&S and a whole host of other shops. This has an added benefit that you will also get some special offers - you can't lose! Please click the link on the church website go online and sign up now

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



## Lent 2014 Oscar Romero - Blood and Sweat

We are running a trip to St Albans Cathedral to participate in an evening lecture 'Witness of Oscar Romero's Life and Death'. The event takes place on Monday 23 March and we will need to be in St Albans for 7.30pm - so expect to leave Bedford around

5.30pm. Tickets will cost £5.

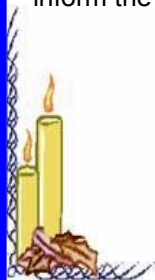
**Please give your name to Charlie this week if you wish to join this event.**

## 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

### Steve Crawford

*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 Mr Frank Tuffin** will take place at Putnoe Heights on Friday 30 January at 11.30am

**The funeral of Brenda Mary Howard** will take place at the Crematorium at 11.30a.m on Tuesday 27 January.

**The funeral of James Patrick Lee** will take place at the Crematorium at 3.15p.m. on Friday 30 January.

**The funeral of Edith Hudson** will take place at the Crematorium at 1.45p.m. on Tuesday 3 February

**The funeral of Mrs Doreen Chetwood** will take place at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground on Wednesday 28 January at 11.30am