



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

7 September 2014

Ordinary 23



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

7 September - Ordinary 23

St Marks - Morning Family Worship

Preacher - The Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership - Mr. Mick Ovenden

Intercessions - Mr. Warwick Holden

Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Family Worship

Preacher - The Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr. Martin Fannon

Intercessions - Young People

Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

14 September - Ordinary 24

St Marks - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger

Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean

Intercessions - Mr. Mike Elliott

Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Richard Ledger

Leadership Team - Mrs. Sue Allen

Intercessions - Mrs. Sylvia Cohen

Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Exodus 14: 19-31 2. Romans 14: 1-12
3. Matthew 18: 21-35

Midweek Holy communion at St. Mark's Chapel every
Wednesday at 10am and at Sir William Harpur House on
first Monday of every month at 10.00am.

Thank You

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

Give to us, O Lord, a steadfast heart,
which no unworthy affection
may drag downwards;
an unconquered heart,
which no tribulation can wear out;
an upright heart,
which no unworthy purpose
may tempt aside.
Grant to us also, O Lord,
understanding to know you,
diligence to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
and a faithfulness finally to embrace you;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

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

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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@Thisischurch.com

Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Friday 9am - 12pm,
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre 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

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 Restarts 8 September

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

2pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights– fortnightly

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

5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Emily Taverner 01234 792013

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

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

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

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

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting– 15 September Judith Stanton. 823313

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

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

1.3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

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

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

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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

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

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

4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.30-8.30pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957

7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.00pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455 (Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in January 2015.

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightl 16 September 'Street Angels' Details Janet King 313946

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

Wednesday

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

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

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

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

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 10 September Putnoe Heights Office 365630

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

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

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 17 Sept 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

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

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

6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel. 01234 353865

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

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 17 September Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

Thursday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Pre School Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table. Will not meet on July 31 and August 7

9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus at Putnoe Heights
10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

9.45am Chat and Play St. Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts September 11

12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 342613 Restarts 4 September

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's (Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

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

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

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

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

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

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

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

Shirley 01767 651767

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

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Susan Perugi 300219

Friday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

8.30am Diabetic Centre St Mark's (1st week in month) Deborah Hennessey 792013

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647

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

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

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

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

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

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

Saturday

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

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

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

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

Sunday

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

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday Feb/Apr/ Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls at St. Mark's 1st and 3rd Sunday. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

Messy Church Dates 17 Sept, 15 Oct, 19 Nov, 10 Dec

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 14 October

St Mark's Leadership Team - 9 September

Annual Congregational Meetings—

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 1 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting -25 September

Putnoe Church Council - 16 October

Pastoral Group Meeting - 16th September 4pm

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service - 2nd November

Circuit meeting – 15 September

Deanery meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees—

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 29 September at 2.00pm

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

Ordinary 23

Sentence of Scripture

Matthew 18:20

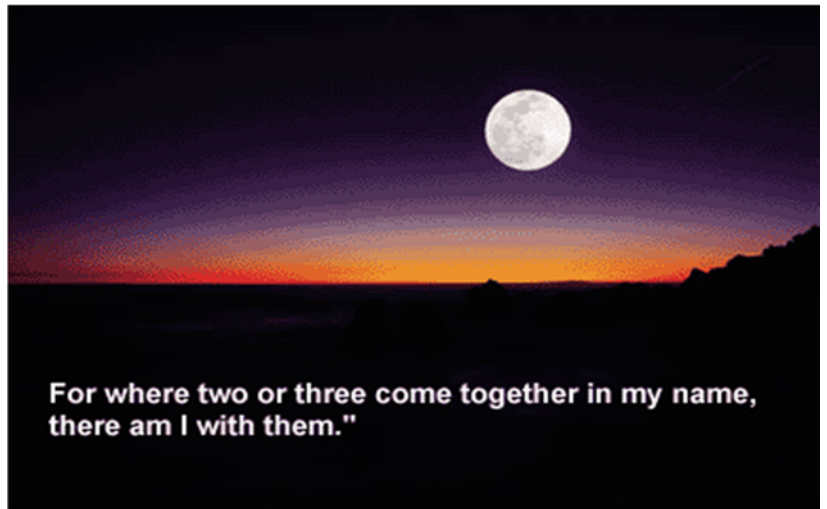
For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

O Lord we beseech you, mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you. and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have the grace and power faithfully to fulfill them;

Through Jesus Christ 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—Exodus Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbour, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire--head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it.

This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover. "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn--both men and animals--and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD--a lasting ordinance.

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

Second Bible Reading - Romans 13:8-14

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. (This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 18: 15-20

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others

along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

1. At the name of Jesus, 41
2. There is a higher throne, On Partnership News;
3. Make me a channel of you peace, 456;
4. Revive thy work O Lord, 578;
5. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, 111

Commentary

Today's gospel provides a practical scenario on community relations and the precepts by which these embryonic Christian communities were to strive to live. It shows how important Jesus saw strong and trusting personal relationships between community members if the community of believers to which He addresses His remarks is to be healthy, vibrant and have an impact, relevance and be a positive witness in the broader society in which it was based. One of the most striking elements of the guidelines Jesus gives in His discourse on resolving differences between community members is the underlying focus on forgiveness and reconciliation. Jesus urges the believers to work hard at resolving their differences in an open and co-operative manner. To strive to be reconciled to one another, even if there were deep seated differences between them. They, like many others who followed them in the church and the world, would come to realise that reconciliation is often easy to talk about but painfully difficult to make real. Often we are prepared to be reconciled only if the other party comes round to our point of view or capitulates or makes major concessions. But true reconciliation can involve letting go of history, being open to forgive the past and move on into the future. It's a dynamic and two way (at least) process which involves give and take on all sides.

On taking office in March 2013, Archbishop Justin announced three priority areas for his ministry over the coming years. These were 1) The renewal of prayer and the Religious Life; 2) Reconciliation; 3) Evangelism and witness. Archbishop Justin stated, "If we want to see things changed, it starts with prayer. It starts with a new spirit of prayer, using all the traditions, ancient and modern. When it comes, it will be linked to what has gone before, but it will look different – because it is a new renewal for new times. God's created community is perfectly designed for its time and place. It almost always comes from below. It comes from Christians seeking Christ... ...Reconciliation doesn't mean we all agree. It means we find ways of disagreeing – perhaps very passionately – but loving each other deeply at the same time, and being deeply committed to each other. That's the challenge for the church if we are actually going to speak to our society, which is increasingly divided in many different ways... ... Making evangelism a priority is not simply a growth strategy, or a desperate attempt to fill empty churches. It is about faithfully and effectively witnessing to Jesus Christ, who is himself the principal agent of the good news. When the Church engages in evangelism imaginatively – through prayer, listening, proclaiming and responding – people become disciples of Jesus and churches grow."

Reconciliation is about our relationships - with God and with each other. It involves people, communities and nations learning to live together with deeply-held differences – in a spirit of love and respect. It is to work for justice and seek truth in the light of God's mercy and peace. For Christians this is not optional: it's the very heart of the gospel. As we are reconciled in Jesus we now share this gift of God with each other and the whole human family. Reconciliation transforms how we live with the inevitable conflict life brings, while itself bringing us into conflict

with all that excludes and diminishes people and communities. On the journey of reconciliation enemies become friends and hope replaces despair. Archbishop Justin's ministry of reconciliation, whilst expressed in terms of the Church of England is equally applicable across all denominations. Expressed more broadly it could be said that reconciliation is focused in three areas: (i) helping strengthen relationships in the Church of which we are a part and therefore enhancing our capacity to transform conflicts involving deeply-held differences; (ii) engaging with the broader church to encourage new approaches to renewing relationships and our commitment to shared life and witness; (iii) exploring how as Christians we understand and practice reconciliation so we can better help transform conflict and end violence between communities and among peoples where we find it around the world.

The gospel passage closes with encouragement. To those who are reconciled, those who can come to agreement, Jesus Himself promises to be in our midst. He will be with us as we work through any differences and live in peace with one another. And to those who we are not yet reconciled with there is encouragement too. Jesus asks the believers to treat them as they would 'a pagan, a prostitute, a publican, a tax collector or a sinner'. The translations and images are multiple but the idea is the same – those who would normally be considered lesser mortals, people of no consequence. And slowly the hearers would begin to realise that rather than ostracise them, as communities at the time of Christ could ostracise 'outsiders', but treat them as Jesus would, who went out of his way to show love to the unbelievers, to go to dine with Tax collectors, to go around with publicans and prostitutes. To hold out the hand of friendship, hospitality and Christian love as we seek to do all we can to build up our community and common life. *Sam Cappleman*

Mediation

Today's readings seem to be all about guidelines. There are guidelines for the Israelites as to how they are to prepare for the Passover as it will become known. There are guidelines for the Christian church in Rome as to how they are to conduct their lives by loving their neighbour as they love themselves. It may even be interesting to reflect that perhaps one of the issues in the breakdown of our society is that people are loving their neighbours as they love themselves, they just don't love themselves very much. If they don't have much self-respect then why should we expect them to respect and love others around them... ...And finally in the gospel reading there are guidelines for handling disputes in the early church or groups of believers. There is a part of everyone that likes guidelines; we like to know where we stand. Children especially like to know how far they can go and often as they are growing up test our guidelines and boundaries as they come to understand what is acceptable and what is not. In the past it was the yellow and black, 'Teach yourself' books. Today we have the internet and YouTube videos which seem to have instructions and guidelines for doing just about anything. But the guidelines in today's readings are quite specific. They are guidelines for being reconciled to God and to each other. Guidelines which sometimes can be quite challenging to live out in our lives.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

God of all nations and peoples, hear our prayers for the people of Syria and Iraq, and for all whose lives are torn apart by hatred and violence, whose heartbreak is more than we can imagine:

God of compassion, guide us as we pray.

For leaders and politicians and those who seek to negotiate for peace, whose responsibility is more than we could bear: **God of wisdom, guide us as we pray.**

For aid workers, medical staff, those who care for refugees, orphaned children and older people, whose daily workload is more than we could tolerate: **God of goodness, guide us as we pray.**

For those who feel compelled to accomplish their justice through warfare or terrorism, whose motivation is more than we can comprehend: **God of justice, guide us as we pray.**

For ourselves, who look on, devastated and helpless, praying to our God whose peace is beyond our understanding: **God of peace, guide us as we pray.**

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: **Amen.**

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

Action for Children September House to House Collection. Action for Children has a 140 year history of working with children, young people and parents living in tough circumstances in Britain today. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including Social Services and the Methodist Church where it has its roots. Our annual house-to-house Collection to support this vital work will take place as usual in September. St. Mark's Church is allocated the Brickhill collecting area and last year we raised £572 (inc. Gift Aid). If you could spare a few hours during September to distribute and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me. *Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)*

Beds, Essex, Herts. District Methodist Women in Britain (Network) Autumn Craft Day on Saturday 4 October from 9.45am to 4.30pm at Priory Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to come and learn a new skill. 16 Workshops available at £4.00 per half day session. Closing date for bookings is 25th September. Details of workshops and booking forms are available from Pam Seymour Tel 305695 email -pams@tgis.co.uk or Ruth Watkins Tel 01296 485087 email ruthwatkins@aol.com

'Together We Stand' Mini Exhibition & Classical Concert in aid of Cancer Research UK at St. Mark's Church 11 October. Starring Elaine Huckle - Mezzo Soprano, Philip Bond and Ian Clarke - piano and Peter Gyles -violin. Exhibition open from 6.30pm concert at 7.15pm. Tickets £12, students and OAP's £10, children under 16 free. Available from Bedford Tourist Information Centre and Bedford Box Office 01234 718112. Also from St. Mark's on the day from 2.30pm. Includes an alcoholic or non alcoholic beverage. Local artist paintings, various displays and raffle.

The bowls taster session was a great success and further sessions will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the month 2pm - 4.30pm. Contact Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

Offertory Envelopes Members of the envelope scheme at Putnoe Heights Church are invited to collect their packs of envelopes for the next twelve months from a table in the welcome area.

Putnoe Heights Church Harvest Lunch Tickets are now on sale in the Putnoe office for the lunch on October 5 at 1.00pm after the Harvest Festival Service. Adults £6.00, children

(under10) £3.00. Soft drinks provided, please bring wine if preferred. Bring friends and family along, all are welcome.

Celebrate 100 Beer. We have a limited supply of very nice Celebrate 100 beer for sale at £2.50 for 500ml. This is a nice hoppy blonde session beer brewed by the award winning Nene Valley Brewery. Even more discount for cases of 12 bottles - See Sam or Charlie



And the winner is...

As you may know, one of the activities at Celebrate 100 was the great 'Cake Off' competition. After strict judging by three highly respected and independent judges we are delighted to announce that the winner in the under 12 category was Paige Ware! Those of you that saw Paige's cake will agree that it was outstanding and a well-deserved winner, seeing off some strong competition. Well done Paige!

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Highfield Residential Care Home A group from St. Mark's Church will be conducting a "Service for Harvest Festival" at Highfield Residential Care Home on Sunday 21st September. You are welcome to assist. *V. Pearson*

World War 1

Advance Notice—Saturday 15 November at 6.30pm 'Innocence and Experience' : recollections of the First World War' using poetry, prose and pictures. Trench grub will be served at tables at 8pm. Tickets £10 each will be available shortly. All proceeds to church funds.

St. Andrew's Church Concerts. 27

September 7.30pm Bring & Sing. Singers £7.00 Audience £8.00/£7.00 concessions. 28th September Concert of English Song 2pm £5.00 followed by workshop £3.00. See posters on St. Mark's notice board for more information. Tickets from St. Andrew's Church Centre Office 216881 or Central Box Office 718112.

Footprints Walk. The next walk will be on Sept. 7 starting at 2:30pm. Meet at Clophill Village Green, just off the A6. The walk varies from minor roads to woods and fields; and is about 3 miles. No stiles and good firm ground. Queries please ring Warwick Holden Tel: 01234 403551

St Mark's Messy Church Wanted , any spare cooking apples , please, leave at Church Office. Thank you

Prayer for the ongoing crisis in Iraq and Syria

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Ken Howcroft and Ms Gill Dascombe, are encouraging prayer for persecuted minorities

"The situation in Iraq and Syria can only be described as a living nightmare," said Mr Howcroft and Ms Dascombe, adding, "as Methodists we stand in solidarity alongside all

those who are persecuted. As followers of Jesus who was crucified we stand with all those who find their religion twisted by others out of all recognition in order to justify horrific acts of violence. We stand in prayer, crying out together to a God of justice, peace and mercy. May God have mercy on us all."

A Hymn for Sunday

There is a higher throne
than all this world has known,
Where faithful ones from every tongue
will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace:
Salvation comes.

*Hear heaven's voices sing,
their thunderous anthem rings
through emerald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, power,
strength, thanks and honour are
to God, our King who reigns on high
forever more.*

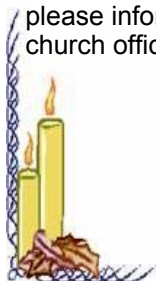
And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne;
we'll honour Him in perfect song
where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye,
as thirst and hunger die;
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King:
we'll reign with Him.

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

Alistair (Alec) Buchanan

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



Forthcoming Funerals

There are no funerals this week