



# Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

8 September 2013 - Ordinary 23



## 8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights  
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

### Today 8 September — Ordinary 23

#### 9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr Peter Fletcher  
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean  
Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott  
Organist - Miss Marion Prior  
**11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship with Baptism**  
Preacher – Mr Peter Fletcher  
Leadership Mrs Sue Allen  
Intercessions — Mrs Sue Allen  
Organist - Mr Alan Bunker

### 15 September — Ordinary 24

#### 9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mr Edward Parry  
Intercessions – Deacon Jane Mills  
Organist - Mr. Martin Thompson  
**11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion**  
Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans  
Intercessions—Mrs Claire Peck  
Organist - Mr. Alan Bunker

**Readings** 1. Jeremiah 4:11-12, 15-16 2.1 Timothy 1: 12-17 3. Luke 15: 1-10

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

## Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Heather Ivett in ever loving memory of her husband Stan & son Ian.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Helen Machin to say au revoir to everyone as she leaves Bedford for a new home in Australia.

## Welcome

We welcome you all to our worship today, we especially welcome at Putnoe Heights the family and friends of Leon Fitz Scott who has been brought for baptism

## A Prayer for Sunday

As we pass through this world, O God, may we seek you and serve with all our heart and affection. When we speak and when we write may all that we undertake be for your sole honour and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Richard Baxter (1615-1691)*

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a Vice President for Hewlett Packard)

### 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 Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com  
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

### Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846  
**Leadership Team** Mrs 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** - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892  
treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Jim Williams 360605

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

Partnership News is also archived on our church website  
www.ThisChurch.com

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)  
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685  
**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**9.-3.45pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**  
(See website for more details)  
**.9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430  
**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955  
**10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Calligraphy** at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)  
**12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris  
[youth@thisischurch.com](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com) 365630  
**1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make** For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email– [chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk) .  
**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** (see contact details below)  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190  
**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.  
**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859  
**6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**6.30pm Boot Camp** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081  
**7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson 353518  
**7.00pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020  
**7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091  
**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 16 September Judith Stanton. 823313  
**7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club** St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218. First session starts 23 September.  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567  
**Putnoe Heights Children and Youth meeting** - Monday 23rd September

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016  
**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507  
**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389  
**10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** (see contact details below)  
**1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles** 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552  
**1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp.** St Mark's (contacts details below)

**1.3pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's (contacts details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895  
**2pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).  
**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225  
**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs 406784.  
**4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance 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  
**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648  
**6.30pm MT Karate** (all ages) Karen King 07941264885  
**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455  
**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** (Meets fortnightly). 17 September 'Favourite Music' Details Janet King 313946

## Wednesday

**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.  
**9.30am Discover & Do** (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666  
**10am-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.  
**10am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. (contact below)  
**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.  
**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks (see contact details below)  
**10am U3A Diet and Nutrition-** Putnoe (contact below)  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit**  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 11 September Putnoe Heights Office 365630  
**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)  
**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811  
**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** St Marks.(see contact details below)  
**2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan** Putnoe Heights  
**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966  
**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 18 September. Wendy Waters 401834  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731  
**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994.  
**6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen King 079412 64885  
**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's Yvonne Blain 350241 or Brian Sallows 407725  
**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** Putnoe

Heights monthly. Sylvia Woods 365095  
**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004  
**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378  
**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867  
**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** at St Mark's 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 18 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 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

## Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306  
 Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.  
**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green 244970  
**9.45am Chat and Play** St. Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers. 0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07932616468  
**10.00-11.30am Gentle Yoga** For more details contact Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305  
**12pm Storybox** . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 363283  
**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic** 1st and 3rd Thursdays St. Mark's 267444  
**1pm-2.30pm Drop in** (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552.  
 2pm -Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.  
**2pm U3A Current Affairs** - Putnoe Heights  
**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St. Mark's (contact below)  
**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Mark's Mary Rich 272470  
**5.45pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.  
**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .  
**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059  
**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)  
**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale 406094  
**7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. Carol Plant 01832710504  
**7.30pm Gentle Birthing** St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231  
**8 -10pm Bedford Folk Dancers** (formerly Barn dancers)  
 Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week. Except August. Next meeting 5 September. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767  
**8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle.** St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton 01525 378193  
**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass 294220  
**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

## Friday

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647  
**10am -12.00 U3A Photography** St Marks. (4th week) (see contact details below)

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

## Saturday

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

## Sunday

**9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School** at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's  
**10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre.** 1st Sunday Feb/ Apr/Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143  
**11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior** at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.  
**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355  
**Messy Church Dates**  
 Weds 18 Sept; Weds 16 Oct; Weds 20 Nov,



**U3A** For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119



## Diary Dates



**St Mark's Church Council** – 8 October  
**St Mark's Leadership Team** -  
**Annual Congregational Meetings**  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 10 October  
**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** 1st October  
**Putnoe Church Council** - 14 Oct  
**Pastoral Group Meeting** - 4.15pm 17th September  
**Churchyard Committee** -  
**Commemoration Service** Sunday 3 November 3pm  
**Circuit meeting** - 10th September Wilstead Methodist Church  
**Deanery Meeting** - 14 November  
**Woodland Burial Trustees**–  
**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** –1.30pm 23rd September  
**New Year Lunch 19 January at Putnoe**  
*Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.*

# Ordinary 23

## Sentence of Scripture - Philippians Chapter 1:21

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

## Collect Prayer for the Day

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ you 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 Jeremiah 18: 1-11

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

"Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, 'This is what the Lord says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.'

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

## Second Reading - Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church that meets in your home:

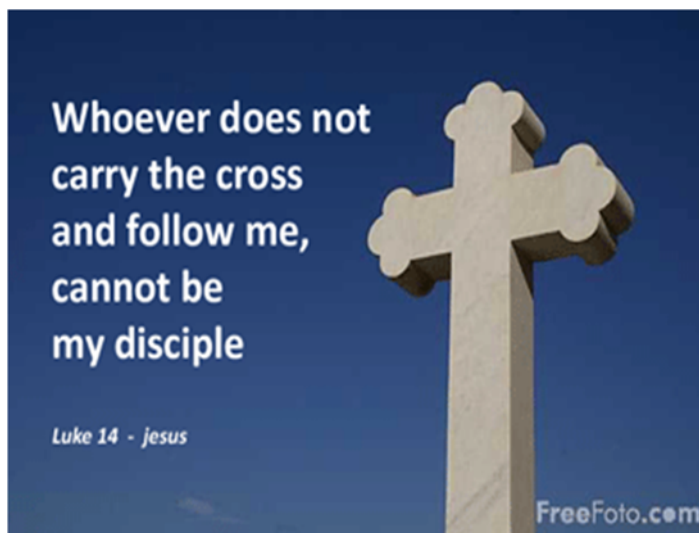
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints. Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul--an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus-- I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

I am sending him--who is my very heart--back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favour you do will be spontaneous and not forced. Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good-- no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back--not to mention that you owe me your very self. I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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



## **Gospel Reading – Luke 14 : 14:25-33**

Large crowds were travelling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

## **Hymns**

*(Please distribute Morning Worship, Hymns Sheets and Baptism booklets at Putnoe Heights Church )*

1. Tell his praise in song and story, *Tune Abbots Leigh*
2. Who would true valour see,
3. Jesus, we have heard your Spirit *Tune Ode to Joy*
4. I know not why God's wondrous grace
5. I'll go in the strength of the Lord

## **Mediation The Church of England and the Methodist Church moving closer to unity**

The Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) of the Church of England and Methodist Church in Britain has called for "Church leaders and decision-making bodies to make the Covenant a priority in order to bring our Churches closer together in mission and holiness." In a major report published this week the JIC calls on both Churches to consider the impact that the 10-year-old Anglican Methodist Covenant has made on their relationship; to rejoice in the progress that has been made and to face together the challenges of mission. The report, entitled: "The Challenge of the Covenant: Uniting in Mission and Holiness", provides numerous examples of where the Churches have worked well together over the past 10 years, including areas of education, ethical investment, mission, theological education, safeguarding and Fresh Expressions. There are now 533 local ecumenical partnerships between Anglicans and Methodists across the country. However, the report also identifies a number of continuing challenges, such as the need for further collaboration, consultation and decision making at both national and local levels.

In setting out new ways of future working, a Quick Guide to the Report urges: "Church leaders and decision-making bodies to make the Covenant a priority in order to bring our churches closer together". It also expresses the need for "local Anglicans and Methodists to worship and work together more closely to make the Covenant 'real'." It states that: "We are called to holiness and to be sent on mission in the world. Our unity is an essential part of that. When we are not one ..... our faith and mission are seriously compromised". Jointly launching the report, Professor Peter Howdle, the Methodist Co-Chair of the JIC, said: "We are pleased to present this Report. The JIC sees many signs that the Covenant between our two Churches has strengthened during this period. However, there is still a long way to go before our two churches are acting, and are seen as acting, together in visible unity for the mission of the church.

"I believe both churches will need to act ever more graciously towards each other as they seek to overcome the obstacles which prevent a deepening of our Covenant relationship. Our Report challenges our churches to greater efforts in their search for this visible unity. "

The Church of England Co-Chair, the Bishop of Coventry, the Rt Revd. Christopher Cocksworth said: "John Wesley's passion and project to 'reform the nation...and to spread scriptural holiness over the land' is in urgent need of renewal. This important Report challenges the Church of England and the Methodist Church to work wherever possible in common purpose and to take definite steps towards a common life in Christ, and in his ministry and mission. "

The report notes the outstanding questions preventing even closer working and highlights the JIC's hopes that progress towards visible unity in mission and holiness will not involve one Church being absorbed by the other. "We have common roots and shared history," states the Quick Guide. "Yet we are very different culturally and structurally. We do not match each other in the ways we are organised. These difficulties are sometimes the source of misunderstanding and frustration, but they can also be the source of much enrichment and rejoicing."

The JIC is inviting feedback on the findings of the report. Over the next few months, the various national and connexional bodies of the two Churches will be reflecting on the Report in order to discern how to move forward into the next phase of the Covenant journey. Comments and submissions are being invited by 31 January 2014. The JIC will then bring proposals for the next phase of implementation of the Covenant to the General Synod and the Methodist Conference in July 2014.

## Commentary

The sayings of Jesus are difficult enough without having to contend with the differences in time and culture. Today is one of those occasions where the teaching of Jesus is challenging and we also have some cultural differences to make sense of. Even those with a modest appreciation of the teaching of Jesus will be aware that he was not the sort of teacher to instruct his followers to hate anybody, and to encourage hatred of your own family would be unthinkable. So what did he really mean?

This week I saw a film from Syria, recorded probably on a mobile phone. It showed a scene in which some Sunni militia had stopped lorries being driven by civilian Alawites. They are all Muslim but from very different sects. When questioned the lorry drivers pretended to be Sunni as well. The militia waved their guns and asked questions about their religious behaviour, such as how many times they prayed in the morning. The Alawites never gave the correct answers and their lack of knowledge betrayed them. They were made to kneel and then shot, their crime to be from the wrong tribe, the wrong family. Put into this context we can begin to see how strong the ties of family and tribe would have been and still are in the Mediterranean world where Jesus taught. The family gave the person their identity and before anybody thought about turning to follow Jesus they would need to understand the consequences which discipleship would bring. This is really difficult and people needed to understand what they were doing before jumping in feet first to follow Jesus. Were they willing to risk rejection and perhaps death as the consequence of following Jesus? If all of this sounds dramatic then we need only think of the hatred and bitterness which divide countries such as Syria, where even those who share basic principles of faith have hugely differing loyalties. Jesus often used hyperbole, he spoke in extremes to get his point across, telling people to chop off parts of their body that caused them to sin might be an example. Sometimes we explain that this is what Jesus is doing here and really a better translation might be 'love less than me' rather than hate. However there is real cost to discipleship and turning to Jesus would often mean that blood ties were broken, the person would be cut off from their family.

Jesus doesn't want half hearted followers, but neither does he want people to follow him who are unprepared for the journey. Someone said to Jesus "I will be your follower wherever you go" (9:57). They were clearly full of enthusiasm but Jesus pours cold water on their excitement with a stark reminder, "the foxes have lairs, the birds of the sky have nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (9:58). The costs of discipleship might mean detachment from one's previous world and way of living, it might mean hardship, loss of home and family and ultimately a cross.

The warning of Jesus are clear, 1. Anyone who puts close relationships before Jesus is "not able to be" his disciple. 2. Anyone who does not bear their cross is "not able." 3. Anyone who does not forsake "all that he has" is "not able." All of this sounds fairly depressing but there is a positive side ! Jesus is clear that where one comes from lies firmly in the past, we are not victims of the past and it no longer defines who we are. Where we are born, our class, who our daddy is, none of this is of any importance to Jesus. This is in the past and when a follower turns to Jesus it is like they are born again, into a new family. *Charles Royden*

### Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord God you came as a neighbour to humankind in Jesus. Give us eyes to see you in other people and make us instruments of your care to all., that everyone may become true neighbours in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Living God, inform and inspire the way we look at your world, that we may see strangers and notice in them the potential for friendship; that we may see people of faith, observing how we can work together; that we may see fellow Christians, and with them reveal the marks of service; that we may see ourselves, with all our imperfections, as loved by you; that, looking to Christ, we may see with the eyes of his love. Amen. *Heather Noel-Smith.*

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me, I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself . Therefore I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone. *Thomas Merton*

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**Prayer for Reconciliation in Syria** God of history, Witness of the struggles within families; we pray for the divided family of Syria as brother fights against brother, and sister rejects sister. We pray for those whose love of neighbour has been destroyed in the bitterness of enmity. May fear be submerged in compassion. May distrust be diluted by hope, as a vision of peace illuminates darkened minds and hate-filled hearts. We pray in the name of Christ, our source of light and love. Amen.

## **St Mark's**

**Junior Church** meets again 8 September.

**Story Box** starts again on 12 September.

**Chat and Make** starts again on 16 September.

**Chat and Play** starts again on 12 Sept

## **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. Today it does this through its family centres located throughout the UK including North Bedfordshire. 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 the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark's Church is responsible for covering the Brickhill area and last year our 13 collectors raised £572 (inc. Gift Aid). If you could spare a few hours during early September to distribute and then 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)

## **The Bedford and District Christian Aid**

Committee are looking for someone who could act as Secretary for two meetings per year, plus responding to mail coming from Christian Aid Oxford. Computer skills and internet access would be an advantage. Anyone who may be interested please speak to Carolyn Morris.

**Harvest Festival** this year is on Sunday 29 September. This is a great time to invite along friends and we also welcome uniformed organisations and church groups

**Wanted** 2 volunteers to join the lawn cutting rota at Putnoe Heights. If you have approx 1¼ hours to spare once a month I would like to hear from you. The rota runs from March to the end of October. If you are able to help please contact Veta Hudson-Rae, Leadership Team on 360507.

**Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch** Sunday 29 September 2013 1.00pm Tickets are now available from the Putnoe Office on weekdays or after Sunday Services. Two courses, soft drink and coffee. £6.00 or £3.00 for children. Please bring your own wine.

**Doreen Smart** would like to thank everyone at St Mark's for the wonderful bouquet of flowers taken to her by Margaret Appleton. She was in a lot of pain and the flowers have made her feel much better.

**Putnoe Heights Church Storybox** welcomed 27 children from 18 families to Storybox during the summer, with their Parents, Grand Parents and child minders. Children who still attend or used to attend Storybox, Storybox plus and Junior Church. They enjoyed stories of Noah's Ark, The lost sheep, Jonah and the Whale and Baby Moses, as well as crafts and games. Thank you to all those who came to help with these groups.

**Books are My Bag** The Word Bookshop, 167 Castle Road, Bedford. Do join our Big Bookshop Party on Saturday 14th September to mark the launch of BOOKS ARE MY BAG – a nationwide campaign celebrating books and local bookshops.

There will be story reading sessions for children, orange cakes for everyone and a free bag for all our customers. Martin & Joy Denny.

**Book Stall at Putnoe** : Thank you to everyone who has donated books; we are still waiting for a permanent site for this Book Stall but please continue to borrow—most books are in the Small Hall bookshelves. Borrowing charge 25p. Until we have a permanent home, we cannot take any more books but please keep books you intend to donate until we are up and running. Pam Kinselley

**Our Mission Appeal 2013.** This year will be launched at harvest on 29 September. We will be joining the St Albans Diocese in funding a project in Ethiopia that is teaching farmers about better beekeeping methods. Our gifts will make a real difference. New beehives and improved beekeeping skills are having a life-changing impact on people and communities in Ethiopia. Bees are vital pollinators; flying from flower to flower, they make connections that are fundamental to the life of our planet. The Bishop's Harvest Appeal is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our connected world and to make life changing, loving and lasting connections with people in Ethiopia.

## Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal 2013

Following the success of last year's donation of 38 boxes by Messy Church and the wider congregation, we will be packing boxes at our Messy Church session on 16 October. We will be happy to accept donated items from now on. There is a box at the back of the church where you will see details of what can and cannot be put in the boxes. If you require further information please speak or phone Wendy Waters 401834 or Margaret Appleton 354708. What to give: All gifts should be new Toys: Soft (but not hand knitted stuffed), finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instruments, cars, trucks, dolls, tennis ball etc. Educational supplies: Pens, pencils, felt pens, eraser, colouring book, notepad, puzzle book etc Hygiene items: Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar soap, flannel etc Other items: Gloves, hat, scarf, bangles, necklaces, sweets sell by date at least March 2014

Please do not give: Food especially chocolate, medicine, no war related items e.g. toy guns, no clothing other than hats, gloves or scarves, no fragile items, no liquids, no sharp items, no novels, nothing of a political nature, no hand knitted stuffed toys.

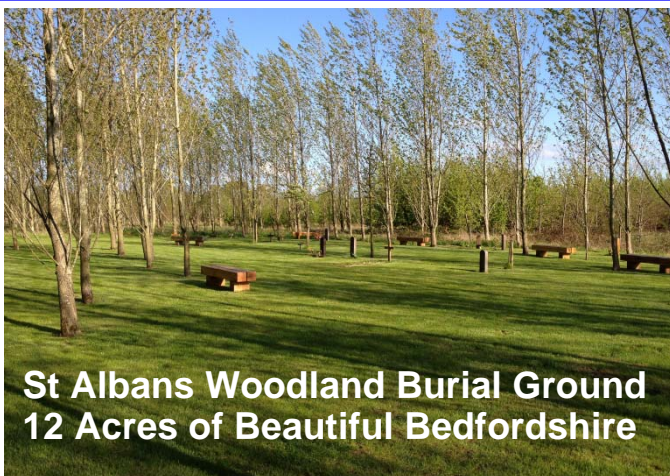
If you do not wish to give items as above, financial contributions towards the £3 per shoe box 'shipping' cost would be appreciated. Thank you

**The Contemplative Prayer Group** meets in the Quiet Room at Putnoe Heights on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. at 1.45pm/ The September meetings will be 13.09.2013 and 27.09.2013. Eileen Brown 267909.

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Thank you for shopping using the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases



**St Albans Woodland Burial Ground  
12 Acres of Beautiful Bedfordshire**



## St Albans Woodland Burial

We are delighted to have taken 10 acres of woodland to increase substantially the area consecrated for burial at our woodland in Keysoe. We are now assured of providing woodland burial for generations to come. The Trust is a non-profit making charity, established to offer woodland burial, an environmentally friendly alternative to commercial cemeteries and crematoria.

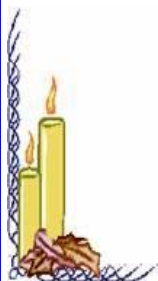
St Albans Woodland Burial Trust (Registered Charity No. 1118216) Mrs Linda Parry, [office@woodlandburialtrust.com](mailto:office@woodlandburialtrust.com). Outside office hours contact 07922 053740 or 07973 113861. For information visit our website [www.woodlandburialtrust.com](http://www.woodlandburialtrust.com)

## 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.

**Edith May Willis**

*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 Patrica Ovenell** will be held at St Mark's Church on Friday 13 September at 2.00pm and afterwards at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground

**The funeral of Mr Murray Careless** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 13 September at 10.00am