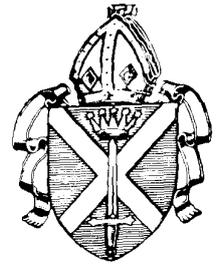




North Bedford Church Partnership  
St. Mark's &  
Putnoe Heights Church



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Service of Commemoration  
of the Faithful Departed

2003

St Mark's Church November 9  
3.00pm

Preacher  
The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley

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

## Verse from Scripture

Jesus said, Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest *Matthew Chapter 11:28*

## Opening Prayer

O gracious Lord, enable us to listen lovingly to your word. May we console each other with the message you proclaim. So may we find light in darkness and faith in the midst of doubt. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Hymn

The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home rejoicing brought me

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.

## Prayers of Penitence

You bring good news to the poor. You proclaim freedom to the prisoner, sight for the blind and release for those who are oppressed. Free your people

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

You bring pardon and peace to the sinner. You renew life beyond death with unending mercy, by your Spirit make us one people.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

You care for the living and promise a share in your inheritance to all who put their trust in you. Work blessing in the midst of trouble for all who put their trust in you

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

**O God, the maker and redeemer of all believers, grant us with all your faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection; that in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Minister

Almighty God who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Offering:**

(This will be used in the ministry towards the bereaved)

*The offering is presented..*

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

## Bible Readings

### Isaiah Chapter 40

To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

The reader will say        'This is the Word of the Lord  
All                                **Thanks be to God**

### I Corinthians Chapter 15

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

The reader will say        'This is the Word of the Lord  
All                                **Thanks be to God**

## Sermon

The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley

### A Service of Light

We remember before God those whom we love and light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope.

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

You O Lord are my lamp  
With you O Lord is the well of life  
Jesus Christ is the light of the world

**You turn our darkness into light  
In your light shall we see light  
A light no darkness can quench**

### Hymn

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee:  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee:  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee:  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain  
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee:  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.

## Prayers

In peace let us pray to the Lord.....

Jesus, Bread from Heaven, you satisfy the hungry with good things: grant us a share with all the faithful departed in the banquet of your kingdom.

Hear us, risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

Jesus, the Light of the World, you gave the man born blind the gift of sight and opened the eyes of his faith: bring those in darkness to to your eternal light and glory.

Hear us risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

Jesus, Son of the Living God, you summoned your friend Lazarus from death to life: raise us at the last to full and eternal life with you.

Hear us, risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

Jesus, Crucified Saviour, in your dying you entrusted each to the other Mary your mother and John your beloved disciple: sustain and comfort all who mourn.

Hear us risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

Jesus, our Way and Truth and Life, you drew your disciple Thomas from doubt to faith: reveal the resurrection faith to the doubting and the lost.

Hear us risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed in the Lord Jesus, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom. **Amen**

## Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

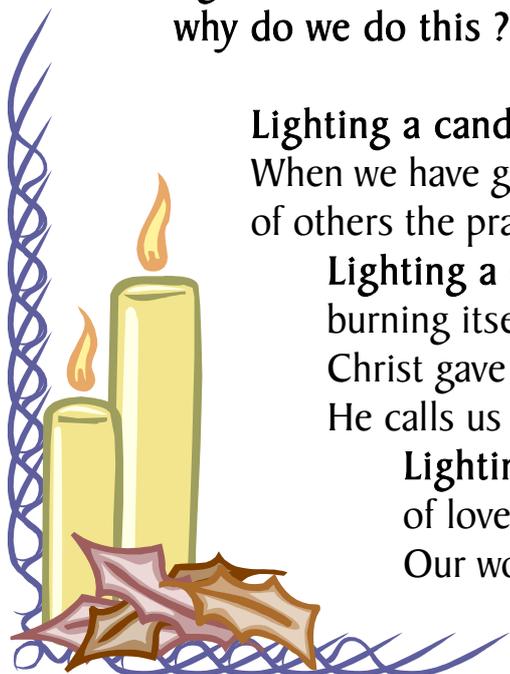
Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

## Blessing

**Christ makes saints of sinners, he has transformed those we remember today, in him all creation will be liberated and restored from bondage and decay to the glorious freedom of the children of God.**

May he raise and strengthen you this day, and may the blessing of God Almighty Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you and those you love, this day and evermore. **AMEN.**

During our service there will be an opportunity to light a candle,  
why do we do this ?



**Lighting a candle is a prayer:**

When we have gone it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered for them

**Lighting a candle is a parable:**

burning itself out it gives light to others.

Christ gave himself for others.

He calls us to give ourselves.

**Lighting a candle is a symbol:**

of love and hope, of light and warmth.

Our world needs them all.

**For your information**

Please do feel able to visit the Garden of Remembrance after this service. The extension to our Garden was consecrated this year and we are now able to offer commemorative wall plaques as well as interment in the Garden.

The Chapel at St. Mark's is open each day during daylight hours for quiet reflection and private prayer. The Book of Remembrance is located in the Chapel and is therefore easily accessible to those who visit the Garden of Remembrance.

If you have not yet had an entry recorded in the Book of Remembrance then please contact Mrs Mary Stubbs who will be pleased to help you. There is no charge for this service and Mary will be available to speak with you after this service. Members of our pastoral visiting scheme will also be present after the service and we will be pleased to arrange to visit you.

Copies of our booklet dealing with bereavement and other free literature are available at the back of church after the service when tea and coffee will be served. We hope that you will be able to stay and look forward to meeting with you.

Please feel free to take this service sheet home with you.