



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

10th April 2011

5th Sunday in Lent



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Congregational meetings after morning Worship

17 April – Palm Sunday

9.30 am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

Readings 1. Isaiah 50: 4- 9 2..Psalm 118: 1– 2, 19-29 3. Matthew 21; 1 –11

Midweek Worship 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 Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given in memory of George and Doris Curness, the much loved parents of Mary Stokes and June Cook.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Ann Eason in memory of Dr John Eason.

Prayer for This Week

We come to you, O Lord,
with hearts that are cold,
asking that you will warm them
with your selfless love,
with hearts that are sinful,
longing that you will cleanse them
with your precious blood,
with hearts that are weak
praying that you will strengthen them
with your Holy Spirit
and with hearts that are empty,
desiring that you will fill them
with your divine presence;
through Christ our Lord. Amen

Saint Augustine (354-430)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

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

For Data Protection Purposes

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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.

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 Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091 youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Avril Williams 360605
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.15 –3.45 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 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 J Birks ☎219607
- 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 Emma Gordon ☎07593266091
- 2pm U3A Music Appreciation** - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623
- 3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747
- 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
- 7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm 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—18 April Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

- 9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp** - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation** fortnightly. Contact Mrs Reed ☎216623
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** No Meeting on April 12 For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 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.
- 3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 12 April Easter Event. For more details call Janet King 313946
- 8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

- 9.30am** Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 13 April Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha

Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden
☎219731

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at
Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 26 January.

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 Brian Sallows ☎
407725

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe
Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice
Loxley ☎ 347073

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer
☎348378

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's
1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be
April 20 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only
£1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 or
Rosemary 405594 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st
week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

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 group for Mums &
toddlers. Meet again on 28 April. Jo Garner 400071 or
07719670624

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau Putnoe Heights.

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. Meet again on 28 April. Contact
Jaana Swaby ☎ 363283

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St. Mark's ☎267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson
☎325293

1.45 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per
session inc. refreshments. New members welcome.
Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games St Mark's Contact Radmila
Dancer ☎404811

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm
Smith ☎400741

4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph
☎01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden
☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Mark's 2nd & 4th week in
month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's
3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers)
Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers

each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments.
More details Ron Law 825574.

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 Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd
week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th
week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning
Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St
Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th
week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve
Whitehead ☎356875

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact
Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's.
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

7.00pm 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

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.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd.
Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –

Annual General Meeting 10 April 2011

St Mark's Leadership Team

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 June

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .26 May

St Mark's Forum Meeting - 10 May, 13 July

Putnoe Church Council - 13 June –7.30pm

Pastoral Group Meeting - 14th June

Churchyard Committee - 19th May –11.15am

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - .

Woodland Burial Trustees – 15th May 12.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Opening Sentence from Scripture .

Romans 8; 11

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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. *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading — Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'" So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off. 'Therefore prophecy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.

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

Second Reading - Romans 8: 6-11

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading -

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume



on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light." After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples

thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

1. Let all the world in every corner sing 404 *(Tune Luckington)*
2. King of Glory King of Peace 397 *(Tune Gwalchmai)*
3. O for a closer walk with God 494 *(Tune Gerontius)*
4. Hail thou once despised Jesus 203 *(Tune Lux Eoi)*
5. Jesus, Prince and Saviour 377 *(Tune St Gertrude)*

Commentary

Jesus finds Lazarus in Bethany. Lazarus means 'God helps,' whilst Bethany means 'House of Affliction.' We can all find ourselves in a place of affliction, a place so bad it is like death itself in its debilitating hopelessness. Sometimes the living need someone to call them out of their graves and to give their spirit new life, just as the people in Ezekiel's time needed God to raise them from their graves. Our Christian faith is not just about a reward in the next life, Jesus is concerned about our lives now. He calls us out from our darkest places, he calls us to leave the tomb and gives us the strength to live as his resurrected people? *Charles Royden*

Meditation A special meditation at the conclusion of our Lent series on the Trinity

I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity, by invocation of the same, the Three in one and one in Three.

I bind this day to me for ever, by power of faith, Christ's incarnation; His baptism in Jordan river; His death on Cross for my salvation; His bursting from the spiced tomb; His riding up the heavenly way; His coming at the day of Doom; I bind unto myself to-day.

I bind unto myself the power of the great love of Cherubim; the sweet "well done" in judgment hour; the service of the Seraphim, Confessor's faith, Apostles' word, The Patriarch's prayers, the prophets' scrolls, All good deeds done unto the Lord, and purity of virgin souls.

I bind unto myself today the virtues of the star-lit heaven, the glorious sun's life-giving ray, the whiteness of the moon at even, the flashing of the lightning free, the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks, the stable earth, the deep salt sea around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold, and lead, His eye to watch, His might to stay, His ear to hearken to my need. The wisdom of my God to teach, His hand to guide, His shield to ward; The Word of God to give me speech, His heavenly host to be my guard.

Against the demon snares of sin, the vice that gives temptation force, the natural lusts that war within, the hostile men that mar my course; or few or many, far or nigh, in every place, and in all hours, against their fierce hostility, I bind to me these holy powers.

Against all Satan's spells and wiles, against false words of heresy, against the Knowledge that defiles, against the heart's idolatry, against the wizard's evil craft, against the death-wound and the burning, the choking wave, the poisoned shaft, protect me, Christ, till Thy returning.

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in heart of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name, the strong name of the Trinity, By invocation of the same, the Three in One, and the One in Three. Of whom all nature hath creation; Eternal Father, Spirit, Word: Praise to the Lord of my salvation, Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Make us worthy, O Lord, to serve our sisters and brothers throughout the world. Through us draw near to all who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give to them through our hands the bread they need for today and the love and joy and peace which is life in you, now and always. Amen. *Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 1910-1996*

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. As a man like us, Jesus wept for Lazarus his friend. As the eternal God he raised Lazarus from the dead. In his love for us all, Christ gives us the sacraments to lift us up to everlasting life. Through him the angels of heaven offer their prayer of adoration as they rejoice in your presence for ever. May our voices be one with theirs in their triumphant hymn of praise. Amen.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us from sin and death Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Footprints Walking Group. Sunday 10 April. 2.30pm start. Meet at the war memorial in the centre of Olney for 3 mile circular walk along the water meadows to Clifton Reynes. leaders - Margaret and Eddy.

Beds, Essex, Herts Methodist District Women in Britain Network Spring Craft Day on 21st May at Priory Methodist Church 9.45am to 4.30pm. Information and booking forms (to be returned by 7 May) from Pam Seymour tel. 305695.

Spring Fayre - Arthritis Research UK A spring fayre will be held, as part of the Charity's 75th Anniversary, on Saturday 16 April from 10am to 12noon at Biddenham Village Hall, Nodder's Way. Sales will include cakes and preserves, gifts, plants, cards, books, paintings, toiletries, bric-a-brac, etc. There will be a tombola and competition. You can sit and chat with friends over light refreshments. A genuine street organ will be displayed and demonstrated by it's owner. Admission is 50p (accompanied children free) so do come along and bring friends to mark this special year. Marion Goddard tel. 01234 344617.

Maundy Thursday Service 21 April 7.30pm
Our Maundy Thursday Service this year will be in the form of a meal of pate, jacket potatoes and cheese and biscuits (complete with vegetarian options!), to echo the Passover meal, interspersed with traditional readings from the Passover itself. This will then lead into a shortened service of Holy Communion. If you would like to come please let one of the church offices know if you have not already done so in order that we can cater accordingly. If it would be helpful to have a lift to the service please let us know. We look forward to seeing you on Maundy Thursday.

Church Annual Congregational Meetings
These will be held on April 10 after church services once everybody has had their coffee . Everybody is welcome to attend

St Mark's Church 10.30am

Putnoe Heights Church 12 Noon

Nomination forms for Church Councils are available at each church office.

Messy Church items needed for our Easter session: Thin cardboard tubes as used in 'cling film' or 'kitchen foil'. If you have any between now and 17 April please could you leave them at St Mark's office. Thank you Wendy Waters

The Queen has sent her warm good wishes to the Methodist Recorder and all concerned in its publication as it celebrates 150 years as a Church Newspaper. First published in 1861, Queen

Victoria was on the throne, Charles Dickens was writing "Great Expectations" and Abraham Lincoln had just been elected American President. It has continued to produce a weekly coverage of Church and national news and events throughout 150 years and continues to unite readers from across the UK and around the globe, from Germany to the Gambia and from America to Australia. Available from newsagents each Thursday, (Price £1.80P) or by postal subscription Tel:020 8414 ext 226 or by email subscriptions@methodistrecorder.co.uk. Read all about it! Or "Twitter!" -Vera Pearson

Kempston Musical Society Saturday 30th April at Kempston East Methodist Church 7.30pm. Performing Schubert's Mass in G and John Rutter's Feel The Spirit. Do come along and bring a friend. Admission £7.00. For further details tel: Bedford 781010 or e-mail kempstonmusicalsociety@hotmail.com

Chat and Play starts again on Thursday April 28 at 9.45am

Story Box starts again on Thursday April 28 at 12noon. A big thank you to all the volunteers.

St.Mark's Craft Group still has a few Easter novelties left @£1 each. All profits to the church.

Delivery help needed - On Saturday 16 April we will be delivering the Putnoe Easter cards and any help you can give will be gratefully received. Please meet at Church at 10.00 am—coffee available !

Brickhill Community Safety Forum meets at 7.30pm on Thursday 14 April. All agencies working in Brickhill are present. Police, housing association, councillors etc. The evening will include a presentation by Bedfordshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team. Contact PC Andre Tringham 01234 275229, snt.brickhill@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Bogus callers People have been posing as census collectors to try to get into people's homes. Never let anybody into your home and never give money. The Census 2011 deadline was Wednesday 6 April but you can still complete the questionnaire online at www.census.gov.uk. Census collectors will visit a small number of households for those that haven't managed to fill in and return their forms. All census staff will carry an ID card with a photo, logo and hologram, which they should automatically show to you. They may ask for the names and number of residents but they will not ask for specific details such as credit card or bank / building society details. If you have any reason to suspect a caller is not genuine, please call Bedfordshire Police on 01234 841212.



St Albans Woodland Burial Trust Open Day

Saturday 14 May 2011
2.00pm - 5.00pm

You are invited by the Trustees to a special open day at our woodland, set in 60 acres of beautiful countryside in Keysoe. All the family, including dogs, are welcome to come and refreshments will be provided.

Follow signs to The College
Equestrian Centre, Keysoe.
Directions on our website
www.woodlandburialtrust.com

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust
c/o St Mark's Church Community Centre,
Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY Tel: 01234
342613 office@woodlandburialtrust.com

We provide for environmentally friendly burials or interments of ashes in a beautiful woodland countryside setting. Arrangements also made for reservation of grave space or dedication of trees.

A non-profit making charity No 1118216



A great way for all children to start Easter !

There will be an Easter Children's Special on Good Friday at Putnoe Heights Church with activities including crafts, stories and refreshments. The event is for children aged up to 8 years and will last from 12.15pm to 1.30pm.



Stations of the Cross

Good Friday
22 April

St Mark's Church
9.30am

Putnoe Heights
Church 11.00am

Plaque in the Church of
St Catherine, Bethlehem

This service special is an opportunity to reflect upon events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus and consider the implications for ourselves.

The services will be followed by coffee and hot cross buns.

Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.



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

Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Doris Valentine
Donaldson will take place at 2.30pm
on Friday 15 April 2011 at Bedford
Crematorium

