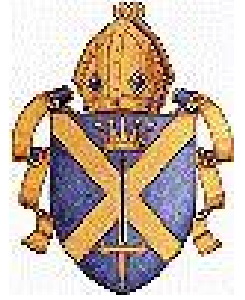


Partnership News

11 April 2010

Second Sunday of Easter



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

9.30am St. Mark's –Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership –Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mr Chris Izzard

11.00am Putnoe Heights– Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden
Leadership – Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

18 April Third Sunday of Easter

9.30am St. Mark's –Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Leadership – Mrs. Delia Shephard
Intercessions – Mr. Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe Heights– Holy Communion

Preacher – Mrs. Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs. Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Ministers

Readings 1.Acts 9: 1-6 2. Rev 5: 11-14
3. John 21:1-19

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 Doris and George Curness , the dearly loved parents of Mary Stokes and June Cook.

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Linda and Edward Parry to celebrate the christening of their granddaughter Sylvie.

Welcome to Sylvie Matilda

A special welcome at St Mark's today to the family and friends of Sylvie Matilda Wright who has been brought for baptism

Prayer for Sunday

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked,
no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

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 Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr. Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349

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 - Mrs Delia Shephard 273628
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**
Headteacher 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
- 12.00pm 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. Liz ☎ 302349
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's. David Fowler ☎ 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. Liz Spavins ☎302349
- 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 ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 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
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting April 19—St. Mark's. Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8.00pm '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. Judi Staughton ☎341821
- 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** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
- 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
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting April 13 Mr. Richard Ledger 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 Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎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 & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting April 20, Women's Health. Details from 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 Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966
- 10am U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month.
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 14 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
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs Carol 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 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 21 April 2010 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details

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

7.45 for 8pm God talk - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424 .

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. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at 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.Next meeting 22 April Contact Jaana Swaby 01234 363283

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

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 Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. 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

8.00pm 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. Julie 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

5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun. Please see Liz ☎302349 .

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 22 June, 8 November.

St Mark's Leadership Team – 20th April.

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 7 June at the Manse, 18 October

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting ; 24 May

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

Putnoe Church Council - 21 June, 25 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting - 20th April at 4.30pm

Churchyard Committee - 26 May at 11am.

Putnoe Heights Mission Group—

Partnership Council—TBA

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings

Deanery Meeting - 5 May, 17 June.

Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting

Circuit Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees – Sunday 16th May AGM

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Second Sunday of Easter

Low Sunday

Opening Verse of Scripture - Psalm 118:1
Give Thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read we pray:

Faithful God, the strength of all who believe and the hope of those who doubt; may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Methodist Worship



First Reading – Acts 5:27-32

Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead--whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

The incredulity of Saint Thomas, Caravaggio

Second Reading – Revelation Chapter 1:4-8

John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits [1] before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father--to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymns - (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Morning Worship & Baptism St Mark's)

1. Jesus lives 198 Tune St Albinus
2. Search me O God 587 Mission Praise (Partnership News) Maori Tune
3. Now the green blade riseth 204 Tune Noel Nouvelet
4. Jesus stand among us 530 Tune Caswall
5. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Partnership News) Tune Ode to Joy

Commentary

In the National Gallery in London there is a painting which always makes me feel very queasy. It shows the Disciples gathered around the resurrected Jesus and a man is poking his fingers into a horrible gaping wound in Jesus' side. You can almost hear the squelch! The man is Thomas, known to history as Doubting Thomas. Thomas the baddie who called the Resurrection of Jesus into question. Nasty Thomas who wanted to see for himself, rather than believe the word of the other disciples. Thomas who has become a byword for disbelievers. But has Thomas had a bad press? Should we re-examine the evidence on Thomas called the Twin. Let us consider the facts.

Thomas doesn't only appear in this crucial episode. He is mentioned on two other occasions, both in the Gospel according to St John, although we infer that he was present on many other occasions. In John 11, Thomas and the other disciples are informed by Jesus that he has knowledge that their very dear friend Lazarus has died. Jesus says "I am glad that I was not there, so you may believe. But let us go to him" Now Jesus and the disciples knew that to go to Bethany, so near to Jerusalem, was to take them into the very most dangerous place. So when Thomas says, "let us also go that we may die with him", Thomas is declaring himself willing to die with Jesus? Hardly the words of a coward who was afraid to commit! Thomas displays willingness to put himself into the way of danger, and shows himself to be a passionate and committed follower of Jesus.

On the second occasion when it is Maundy Thursday. According to John's Gospel, Jesus is cramming in many profound and beautiful prophecies, trying to teach them all they would need to understand the future without Him. Thomas intervenes after Jesus' mysterious remark about going somewhere to prepare the way. It is Thomas who objects "Lord, we do not know where you are going – so how can we know the way?" Do you suppose all the other disciples knew what Jesus meant? Of course not! We must assume that they were puzzled, confused, doubtful and afraid. They were probably all shuffling their feet with embarrassment at not keeping up. Only Thomas, had the courage to say what they were all thinking – that they didn't know what Jesus meant. Thomas' question paved the way for Jesus' wonderful answer- "I am the way, the truth and the Life".

So we gain a very positive image of Thomas, courageous, very much Jesus' man, a man of honesty who is willing to sacrifice his pride in order to learn the truth. With this knowledge in mind, we turn back to the story narrated in this morning's reading from the Gospel. The disciples were in utter disarray, having been shattered by the loss of Jesus in such a horribly brutal demeaning way. The story that Jesus had some how come back to life, had been seen by witnesses was related to Thomas. What must have been his feelings? Perhaps he was angry that their hopes should be raised in such a ridiculous manner? Perhaps Thomas felt joy at the prospect that Jesus had cheated death? He had been present when Lazarus was brought back to life – has something similar happened to Jesus? He does not know. But he is not willing to just go along with the crowd. He has to see for himself.

Eight days later Jesus again appeared to the disciples and this time Thomas was there. Jesus obviously knew what Thomas had said about the need to touch and see the resurrected Jesus for himself, because Jesus immediately offered him the chance! We can perhaps imagine Jesus' eyes twinkling as He held out his wounded hands to be inspected.

In an instance, Thomas assured himself that the thing he most wanted to see was true, that the beloved master was back. He was in no doubt as to what the resurrection meant – it meant that Jesus was His Lord and His God! An acclamation which took a leap of faith and courage to make. We of course are comfortable with equating Jesus with God but it was a new concept for the men who had known Jesus as a carpenter turned preacher, teacher and healer.

Jesus does not seem to be annoyed by Thomas' need to know for himself. The passage is of great help to all who ask the question – was Jesus a ghost? Was he perhaps a product of the collective imagination of the distraught followers? The proof that Thomas had the courage to ask was offered in the most concrete way. Jesus chided him gently that there would be many who would believe without being given the chance to touch, see and hear Jesus in bodily form. But of course we don't need to because Thomas asked the question on our behalf.

Doubting Thomas should be renamed Honest Thomas. His inclusion in the ranks of the disciples was part of Jesus' plan. Without him, vital evidence about the Resurrection would be missing, key questions would have gone unasked, key answers never made. The presence of Thomas reminds us that Christianity

demands that we must engage with our minds as well as our hearts, that Jesus is unafraid of close scrutiny and gives us the freedom to question. Ours is a religion for adults with brains, which we are invited to use to think for ourselves. Faith goes badly wrong when its followers are forbidden from independent thought, and history teaches us that frightened rulers often try and control the people by forbidding the asking of difficult questions. Thomas is a helpful reminder that although Jesus is our shepherd, He doesn't want or expect us to be merely sheep. *(From Sermon by Rev Dr Joan Crossley)*

Meditation

John Baptist De La Salle is the patron saint of teachers. 300 years ago he wrote these words for teachers: "Take even more care of the young people entrusted to you than if they were the children of a king." His words remind all of us of whatever age to respect one another's dignity as unique individuals. A few years ago, a black South African teacher talked of working with black South African schoolchildren. He had spoken to one lad who looked miserable, and said to him: "You are created in the image of God. Don't walk round with your eyes cast down." It has been said that the job of a Christian school is not to make people into something that they are not, but to convince them of who they already are. "Respect" is about treating others in the same way that we would like to be treated. Let's each of us focus on one way today of showing respect for others. For example, using the person's name when speaking to them; holding the door open for whoever is behind us; saying 'thank you' more frequently. Let's pause for a moment and think of one practical way today of showing our respect for others.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, you invite each of us by name and you call us "friends". Lead us to show as much respect and care for others as we would like them to show for us. Help us to look for and bring out the best in all

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Through every minute of this day, be with me, Lord! Through every day of all this week, be with me, Lord! Through every week of all this year, be with me, Lord! So shall the days and weeks and years be threaded on a golden cord. And all draw on with sweet accord into thy fullness, Lord, that so, when time is past, By grace I may, at last, Be with thee, Lord. *John Oxenham*

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us paralysed, but whose presence is overwhelming: breathe on us abundant life; that where we cannot see, we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you. Amen *Janet Morley*

Dear Lord, you know that we are fearful – make us brave! You know that we are weak – give us your strength! You know that we are unfaithful – make us true. Amen

Faithful God, strength of all those who believe and the hope of those who doubt; may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Increase your grace, in us, O Lord, that we may fear your Name beyond which nothing is more holy; that we may love you, beyond whom nothing is more loveable; that we may glorify you beyond whom nothing is more worthy of praise, and that we may long for you beyond whom nothing is more desirable; and grant that thus fearing, loving, glorifying and longing we may see you, face to face; through Christ our Lord. Amen Desiderius Erasmus, 1466-1536

God of the prophets, you fulfilled your promise that Christ would suffer and rise to glory. Open our minds to understand the scriptures that we may be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity, of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen

An English saint called Richard of Chichester wrote a short prayer that can easily be memorised and used quietly at different times throughout the day. The words of his prayer have been set to music, and the song 'Day by day' is found on the album of the musical, 'Godspel'.

Jesus, Friend and Brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Storybox at St. Mark's on Thursdays between 12 and 1,(term time only), would appreciate some more volunteers to help with preparing the food or to tell a story based on the Bible. It will probably only be every 8 or 9 weeks. For further details please see Jaana or ring her on 363283.

Storybox at St. Mark's Will start again on April 22 at 12 noon. We look forward to seeing you then. Jaana 363283.

Kempston Musical Society Sautrday 24 April at 7.30 pm will perform The Creation, by Franz Josef Haydn, with excellent soloists, and directed by Janet Welsh. Tickets £7.50 may be purchased at the door. Kempston East Church now has new comfortable seating, and is a very good venue. Further details fro Alan Bayliss 268101

BEH Women's Network Spring Craft Day will be held on Saturday 15 May 9.45am to 4.30pm at Priory Methodist Church. A chance to learn a new skill to discover hidden talents and to share together creatively. For details of workshops and a booking form please contact Pam Seymour (305695) or Ann Hitt (404186). Closing date of booking 8 May 2110

Women's Network - district day of fellowship and sharing to be held on Tuesday 13th April at Trinity Methodist Church, Biggleswade. Please see poster in foyer for more details.

Get Real An evening of fun, music and friends at Russell Park Baptist Church, Denmark Street, 23 April, 6 -9pm. Charge 50p if you pre-book, or £2 if you just turn up. Sign up online at crux.org.uk/real or phone 01234 217519

Spring Breakfast Saturday 24 April at Methodist Church, Park Lane, Sharnbrook. English breakfast £7, Continental breakfast £4. To reserve your place contact May Bonney 781254 or Jean Pritchard 781964 by 22 April. Proceeds will be shared between 2 project s that we are currently supporting.

Arthritis Research UK Spring Fayre Saturday 24 April 10am—12 noon at Biddenham Village Hall, Nodder's Way. Sales will include cake, preserves, local honey, gifts, plants, cards, Norfolk Lavender Farm products, paintings and many other stalls. As an added attraction a genuine Street Organ will be displayed and demonstrated by it's owner. Admission 20p, children free. Marion Goddard 344617.

St Mark's Car Boot Thank you to everyone who

helped with this event. We made £970. We look forward to the next one on Monday 3 May.

Bedford Town Band will present a St George's Day Concert on Friday, 23 April 2010, commencing at 7.30 pm, at Putnoe Heights Church. Tickets £6 (concessions £4) from Bedford Tourist Office or at the door.

The Partnership Lunch Club, fortnightly, Wednesdays at Putnoe, urgently needs an additional regular driver to bring less mobile folk to the lunch (a previous appeal did yield a reserve driver thankyou). If you can help it would greatly ease the load on the existing team, please contact Peta Pearson 9tel 356878).

Putnoe Heights Church Part time children and youth worker

12 hours per week, £7 per hour

Would suit local person, able to work on their own and as part of a team, with some experience of work with children and young people -preferably within a Christian context - who could;

- Build up existing church based children's and youth activities
- Explore opportunities to develop new initiatives, both in the church and wider community
- Organise, plan and lead events and programmes
- Liaise with other individuals or groups working with children and youth in the locality, to enhance and increase the profile of this work

For further details and job description, please see the website www.thischurch.com or contact Deacon Jane mason on 01234 348091, email jane@thischurch.com. The closing date for applications is Friday 23rd April 2010

Children's work at Putnoe. Temporary leadership has been found for both Storybox plus and the older group of Junior Church, until next half term! Carolyn Morris has taken on doing all related rotas and we also have the offer of someone to act as treasurer, all in all a very positive meeting! It was noted that we could do with another 'able bodied' person to go on the rota (once a month) to set up/ clear away tables etc for Storybox on a Monday morning. It was also mentioned that there may be occasions when an extra person may be needed to run junior church if both groups are present, please could people indicate to Carolyn or myself if they may be willing to do this? It should not happen very often as there are quite a few services that the children will be staying in for in the next few months.

Hymns for Sunday

- 1 Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
try me, O Lord, and know my thoughts I pray:
see if there be some wicked way in me,
cleans me from every sin and set me free.
- 2 I praise Thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;
fulfil Thy word, and make me pure within;
fill me with fire, where once I burned with shame,
grant my desire to magnify Thy name.
- 3 Lord, take my life, and make it wholly Thine;
fill my poor heart with Thy great love divine;
take all my will, my passion, self and pride;
I now surrender - Lord, in me abide.
- 4 O Holy Ghost, revival comes from Thee;
send a revival - start the work in me:
Thy word declares Thou wilt supply our need;
for blessing now, O Lord, I humbly plead.

Tune Maori Melody 587 Mission Praise

Alleluia, Alleluia, hearts to heaven

Tune Ode to Joy

- 1 Alleluia, Alleluia!
hearts to heaven and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise.
he, who on the Cross a victim,
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.
- 2 Now the iron bars are broken,
Christ from death to life is born,
glorious life, and life immortal,
on this holy Easter morn.
Christ triumphed, and we conquer
by his mighty enterprise:
We with him to life eternal
by His resurrection rise.

- 3 Christ is risen, Christ, the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.
- 3 Christ is risen, we are risen!
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that with hearts in heaven dwelling,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.
- 4 Alleluia, Alleluia!
glory be to God on high;
Alleluia! to the Saviour
who has won the victory;
Alleluia! to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity:
Alleluia, Alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty.

As we get older, we tend to know what we think and stick to it! This is a good thing, if certainty is based on wisdom and experience. It is a bad thing if certainty is based on prejudice and a jumble of lazily acquired beliefs. The example of Thomas reminds us of the importance of thinking for ourselves and for reappraising familiar ideas. In this week, we could set ourselves the challenge of asking "why do I think that? Why do I believe that?" The issue you are thinking about could be on a wide scale to do with politics, social affairs, race. Or it could be to do with long-held views on a person or people. Set yourself the test. You may find, like Thomas, that your mind is changed and your life improved.

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.

Phillipa Joan Westlake

*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 Joyce Florence Bell will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Tuesday 20th April.

The funeral of Gwendoline Sylvia Warren will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on Friday 23rd April.

The funeral of Melody Jane King will take place on Friday 16 April at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground, Keysoe