



Partnership News

Easter 7

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church 12 May 2013



Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Joan York in loving memory of her husband Edgar.

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

Today Easter 7

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship
Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership – Mr. Edward Parry
Intercessions – Mrs. Margaret Appleton
11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship
Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership – Mrs. Jean Kirk
Intercessions – Mr. Alan Bayliss

Sunday 19 May - Pentecost

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion
Preacher – Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mr. Michael Ovenden
Intercessions – Deacon Jane Mills
11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion
Preacher – Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mr. Barry Southam
Intercessions – Mrs. Sue Allen

Readings 1. Genesis 11:1-9 **2.** Acts 2: 1-21
3. John 14:8-17

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



Prayer for Christian Aid Week

Generous God,
You are the source of all life,
creating and sustaining every living thing.
You are the source of all food, material and spiritual,
nourishing us in both body and soul.
You are the light that goes before us,
shining into the darkness.

We give thanks for all who have taken part in this Christian Aid Week.

For all that it will make possible.

And for all whose lives will be touched by it.

May we be filled with your breath
Nourished by your food
Renewed by your living water
and sustained by your love.

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

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

The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

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

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

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

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
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)
2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (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@thischurch.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 .
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– 20 May Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

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)
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
6.15pm 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). Next meeting 14 May - Members evening and Quiz - Eileen Marriott Details Janet King 313946

Wednesday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly Changing to Fridays from 5 April (Same time an place.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647
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 15 May at 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 15th May 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 15 May 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 07719670624
11.0-11.30am 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
5.00pm 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 (as from 4th April)
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 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

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 17 April; Weds 17 May; Weds 19 June; 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 –11 June, 8 October
St Mark's Leadership Team -10 September, 21 January
Annual Congregational Meetings 28 April 2013
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 3 June
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting
Putnoe Church Council - 10 June, 24 Oct
Pastoral Group Meeting -
Churchyard Committee -
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -
Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 3 pm
Circuit meeting -
Deanery Meeting -
Woodland Burial Trustees– AGM –Sunday 9 June
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting –
Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Easter 7

Introductory Sentence

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. *John 17*

Collect Prayer for the Day—

Before we read we pray

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and

exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Common Worship*



That they may be one
as we are one
Jesus

First Reading — Ezekiel 36: 24-28

For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and will bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit into you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people and I will be your God.

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

Second Reading — Acts 16:16-34

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

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

Gospel Reading – John 17:20-26

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us

so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

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

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (*Please distribute Hymns and Psalms*)

1. Immortal, Invisible (H&P 9)
2. Christ Triumphant (MP 77)
3. Teach me, my God and King (H&P 803)
4. Ascended Christ (suggested by Clive, words on attached)
5. What shall our greeting be? (H&P 806)

Commentary

Have you ever entered one of those competitions on cereal packets or some other commodity from the supermarket. They ask you simple questions and then conclude with a final challenge to write a slogan. It will say something like ‘now describe in less than 10 words why Shreddies are the best cereal.’ It focuses the mind to try and make a simple and easy to understand slogan which encapsulates the goodness of Shreddies. When we have to boil things down in this way it helps us to get rid of the unimportant stuff and go to the heart of the matter. This is what marketing is all about, getting to the core of the product and then explaining it in a few words so that it captures the imagination and sells!

I suspect that if the church employed marketing consultants, they would pronounce the verdict that we are failing to get our message across. Most people ‘in the street’ have very little clue what the church is really about. Ask the typical man on the bus what Methodists are about and he is more likely to say something like ‘they don’t drink’ than any theological understanding about grace. If he was asked the same question about Anglicans he would probably start thinking about internal divisions.

There is an urgent need for Christians to eradicate the negative and accentuate the positive. We have to recognise our shared common goals, the things which really matter, and then find ways of getting our core message across. Too much of our time is wasted on internal struggle and strife, vociferous debates in which we condemn particular things, or people or ideas. The stuff that we hate we make sure everybody knows about! This is not very profound, but the church has found it very difficult. It is no surprise that because Christian people have failed to put into an understandable way what we are about, others have failed to catch on. This might seem like sound bite religion, and perhaps it is, but we need to recognise that Jesus was excellent at sound bites! Jesus deliberately took very complicated messages and reduced them to a few words, a simple picture or even a short story. People instantly knew the things he was about, love, forgiveness and living a better life, he made them understandable.

In the passage from the Gospel of John today Jesus draws attention to one of these core principles of being a Christian. Jesus gives the same simple treatment to the complicated idea of unity, but like all of his teaching it is simple, not simplistic.

Somebody asked me recently ‘what does it mean to be a ecumenical.’ I suppose I could have gone to great lengths to explain the development of the ecumenical message but I simply drew attention to the words of Jesus from the reading in John’s Gospel today. Jesus makes it clear that he expects his followers to be drawn together in unity. He captures this principle with the wonderful catch phrase ‘that they may be one as we are one’. If this had been a contest to find a slogan, it would have been a surefire winner. This is what it means to be ecumenical, it is obedience to the deep desire of Jesus that his followers should be united. It is not a suggestion, it is not a complicated theological idea, it is just the straightforward prayer of Christ. When we read these words we might wonder what all the fuss has been about with different denominations and Christian churches. To be faithful to Christ our divisions must fall and we must learn to be as one.

This importance of dependence and sharing with each other is a fundamental part of being, not just as Christian people, but human beings. We know the importance of sharing and intimate and supportive relationship. The concept of a Christian who is isolated from others is fundamentally flawed, we exist only

in community - as a part of a body. Feeling lonely is painful, but is it nature's way of telling us that this is not how we should be. So Jesus takes this on in his prayer that we might be one, even as he and the father are one - absolutely. We are made to share the joys and sorrows, the burdens and triumphs together. As individuals we need to recognise the importance of being a part of others and we have to grow into mature adults so that we are able to know ourselves and others well enough to be able to get along without falling out. Immature Christians and churches need to grow up sufficiently that they will be able to get on with other Christians and churches whose only failure may be that they think or act differently. We are living some kind of fiction if we fail to realise that the fracturing of the church of Christ owes more to immaturity, tantrums and a determination by those seeking power to get their own way, than to any pursuit of godly truth. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

If you cannot feed one hundred hungry people, feed just one. Mother Theresa

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord Jesus Christ your Church was founded on unity and love. Yet we confess to you Lord that we can't love other people all the time, sometimes we don't even love ourselves. There are some people we don't even want to love, or like, or help, or understand, or go through the agony of forgiving. We wonder how we can start to try and love them at all. Yet you, most Gracious Father, gave Christ for us in love. And in turn he poured out love upon us and prayed for our unity with one another and with you. Loving God, help us to love, bring us closer to you and to one another. As we turn to you, pour your Spirit out upon us and lead us in the way we should go that your light might shine in us and through us. Amen.

Lord, God of peace, we thank you for the hopes, the efforts and the achievements which your Spirit of peace has inspired in our days - stirring up love where there was hate, sympathy where there was suspicion, care where there was indifference. Open our minds and our hearts even more to the specific demands which love for others makes upon us, so that we may be more truly makers of peace. Remember, God of mercies, those who are oppressed, those who are suffering and dying for the birth of a world in which all people will be more truly a single human family. May your kingdom come for all people of every race and language your kingdom of justice, of peace, of love, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Lord, lead us to be peace-makers, building connections between individuals, focusing on what unites people rather than on what separates us and highlights our differences. Lord, it's easy to harm relationships; instead, give us the power of your Spirit that we may build up and make new the bonds between people.

Ascension

Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. God has ascended amid shouts of joy. God reigns over the nations; he is seated on his holy throne.

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Leader: Christ has ascended!

**All: Our High King —
He shall reign for ever. Alleluia!**

Hymn 9: Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise,

High King

Leader: High King

All: You are crowned with glory.

Leader: Victor in the race:

All: You call us to follow you.

Leader: High Priest:

All: You understand our every need.

Leader: Eternal Giver:

All: You shower your gifts upon every soul.

Leader: Head of the church:

All: You wish no one to be separate from your Body.

Leader: Sender:

All: You promise us your Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Confession

Minister: If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sins.

If we have fallen into despair, **Lord, forgive us.**

If we have failed to hope in you, **Lord, forgive us.**

If we have been fearful of death, **Lord, forgive us.**

If we have forgotten the victory of Christ, **Lord, forgive us.**

...*Silence may be kept...*

May the living God raise us from despair, give us victory over sin and set us free in Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn: Christ triumphant, ever reigning (MP 77)

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King,
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:
 Yours the glory and the crown,
 the high renown, the eternal name.

Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
power and majesty concealing
by Your humble birth:
 Yours the glory....
Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
victim crucified!
death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified:
 Yours the glory....

Priestly King, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:
 Yours the glory....

So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon You gazing,
this shall be our song:
 Yours the glory....

Collect Prayer for the Day—*Before we read we pray*
Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness
and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen
life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the
Father. *Common Worship*

The Word of God

Ezekiel 36: 24-28, Acts 16:16-34, John 17:20-26

Hymn 803: Teach me, my God and King

Homily: **Ascension/waiting for Pentecost,**

Prayer Ascended Lord, you call those who follow you
to a time of waiting, that they may be able to receive
the gifts you delight to shower on your church, and to
receive the Spirit who empowers your church. Give
us receptive hearts. Make us fertile ground. Take
away from us obstinate refusals.

**Hymn: Ascended Christ, who gained the glory
that we sing,**

Ascended Christ, who gained
the glory that we sing,
anointed and ordained,
our prophet, priest and King:
 by many tongues, the church displays
 your power and praise, in all her songs.

No titles, thrones, or powers
can ever rival yours;
no passing mood of ours
can turn aside your laws;
 you reign above, each other name
 of worth or fame, the Lord of love.

Now from the Father's side
you make your people new;
since for our sins you died
our lives belong to you:
 from our distress, you set us free
 for purity, and holiness.

You call us to belong
within one body here;
in weakness we are strong
and all your gifts we share:
 in you alone, we are complete
 and at your feet, with joy bow down.

All strength is in your hand,
all power to you is given;
all wisdom to command
in earth and hell and heaven:
 beyond all words, creation sings
 the King of kings, and Lord of lords.

Prayers of intercession

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,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen**

Hymn 806: What shall our greeting be?

Blessing

Leader May the King of glory fill you with joy,
keep you in unity, give you expectant hearts, and
bring you the Strength from on high.

All Alleluia Amen!

Leader King of Glory:

All Noble us.

Leader King of Grace:

All Cherish us.

Leader King of Life:

All Renew us.

Leader King of Promise:

All Surprise us.

Leader Let us go in peace to love
and serve the Lord:

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

St Mark's Preschool are saving Sainsbury tokens. If anyone has unwanted tokens they would be delighted to have them. There is a box out during Pre-school hours or you can give them to Janet Day or hand them in at the office. Thank you very much.

Methodist Women in Britain. District Craft Day on Saturday 18 May at Priory Methodist Church, Bedford from 9.45am to 4.30pm. There are 13 different workshops and everyone is welcome to attend. Hot and cold drinks are provided but please bring your own lunch. The cost is £4 per half day session and please book early as places are limited. Closing date for bookings is 9th May. Booking form and details of workshops are available from Pam Seymour 01234 305695 email-pams@tgjs.co.uk or Ruth Watkins 01296 485087

Hazeldene Heights Preschool are looking for an Early Years Assistant for the April - July term to work with children with additional needs. Level 2 or 3 in Childcare or equivalent is required. Please contact Mrs Laura Leggett on 01234 326685 for further details.

Christian Aid Week 12-18 May

'Bite Back at Hunger' Thank you to all our volunteers who will be involved in the delivery and collection of gift envelopes to the households in Brickhill and Putnoe areas this week. When you have completed your collection, please return the envelopes to the offices at St. Marks or Putnoe Heights together with the plastic bags, badges and certificates of authority as these are needed for audit purposes or can be reused next year. We will be grateful for more volunteers as there still roads available in both areas. Please sign up for a road and collect your envelopes after today's services. Anyone can deliver the envelopes but you must be over 18 to collect. For more information contact Carolyn Morris - Putnoe Heights or Jean Bank at St. Marks.

Concert at St Andrew's Church on 1 June 2103 at 8.00pm with Dame Felicity Lott, soprano and Joseph Middleton, piano. Pre concert Summer Supper.

Concert and Supper tickets £16, £15 concessions, £11 students (available from Church Centre only). Concert tickets £8, £7 concessions, £3 students 16-21. Children free accompanied by an adult. Tickets available from St Andrew's Church Centre Office tel 01234 216881 or Central Box Office 01234 718112.

Action for Children Thank you to all who joined us at Ladyslaude on the 1 May. It was an enjoyable time for all and busy for the helpers. The result from the opened boxes and sale of cakes was £172. 80. Many congratulations to Wendy who completed the word search. Margaret Standley

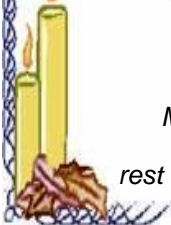
Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church will be celebrating its 10 birthday today Sunday 12 May with birthday cake at coffee time after the service. A party with the children tomorrow at Storybox Monday 13 May. Everyone welcome. A big thank you to everyone who has been part of this group over the years to make it such a success. Best Wishes Carolyn.

A Midsummer Night's Dream concert by Manor House String Quartet in the oldest building in Cranfield, St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Court Road, MK43 0DR. Saturday 8th June from 7.30pm. Tickets £10.00 £5.00 students includes a glass of wine or soft drink. For tickets call Andrew 01234 751358, Trevor 01234 751321 or Rev. Hugh 01234 750214.

Pentecost Sunday Joint Church Celebration With Guest Speaker The Bishop of St Albans 19 May By the Cafe in Bedford Park Time: 4pm picnic with open air service beginning at 5pm Please bring your own food and drink for the picnic. The Fountain, a charity coffee shop and community venue based by the bus station, will have a table there and will be selling teas and coffees before the service. There will also be some baguettes and cakes on sale. For further details on this event or to volunteer as one of our stewards, please contact Libby Bailey, Pentecost Celebration Coordinator on 01234 217519 (libby.bailey@russellpark.org)

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.



Edgar York

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



Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

The funeral of Betty Muriel Hutchings will take place at St Mark's Church at 10.30am on Friday 24 May