



Partnership News

17 February 2013
First Sunday in Lent

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church



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

Today 17 February

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions –Mr Ian Farthing

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Sunday 24 February Lent 2

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership –Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions - Ministers

Readings 1 Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18. **2.** Philipians 3: 17-4:1 **3** Luke 13: 31-35

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

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Peter & Christine Davies in celebration of their 54th Wedding Anniversary

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Barbara Pinney in loving memory of her husband Keith

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota on the foyers

Prayer for Sunday

Lord to whom can we go, for you have the words of eternal life? You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. You know everything and you know that we love you. Lord, save us, for you are the Holy One, the Son of God. Amen.

Based on Confessions of Peter the Apostle (first century)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre 365630
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend 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. Jean Kirk 317699
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 - Morag Stewart 360103
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– 18 February Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567
7.45pm Opus Choir at St Mark's Mrs Sutherland 269100
8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe Diane Field 404976

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. 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
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 '19 February 'Wood Carving' Neil Kinselly. Details Janet King 313946
8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers Workshop St. Mark's 3rd Tuesday in month. Next meeting 26 February Shirley Sadler 01767 651767

Wednesday

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly. Contact Marion Sutton 217647
9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.
9.30am Discovery & 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 27 February 2013 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)
2.00pm Fifty Plus Keep Fit Mrs Webster 856966
2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan
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 20th February 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 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 20 February AGM. 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

110-11.30am 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

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

10am—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

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 – 10 April, 11 June

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Annual Congregational Meetings 28 April 2013

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 3 June

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 24 January

Putnoe Church Council - 19 February, 10 June, 24 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 6.30pm

Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - 28 February

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.

First Sunday in Lent

Introductory Sentence -Psalm 91:1

They who dwell in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty

Collect Prayer

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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.

First Reading —

Deuteronomy Chapter 26 v 1 - 11

When you have entered the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the first fruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land that the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name and say to the priest in office at the time, I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land that the LORD swore to our forefathers to give us. The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. But the Egyptians ill-treated us and made us suffer, putting us to hard labour. Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me. Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. And you and the Levites and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

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

Second Reading - Romans Chapter 10 v 8b-13

The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame. For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

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

Gospel Reading - Luke Chapter 4 v 1 – 13 — (Glory to Christ our Saviour)

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread. Jesus answered, It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.' The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, I will give you all their authority and splendour, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I



Juan Flandes Jesus tempted in the wilderness

want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours. Jesus answered, It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.' The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. If you are the Son of God, he said, throw yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' Jesus answered, It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

(This is the Gospel of Christ -- **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns *(Please distribute Holy Communion Booklets and Mission Praise)*

1. Through all the changing scenes of life 702 MP.
2. He that is in us 219 MP.
3. Forty days and forty nights 160 MP.
4. Lead us heavenly Father lead us 400 MP.

Commentary Looking back, looking forward

Lent is a time of reflection, a time to look back on the journey we've been through over the past few months and years. A remembrance of the past. It's absolutely an opportunity to look into ourselves and see the things which we'd like to change through the grace of God, but it's also an opportunity to look into ourselves and see the glory that is within us, perhaps buried deeply, but there nonetheless. And as we see the things we'd like to change, and see, however dimly, the glory that is within us, we can perhaps begin to catch a clearer glimpse of what Christ has called us to be. Rather than be negative and see all the failings of our past, we should be positively encouraged and look forward with excitement to what might lie ahead on our journey with Christ. One of the reasons Jesus was able to resist temptation is because He was crystal clear about His purpose and destiny, His mission on earth and His desire to fulfil the Father's will. Overcoming temptation for Jesus was not so much about knowing what not to do; it was about knowing what should be done. Jesus recognised His temptation as a distraction from trusting (and worshipping) the one true God. As Tom Wright writes, *'He maintained a single minded devotion and His allegiance to the Father overrode immediate bodily desires; it ruled out the easy but costly short cut to vocation (to be the Lord of the world); it forbade him, by seeking 'proof' of His status, to challenge the word spoken at His baptism.'*

Paul indicates in his passage in Romans that Christ had indeed become Lord of the whole world, but not by the tempter's route but by living out the calling and ministry His Father had ordained for Him. We are regularly tempted, not merely to wrong belief or wrong actions or words, but to miss out on the best that God has for each one of us. Luke places the temptation of Jesus immediately after God's words of affirmation to Jesus at His baptism and the description of the ancestry of Jesus which is traced back to God Himself. Jesus is part and parcel of God's active engagement with our world and our salvation history. From this moment on it is clear that Jesus understands and accepts fully His calling as he rejects the false and seemingly easy paths offered to Him. From this moment on there can only be the path that leads to the pain and shame of the cross and ultimately the glory of the resurrection and ascension. From this moment on, the world will start the process of renewal and transformation which Jesus declares in the synagogue at Nazareth immediately after His temptation. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Good News will be preached to the poor and afflicted, liberty will be proclaimed to the captives, sight will be restored to the blind, the oppressed will be freed, and the year of the Lord's favour (the time when possessions are restored to their rightful owners) will be proclaimed. The journey of salvation has truly begun.

One of the prayers we use on Ash Wednesday invites us to use the time of Lent as a time of holy observance, a time that is different from the rest of the Christian year, a time to reflect on the purpose of our own spiritual journey. It's also a time which leads inexorably to the cross and the resurrection beyond, a time to look forward to an Easter which gives the ultimate meaning to our lives as the stone is rolled away and the world looks into an empty tomb. From Lent we look beyond to Easter. As we look into ourselves in Lent, we see the temptations we have succumbed to, we see the things in our lives which we need to repent of, see the things in our lives which we need to get sorted out, the things that need to be renewed, but beyond all those we are able to see the God who is in each one of us through the glory of a resurrected Christ. Sometimes we just don't spend enough time looking, and stop before we see His glory in our inner selves. *Sam Cappleman*

Meditation

We often think of temptation as negative, things that we've succumbed to, rules we've broken. And if we do succumb to temptation we can think that God is going to punish us for it, make us pay in some way or other. But that's probably not the right way to understand the concept of temptation. As Christians we're called to the privilege of loving and worshiping God and reflecting His glory in the world through the glory that is in us, through our transformed lives in Him. That is, in part, the message of the Transfiguration we read in last week's readings. God has called each one of us, and has a path and a destiny planned out for every individual in his care, the absolute best way for each one of us to be and live. When we fall into temptation and sin therefore it's not that God is going to send down a thunderbolt to punish us, it's more that we are settling for second best – something less than God has ordained for us. Falling short of the mark, missing the target - which also happens to be one way to translate the word sin. Rather than a punishment from God, it's more like some self-inflicted punishment. And we're often quite good at punishing ourselves when we think we have sinned. Sin is a part of all of our lives and none of us are strangers to temptation. Like Jesus, we are most vulnerable to the twisting, distorting forces of evil at those times where we are also most open to God. If Jesus had not been so consumed with passion for the hungry, the oppressed and those who have not experienced the transforming power of God, the devil's proposals to Him would not have been the least bit tempting. But He was, and the resources that He had in those stark wilderness days can be ours as well. *Sam Cappleman*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

The Lent Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, lamenting our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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. Amen

Lord, Jesus Christ, help us to fashion in these Lenten days a season of inner redemption and holiness. Again and again, may we use these days to come quietly into your presence ever open to your prompting, ever ready to serve you and ever ready to reflect your coming Easter glory. Amen

Teach us, O God, so to use this season of Lent that we may be drawn closer to our Lord, and in fellowship with Him may learn to hate sin, to overcome temptation, and to grow in holiness that our lives may be strengthened for your service and used for your glory. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow Him; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The word 'discipline' in Lent collects is not used to mean 'punishment' but to mean 'following a pattern or example'. The example we are asking to follow is that of Jesus; his life of prayer, teaching and self-sacrifice. The word mystery is a very well known way of describing the wonderful things that Jesus did that are written in the gospels many of which led him to suffer.

Methodist Responses to Pope Benedict's Resignation

The Revd Dr Mark Wakelin, President of the Methodist Conference, said: "We were shocked to hear of Pope Benedict XVI's resignation, which must have been a difficult decision to make. We thank God for his ministry, and for the significant work we share with Roman Catholics worldwide in the name of the Gospel. Our thoughts and prayers are with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters at this time. We pray for Pope Benedict and for those involved in choosing his successor."

The Revd Neil Stubbens, Connexional Ecumenical Officer, said: "Methodists will be surprised to hear this news but will be aware that it will be a shock for their Roman Catholic sisters and brothers. Now is the time for prayer and seeking God's guidance as a successor is sought."

The Revd Ken Howcroft, who represents World Methodism in Rome, said: "It is sad when a Christian leader has to lay aside an office in this way. I was present when the Pope presided at a service to mark the end of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. His address was excellent and clear. But he has started to look more frail recently, and there are great challenges urgently facing all our Churches. It will be fascinating to be in Rome as a new Pope is found."

Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church will be 10 years old this May. If you would like to celebrate this milestone on Saturday 11th May 2013 please can you let me know. Carolyn email Youth@thischurch.com

John Bunyan's 'Childish Toys' a one day course for readers of all ages on 16 March 10am—4pm at Bunyan Meeting. Tutors Dr. Pat Pinset and Professor Bob Owens. For further information contact Dr. Clare Walsh 01234 793091 email clare.walsh@beds.ac.uk

Telecare - It is of enormous value for us to be able to keep in touch with Church members by Telecare. If you are elderly, especially if you live alone, please register for Telecare. We will just ensure that somebody calls you every fortnight to make sure that all is ok. Please advise the ministers.

Hilda Hicks cordially invites everyone from Putnoe Heights and St Marks churches to join her in the celebration of her 90th birthday party on Saturday 9 March from 4-7pm at Putnoe Heights church. RSVP by Thursday 28th February please, to daughter Linda at lindatongue@yahoo.co.uk, telephone 01480 350345 or reply direct to Hilda on 01234 354289.

Do you need a reliable, hardworking cleaner with good references? £10 per hour. Please call 07725054480.

Messy Church Dates

Weds 20 February Weds 17 May Weds 16 October,
Weds 20 March Weds 19 June Weds 20 November
Weds 17 April Weds 18 Sept Weds 11 December

Woodland AGM -Sunday 9 June 2013 at 12.30pm.
Woodland Open Day— Saturday 20th July 2013 2pm—5pm.

Putnoe Church Council Tuesday 19 February 7.30pm in room 3.

Putnoe Heights Church. A Missions fund donation was sent from Putnoe Heights Church to Christian Aid for £250 for their Syrian refugees appeal.

St. Mark's Craft Stall Easter novelties will be on sale today at £1 each, after the morning service and then from the office.

Priory Methodist Church –Saturday 2 March A Different Drum – We are privileged to have a visit to Priory by the well-known theatre company Riding Lights when they present this show which tells stories of resistance, sacrifice and love in action. Beginning in 17th century Derbyshire, where the village of Eyam chooses a bold path of isolation in the face of the plague, the show follows a thread through history, picking up accounts of similar men and women who dare to break the boundaries of self-interest. For

Christians and non-Christians alike, the stories told by 'A Different Drum' ask us to consider what would happen if we planted the seeds of Christ's revolutionary love in our community. Tickets cost £10 per person including refreshments and can be bought from Priory Church Office or by calling the Riding Lights Box Office on 01904 613000. Tickets must be booked and paid for in advance. Do take this opportunity to see the show and bring your friends.

Children's Easter Arrangements 2013

At Putnoe Heights Church
Friday 29 March Children's & Youth Good Friday Special Putnoe Heights Church. 12.15pm to 1.30pm £1.00 Donation per child Easter Story, Crafts & Light Refreshments

Clapham Methodist Church Quiz Saturday 23 February 6.30 pm Teams: maximum of 6 people Cost £5 per person. There will be a ploughman's supper, homemade desserts and drinks. Tickets are available by ringing Peggy on 01234 356572.

Clapham Methodist Church Table Top Sale Saturday 27 April 10 am to 1 pm Tables available at £5 each. Just pay that cost and the rest of the money that you make is yours! Proceeds will be for church funds. Bacon rolls and hot drinks available To book a table please ring Peggy on 01234 356572.

Oakley Methodist Church Tuesday 26 February 9.30 am to 12 noon Bacon Buttie Bonanza Bacon buttie and tea or coffee for £2 Cake stall, book stall, tombola Proceeds to local charity



St Albans Woodland Burial Trust
We welcome you to our next Open Day which will take place at the Woodland on Saturday 20 July 2013 from 2.00pm—5.00pm

St Mark's Church Council This will now take place on Wednesday 10 April at 7.30pm in the Chapel.

**Thank you for Shopping at
[www. ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)**

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



Putnoe Heights Beavers/Cubs/Scouts news:

Beavers for 6yrs+ have spaces and no waiting list.
Contact Colin Perkins 07563635952.

The Scout group are looking for a new leader[s]
contact Tom Oldershaw 07974566509

The Cubs are interested in the history of the Scouting
movement within Putnoe over the years.

Count Your Blessings 2013 –Christian Aid Lent
Calendars Many people think of the period of Lent in
the fairly negative way of giving up things. Christian
Aid gives us the opportunity to look at Lent from a
positive point of view by giving to those who are less
fortunate. The brochures will be available at both
churches today. At the end of the Lent period any
contributions you would like to make should be sent
directly to the address shown on the printed form in
the brochure. Further information from Carolyn
Morris at Putnoe Heights and Jean Bank at St
Mark's.

St Albans Cathedral

You are invited to attend a Free Church Service in
the Lady Chapel on Wednesday 6 March 2013 at
11a.m. Preacher: The Reverend Fr. Brian Reynolds.
Catholic Ecumenical Chaplain, St Albans Cathedral
At Noon join a Fellowship Lunch in the Abbots
Kitchen.

Wednesday 3 April 2013 at 11a.m.

Preacher: The Reverend Stephen Copson, B.A.,
M.A. Litt. The General Secretary of the Central
Baptist Association.

At Noon join a Fellowship Lunch in the Abbots
Kitchen.

Special Service Sunday 24 February at 6-30p.m.
A service of Taize chants with time for reflection and
prayer held in candlelight.

Please collect your Real Easter Eggs this
morning from the church offices

Please complete a Church Membership Form

Our Annual General Church Meeting takes place on 28 April after the church service. It is really helpful and sometimes quite important for us to have accurate membership information for this meeting. Our churches pay a financial contribution to the Church of England or the Methodist Church for every member over 16 years of age. It is therefore important to have an accurate record of membership to enable us to pay our church share to the Church of England and the Methodist Church. It is also helpful to have up to date details if we need to make contact with you, perhaps when a pastoral situation arises.

If you consider yourself to be a member of this church, please would you kindly complete this form and return it to the church office, a minister or a member of the Leadership Team. You can also fax or Email your details. Please be assured we do not release your details to any other organisations.

It is becoming increasingly helpful to have a record of email addresses so please would you complete this. It is helpful and cost effective to communicate in this way and we will can send you copy of Partnership News each week which is helpful if you are unable to come to church for any reason. We will not share your details with anybody else.

Name	<i>Please tell us the name by which you would like to be known, i.e. Fred, Betty etc.)</i>
Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Postcode	
Denomination	<i>Please simply say which denomination if any you have an attachment to, this might be the church in which you were baptised or grew up.)</i> C of E, Methodist, Other (please state)
Which Church you attend	<i>(Cross out which does not apply)</i> St Mark's, Putnoe Heights