



Partnership News

17 March 2013

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 March - 5th Sunday in Lent

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion

Preacher – Mr Michael Carr
Leadership - Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher – Mr Michael Carr
Leadership – Mrs Veta Hudson - Rae
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Sunday 24 March - Palm Sunday

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mr Chris Izzard

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions – Mrs Claire Peck

Readings 1 Isaiah 50: 4-9a 2.Philippians 2: 5-11
3 Luke 22: 14-23,56

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

The Rev. Dr. Sam Cappleman will be leading St
Albans Ministerial Candidates for Ordination in
conference this weekend.

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been
given by Ada Vyse in loving memory of her husband
John on his birthday.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have been given
by Rita and Nigel Platt and family in memory of Justin
on his birthday.

*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

Grant us grace, O God,
to take your Son for our Redeemer,
his life for our example,
his word for our rule,
his Spirit for our guide,
his wounds for our healing
and his cross for our salvation,
that he may take possession
of our hearts,
now and for ever. Amen.

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1657)

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 March 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. 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 '19 March Easter Activities Details Janet King 313946
8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers Workshop St. Mark's 3rd Tuesday in month. Next meeting 26 March Shirley Sadler 01767 651767

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 27 March 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)
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 March 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 March. 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

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

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

Messy Church Dates

Weds 20 March; Weds 17 April; Weds 17 May;
Weds 19 June; Weds 18 Sept; Weds 16 Oct;
Weds 20 Nov, Weds

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

Putnoe Church Council - 10 June, 24 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service Sunday 3 November 6.30pm

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.

Lent 5

Introductory Sentence - Isaiah 53:5

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Collect Prayer

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Common Worship*

First Reading —Isaiah Chapter 43:16-21

This is what the LORD says- he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honour me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Philippians Chapter 3v4b-14

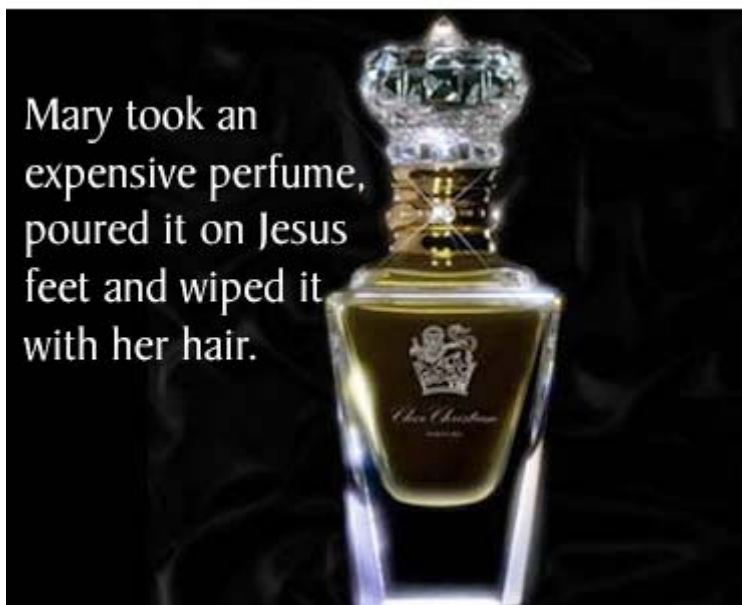
If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - John Chapter 12:1-8

When reading is announced '**Glory to Christ our Saviour**'

Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages. He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. Leave her alone, Jesus replied. It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.

(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 hymn sheets and Holy Communion Booklets*)

1. Hark! The voice of love and mercy,
2. All I once held dear,
3. Christ's is the world in which we move,
4. No weight of gold or silver

Commentary

Our Bible passage from John today takes place in Bethany, which means 'place of the poor.' Jesus is anointed with really expensive perfume an action which might be considered totally unsuitable in a place of poor people! Jesus has come to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had recently raised from the dead. This house should have been a house filled with mourning and sorrow, instead it is the centre of attention as the dead man and his saviour gather to eat. The people around would clearly want to see this Lazarus who had been raised after four days. Bethany is a small village only a couple of miles from Jerusalem and it would also have been crowded with pilgrims who had come to observe Passover in Jerusalem at this time. People would also have wanted to come closer to Jesus who had this extraordinary power over death, they would have wondered what he could do for them also.

Jesus is with Mary and Martha the sisters of Lazarus. Mary is the same Mary who had sat at the feet of Jesus as her sister Martha had been 'distracted with much serving'. Once again Martha is serving, and once again Mary is rapt with love and devotion, sitting at his feet. But now Mary does something quite unexpected, in a spontaneous, reckless and, some would say wasteful gesture of extravagance, she anoints the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume and wipes them with her hair! It's a very sensual, a very intimate, and a very shocking scene. For a woman to let her hair down in public in this way and behave towards Jesus with such physical intimacy must have aroused considerable attention and scorn. To let down her hair and massage the feet of Jesus with perfume is quite a highly charged act in any culture, but at the time it was positively outrageous. We can all imagine how the disciples must have wanted to have a go at Mary for being such a tramp and behaving in this shameless fashion.

Remember, this was no ordinary bottle of perfume, it was nard, an import from India and one costing a years salary. Can you imagine what you would have said had you witnessed this scene of such lavish adoration? Judas beat us all to it when he complained about apparent waste, claiming that the money could instead have been given to the poor. The biblical account tells us that Judas was not really concerned about the poor, we are told that he was a thief and helped himself to the money that the disciples shared with Jesus. This explanation discredits Judas but perhaps it also serves to demonstrate that the other disciples too, felt that it was a waste of money which would legitimately have helped 'the poor.'

Judas challenged Mary on the grounds of extravagance, but we know from Matthew's Gospel that all of the disciples disliked the waste of perfume being used on Jesus. Matthew in his Gospel says When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. (Matthew 26:8) In Mark's Gospel too he records that it was "some who were there" who protested. (Mark 14:4), not just Judas! Truthfully all of us would be appalled when we heard about this lewd behaviour and flagrant waste. Everybody except Jesus. Jesus defends Mary: "Leave her alone, " he says. "She is anointing me, making preparations for my death. "

Jesus knows how much Mary loves him, and he recognises the goodness in her devotional act of extravagant love. She loved Jesus, and she poured out her love like priceless perfume, like there was no tomorrow, without ever counting the cost. The perfume Mary poured out was worth a year's wages, would we be prepared to pour out that kind of money on somebody we love? Would we be prepared to pour it out on Jesus? Of course Mary had much to be thankful to Jesus for, he had raised her dead brother Lazarus from his stinking tomb, how could she deny Jesus her best perfume? What Mary did was highly provocative, but she was highly motivated and her spontaneous act of loving gratitude could not be inhibited by social etiquette. Mary responds to the love and acceptance she found in Jesus. Her affection for Jesus is an example to us all. It is not the time to talk budgets, but to show love. What Mary did was outstanding. She gave Jesus not just words or promises about her love. She put those words into direct action. She did not consider the cost because her love was greater than financial considerations. We need so very much to learn the lesson which Jesus understood about generosity when he publicly approved of what she did. The woman's response stands in contrast to that of the Chief Priests and Judas who will serve them in their wicked murder of Jesus. It is also a contrast to the behaviour of Peter and the disciples. In the Gospels Jesus is pictured as abandoned by his inner circle of disciples. In the end it will

be a few women who are left standing near Golgotha and who will venture to the tomb. The unlikely ones in Mark and John's world, the women, become the models.

This is a deliberately subversive passage, and reflects so much of the experience of Jesus' ministry. Others were so good, so devout, and so busy trying to be holy that they missed the point. This action made by the woman when she breaks the perfume container open and spreads the contents over Jesus' feet, speaks louder than a thousand words. Mark even suggests that Jesus predicted how memorable her act would be.

Jesus was surrounded by many of noble lives, high religious prestige and good moral deeds. It was none of these which attracted him, nor those who like Peter spoke strongly of their unswerving loyalty. Mary had faith in Jesus and she put that faith into an act of extravagant loving devotion. In so washing his feet her actions spoke louder than words, she showed that love which is beyond that which words can express.

Generosity is something which characterises Jesus and which causes us to question, he seems at times to delight in waste and extravagance. He fed the hungry crowds, but he went and made too much food and there were basket left over. On another occasion Jesus turned water into wine, not just a little wine but 180 gallons of it, when everybody had already been drinking too much and it was good wine! On this occasion generosity is at the heart of the passage and we should be encouraged to be generous towards others. Some have taken the words of Jesus

'You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.'

as an indication that showing generosity towards the poor is futile and something which should not be encouraged. The disciples would have known that Jesus was actually quoting from the scriptures, from Deuteronomy 15:11. The full text reads

'Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.'

So Jesus is actually commanding acts of generosity towards the poor, without a grudging heart. Of course we know from Jesus that he thought an act generosity towards the poor as if it was to himself.

All of this generosity and popularity provoked the Jewish chief priests and we are given a glimpse of why they want to have Jesus and Lazarus put to death. Simply they are envious and greedy and do not want Jesus to take over their religious authority. Jesus was just too popular and this would have implications for them and their status in the community. There was no answer, Jesus had to go. In a short time this greed will end in the cross for Jesus. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

Jesus had raised her brother from death and Mary was deeply grateful. The depth of her gratitude caused the episode which we read today about costly devotion, pouring out love for Jesus without considering the cost involved. So the question for us is do we feel gratitude to Jesus and what would we be able to offer, what would we pour out on the feet of Jesus?

The act of washing feet was something suitable only for a slave, somebody who washed feet in this was devoted enough to be regarded as slave. Are we prepared to give the best of what we have to serving Jesus.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord Jesus, you had dinner with the sisters Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus, who you raised from the dead. Mary anointed your feet with perfume worth a years wages and wiped your feet with her hair. You saw her action as an act of generosity and love, a preparation of your body for your passion and death. May we be inspired to offer what we have to you in your service and may we bold to show our love for you in acts of devotion, as we seek to be kind and generous to those who are poor.

We remember the challenge of the treasurer Judas, he begrudged the waste of money because he had a greedy heart and wanted to keep the money for himself. So we pray for all those in authority that they would be people of kindness and concern for others. We pray for honesty in all of those in public office that they would carry out their duties with integrity and justice.

Whilst Mary anointed your feet we remember Martha, the practical sister who did the work and cooked the meal. We ask for your strength and blessing on all of those who work hard and look after others. We pray that their acts of kindness would be blessed and that they would know your encouragement for all that they do. May we never take for granted those who work hard so that we can enjoy our lives and we pray that we would do all we can to ensure that nobody would ever feel that their contribution was not recognised and valued.

We pray that this Easter we would know the generosity of your love and as we recognise your sacrifice of love for us, so we would be equally generous to all of those we meet, in Jesus name. Amen.

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

For Sale 8618 Electronic Sewing Machine for a donation to church funds. !8 functions. Please contact Rosemary St. Mark's Office.

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

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

Church Annual Congregational Meeting will take place after church services on Sunday 28 April. 10.30am St Mark's and 12 noon Putnoe. All are invited to attend.

A Circuit Quiet Day will be held on 20 March from 10.30 to 3.30 at Priory Methodist Church. Cost £3. Everyone welcome. Please see noticeboard in foyer for more details.

Partnership Passover Remembrance Meal with Holy Communion. Maundy Thursday 28 March 7.30pm at Putnoe Heights. A worship service which combines the festival of Passover with a two course meal and Holy Communion. A collection will be taken to cover catering costs. Please add your name to the list (in welcome area at either church) if you would like to come.

The Calvary Road Show The much acclaimed Gospel musical by Richard Tysoe. Performances 7.30pm 16 March at The Holy Child & St Joseph, Midland Road and 17th March at St Paul's, Bedford.

Easter Offering 2013 Envelopes will be in the foyer on Palm Sunday for your use. Please give generously and return your envelope with enclosed contribution on Easter Sunday. With the enlarged circuit there are 2 venues for the Dedication Services to be held in May, and the theme will be Beyond the Harbour Wall.

Easter Cards with an Easter Message and invitation to our services are now available for you to take and deliver in your road or to people who may be interested. for our services.

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.

First Boot Sale of the Year—Monday 1 April Any unwanted bric-a-brac, books, tools, jewellery, coins etc greatly appreciated. Tray bakes for the refreshments will also be very welcome. Many thanks

Hilda Hicks 90th birthday celebration 9th March 2013. Hilda and daughter Linda would like to thank everyone who attended the above event. Thanks especially for the gifts, cards, love and just being there. You all made it a very happy and memorable occasion.

Coffee Morning Congratulations to the members of Open House who raised £106 for Red Nose Day. Also thank you to everyone who supported them.

Welcome Pope Francis

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have welcomed the election of Pope Francis: "We welcome Pope Francis' election, and offer our prayers for his papacy. Methodist people cherish their place in the worldwide Church, and the election of a Pope from outside Europe reminds us of our global mission. We look forward to our continuing joint work with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers wherever possible. We pray that all church leaders listen to the voices of the poor and the oppressed, and speak out for justice, as we share God's love."

Church Membership Forms This is the last Sunday on which we will have the church membership forms printed on Partnership News. It has been extremely helpful to have so many returns and we have now got many email addresses which enables us to keep in touch and email Partnership News. If you have not yet completed a form then please do let us have your details.

Friends for Life are holding a Charity Quiz Night at the White Horse, Newnham Avenue on Wednesday, 3rd April. The cost is £5 per person and will include a buffet and prizes. If you would like to join us with a team of up to 6 people or donate a raffle prize please Contact us via the website; www.friendsforlifebedford.org.uk or ring Joanne Barrow on 01234 213038.

Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra will be presenting a concert at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday, 23rd March, at 7.30 pm, featuring Barber's Adagio for Strings and a selection of film music. Tickets available at the door £7 (concessions £5). All welcome.

Telecare. From time to time people go into hospital, or are not able to come to church because they are poorly and we don't get to know about it. Please help us keep in touch by registering for Telecare. One of our pastoral team will call every fortnight to just make sure all is well. This is an important part of pastoral care and it is especially important if you are one of our 'senior' church members. We can then ensure that you get a visit if you want one and copies of Partnership News etc.



Thank You to everybody who completed a form last week, especially for the email addresses which will be so valuable for enabling us to keep in touch and send out Partnership News—great if you ever miss a week in church ! Please do fill in a form this week.

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.

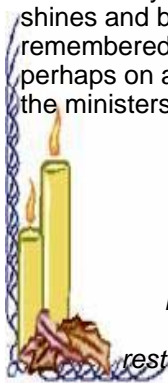
Name	<i>Please tell us the name by which you would like to be known, i.e. Fred, Betty etc.)</i>
Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Postcode	
Denomination	<i>Please simply say which denomination if any you have an attachment to, this might be the church in which you were baptised or grew up.)</i> C of E, Methodist,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

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.

**Sarah Bassill
Ernest Bevan**

*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.



Members of our church will be saddened to hear of the death of Eileen Tarr who was a regular worshipper at St Mark's until she became unwell some years ago. A memorial service will be held at St Mark's Church on Friday 22 March at 11.30pm. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Mike and all the family