



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

15 April 2007

Second of Easter - Low Sunday



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr John Stubbs
Leadership - Mr Ian Farthing
Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr John Stubbs
Leadership Team - Alan Cooper
Intercessions - Ministers

Third of Easter - April 22

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mike Cooper
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00am - Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Reading 1: Acts 9::1-6

Reading 2: Rev 5:11-14

Reading 3: John 21: 1-19

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have been given by Veta Hudson-Rae to celebrate Johanne, Christopher and Joshua's birthday.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Vera Tippet, giving thanks for her family.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

Prayer for Sunday

Grant to us, O Lord, ears to hear your voice, eyes to see your beauty, wills to obey your commandments, and hearts to love your name, so that hearing, seeing, obeying and loving we may come at last to the joys of your kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Christina Rossetti, 1830-85

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

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

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website www.ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

12.00-1.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

2.30-4.30pm Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights

Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock ☎01908 565044

4.15-6.00pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights.

Ms Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎364710

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott ☎768419

7.15 m Guides. St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

7.30pm Creative Needles. Putnoe Heights.

Jacky Hayward ☎307648.

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's each month next 16 April Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights.

Judi Staughton ☎341821

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's.

Helen Folbigg ☎351223

10.00am Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman ☎822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights. Andrea ☎210177 or Majella ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's. Last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's (3rd Tuesday only) Mrs Burman ☎364723

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 17 April A slide show by Mr. Darley No meeting on 10 April Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Meets fortnightly. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs

Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Meets fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45-5.30pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 0582468.

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights.

Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group at St Mark's, (1st Tuesday) Contact Kate Parsons 351150

7-8pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎214107.

7-9pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights.

Karen King ☎07941 264885

7- 10pm Card Makers Club meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton ☎346718

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church. Putnoe Heights.

Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

7.30-10.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Mks

7.45pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 10 April A Quiz Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.00am Paint Tots at St Mark's Jacqui Harrahan ☎824475

9.30am Childminding Support Group. Putnoe Heights.

Mrs S Longman ☎313949

9.30am - Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights.

Stephanie Smith ☎357787.

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

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel.

A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 18 April 2007 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.30-4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights

Mrs Webster ☎856966

4.15-6pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights

Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's.

Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

6.15-7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

6.30-7.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's

Brian Sallows ☎407725

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society meets monthly. Putnoe Heights. Sylvia Woods ☎365095

7.00pm Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

7.00pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly. Putnoe Heights. Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.45pm Badminton Club. Putnoe Heights

All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00-10.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. More details Graham 406359 or Danny 401668.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (1st week) Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424
Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.30am-12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

9.45am-11.30am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.50 for first child + 50p for each extra child over 2 years. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

12pm Storybox. St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Biblebased story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Andrea ☎210177 or Magella ☎325293.

2.30pm Bedford Arts Soc St Mark's Malcolm Smith ☎400741

2- 4.30pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30-7.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's
Mr & Mrs Pike ☎823795

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights
Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

7.30pm-11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club St Mark's
Mr P Housden ☎376597

7.30-9.30pm Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's
3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby ☎344442

7.30-9.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible Studies every 2 Thursday- Pastor Tarr ☎360188

7.45pm Housegroup meets fortnightly
Betty Wyatt ☎350188

8.00-10pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. Mr Broadhouse ☎740271

8.00-10.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th weeks) Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's (1st and 3rd weeks)
Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30am & 12.30pm U3A Photography Group (4th week)
Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

1.30-2pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights
Contact Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30-9.00pm Line Dancing. St Mark's
A night of fun Christine Rushton ☎782360

7-10pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7.30pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.
Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey ☎349179

Saturday

9.00- 12.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe
Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Randle ☎01234 782414

7.15-10.30pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's
Ann or Peter ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 at St. Mark's Church and Sunday School with crèche for under 3's

11.00 - 12.00 Putnoe Heights - Church and Junior Church for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

1 - 3pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights
Rev. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

6-7.30pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Liz ☎302349.

6 -7.30pm T.X.T Putnoe. for 13 + fortnightly, join us for fellowship, debate & discussion. Liz ☎302349

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 12 June

Circuit Meeting -

St Mark's Leadership Team – 9 May 07 at the Vicarage, 26 June Linda's

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –30 April at Alan Cooper's

St Mark's Church Management Meeting - 24 April, 20 June.

Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 14 May, 16 July

Putnoe Church Council - 11 June

Pastoral Group Meeting – 8 May 07

Churchyard Committee - 6 June 07

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting

Wednesday 13 June, 14 Flint Way.

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council

Meetings on 18 April, 7 June, 5 July

Deanery Meeting -

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth– 23 April at 1.00pm

Calendar dates appear on our church website www.ThisIsChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of



Telecare

It is extremely helpful to the Ministers to be able to have feed back, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down, please do so.



Easter 2 - Low Sunday

Opening Verse Psalm 33:20

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

Collect Prayer for the Day

God of life and love, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. Open our eyes that we may see him in his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Methodist Worship

First Bible Reading - Acts 5: 27-32

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

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

Second Bible Reading— Rev1:4-8

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

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

Gospel reading - John 20: 19-31

(When the Gospel is announced - **Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him,

"My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns & Psalms and Holy Communion Booklets)

1. Day of resurrection; 208.
2. He is Lord; 256,
3. Jesus we thus obey. 614
4. Jesus lives. 198

Commentary Archbishop of Canterbury - Human failure is overcome by God's love

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams says that the whole weight human failure cannot extinguish the creative love of God. In his Easter sermon he said that conflict and failure are part of the human condition, but that Jesus' death and Resurrection turns that on its head:

"We share one human story in which we are all caught up in one sad tangle of selfishness and fear and so on. But God has entered that human story; he has lived a life of divine and unconditional love in a human life of flesh and blood."

He recalled a visit to the Solomon Islands in 2004 when one of the leaders caught up in the islands' recent civil war took public responsibility for failure:

"He said 'I want you to bless us; I need to say in public that we were responsible as well as the people on the islands...'. Here was a politician representing a community that had suffered greatly and inflicted great suffering as well saying 'We were all wrong. We needed healing and forgiveness...'. And it was as if for the first time you could see the bare bones of what reconciliation means."

The lesson, he says, can be learnt in other conflicts when people learn to listen to stories other than their own:

"...going forward requires us all to learn a measure of openness to discovering things about ourselves we did not know, seeing ourselves through the eyes of another. What they see may be fair or unfair, but it is a reality that has been driving someone's reactions and decisions. We'd better listen, hateful and humiliating though it may be for some of us."

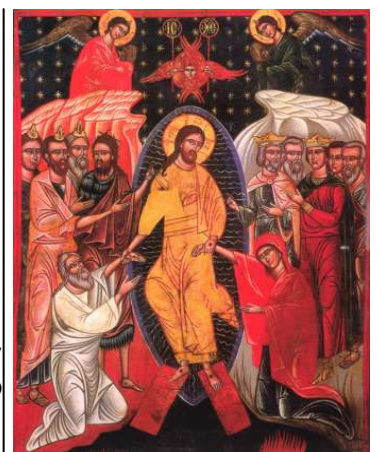
In Northern Ireland, he said, progress towards reconciliation had made it possible for people to start to hear each other's histories; this meant that they needn't be bound by the past:

"Everyone in this history made decisions, some shockingly evil, some tragic, some foolish [but] those decisions and the sufferings that came from them don't have the power to tell you what decisions you have to make today."

The Easter story, he says, provides comfort and encouragement:

"If we can accept the unwelcome picture of us and our world that Good Friday offers, we are in the strangest way, set free to hear what Easter says. Give up the struggle to be innocent and the hope that God will proclaim that you were right and everyone else wrong. Simply ask for whatever healing it is that you need, whatever grace and hope you need to be free, then step towards your neighbour; Easter reveals a God who is ready to give you that grace and to walk with you."

"When in our world we are faced with the terrible deadlocks of mutual hatred and suspicion, with rival stories of suffering and atrocity, we have to pray for this resurrection message to be heard."



*Christ is risen
from the dead;
by death
he conquered death;
and to those
in the graves
He granted Life.*

Meditation

The experience of Resurrection results not simply in a good feeling but in the transformation or renewal of our life and action. Resurrection is not just about some future day after we die. It is also about the world today--the world of objects, people, creation, and beauty; the world that experiences both sin and evil as well as justice and peace; the world with all its struggles and its possibilities. If we believe in Resurrection then we should expect to see some signs of it. Community is formed. Fear is dispelled. Reconciliation becomes real. The work of justice and peace takes place. Society is transformed. There is a new heaven and a new earth.

Today's scriptures give us some of these signs:

John receives a call to write down the message and share it.
A growing community gathers in Solomon's portico.
Signs and wonders occur in the early church.
Thomas and later a great number of people come to faith.
Many are healed.
"Bad spirits" are driven out.
The message is "Do not be afraid," and "Peace be with you."
Spirit is given for the forgiveness of sin.

What signs and wonders do we see today, reflect upon your contribution ?

What signs of faith?
What signs of faith expressed in deeds?
What signs of the forgiveness of sin?
What signs of the forgiveness of social sin?
What signs of reconciliation between peoples and nations?
What signs of work for justice and peace?

Post Communion Prayer

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

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

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

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us paralysed, but whose presence is overwhelming: breathe on us abundant life; that where we cannot see, we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you. Amen (Janet Morley) Dear Lord, you know that we are fearful – make us brave! You know that we are weak – give us your strength! You know that we are unfaithful – make us true. Amen Faithful God, strength of all those who believe and the hope of those who doubt; may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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

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

Help Please! The sleeving collection is going well—Keep up the good work. Marion Prior

Gardeners Ahoy — more help needed. We need to renovate the wide border round the car park, as the bark laid 4yrs ago has done its job, and turned into wonderful soil, which is easy to dig. We need to dig the soil over, remove weeds and roots, (especially convolvulus) and re-cover with bark. A start has been made. But if anyone else can do a bit to help it look right for Easter, that would be wonderful. B.Y.O. fork or spade. We have one barrow in the new courtyard, but its quicker with two! Liaise with me if you need further information (01234 303254) Marion.

Line Dancing at St Mark's. Lessons begin 20 April. Further information contact Christine Rushton 01234 782360.

Churches Together Annual Forum 2007. To be held at St Nichols Church Hall, Barton. We would like our churches to be represented, can you go. Please speak to Charlie soon.!

Bark, This is an excellent time to think about putting bark on your borders. The introduction of bark helps by retaining water, preventing weeds and breaking down poor soil. The Gardens at St Mark's have been using this for the past 10 years to good effect. St Mark's has just received a new delivery and we are able to supply the bark at a ridiculously cheap rate of 50p per bag—please supply the bag and yourself. Bags can be any size, provided that they can be lifted without mechanical effort.

Bedford Deanery Synod is seeking a part time co-ordinator to develop a scheme to enhance the pastoral care provided for residential and nursing homes. To work for an initial period not exceeding one year. Are you:-a good communicator, computer literate? Do you relish a challenge and enjoy working with a diverse range of people? Hours: flexible; between 10 and 21 hours per week. Remuneration: negotiable. If you think this post is for you, please send your CV and covering letter to Stanley Pullinger, 111 Wendover Drive, Bedford MK41 9QX (Tel: 01234 342365) arrive no later than 16th April

Nomination for Church Councils

Are you interested in becoming a member of Putnoe Heights or St Mark's Church Council, or do you know somebody who would be interested? If so here is a good opportunity to serve your church for the benefit of its members and the local community. If you are interested you will need a proposer and seconder. If you wish to propose somebody else you will need their consent and a

proposer and seconder. Please complete a nomination form (obtainable from the church office) and then hand it the church office by the latest for Sunday 29 April.

The annual congregational meetings will this year be held on 6 May 2007 after the Sunday morning service. We hope that people will feel that it is more convenient to simply remain behind after the service.

Thank You Storybox. The Storybox Easter special on Good Friday was a great success. Thank you to everybody that helped in anyway to make it such an enjoyable Easter occasion.

Concert by Bedford Town Concert Band (directed by Kevin Nicholls) on Sunday 22 April at 3pm at Putnoe Heights.

Chat and Play a mums & toddlers group has got off to great start. It operates from 9.45 -11.30am on Thursday at St. Mark's Church. £1.50 for first child + 50p for any others over 2. More details from St. Mark's 342613 or Emma Strangwick 211070.

Partnership Quiz Night - questions for ALL generations. Putnoe Heights Saturday 19th May 6.00 till not very late!!! Teams of 8, bring all 8 or join up on the evening. Buffet supper, please your own drinks. Donations for raffle please. Tickets £3.00 adults, £2.00 under 16's on sale from both Church offices or see Liz.

Faith in Action [extract from March 2007 newsletter]. Total number of cholera cases in six areas of Malawi 3000. On January 29th we sent £1269 for cholera treatment and £3000 for maize flour. Six government health workers are administering the drugs that we provided and caring for these patients. 108 x 10kg bags of flour distributed to 108 families. The rain has now returned to normal, flood water has gone down, and people have returned home. Crops grown away from the rivers should still be OK. A copy of the newsletter is available in the Welcome Area at Putnoe. Sylvia Cohen 343424.

TNT meet next on Sunday 22nd April at Putnoe 6.00 for Badminton. Please bring a racket if you can. Liz.

Eileen Yunnie sends Easter greetings to all her friends at Putnoe Church and the Women's Fellowship.

Putnoe Mission Coffee Morning. The next mission coffee morning will be held at the home of Eddie and Irene McKenzie on Saturday 12 May. 16 Chellingham Green

Kempston Musical Society perform Rutter's Requiem, and Vivaldi Gloria, at Kempston East Methodist Church. Tickets £8 available at the door or from members of the society. Further details 01234 854858

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust. The next meeting of the Trustees will take place on 7 May at 12.30pm

Car Boot Sale Thank you to everybody who helped with the car boot sale on Monday. It was magnificent day and we raised over £1,250 — a fantastic result.

Pastoral Group. Please note that the next meeting of the pastoral committee will take place on Tuesday 8 May at 4.30pm at St Mark's Chapel. If you have any helpful comments on pastoral care in the partnership, please speak with Mary Stubbs.

St Mark's Church Leadership Team. Please note that the next meeting of the St Mark's Leadership team will take place at the Vicarage on 9 May.

Methodist Homes for the Aged in Brickhill Update.

There is considerable interest and much support for the MHA proposed residential care facility to be opened in Brickhill and many people have asked me about progress. Sadly the scheme is still finding the route through planning difficult, despite receiving overwhelming support from the parish council. I will be meeting on site this week with other members of the parish council and other officers and will keep you updated on progress.

Columbaria. Following the unprecedented permission of the St Albans Diocese, a columbaria will be installed in the Garden of Remembrance at St Mark's this week. This will provide the unique opportunity to purchase a vault in a granite wall for the interment of ashes. Since it is in consecrated ground, unlike other such facilities this will be granted in perpetuity. In council cemeteries places for ashes are rented, usually for about 40 years after which they are removed. If you would like more information then please speak with Mary Stubbs.

Woodland Burial. Reluctantly we have had to cancel the consecration date of the St Albans Woodland Burial Ground on 23 April. Sadly the date has not provided us with sufficient time to register the land. A new date is being arranged for May. Apologies for any inconvenience.

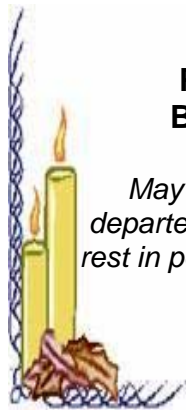
Helpful Thomas. In our Gospel reading today, the disciple Thomas wants to put his hands in the holes in the wounded body of Jesus. He needs to know that Jesus is really alive. If we had been near Jesus after the resurrection we might also have been surprised at what was going on. Thomas just says out loud the things the other disciples (and perhaps us) think but keep to themselves. It was Thomas also who asked Jesus what on earth he was talking about when he said he was going to 'prepare a place for them.' We are fortunate that Thomas voices the questions which we all have and in so doing shows us that it is alright to have doubts and fears in our faith. Like Thomas we do not know what happens when we die, we are filled with questions. But thankfully this is a good thing, faith is like a muscle it grows by stretching. It is good for our faith to be stretched like Thomas—and as it is we learn to understand that there many things which we just do not and never will understand.

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.

**Betty Munkham
PC Mark Nicholson
Barbara Marie Gayle**

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



Rest in Peace



The funeral of Mr Donald Shore will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 16 April at 12 noon. This will be followed by burial at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground, Keysoe.

The funeral of Mrs Shona Denham will take place at St Mark's Church on Thursday 19 April at 2.30pm. This will be followed by burial at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground, Keysoe.