



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
19 April 2015
Third Sunday of Easter



Sunday Services

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

19 April Third Sunday of Easter

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Veta Hudson Rae
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

26 April - Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon
Intercessions - Mr. Alan Bayliss
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Acts 4:5-12 2. 1 John 3:16-24
3. John 10:11-18

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

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights are given by Diane and Alan Bayliss to celebrate their wedding anniversary and in memory of their parents.

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 in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

Lord our God, the life of those who look to you and the help of those who fly to you; purify our hearts that we may walk before you in perfect love and cleanse our consciences, that we may pray to you in confidence and hope; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Basil of Caesarea (c. 330-379)

MARRIAGE

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Dale Jeremy Jones and Kelly Samantha Knott both of this parish to be married at St Edmunds St James Church Blunham

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

Deacon Jane Mills
c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

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

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

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

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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@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 Mon-Thur 9-5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Geoff Gypps 365630
Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre
Charity No Charity No 1160981.

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Jean Bank 355698
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's

8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
(See website for more details)

9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955

10.00am-12 U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's. Liz Mason 07816522200 (starts 8 Sept.)

12.00 noon Storybox Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630

1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts On April 20

2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights– fortnightly

4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Zoe Wilcox 07767311424

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-8pm Cubs at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

6.30pm Fit For All Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Pat Nicholson 353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.

7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting– 20 April Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Lorrie Pearson 01234 340473

11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895

2.00pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.

3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.15-8.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571

7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 12 May Flower Event Details Diane Bayliss 268101

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

10.00-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

10.00am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. Contact Janet King 313946

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Janet King 313946

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 22 April Contact Putnoe Office 365630

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.Contact 1st week of the month. Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 20 May 2015 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

5.00–6.00pm Rainbows at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091

6.00pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

6.00-7.00pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel.01234 353865

7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts at Putnoe ages 10.5-14; Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.

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

7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 3446008.

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 29 April 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 (Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

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.

10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

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 342613

1.00ui-2.30pm Wiggles & Jiggles Putnoe Heights. Drop in.

1.00 - 2.30pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's (Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

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 Contact Janet King 313946

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210

3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07768481499

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284

7.00pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's (3rd week in month). Carol Plant 01832710504

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

7.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Kaye Logan 309105

8.00pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

Friday

9.30am -3.30pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe

Heights, 2nd week per month.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

4.50pm-7.00pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email: phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd week in month)Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

9.00am Faith Temple Ministries St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593

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

Sunday

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

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre at St. Mark's. 1st Sunday Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's . A crèche is also available.

2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th Sunday. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – tba

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Annual Congregational Meetings - 26 April 2015

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 2nd June

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting – 28 May

Putnoe Church Council - 11 June

Pastoral Group Meeting– 15 September 2015 4.00pm

Churchyard Committee - TBA

Circuit meeting – 16 June at Putnoe Heights

Deanery meeting -

Woodland Burial Trustees –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 1 June 2015 2pm

St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015, 4 May, 25 May and 31 August.

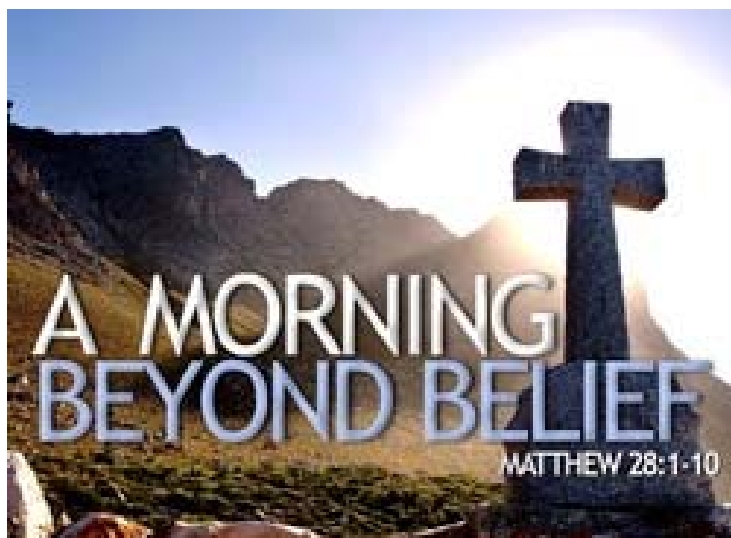
Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 27 September.

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

Third Sunday of Easter

Sentence of Scripture Psalm 118

I will exalt you, O LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. O LORD my God, I called to you for help and you healed me. O LORD, you brought me up from the grave; you spared me from going down into the pit. Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name.



Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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 forever. Amen *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading - Acts 3:12-18

When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. "Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.'"

"Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways." (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - 1 John 3:1-7

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

Gospel Reading - Luke 24:36b-48

(Please stand when the reading is announced -Glory to Christ our Saviour)

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

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

Post Communion Prayer

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns for Sunday *(Please distribute Holy Communion Booklets and Hymn Sheet if desired)*

1. Risen Lord in splendour seated
2. He is Lord, He is Lord
3. Speak Lord in the stillness
4. Tell out my soul

Commentary

Our post Resurrection readings today contain key elements of what our faith in the Risen Lord is based on, and what was and is required of those who believe in him who lived, suffered, died and rose again for all nations. Elements such as healing, repentance, forgiveness and witnessing. In Luke 2: 36 to 48 Jesus appears to the 'startled and frightened' disciples, proves to them that it was him by showing them his wounds from the nails of the cross, eats with them and 'opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures'. Having explained all this to them he declares that they 'are witnesses to these things'. Witnesses to significant events are frequently inspired to tell others about them, it is these inspired witnesses, the disciples, that we read about in the book of Acts. Disciples, who despite their fear, had the courage to speak with conviction of the Risen Christ and act in his name.

Today's reading from Acts 3: 12 - 19 is one such account. The verses we heard follow on from when Peter, accompanied by John, had healed a man who had had a disability from birth. This man was well known for sitting begging by the temple gate called 'Beautiful'. Peter had healed him by saying "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." This, naturally delighted, man had then entered the temple courts 'walking and jumping and praising God', to the amazement of those gathered there. Peter, the same Peter who had previously denied Christ, takes the opportunity to declare that he had not healed in his own power or godliness, but by faith in the name of Jesus. By faith in the very person whose death, those listening had been party to. A very brave and some might say foolish thing to do. But note in verse 17 Peter says that, those who were complicit in the death of Jesus, 'acted in ignorance, as did your leaders'. After earlier struggles, Peter seems to have come to terms with the fact that Jesus had to die to rise again, in order to fulfil God's plan as foretold through all the prophets, so instead of condemning those listening, he calls them to 'Repent and turn to God, so that their sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord'.

The first letter of John 3: 1- 7 begins very affectionately, exclaiming: 'How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!', then goes on to remind the

readers and hearers of that letter that continuing, individual acts of sin are not compatible with the 'children of God'. God's children are to live up to the highest standards as set by Jesus and to be alert to being led astray. How easy it is for us to be 'led astray'! We can get in with the wrong crowd, watch the wrong TV programmes, and misuse the internet, saying to ourselves 'It'll be alright just once'. The standard we have to set ourselves against is Christ! One way of avoiding being 'led astray' is by continually immersing ourselves in the Scripture which Jesus revealed to his first disciples and reveals to us today through the workings of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps another is to witness to the faith in the Risen and Resurrected Jesus. Today I fear many of us, me included, do not always have the courage to stand up and say that we believe in Jesus as the Son of God, who lived, died and rose again. One of the reasons, I suspect, we don't do so is for the fear of offending others or being ridiculed. On the other hand the Acts of the Apostles are full of accounts of those early, often with just cause, fearful first followers of Jesus. This model, set by Peter, may be the model we might choose to use when we find ourselves in a position where we can either keep quiet about our faith, or speak out for and about it. Not in an adversarial way, but by accepting those listening are those who they are, whose lives have taken a different path to ours, who may not yet have heard of the truth about Jesus, or who have heard about him but have not got the full facts, or those whose lives have been so marred by misfortune that to believe in a God who 'wipes out' sin, died and rose again for them may be too difficult to grasp. We are to trust that, when the children of God are called by him to witness for him, they are not left to rely on their own resources.

In the OT Jeremiah, having heard God's call to be a prophet said to the Lord 'I do not know how to speak; I am only a child'. The Lord responds: "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you". (Jeremiah 1: 4 – 10) Another, perhaps more well know example, is Moses being given Aaron to speak for him, in Exodus 4: 10 Moses protests to the Lord: "O Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." The Lord responds: "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord". Moses still pleads with the Lord to send someone else, but the Lord, now angry with Moses, suggests Moses' brother Aaron speaks for him. Perhaps one message we can take from Acts is that we too have a voice, a God given voice, which with discernment, with guidance from the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus we can develop the courage, to speak in the name of Jesus; out for the name of Jesus; speak of who he was and who he is today. Speaking from our own experience of what he means to us, what he has done for us and others we know, and what he can do for those who are willing to listen, hear and respond. Amen *Wendy Waters*

Meditation

Those Glorious Scars – Ken Taylor, 'Sunday by Sunday

His coming is almost 'played down': they are talking quietly, incredulously together, and then they realise he is there. There is an amazing restraint about the Resurrection; no blast of trumpets heralds the new creation. This is the way God usually works – quietly, unobtrusively, almost unnoticed, often unrecognised, and with great humility. What sort of body is this? He cannot be touched by Mary 'until he is ascended', but invites the touch of Thomas, and those he met in this room; he is no ghost but 'flesh and blood' and can eat fish; he can pass through walls and locked doors (so no need to move that Stone except to show he was gone); and he can appear and disappear at will. Seen only by those who love him, is it only because he is unexpected that he is so hard to recognise?

What kind of body is this? Easter faith asserts that Jesus lives but claims nothing specific about a resuscitated corpse or defines what a 'resurrection body' is. How can we understand life in another dimension or this glimpse of new creation? We are facing mystery.

When he held the bread at Emmaus, and in the upper room, and especially with Thomas, the marks in his hands and feet, wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our inequities, are the signs by which he is recognised. We need to explore more fully how the presence of the living Christ is best identified by the marks of suffering Love. A living Church, alive to Christ, alive in Christ, will show the same marks of Love.

'Bearing in our body the dying Lord Jesus' means living the way that Jesus died.

Putnoe Storybox A big thank you to all our Putnoe storybox volunteers. Storybox at Putnoe will start again on Monday 20 April

St Mark's Chat and Make restarts after Easter on April 20

Arthritis Research. Our popular fun quiz night is being held at the White Horse, Newnham Avenue at 7.30pm for 8.00pm on Wednesday 22 April in aid of Arthritis Research. Tickets £7 including buffet supper with chips. It's great fun so please raise a team maximum of 6 members. For information contact Marion Goddard on 344617

St Andrew's Money Advice We are holding our Annual Meeting on Wednesday 29 April 2015 at 7.30pm in the Holt Room St Andrew's Church Centre. Speaker from Bedford Food Bank plus reports on our year's activity and light refreshments.

For more information contact; Fiona McLeod (Chairman) moneyadvice@standrewsbedford.org or telephone 07599618602

Iona Service - Sunday 26 April at 6.00pm at St Andrew's Church. An hour of reflection in the style of Iona, sharing the concern for ecology and social justice

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please complete a Church Membership Form

Our Annual General Church Meeting takes place on 26 April after the church services. 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 to vicar@thisischurch.com. 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 do let us know. It is helpful and cost effective to communicate in this way and we will can send you a 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.

Nomination Forms for Church Council

Nomination forms for the Church Councils are printed in Partnership News this week and anyone who attends our churches can join the church council at either St Mark's or Putnoe Heights. Becoming a member of the church council is a great way of having your say and becoming more involved with the running of the churches. As you know, to maintain its Charity status, St Mark's has recently become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation called St Mark's Church Community Centre, Bedford and Church Council members at St Mark's therefore become members of that charity. Just as the members of the Church Council, they then have a degree of responsibility for the decisions that are made at the church. Needless to say, everyone who comes to either church whether on Church Council or not is always welcome and it's great to know that all who come can benefit from all the activities that happens every day in our churches.

BELIEF'S Spring course entitled "Reading the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) Today" will run on Wednesday Evenings at St Andrews Church Kimbolton Road Bedford from 8pm to 9.30pm as follows

Week 1 13th May 2015: A General Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament: David Dean and Peter West 9of BELIEF0

Week 2 20th May 2015: A Jewish Perspective on the Hebrew Scriptures: Aga Cahn, of the Woolf Institute, Cambridge

Week 3 27th May 2015: The Value and Importance of the Hebrew Scriptures to Christians today: Janet Tollington, of Westminster College, Cambridge

Week 4 3rd June 2015: The Psalms: Brother John, of Turvey Abbey

Week 5 10th June 2015: The Old Testament: Brother William, of Turvey Abbey

This course will cost £4 per session (including refreshments) payable at each session

We do not want anyone to be deterred from attending any of BELIEF events for financial reasons. If you find the fees prohibitive, please contact us. Stephanie Field BELIEF Coordinator Tel 01234 330314 belief@standrewsbedford.org

Spring Clean We are planning a "spring clean" at Putnoe Heights Church on the morning of Saturday the 25th of April. If you are available to help with this please give your name to Barry Southam. Thank you in anticipation for your help." Kind regards

St Mark's Craft Stall Club would like to thank everybody for buying their Easter Novelties.

Putnoe Heights "Missions knitting and crochet group". Knit-a-square for KasCare, providing comfort for orphans and vulnerable children in South Africa. <http://www.knit-a-square.com> a mission project for everyone. We could meet once a month; knit at home; donate wool or postage to send the items we have made. KasCare likes knitted and crochet 8 inch squares sent to them to make blankets to keep children warm. For more details speak to Carolyn Morris or visit their website for patterns and instructions.

Action for Children

An invitation to all to join box holders for tea and cake at Ladyslaude, Bramley Way, Woodlands on May 13 at 2—4 p.m. Either give Margaret Standley your box beforehand or bring it on the day. We shall be opening the boxes, and help with counting the money will be welcome. Last year box holders raised £429.95. Thank you to all who help this worthy cause.



Please shop at ThisChurch.com

Please can you make a point of always going to Amazon through the link on www.ThisChurch.com. If you look at an item through Amazon direct they put a cookie on your machine and we don't get any commission! Please make it a habit to always go through the church website. This costs you nothing and we get a bit of commission.

www.easyfundraising.com. This works exactly the same when you shop with John Lewis, M&S and a whole host of other shops. This has an added benefit that you will also get some special offers - you can't lose! Please click the link on the church website go online and sign up now

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Heavenly Father we thank and praise you that you call us your children and brought your own son into this world for our sakes, to live, die and rise again so that we might be forgiven and have new life in you.

Risen Christ, we are weak and fallible, help us to follow the standards you set us, standards that in our own strength so often seem unattainable, when we are in danger of being led astray guide and direct us into your ways of right living.

Risen Lord you inspired and gave courage to your first disciples which transformed them from fearful to brave people of faith and trust in you. Inspire us, we pray, to be so transformed by our own experience of you that we too have the courage to speak out in your name, for your name, whilst remaining sensitive to who those listening might be.

Living Lord we pray earnestly for the many thousands of those, in our own time, who refuse to deny you even in the face of extreme adversity, danger and death. May their faith and trust in you give them continuing courage and strength to be a witness to those who persecute them, such that they may be transformed into knowing you.

Healing Lord we pray for your healing touch on all who find life a struggle at this time, those struggling with physical or mental illness; those whose faith in you is stretched to the limit by their circumstances; those who watch as their loved ones suffer; those whose committed caring of a loved one takes its toll on them, meet them at their point of need.

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us. (Psalm 67:1) Amen

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

Patricia Carmen Muncaster
Myrtle Mary McConnell
The Reverend James (Jim) Gartside

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



A sincere thank you from all of my family to everybody who has expressed kind thoughts and messages and for all your prayers following the death of my father Jim Gartside. Special thanks to Charlie and Joany for all of their support and for a funeral which paid tribute to his life by which we were all so blessed.

Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Robin Roy Fox will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.45am on Wednesday 22 April

