

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

1 April – Palm Sunday



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

Today – 1 April - Palm Sunday

9.30am St. Mark's - Family Worship
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Mrs Alison Holden
11.00 am Putnoe -Family Worship
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership -Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions – YPG

8 April – Easter Day

6.00am Sunrise Holy Communion St Mark's
9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion
Preacher - Reverend Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion
Preacher - Reverend Sam Cappleman
Leadership –Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions – Mr Alan Bayliss
Bible Readings
1 Acts 10: 34-43 2.1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
3.John 20: 19-31

Midweek Worship Holy Communion at St Mark's

Partnership Easter Services

Maunder Thursday April 5
Passover Communion at Putnoe Heights at 7.30pm

Good Friday Services April 6
St Mark's Stations of the Cross at 9.30am
Putnoe Heights Stations of the Cross at 11.00am
(Both with coffee & hot cross buns!)

Good Friday Children's Storybox
12.15pm for all children. Crafts, stories, Easter
activities and refreshments

Easter Day
Sunrise Holy Communion 6.00am at St Mark's
Family Communion 9.30am at St Mark's
Family Communion 11.00am at Putnoe Heights

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given Veta Hudson-Rae to celebrate the birthdays of her children Christopher and Johanne and her grandson Joshua.

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Milly Rollinson in memory of her parents, Hilda and Raymond.

The flowers in the chapel are to celebrate Edward and Linda's 40th Wedding Anniversary.

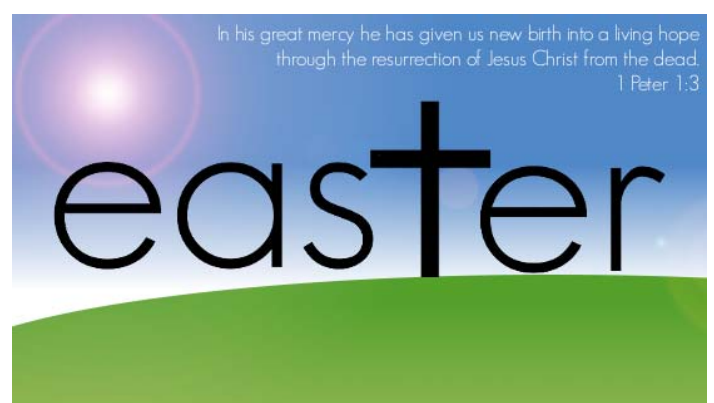
Prayer for the Week

Lord God, forgive us when we join in
with the fickle emotions of the crowd.
Keep us from the desire to follow
those ways which bring us joy
at the expense of your truth and justice
which are ever constant.

May we always be mindful
that Jesus walked a path of faithfulness,
willing to carry the burden of loneliness,
suffering and death.

May I see in the giving of your life
the power to give myself for others
simply for love.

When life's struggle sears my soul
or sacrifice strips me of hope,
strengthen me with your spirit
that strode into Jerusalem
to face death even as palm branches
were strewn before your path
and the crowd cried
"Hosanna in the highest."



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)

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 Emma Gordon ☎07593266091

2.00pm U3A History Group St Marks.(see contact details below)

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 Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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– 16 April Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790206016

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

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

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 Group. St Mark's (see contact 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 below)

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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (see 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.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

4.30pm—6pm BIGG Writing Putnoe Heights Natalie John 07772184721

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎0789187957

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting April 3 - Minister for Wixams. Details call Janet King 313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

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

9.30am Discovery & Do (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons ☎328380 or 07788824666

10am-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters ☎342613.

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks.(see contact details 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)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 11 April 2012 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

1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)

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 21st March. Wendy Waters401834

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at

Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

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. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Mrs O Holt ☎266004

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 4 April 2012. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 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. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

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 (large hall) Children's Chatty Time 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

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.

1.45 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Mrs. P. Cass ☎294220

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Marks. (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Marks Mary Rich ☎272470

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

8 –10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

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 Whist St Marks. Patricia Holland.☎262823

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

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

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.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or

www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's (not 25 March) Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

U3A For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 19 June

St Mark's Leadership Team - Thursday 17 May

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 28 May

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 11 June

Pastoral Group Meeting - Tuesday 19 June 4.00pm

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm

Harvest Festival 30 September

Circuit meeting - 12 June

Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees– 12 May Open Day at wood

Putnoe Heights Children &

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

Palm Sunday

Opening Verse of Scripture – Matthew 21:9

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his

patience and humility and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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



First Reading - Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

(This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Philippians 2:5-11

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – Mark 11: 1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go.

When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted. "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest!" Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

(This is the Word of the Lord **All: 'Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns *(Please distribute Palm Sunday Service and special service sheets)*

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 564
2. Make way 457
3. Ride on, ride on in majesty 580
4. My song is love unknown 478
5. All glory, laud and honour 9



Commentary

The photo was taken from the window of a Christian church which we visited on the way down the Mount of Olives, the Sanctuary of the Dominus Flevit (*Jesus Wept*). No picture can really do justice to the view which is experienced by pilgrims approaching the magnificent city from this hillside. It would have been exhilarating for the disciples as together with Jesus they approached the place where they believed God dwelt and where they could offer sacrifice and find forgiveness of their sins. They were in the company of the one they believed to be the Messiah and we can understand that feelings were high.

Remember this was Passover the time when the Jews celebrated the liberation of the people from the power of Pharaoh, a foreign oppressor. Now they were a conquered people again, under Roman rule. Imagine how this oppressed people would have felt celebrating Passover, which reminded them of how their God had helped them conquer their mighty enemy, Egypt. The people were used to seeing processions of Romans entering the city. No doubt many Roman troops had come for Passover when the population of Jerusalem would swell from around 50,000 to well over 200,000. The Roman army entering the city would have been a frightening and an imposing sight. Roman generals on horses, colourful standards flying, the Roman eagle held aloft, polished swords and armour, the pounding of the boots and the beating of drums. The procession was designed to be a display of Roman imperial power which would terrify conquered people. Under the weight of Roman subjugation, it was to this people that Jesus gave hope of another mighty release which God had in store for his people through his Messiah. .

Jerusalem is such an important city for Jesus and whilst Matthew, Mark and Luke give the impression that this was Jesus first visit, we know from John's Gospel that this was not the case. (Jn 2:13, 5:1, 7:10). Jesus regularly attended the great feasts. We also know of his special relationship with Martha, Mary and Lazarus at Bethany. Bethany (*House of Dates*). Bethany was so close that it was a lodging place for pilgrims when Jerusalem was full. We should not be surprised that Jesus has been able to arrange for a donkey to be ready to be supplied to his disciples for him using the coded words 'The Lord needs it'

The action of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey is significant. It recalls the passage from Zechariah 9:9. 'Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud O daughter of Jerusalem. Lo, your king comes to you, triumphant and victorious is he, riding on an ass and upon a colt the foal of an ass.'

The message is clear, Jesus is a king, but he is a king riding triumphantly in peace. The crowds spread their clothes on the road as they had done when Jehu was anointed King (2 kings 9:13), but Jesus was not a king who would inspire bloodshed like Jehu. Eventually this would cause disappointment from the crowds for they wanted a king who would go to war against Rome.

When they see Jesus the crowds shout

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest

The cry 'Hosanna', is an expression which we see in Psalm 118:25. It could be translated 'God save us, now we pray.' This is a Messianic greeting from a Psalm which might have commemorated the entry of a conqueror like Judas Maccabeus two hundred years earlier when he had led a rebellion against the forces

of the Syrian king Antiocheius and purified and rededicated the temple. The same words were used in 2 Samuel 14:4 and 2 Kings 6:26 by crowds seeking help for protection.

Jesus hears the shouts of Hosanna but we know in his own mind he is thinking of his last meal when he will kneel down like a servant to wash his friends' feet. He can hear Hosanna but he knows that soon the same crowd will become angry and shout instead "Crucify him!" The crowds see Jesus as their Messiah and the visual dramatic actions of Jesus are guaranteed to encourage this. However the crowds do not understand the paradox of his kingship. Jesus came not as a warrior upon a stallion but as a king ready to die. He was not there to fulfil the narrow nationalistic ideals of the Jews oppressed by Rome, Jesus has in mind a much greater task, to make known the salvation of God which was for all creation. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

Rather than focussing on the readings for today, I'd like to push your thoughts forward to Friday, please accept this reflection, which is an attempt to put ourselves in the place of those first disciples, who actually witnessed what unfolded. *Jane*

A Meditation for Good Friday, from the perspective of Peter, based on John 18: 1-18, 25-27.

I feel awful, really empty, it's as if the bottom's fallen out of my world, the very heart has been torn out of my life, and all I can do is think about how I finally fled and abandoned him.

He'd tried to tell me that I'd do it, only last night at dinner he'd said it. But I'd been so sure of myself, so certain that I would follow him wherever he went but he said to me, Peter I tell you that before the cock crows twice this very morning you will have denied three times that you even know me.

I was shocked, I couldn't imagine anything less likely, and I told him so but he just looked at me with those deep patient eyes that look straight in to your soul.

After dinner we stopped off in the garden to pray. He wanted to be by himself, obviously had a lot on his mind, but he asked a few of us to stay close by and keep watch. And we were happy to, we chatted for a while, but as the night drew on we began to doze. Next thing I knew he was trying to wake us up, he seemed really upset that we couldn't be there for him. So as he went off to pray again we stood up, walked around a bit then fell back to talking, but we must have finally gone off to sleep again because I was awoken by a right commotion.

There were a number of fully armed temple guards carrying lanterns and they were saying they were looking for Jesus, that jolted me awake for sure and I sprang into action. Drawing my sword I struck out at the head of the nearest guard, cutting his ear, but Jesus asked me to stop and then went and cured the man.

Calling for the guards to let the rest of us go he agreed to go with them, after making a grab for one of us the guards bound Jesus then left, taking him with them.

After a while John and I followed at a distance, anxious to see what would happen.

Early in the morning, after people had heard that he had been taken, a crowd was beginning to gather outside the high priest's home where he was being questioned.

Sit was then someone stopped me; thinking that they recognised me they asked if I was one of his disciples. I don't know what came over me, I was afraid of what might happen to me if I was discovered, so I pretended to be shocked and said that I'd never even seen the man before and went on my way.

Twice more people challenged me and I was starting to panic, so I made to leave and at that moment I heard the cock crow and Jesus looked up, seemingly straight into my eyes and I remembered all my strong words from last night and I wept.

I've always been so sure of myself before, I've always seemed to know what to say or do, even when I'd got it all wrong which seemed to happen a lot. He never held it against me though, he's always patient to explain the obvious. But how can he forgive me this time? I'm ashamed to even see the others, I'm sure they all know what I did and I don't like to imagine what they think of me, though I'm sure it can't be worse than what I think of myself.

I don't know what to do, God help me please.

Maybe the years have lessened the pain of all that unfolded, and maybe we are right to focus instead on the joy and victory of resurrection, but I personally feel that it is good to look into these darker lessons from time to time, as they often touch us at our darkest times.

I do pray a peaceful Holy Week and Easter to you all, I pray too that your own life currently reflects more joy than pain, while also acknowledging that our own journeys are not always 'plain sailing'.

Yours in Faith, Jane

"**Spring Clean**" morning at Putnoe Heights Church 10am to 12noon on Saturday 12 May. All helpers welcome. "

Good Friday Witness 12noon 6 April, Harpur Square Bedford Churches Together. All welcome.

Chat and Play restarts Thursday 19 April
Story Box starts again Thursday 19 April.
Prayer Group will not meet on 5 April

St Mark's Preschool are collecting Sainsbury & Tesco school vouchers & Petit Filous lids and would be grateful for any contributions. Thank you.

Putnoe Heights church office have some pens (inscribed with the church name and tel. number), for sale at £1 each. Proceeds for church funds. .

Footprints Walk, Sunday 1 April. You are warmly invited to enjoy fresh air and gentle exercise on Sunday 1 April. Warwick and Alison will be leading a walk of just under 3 miles, starting from the car park of St Leonard's Church, Old Warden, at 2.30pm. This is an easy walk on reasonable paths, offering a mixture of woodland and open views. Bring your binoculars to watch the birds you'll see from the Greensand Ridge! There may be some mud after heavy rain but, on the day we did it, the mud could be avoided. For more information, please contact us through St Mark's. *Alison and Warwick Holden*

St Mark's Church car boot sales for 2012
9 April 7 May 4 June 27 August, lots of help very much appreciated.

Charity Quiz Night. Friends for Life is an ecumenical project, our aim is to co-ordinate and develop the churches' ministry to the residents and carers in care homes across Bedford. We are holding a Social Evening Quiz Night at the White Horse, Newnham Avenue on Wednesday, 11th April. The cost is £5 per person and will include a buffet and prizes. If you would like to join us or donate a raffle prize please contact via the website; friendsforlifebedford.org.uk or ring Joanne Barrow on 01234 213038

Spring Fayre - Arthritis Research UK— On Saturday 14 April a Spring Fayre will be held from 10am to 12 noon at Biddenham Village Hall. Cakes and preserves, gifts, cards, plants, books, paintings, toiletries, bric-a-brac, new and nearly new clothes, toys, tombola and competition. Admission 50p (accompanied children free), come along and support a very worthwhile cause. Marian Goddard – Hon sec Bedford Branch-01234 344617

Putnoe Heights Church Council. There will be a brief meeting after the service on 15 April to consider Assessment proposals.

100th Birthday. All friends are invited to a bring-and-share buffet lunch at Putnoe Heights on Sunday 29th April, 12.30 for 1.00 pm, to celebrate the **100th birthday** of Miss Jennie Cooper. Please see Sue Allen for a list of suggested contributions to the meal. At Jennie's request, no presents or flowers but donations welcome to be shared by MHA and Church funds.

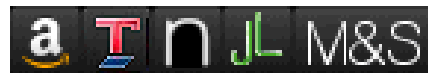
Putnoe Heights Prayer Group will meet on the 13 & 27 April at 1.45pm

Easter Offering envelopes are in the foyer at St Mark's for your use. Money raised will go to World Mission Fund and be used specifically for work that contributes to God's Mission in 65 Partnership churches overseas with grants, training and supporting nationals in mission appointments. Also scholarships and leadership training requests by Partner churches. Please give generously if you can and return your envelopes on Easter Sunday. This year the dedication services will be held at Sandy, and one that is nearer to us at Kempston East Methodist Church on Wednesday 16 May at 2.pm.

Banns of Marriage We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Thomas William Wisson and Sarah Jane Harrington, both of this parish. This is for the third time of asking

News from Kisiizi We heard from Ian and Hanna Spillman that, rather unexpectedly, they will be returning to Kisiizi at the end of April. Ian has been asked to take on the role as acting Medical Superintendent, which he has accepted, and as a result he will be standing down from his NHS Consultant post as will Hanna from here Midwifery role in order that they are able to move to Kisiizi over the next few weeks. They would greatly value our prayers as they have much to do both as they prepare to move to Kisiizi and when they arrive at the hospital there where they will further support and strengthen the management team in addition to their medical duties.

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Prayers for Palm Sunday

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of **Sybil Marjorie Harper** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 11th April at 12.15pm

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.

James Thomas Davis
Aphrodite Hubbard

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



Vision for Action Prayer

Living God, draw us deeper into your love; Jesus our Lord, send us to care and serve; Holy Spirit, make us heralds of good news. Stir us, strengthen us, teach and inspire us to live your love with generosity and joy, imagination and courage; for the sake of your world and in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Thank you to all of those who have shared in the Lent Course discussions for Mission action planning for our churches. Thank you also to those who have sent contributions. We will be pleased to receive any additional material which will be drawn together as we prepare a Mission Action Plan for consideration for each of our churches.