



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

1 June 2014

Seventh 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

1 June 2014 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

9.30 St Marks – Morning Family Worship

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership – Mrs. Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions - Ministers
Organist – Mr Martin Thompson

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Family Worship

Preacher – Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership Team - Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions - The Young People
Organist - Mr. Martin Thompson

8 June 2014 – Pentecost

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs. Jean Bank
Intercessions - Mrs. Delia Shephard
Organist – Miss Marion Prior

11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Barry Southam/ Martin Fannon
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes
Organist - Mr Alan Bunker

Readings 1. Acts 2: 1-21 2. 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13

3. John 20: 19-23

Midweek Holy communion at St. Mark's Chapel every Wednesday at 10am and at Sir William Harpur House on first Monday of every month at 10.00am.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Fred Laming in memory of his dear wife Barbara.

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Elizabeth Bean and Barbara Joy in loving memory of Phil and Alan on their respective Wedding Anniversaries.

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

Come Holy Spirit,
fill our thoughts
that we may see all things
through your eyes;
awaken our souls
that we may love all things
with your tenderness;
and melt our hearts
that we may feel all things
with your compassion;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Johann Freylinghausen (1670-1739)

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Friday 9am –12pm,
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Managers Barry & Jenny Snelson 344417
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

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

8.30-12.30pm St Mark's Pre-School Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

9.00-3.45pm 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 M. Berry 211955

10.30am U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

12.00 noon Story box 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

2pm 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 Emily Taverner 01234 792013

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571

6.30pm Boot Camp Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week 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— 16 June 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 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking at Putnoe Heights. For more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

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

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389

10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group. St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704

11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights 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

2pm 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.

4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.30-8.30pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957

7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.00pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455 (Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in September.

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly) 24 June 'Jaffa Orchard'. No meeting on 10 June Details Janet King 313946

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.

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

10am U3A Gardening Group 3 St Marks. Contact 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

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 4 June Putnoe Heights 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 Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.15pm - 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 18 June 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

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

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall

Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994

6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel. 01234 353865

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club at St Mark's (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month). Next meeting will be 4 June 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

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Pre School Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus. at Putnoe Heights
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

1.30 - 3.00pm 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 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

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

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th

week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Susan Perugi 300219

Friday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

8.30am Diabetic Centre St Mark's (1st week in month) Deborah Hennessey 792013

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . 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-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

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. 1st Sunday Feb/Apr/ Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

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

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

Messy Church Dates 18th June.



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 17 June, 14 October

St Mark's Leadership Team - 9 Sept

Annual Congregational Meetings—

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 10 July

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service - 2nd November

Circuit meeting – 19th June

Woodland Burial Trustees—

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting – 9 June 1.10pm

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

Seventh Sunday after Easter

Sentence of Scripture Ephesians Chapter 1:20

He raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Collect Prayer for the Day *Before we read we pray*

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen *C. Worship*

First Bible Reading - Ezekiel 36: 24-28

"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - Acts 1: 6-14

So when they met together, they asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.' Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading - John 17: 1-11

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And



O Christ God, you have ascended in Glory, Granting joy to Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that you are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!

glory has come to me through them.

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one. (This is the word of the Lord-- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Family Worship and Mission Praise*)

1. O Lord my God (How great thou Art) 506
2. At the name of Jesus (tune Camberwell) 41
3. Hail the day that sees him rise (tune Llanfair) 202
4. From Heaven you came (The servant King) 162
5. God is working his purpose out 189

Commentary Ascension Family Service 2014

It is not for you to know the time or dates the Father has set by his own authority. Ascension is one of those 'festivals' that we sometimes don't know what to do with, containing neither the joy of resurrection nor the blessing of Pentecost. It occurs at the end of the 'post resurrection' appearances Jesus made before the pouring out of the spirit at Pentecost.

As a human Christ had similar physical limitations to us, though without the modern modes of transport, TV or internet that we benefit from. Even as he travelled widely by foot and by boat, he could only touch the lives of relatively small numbers of people. The apostles also travelled, even more widely, as they sought to spread his teachings, yet it was only through the Spirit becoming available to all, that this presence became simultaneously available for all people everywhere.

We can see, with the benefit of hindsight, the need for Jesus to depart, but let us imagine for a moment what it must have been like his followers. Did they really understand that his leaving them was a benefit?

The disciples were fully human, they had pinned all their hope on this man, only to see him murdered for the very teachings they valued so much. They were bereft, until he began to appear to them once again, their hope rekindled but now he tells them he is leaving them again, it must almost have felt like a second bereavement, losing him again like that. No wonder, if we read on, do they stand gazing at the point they last saw him as the clouds hid him from their sight!

The reading tells us that these appearances were over a period of 40 days, a parallel of the days he spent in the wilderness as the spirit prepared him for his teaching ministry, this time maybe it was his followers that needed preparing.

So when he tells them they ask the inevitable question, is it now you are going to put everything right? The restoration of the earthly Kingdom to Israel from the occupation of Rome.

Instead of simply reassuring them, or explaining the nature of the true Kingdom, he tells them that it's not their business to know the timetable God works to. Again, I find this makes the disciples seem very human, as I can identify with the desire to know when things are going to happen, it certainly helps with planning! I guess that is part of it, if we knew it would happen tomorrow we'd either panic, or behave differently, and if we knew it would be years away maybe we'd relax and put it to one side.

Jesus simply promises that his followers will be given the power to make it happen themselves.

The spirit is available to all, it equips God's people to continue the work, and that is as true to us today as it was to the very people who asked the question of him all those years ago.

Deacon Jane Mason



Meditation

The picture opposite is of the Dome of the Rock, which was completed in 691 AD. It is greatly venerated by Muslims. The building covers a huge rock from which, according to tradition, the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven at the end of his Night Journey. In the Jewish tradition this is the Foundation Stone, the symbolic foundation upon which the world was created, and the place of the Binding of Isaac.

The next picture is of a much more humble nature, it is a small chapel on top of the Mount of Olives. It marks the place from where Jesus is said to have ascended into heaven.



The picture below shows a place in the centre of the chapel where a footprint in the stone, is said to be the last footprint of Jesus.

The reason why it is so much more modest is probably because most Christians would hopefully not take the ascension of Jesus quite so literally. It might be a nice idea of Jesus floating on up into the sky, but fortunately Christians have tended to think of the ascension in a less literal sense. Jesus left his disciples behind, he did not fly.

The truth is that apart from this little chapel, Christians do not have a special place where the ascension of Jesus is specially remembered. The early Christians discovered that whilst Jesus was no longer physically present with them, nevertheless he was very close spiritually. When Jesus ascended to his Father, he was no longer confined to earthly places, wherever the Christian went Jesus was by their side.

The disciples must have wondered what was going on. Over the last three years they had come to know Jesus not only as the Son of God, but as a friend and companion. Someone who was always there for them and loved them whatever they did, good or bad. When they got things wrong, Jesus didn't love them any the less, when they got things right, Jesus did not appear to love them any the more. It was absolutely unconditional love. And then all of this was shattered when He was taken away to be brutally crucified. Their world fell apart. And then He was back. A new Jesus, one who couldn't be destroyed. And He stayed with them for a while. And then He was gone again and somehow the disciples didn't get the feeling they'd see Him again in person this time, at least not on earth. And then it dawned on them. They were to be Him on earth, His hands, His feet, His eyes, His mouth, His very presence.

Perhaps the most significant assurance of the truth of the resurrection and ascension of Jesus is just how energised these disciples became in their commitment to spreading the good news of who Jesus was. They were ready to die for what they believed to be true, because Jesus had not left them behind, he was now always by their side.

No wonder that those first Christians were unafraid to go and proclaim the good news of Jesus. He had not disappeared, rather he had become even more present.



Putnoe Heights Garden and Plants Stall.

Sunday 8 June. Seedlings, Cuttings and rooted plants will be welcome. Please share some of the lovely things in your garden for Church funds.

'Car Boot Sale - On Monday we raised £800.00 despite the weather at our Car Boot. Thank you to all the helpers including cake bakers. We had a lovely selection of cakes. This was the last car boot this year as we have The August Bank Holiday Monday is the Diocese 100 at Keysoe Equestrian Centre. Once again thank you for all your support. Avril'

Bowling in Bedford Flat green bowling is a relaxing sport undertaken in beautiful surroundings with convivial company. If you think this is for you try a taster session on our local Council green. Days: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 2 – 4 pm; Tuesday evening 6 pm until dusk. Bedford Park Bowling Club. Contact names: Ray Seymour 01234 305695 and Gareth Davies 01234 347647

Church Flowers Most of you are aware that on a Monday morning the churches' flower arrangements are dismantled and made into bouquets. These are taken to people who are ill, or have a special birthday or anniversary, or who would benefit from being cheered up. If you know of anyone who you think would like to receive them please see Sam Ware at Putnoe Heights or Margaret Appleton at St. Mark's after church on Sunday or leave their name and address in the office. The people who receive them are always deeply grateful and it is a privilege to be able to distribute them.

Footprints Walk 1 June Please join me for a pleasant couple of hours walking along our beautiful river. We shall meet at 2.30pm on Prebend Street Bridge to follow the path to Kempston and back along the opposite bank. It is easy walking, mostly on good paths. There is free parking at Melbourne Street car park. For any further details please contact Sue Butler (Priory).

The defibrillator donated by Irene McKenzie to Putnoe Heights Church, in memory of Eddie, has now been installed. Training for anyone who is interested will take place after the service on Sunday 8 June.

Christian Aid. Many thanks to the volunteers at St Marks who collected £391.35 during this year's house to house collection.

MWIB Easter Offering

A total of £2016.20 was collected in North Bedfordshire Circuit for the World Mission Fund. St Marks raised £61.00 and Putnoe Heights £119.00. Thank you to all who contributed.



Help Save Meriam's Life

Sudan appeared to be bowing to international pressure on Saturday night to free a woman sentenced to death for apostasy. A foreign ministry spokesman said that Meriam Ibrahim would be released and not face further charges.

But lawyers for 27-year-old Ms Ibrahim expressed scepticism that she would be freed so quickly.

"It's a statement to silence the international media," said Elshareef Ali Mohammed. "This is what the government does. We will not believe that she is being freed until she walks out of the prison."

He said he had even heard reports that the spokesman was in the UK on medical leave when he told the BBC she would soon be freed.

"If they were to release her, the announcement would come from the appeal court, and not from the ministry of foreign affairs. But at least it shows our campaign to free Meriam is rattling them. We must keep up the pressure."

Meriam has been shackled by heavy chains around her ankles since her death sentence ruling - customary practice for all prisoners awaiting execution. Her lawyers say that Meriam remained chained by her legs even while she was in labour.

Please join the urgent call for justice today and help free Meriam Text SAVE6 to 70505 with your first and last name to sign the global petition. (Over 14's only please) For more details on this case please visit amnesty.org.uk/meriam
Thank you *Ian Farthing*

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust Consecration of Woodland

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust will consecrate an additional 10 acres of land to extend the woodland burial ground on Saturday 14 June at 3.00pm. You are invited to join us for this ancient ceremony which affords the land the greatest protection in English law, it requires an act of parliament to change !



MHA: Methodist Homes Sunday~ 8 June 2014. We all hope to receive kindness and respect in our later years and we know

that sensitive, attentive caring can make a big difference to the quality of life. Methodist Homes Sunday is an opportunity to remember the value of older people. The annual collection for Methodist Homes for the Aged is an opportunity for us to support the work of MHA in the excellent provision it makes in its care for older people. With Anjulita Court in our locality, we can all see this work in practice. Our support is essential and donations are gratefully received. If you would like to contribute, please use one of the specially provided envelopes and return it in the collection plate at any time during June— the envelopes are available in the Welcome Area. Thank you. Pam Kinselley.

A Great Evening with Bedford Town Brass Band and The Zimbabwe Community Singers at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 28th June at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £5 proceeds to Zimbabwe Victim Support Fund to relieve hunger and poverty, Reserve tickets on 01234 353523 or from Priory

'Car Boot Sale - On Monday we raised £800.00 despite the weather at our Car Boot. Thank you to all the helpers including cake bakers. We had a lovely selection of cakes. This was the last car boot this year as we have The August Bank Holiday Monday is the Diocese 100 at Keysoe Equestrian Centre. Once again thank you for all your support. Avril'

Rest in Peace

Members of St Mark's Church will be saddened to hear the news of the death of a Heather Ivett, a lovely lady who has been a faithful worshipper with us and a dear friend to those who knew her. Our prayers are with the family as they prepare for the funeral service with us here at St Mark's

Prayers for Ascension Sunday

Risen, ascended and glorified Lord, we kneel before you in humble adoration and awe. Rule in our hearts and be at the centre of our lives and your church.

May your people be your hands and feet, your ears and eyes and occasionally your voice to speak your words to our troubled world.

We pray for forgiveness for our unwillingness to take to heart your prayer that we should be one people, united in love and witness to your world. Especially we are mindful of the failure of the Anglican Methodist Covenant and we pray that the logjam which prevents our churches from drawing closer together in organic unity would be removed.

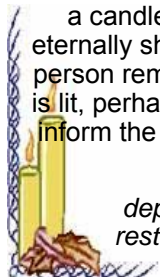
We pray for Christians who are persecuted for their faith and we continue to prayer for Meriam as she faces death in Sudan following the birth of her baby. Lord Jesus your own parents were persecuted and forced to flee to safety. So we pray for all those who suffer for their faith and we pray that Christian people will never be tempted to join those who persecute others. Give us respect for all people of whatever faith and a willingness to stand up for human rights and the dignity of all those created in the image of our Father God.

Lord Jesus, name above all names, Lord of hope and consolation, look with compassion on the anguish of your troubled world. Be our strength and comfort in times of adversity, bless us and help us to behold your glory in whatever circumstances we may find ourselves. Be present with all who suffer pain in body, anguish of mind or fear of the future. In their trouble, move us to care and be your compassion in the world.

Risen and ascended Lord, we lay our lives before you in trust and obedience. Raise us we pray with all of your children who have died and bring us to sing your praises. May your people be one in seeking to bring about your kingdom here on earth, to your praise and glory. 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



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

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Heather Ivett will take place at St Mark's Church at 13.45 on Friday 13 June

The funeral of Rose Aylott will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.00am on Monday 2 June