



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

20 April 2008

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership -- Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

27 April - Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am St. Mark's Church - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership Team - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Bible Readings.

1. Acts 17: 22-31
2. 1 Peter 3: 13-22
3. John 14: 15-21

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have been given by Alan and Diane Bayliss to celebrate their wedding anniversary and in memory of parents and other family members.

We are always grateful for any donations for 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 Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

Eternal god,
in whom is all our hope in life,
in death and in all eternity;
grant that, rejoicing in the eternal life which is
ours in Christ,
we may face whatever the future holds in store
for us calm and unafraid,
always confident that nether death nor life can
part us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Contact Details

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

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)
30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)
The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am—5pm Monday to Friday
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr Alan Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs L Parry 216724 Mob 07922053740
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

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

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

12.00pm Story box 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. ☎Liz 302349

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

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

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747

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 ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 21 April Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

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

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting Miss M Wiles. "After 1945." Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group

St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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

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

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 22 April Kate Martinow Director of the Family Centre for the under 5's. .Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

9.30am Childminding Support Group Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949

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

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

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

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

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

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 23 April 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

1.45 Scots Society Whist monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎400584

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966

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

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

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

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

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

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

7.00pm Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Mr Farish ☎824984

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome.
Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's,
1st ,3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 30 April 2008
Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st
week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

Thursday

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

9.40am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-
school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play weekly at St.Mark's. A group for
Mums & toddlers. £1.75 for first child. More details from St.
Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

12pm Storybox weekly at 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 Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson☎
325293.

1.45-3.15pm Rosemary Conley St.Mark's. Contact
Margot 843747

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's
Mr C Hill ☎772922

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights
Nina Ovenden☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th
week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc.at Putnoe bi
monthly Mrs.E. marriot 303834

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

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's
3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week
each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th
week Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next
meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

**9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography
Group** St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact
Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve
Whitehead ☎356875

**6.30pm –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm
Improvers** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights

from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.

Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January.
Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing.

Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel
357198

7.00pm 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 Revd.
Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us
for fellowship, fun, games & outings .Next meeting 10
February Liz ☎302349



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council
– 17th June , 18 November
**St Mark's Leadership
Team – 13 May
Putnoe Heights**

Leadership Team – May 12th

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee –
21st April**

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings 14th July.

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - .
19 May, 11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at
12 noon**

Putnoe Church Council - 16 June, 6 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting - 10 June 4.30pm

Churchyard Committee - 11 June 11.00am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

**Deanery Meeting - 12 June, 18 September, 13
November**

Circuit/Deanery Meeting 12 June

Woodland Burial Trustees -

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–

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

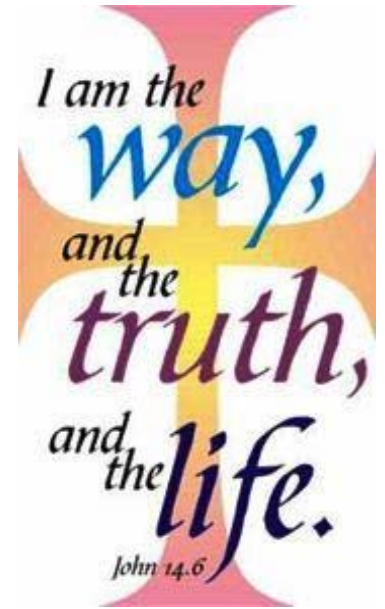
5th Sunday of Easter

Opening Verse - 1 Peter 2

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light

Collect Prayer for the Day

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Common Worship*



First Bible Reading - Acts 7: 55-60

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

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

Second Bible Reading—1 Peter 2: 2-10

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone, and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy

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

Third Reading— John 14: 1-14

(Please stand after the Gospel is announced - **All: 'Glory to Christ our Saviour'**)

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. "You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in

the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. Tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it (This is the Gospel of Christ: **All: Praise to Christ our Lord:**)

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

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion Booklets*)

1. From all that dwell below the skies (*Tune Duke Street*)
2. All I once held dear (*Mission Praise 799*)
3. Lord of creation 699 (*Tune Slane*)
4. Come let us with our Lord arise 575 (*Tune Sussex Carol*)

Commentary

In John 13:33, Jesus has said that he is about to leave the disciples. Can you imagine how the disciples would be feeling? Facing the departure of their Lord they are going to be worried. The scene is one of anxiety, indeed Jesus himself uses the word orphans to describe them. The disciples had expected that they would be following Jesus until he established his reign and they would share in that. A future without Jesus was a shattering thought. It gets worse, Jesus tells Peter that he will deny him, not once but three times. This was truly dreadful, not just for Peter but for all the disciples. Peter was not a bad disciple, quite the opposite. The disciples would know that if Peter denied Jesus, then there was no hope for any of them. Perhaps, in the light of such events to come we can understand the words of Jesus 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.'

Jesus encourages the disciples to move from their fear to faith. Jesus makes it clear that the disciples must believe. Worry loses its power when we are in the presence of Jesus. The answer to anxiety and troubled spirits is to trust. Jesus is going to die, he will not be around, the disciples will be left like orphans. But Jesus wants to reassure the disciples that they cannot be separated from him even by death. Jesus tells the disciples that he is not abandoning them, rather he is going to prepare a place for them.

Jesus goes on to speak of himself as the way, the truth and life. These are words of comfort and reassurance to desperate disciples. However, it is interesting that from being words of assurance and comfort to his disciples, very often, these words are used by people inside the church as a means of making other people feel uncomfortable. They are used as a statement of exclusivity and exclusion, to make the point that unless we follow Jesus we are not following the way.

Of course Jesus is not a way to God like many others, he is God. Jesus is also truth, but Christians themselves disagree over what truth is and we must never be arrogant and assume that there is little which we can learn from those who do not share our faith.

We do well to remind ourselves that whilst there is great reassurance to Christians, in this same gospel Jesus has been quoted as saying, "I have other sheep not of this fold." Jesus has the freedom to call whomever he chooses, however he chooses, whenever he chooses, even if they may not know it. This might be helpful for those who ponder what becomes of those who belong to another faith tradition, lead holy lives, but do not confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

The words of Jesus perhaps mean the opposite to Christian exclusivism. Jesus tries to convince the disciples, and us, of his ability to save us. We are saved by Jesus, not by ourselves and our beliefs. Jesus Christ is the way – his path is the way to wholeness, salvation, and shalom—and this graceful and forgiving path may surprise all of us.

Hear the passage today and hear the words of comfort that Jesus speaks. His words are meant to reach out to us in whatever kind of distress we might find ourselves and speak reassurance. There is nothing of which we need be afraid. Just like the disciples we can find that our fears and disappointments can be trusted to Jesus. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

The Methodist Church has produced an excellent web based resource for daily prayer and Bible Readings. It is totally free and can be accessed by anybody who has a computer and can go online. The meditation for Sunday this week, is taken from this Methodist resource and is printed below. Why not go online and look at the resource which is available. There is a different passage and comment every day so now there is really no excuse for anybody who wants to have help with daily prayer and bible reading. (<http://www.methodist.org.uk>)

This week's theme: The Way, The Truth and the Life John 14:1-14

"Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him'". (v.5-7)

Background

This passage is set towards the end of Jesus' last supper with his disciples, after Judas has left to summon the authorities to arrest Jesus. It is the last moment of calm among friends before the chaotic events of the trial and Crucifixion begin. However, Jesus is not making much sense to his disciples with this talk of "dwelling places" and going to prepare a place for them. He is beginning to frighten them and he knows it – twice he has to tell them not to be afraid, not to "let their hearts be troubled".

In Britain, even if they are not regular churchgoers, most folks will have heard parts of this passage read at funerals. Sadly, many of us have heard it as a warning – "Sort yourself out and believe in Jesus or else!" This was just as confusing for those first disciples. Jesus was not reprimanding Thomas for being puzzled, but reassuring him.

Yes, it is a statement about the uniqueness of Jesus in history - God "so loved the world that he gave his only Son" is explained and developed in John 3:17-21.

But in today's passage Jesus comforts a frightened friend who is beginning to think about being parted by death from someone he loves. Jesus is not slapping him down nor telling him that others are not coming too. Jesus' words are about the inclusion of all who are in a relationship with him, not about the exclusion of doubters or non-believers.

His answer, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" is still as mysterious as it is thrilling. There is no simple box to tick to be 'in the club,' but there is an offer of continued friendship with Jesus in a world that can still be frightening: "I am the way. Risk walking with me and I'll show you how to go".

To Ponder

1. Put yourself in Thomas' place. What would you ask Jesus about death and dying?
2. Early Christians were sometimes called 'People of the Way'. What might this description have to offer us today? (Bible notes author: Revd Jennifer Smith)

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Loving God, you said, "Let not your hearts be troubled." This morning we have brought our troubled hearts to you for comfort, for healing, for encouragement. We know you love us, but sometimes we don't trust ourselves to you. This morning, we pray that we might feel your presence as near as our very breath and be willing to follow your leading, whatever that may lead us. May we open our ears and minds for the comfort you have especially for us and respond with gratitude. Amen.

Send, O Lord, your Spirit upon us all to give us the power of your Father that we might be faithful witnesses to you and all you are doing in this world. This we ask in your holy name. Amen.

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of our land as your love would make it: - a land where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;- a land where the benefits of civilized life are shared, and every one can enjoy them; - a land where different races and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect; - a land where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love And give us the inspiration and courage to build it. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

District Women's Network Spring Craft Day 2008 on 3rd May. 9.45am to 4.15pm at Priory Methodist Church. Booking Forms from Pam Seymour. Tel: 305695, to be returned by 23rd April.

Annual Congregational Meeting

St Mark's Church 4 May
The meeting will take place after church

British Cardiac Patients Association— Next meeting April 24th at 7.30pm at Putnoe. A concert given by the 'Willing Warblers'. Admission is free and we will have refreshments and a raffle so please do come along and enjoy the evening with us. For further information ring 303834

Easter offering envelopes are available in the entrance hall. Please use and return by the 20th April. Your contributions are very much appreciated by the Methodist Church for World Mission.

The Dedication Service will be at Priory Methodist Church at 6.30pm on the 27th April. The theme will be "Making a Difference, Transforming Lives.

Ministerial Appointment Following the forthcoming ministerial vacancy from August of this year, we will for a period have only one full time minister in our churches. Over the coming months the Leadership Team, Church Council and Partnership Council will discuss with our parent denominations the possibilities for future ministry in our Partnership. There are currently discussions taking place at a Circuit and Deaney level about the changing nature of ministry in Bedford, as we face the fact of declining numbers of full time clergy. Inevitably we need to consider what ministry deployment will be available and how best to structure our resources. This situation provides challenges and opportunities which we will discuss together and we will all have an opportunity to engage in the process of consideration for the way forward. If you would like to participate fully in this process, then please do make sure that you have yourself nominated for a position on one of our Church Councils, forms are still available this morning.

Confirmations. We will be preparing people for a joint Methodist/ Anglican Confirmation on June 1st. If you are interested in joining the Confirmation classes, (Sundays in May) please see Charlie or Joan.

Women's Network Circuit Easter Offering Service on 27th April at 6.30pm at Priory Methodist Church. All Welcome.

St Mark's Church Annual General Meeting 4 May. Nomination forms for the Church Council are available from the church office.

St Mark's Leadership Team. The Leadership Team at St Mark's are to assist the ministers by providing feedback and evaluation on Sunday Worship. They will write structured comments on the services, especially regarding preaching, which will then be discussed among the Leadership Team. If you have any comments on services which you would like to make we would all value your comments.

Partnership Council

There will be a Partnership, Council meeting at St Mark's Chapel on Tuesday 13 May at 7.30pm

Woodland Burial Open Day

There will be an open day at the St Albans Woodland Burial Ground at Keysoe on June 7 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. The woodland has over 50 acres of land for you to walk and enjoy a day out. Refreshments will be served

Bedford Town Band Concert of English music to celebrate St George's Day at Putnoe Heights on Friday 25th April at 7.30pm. Tickets £6 (Concessions £4) available from the Putnoe Church Office or call Roger Nicholls on 01234 357268



Rest in Peace

The funeral of John Molyneux Munro Eason will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday April 25 at 1.45pm. *Royden*

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.

Joan Morrison

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



First Hymn

From all that dwell below the skies,
let the Creator's praise arise;
let the Redeemer's name be sung,
through every land by every tongue.

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;
eternal truth attends thy word.
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
till suns shall rise and set no more.

Your lofty themes, ye mortals, bring,
in songs of praise divinely sing;
the great salvation loud proclaim,
and shout for joy the Saviour's name.

In every land begin the song;
to every land the strains belong;
in cheerful sounds all voices raise,
and fill the world with loudest praise.

Second Hymn

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
All this world reveres, and wars to own,
All I once thought gain, I have counted loss;
Spent and worthless now, Compared to this.

*Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love You, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire, is to know You more,
To be found in You, and known as Yours.
To possess by faith, what I could not earn,
All-surpassing gift, of righteousness.

Oh, to know the power, of Your risen life,
And to know You in, your sufferings.
To become like You, in Your death, my Lord,
So with You to live, and never die.

Third Hymn

Come, let us with our Lord arise,
Our Lord, who made both earth and skies:
Who died to save the world he made,
And rose triumphant from the dead;
He rose, the prince of life and peace,
And stamped the day for ever his.

This is the day the Lord has made,
That all may see his love displayed,
May feel his resurrection's power,
And rise again, to fall no more,
In perfect righteousness renewed,
And filled with all the life of God.

Then let us render him his own,
With solemn prayer approach his throne,
With meekness hear the gospel word,
With thanks his dying love record,
Our joyful hearts and voices raise,
And fill his courts with songs of praise.

Honour and praise to Jesus pay
Throughout his consecrated day;
Be all in Jesus' praise employed,
Nor leave a single moment void;
With utmost care the time improve,
And only breathe his praise and love.

Fourth Hymn

Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working,
most wondrous your ways!
Your glory and greatness no mortal can tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

Lord of all power, I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.
Your bondage is freedom, your service is song;
and, held in your keeping,
my weakness is strong.

Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind,
rich truth that surpasses my knowledge to find;
what eye has not seen
and what ear has not heard
is taught by your Spirit
and shines from your word.

Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you for all you impart,
your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
your presence to shield me, whatever betide.

Lord of all being, I give you my all;
If I ever disown you, I stumble and fall;
but, led in your service your word to obey,
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

**St Mark's Coffee Shop Every Sunday
2.30pm until 5.00pm**