



Jesus Is Our Risen King



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

20 April 2014

Easter Sunday



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

Today – 20 April 2014 - Easter Sunday

9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mrs. Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mr. Ian Farthing
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds
11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion
Preacher– Revd. Dr. Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs. Jean Kirk
Intercessions — Mrs. Sue Allen
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

27 April 2014 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds
11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship
Preacher– Revd. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mr. Barry Southam
Intercessions — Mrs. Claire Peck
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 2. 1 Peter 1:3-9
3. John 20: 19-31

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

Thank You

The main flower pedestal at St Mark's Church
this week has been given by Mike Cooper in
celebration of the marriage of his daughter Julia to
Paul and in loving memory of Helen.

Thank you To all who contributed towards the
cost of the Easter flowers at Putnoe Heights Church.

Thank you to our flower arrangers who prepare
flowers every week and who have made our
churches look so beautiful for Easter

Prayer for Sunday

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy he has given us a new birth
into a living hope through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an
inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and
unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being
protected by the power of God through faith for a
salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

I Peter 1.3-5

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.ThisIsChurch.com
Twitter follow at [bedfordchurches](https://twitter.com/bedfordchurches)**

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 Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
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 - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator 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 email-chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk

2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's (2nd week in the month) Contact Janet King 313946.

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— 21 April Judith Stanton. 823313

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

300218.

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of

Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane

Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking at Putnoe Heights. For more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Charlotte Williams 07968207442

9.30am Candleworking (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

1.3pm 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) 29 April 'Friends of Putnoe Woods.' 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 7 May 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 16 April 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 30 April Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

Thursday

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 Jo Garner 400071 or 07932616468

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

7.30pm Gentle Birthing St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231

8 -10pm 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 Weds 19th March, 16th April, 21st May, 18th June.



Diary Dates



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

St Mark's Leadership Team - 20 May, 9 Sept

Annual Congregational Meetings—27th April

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 30th April

Putnoe Church Council - 10 July

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service - 2nd November

Circuit meeting – 19th June

Woodland Burial Trustees– AGM - May 25th

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting – Monday 9 June 1.10pm

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

Easter Sunday

Sentence of Scripture 1 Corinthians Chapter 5

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Collect Prayer for the Day *Before we read we pray*
Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty power of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in Him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen *Common Worship/Methodist Worship*



Crucifixion sculpture - Amiens cathedral

First Bible Reading - Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached-- how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen--by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading Colossians 3:1-4

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears then you also will appear with him in glory. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - John 20:1-18

Please stand when the reading is announced— **Glory to Christ our Saviour**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my

brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. (This is the Gospel of Christ—**Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Worship Sheets and Holy Communion Booklets*)

Jesus Christ is Risen today, In Christ alone, All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord, Thine be the glory,

Commentary

Easter Fact, Easter Faith

Sometimes it can be difficult to get our mind around Easter, the greatness and significance of the story, and to fully comprehend the immense sacrifice and power of the God we worship and through His Son, and the access we have to His immeasurable riches and power through His resurrection and the coming of His Holy Spirit. It can be difficult to understand too that through the Easter drama we witness each year we are all invited and called to be His servants and disciples, so that others can come to know and grow in those same riches and power, as our lives, humanity and the entire cosmos continues to be renewed and transformed. When Mary and the first disciples, Peter and probably John, arrived at the empty tomb they too found it difficult to get their mind around what was happening. All they understood at the time was that the tomb that had contained the body of Jesus was now apparently empty with the stone rolled away. Perhaps they had an inkling that this was a little different to the resuscitation of Lazarus they had witnessed when Jesus had raised his friend and brought him back to life but it would appear that initially the confusion and puzzlement of the events of the last few days was continuing. In his gospel, John has been setting the scene for what was happening from the beginning. It was 'on the third day' that Jesus had turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. Shortly after, when He threw the money changers from the temple in Jerusalem Jesus had cried, '...destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days'. Jesus went to raise Lazarus He had waited for two days before travelling to be with Mary and Martha in their distress. It was the third day. And in a foreshadowing of events that would follow, John tells us that Jesus even asks for the 'stone to be rolled away'. There is a deep and profound significance to the 'third day' in John's gospel. And in the story of the visit to the empty tomb we, like Mary and the disciples who arrived there, begin to get an understanding of the tumultuous events which took place there and the real significance of the 'third day' to which John had been pointing as he wrote his gospel. In that quiet garden, on the third day, a new age of eternal life began.

Through His resurrection Jesus calls His followers to experience the energy and the power of this resurrection, His *anastasis* in the present moment. Like our communion service, this is not by a recalling the past, but by experiencing and unveiling that energy and power today, especially on this Easter Day. John starts his gospel with a wedding in Cana in Galilee on the third day, he ends it with a marriage of heaven and earth on the third day. To being with Mary and the disciples see the events of our reading unfolding as spectators and observers, they finish beginning to see things differently, they finish with the beginnings of an inward revelation which will make them active participants in the resurrection too. The disciples are no longer called friends or servants, but brothers. Things have changed. The word that describes Mary as she brought word to the disciples is the same word that is used for angel. She becomes an angel, a holy messenger to the disciples as she begins to experience the power of the resurrection in her life. When she reports that she has seen Jesus to the disciples she describes seeing Jesus not as someone who had observed Him but as someone who has seen and experienced first-hand His resurrected presence.

In Mary, and the early disciples we see both the Easter fact and the Easter spirituality revealing themselves. The fact of the resurrection is that God had won the ultimate victory over the powers of sin and death, over the very things that separate us from God. The barriers were removed and access to God for all creation restored. The things which worked to mar and destroy God's creation had been overcome and Jesus had opened the gate to heaven. Easter Day is the day that confirms the mission of God is accomplished. God has reclaimed creation and all that is in it. Through Christ's life, death and resurrection Christ opened up a new life for the whole world. Jesus did not say that there was a resurrection, He said 'I am the resurrection'. Mary and the disciples were just becoming to understand what this meant, beginning to understand this new creation and the calling of all people to live a new life in it. But as John indicates in the language he uses in His gospel, the reality of Easter is not just in acknowledging the Easter facts and

third party observers, as people who agree with the facts of Easter, it's about our own participation in the Easter spirituality made available to us through the Easter facts. The pattern of death and resurrection made real in our own lives, not through an acknowledgement of the facts but as participation in the miracle.

Through our death to sin and being raised to new life, an offer available to all we are invited to be part of that new created order. As Christian believers, we know God not just through an understanding of the Easter story but through our active participation in the story itself. By being part of the resurrection and the new creation Christ brought about through His death and resurrection. As difficult as it can be to get our mind around Easter the fact remains: we are truly an Easter people, God has made all things new, and we have been raised with Christ to a new and eternal life. *Sam Cappelman*

Meditation

Jane Williams writes, 'The Gospel accounts of the risen Jesus suggest that when people encounter Him, they do not immediately know Him. On the whole, they are not terrified, they do not imagine themselves to be in the presence of an alien life force, or anything like that. They recognise what is in front of them as a living human being, but not a familiar one. Even the people closest to Him need help to connect the risen Jesus with the man they loved.' Easter can be a time for connection and reconnection with the living Jesus in our lives. A time when the reality of the resurrection takes root in our lives, not only in the cerebral knowledge of the fact of the resurrection in our heads, but also in the reality of the spiritual revelation and surety of the impact of the resurrection in our hearts and lives. A time when we can be truly reconnected with the God who created us in His image through the death and resurrection of His Son who came that the great disconnection could be ended and all dead ends of the earthly world became a thing of the past.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

The risen Christ came and stood among His disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then they were glad when they saw the Lord. **Amen** *Jn 20 v 19 - 20*

We praise and adore you, Lord God almighty, because by the triumphant resurrection of your dear Son, our Lord, you have broken the power of sin and death, and you enable us to walk in grace as children of light. **Amen** *Alternative Services, Second Series*

We stand alongside all those who are suffering, whether in body, mind or spirit, and long for your healing and comfort, your strength for perseverance and your patience in dark times; we long for your living spirit to envelop and sustain them. **Amen** *Prayers of Intercession for Common Worship, Susan Sayers*

Lord Jesus Christ, who hearkened to the prayers of your two disciples and stayed with them, when it was towards evening and the day was far spent: abide, we pray, with your servants when they reach the evening of life. Make yourself known to them, and whenever they have to pass through the valley of death, be with them to the end. **Amen** *Adapted from A Plain Man's Prayer book*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Annual Congregational Church Meetings

Annual Congregational Meetings take place on 27th April after church. Nomination forms are available for Church Councils of our churches, please complete and return to Church Offices. Alternatively email to office@thisischurch.com giving details of **1.** Person nominated **2.** Proposer & **3** Secunder.

Church Membership Now is a great time to update our record of members. Please complete a Membership form or send an email to office@thisischurch.com giving us **1.** Title **2.** Name **3.** Address **4.** Telephone **5.** Any denominational church background. If you have changed any details lately then please let us know so that we can update our records.

St Mark's Chat and Play starts again on Thursday April 30

St Mark's Storybox starts again on Thursday April 24

St Mark's Junior Church starts again on April 27.

Open Day at St Mark's Pre-School and All Day Childcare on Saturday 10 May 2014 from 2.00pm -4.00pm (Now taking bookings for September 2014). Activities for the children, face painting etc Coffee and cakes. Families Welcome.

Kempston Musical Society will be performing Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle on Saturday 26 April 7.30pm at Kempston East Methodist Church. Admission £8.00. Conductor Janet Welsh. Accompanists: Derrick Robinson Piano, Brian Fox Organ. Guest Soloists: Min Min Teh Soprano, Emma Stroud Contralto, Jack Cornwell Tenor and Edward Peters Bass. For more details telephone Bedford 781010 or e-mail kempstonmusicalsociety@hotmail.com

Spring Fayre For Arthritis Research UK 45th Anniversary Spring Fayre, 26th April from 2.30-4.30pm at Biddenham Village Hall. Admission 50p (accompanied children free)

Flower Arranging Demonstration by Rev. Alan Ashton, on 30 April at Priory Methodist Church at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from Ann Hitt or at the door.

MWIB Easter Offering The Easter Offering envelopes in the foyer at both Putnoe Heights and St Mark's Church explain how the money collected is used. Please take one and return it with your contribution on Easter Sunday. This years theme is 'Risk The Path He Trod'. The dedication service will be held on Thursday 22 May at 2.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church Biggleswade.

Action for Children Please bring your boxes to be opened and contents counted as Ladyslaude Court on Thursday 8 May between 2—4.30pm. Welcome to all for tea and cakes and updates on the work of the charity. Could you be a new box holder?

Car Boot Sale Easter Monday 21 April 2014 Believe it or not we are starting our 2014 round of Car Boot Sales on Easter Monday 21st April 2014. As it is Spring and being the first car boot of the year perhaps you would like to clear out your cupboards and donate goods to the Church Stall at the car boot. All donations very much appreciated. We would also be very grateful for any donations, homemade cakes and tray bakes for our refreshment stall. If anyone would like to volunteer their help at the Car Boot please email me at: aj56@btinternet.com, or see Linda Parry or Janet Day. Once again many thanks to everyone. Here is hoping for a very successful 2014 Car Boots Avril Williams

Christian Aid week 11-17 May "Give people a future without fear" Christian Aid is an agency that works to bring an end to poverty around the world and every year, one week is designated to a national House to House collection by Christians of different traditions working together for that common aim. Please be willing to help with the delivery and collection of gift envelopes, on behalf of St. Mark's and Putnoe Heights Churches, in the Brickhill and Putnoe areas during the week of 11-17 May. The envelopes and collector's information packs will be ready to collect in each church on 27 April, 4 and 11 May. Contacts for more information are - Carolyn Morris, Putnoe Heights and Jean Banks, St. Mark's

Footprints Walk The Footprints walk is Sunday, May 4 and will take in Ampthill Park and Millbrook. Refreshments will be available at The Hub in the park afterwards. Please meet at Ampthill Woburn Street car park (it's in the park itself) at 2.30pm.

Thank you to every one who helped with the Easter service at Highfield Residential Home on Sunday April 13. The residents really enjoyed it and chatted with us afterwards and exchanged Greetings. Thank you Vera Pearson.

Thank you to Carolyn Morris and everyone who helped and took part in our annual Good Friday Easter Activity event this year. We welcomed 26 children to Putnoe Heights Church.



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Molly Belcher will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 24 April at 4.00pm

The funeral of Norman Jack Newstead will take place at the Crematorium at 1.45p.m. on Wednesday 23 April

The funeral of David Arthur Anderson will take place at the Crematorium at 1.45p.m on Friday 2 May

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.

Dorothy May Wildman

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

