

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

20 March 2011

2nd Sunday in Lent



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden

Leadership – Mr Mick Ovenden

Intercessions – Deacon Jane Mason

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden

Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk

Intercessions - Deacon Jane Mason

27 March – 3rd Sunday in Lent

9.30 am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Mr Chris Izzard

Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing

Intercessions – Deacon Jane Mason

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard

Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware

Intercessions – Dr Tim Wilkes

Readings 1. Exodus 17: 1-7

2. Romans 5: 1-11

3. John 4: 5-42

Midweek Worship 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 flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Alan and Lena Cooper in celebration of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, and by Deryck Cutler in loving memory of his wife Mollie.

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 This Week

Lord God,
you so loved the world
that you gave your only Son
so that we might have eternal life.
Now we ask that you would help
us in our daily lives to live for you
in everything that we do,
and not to be ashamed.
Let our lives reflect
the same mercy and goodness
that you have first shown to us. Amen

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)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE

348091 Mobile 07807 146535

jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

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 and may appear in other local media sources.

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 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 Samantha Ware 304058

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186

Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091

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 - Avril Williams 360605

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.15 –3.45 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's
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.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Emma Gordon ☎07593266091
- 2pm U3A Music Appreciation** - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623
- 3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—21 March Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

- 9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp** - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation** fortnightly. Contact Mrs Reed ☎216623
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** No Meeting on March 22 Fellowship Meal. For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 22 March. McTimoney Chiropractor. For more details call Janet King 313946
- 8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am 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 U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 30 March Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 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** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha

Mistry ☎01908 392698

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

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 26 January.

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

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073

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

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be March 30 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

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. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

10.30-11.30 U3A Tai Chi St. Mark's

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau Putnoe Heights.

12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing . Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby ☎363283

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

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

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

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

More details Ron Law 825574.

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

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

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

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

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry ☎01462 674792

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

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –

Annual General Meeting 10 April 2011

St Mark's Leadership Team

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 June

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .26 May

St Mark's Forum Meeting - 10 May, 13 July

Putnoe Church Council - 13 June –7.30pm

Pastoral Group Meeting - 14th June

Churchyard Committee - 19th May –11.15am

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - .

Woodland Burial Trustees – 15th May 12.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 4th April, 1.30pm

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

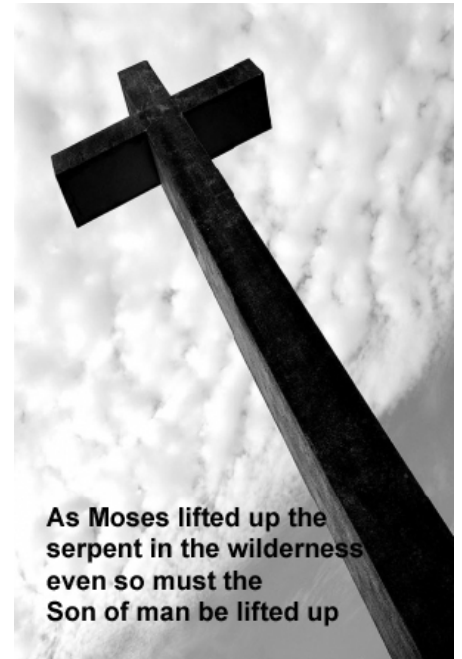
Second Sunday in Lent

Opening Sentence from Scripture — Philippians 2:9

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 — Genesis 12: 1-4a

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him

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

Second Reading - Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

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

Gospel Reading - John 3: 1-17 Please Stand

After the Gospel is announced **All – Praise to Christ our Saviour**

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." "How can a man be born when he is old? "Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to

flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven--the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion Booklets and Hymns and Psalms*)

1. God is love let heaven adore him 36 (*Tune Abbots Leigh*)
2. There's a wideness 230 (*Tune Cross of Jesus*)
3. Come let us sing of a wonderful love 691 (*Tune Wonderful Love*)
4. Father whose everlasting love 520 (*Tune Church Triumphant*)

Commentary

The Gospel reading this week from John Chapter 3, tells of a man called Nicodemus. He came to Jesus and was obviously curious about who Jesus was. Nicodemus came from a great family, he was a leading Pharisee and religious teacher. But, he recognised that Jesus had something special and he wanted to know more. That was all it took, honest curiosity and a willingness to listen. Jesus went on to tell him important spiritual truths which have been passed on from generations.

1. Jesus said that it didn't matter how socially acceptable or unacceptable a person was, God loved the whole world just the same - everybody and everything.
2. Jesus said that we all start from the same place with God, there are no favourites.
3. Jesus said that anybody who turned to him would find forgiveness and life with God for eternity

Eventually Nicodemus would be one of those who cared for the dead body of Jesus. Then the words of Jesus would make even more sense. The death of Jesus was not a tragic murder, it brought to us an awareness that God's love was enormous. If the quality of love could ever be measured by the value of a gift, then there is nothing greater than God's love, for he did not even spare his own son Jesus.

The Victorian preacher C H Spurgeon describes how he went out with money from his church to give to a poor woman of the parish. He knocked and knocked again but she would not answer, she thought it was the rent man. The knock signalled a gift, she thought it was a demand. So what is it which convinces some people that there really is a gift from God which is worth bothering with? In the story today, what is it which makes Nicodemus different from the other Jewish leaders? Why was he willing to approach and listen to Jesus?

Let's look at Nicodemus

Nicodemus was from the right background. he was a Jewish leader and teacher, a member of the Sanhedrin. He came from the right family and the right race. He was a prominent and respected Jew. But he came to Jesus and it is clear that this was not enough for him. He knew he was missing something which his Jewish religion didn't have but which Jesus clearly did. The message which Jesus gave to Nicodemus was clear. It doesn't matter into whose family you are born. You get no credit from God on account of your family. For somebody who would have been proud of his family tree, this was a blow. He suddenly was told that he was no better of than the lowest of the low.

In the Magnificat, the Song of Mary, the mother of Jesus, we are told that Jesus will bring down the mighty from their seat and exalt the humble and the meek. Today in the Gospel reading, Nicodemus is one of the mighty when he comes to Jesus. He is told that it counts for nothing, he discovers what Mary meant. With Jesus birth, social status, wealth, all count for nothing, it was like you had to be born again, and we were all equal. We are told that it was dark when Nicodemus came to Jesus, but there was a light switched on in his life when he went away, Jesus had illuminated his spiritual vision through this

encounter and Nicodemus was changed. He was changed so much so that he was able to become brave enough to care for the body of the dead Jesus.

There are many people like Nicodemus, they have questions and they are not sure about Christianity, or who Jesus really is. Jesus taught Nicodemus something which changed his life. The same Jesus still surprises people today. Christians are those who have heard God's knock on the door and are prepared to respond knowing that it is not the rent man. They trust that what is offered really is a gift and not a life sentence.

Jesus speaks to Nicodemus of wind. The wind blows where it will. You can hear it, feel it, but you can't predict or control it. How do some people come to faith and others don't? Are we able to give explain the work of the Holy Spirit? The answer must be no. We all want to know answers which help people to believe, but they are not there. We want God in a box, but God won't fit. Perhaps this is what W.H. Auden meant when he said it's hard to be a Christian if you're not something of a poet.

We do not get to know God by study, we won't find God on the internet, God isn't passed on from generation to generation, God isn't for the well educated, indeed Jesus said, that God hides from the wise and reveals to the simple! Our part is very simple, one of faith and trust, and all are equal, there are no special places for the talented and gifted.

Jesus reminded Nicodemus that in the desert Moses told the people of Israel to look at a bronze snake and they would survive snake bites. Those people in the desert didn't understand how the bronze snake worked. It just worked and it became the source of life for them. All they had to turn was to focus on the snake. The cross of Christ is the same. I do not even begin to understand the atonement of God, or how the cross brings salvation to the world. Nobody knows how in the cross the enduring and overpowering love of God is at work to bring salvation to the world. Fortunately, we are not saved by explanations or understandings, we are saved by God.

Medieval map makers located the spot on which the cross stood as the centre of the earth and then they arranged the rest of the world around it. That may not be great cartography but it is excellent theology. The cross of Christ is our theology, its what it is all about. Faith begins when we turn to Jesus and see in his death a vision of who God is. The death of Jesus on that cross assures us of his God's good intentions towards us. We might not understand it but, because of the cross we trust that such a God has our best interests at heart. *Charles Royden*

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Behold Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent that my love may go out to my neighbour. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasures of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen. *Martin Luther*

Come Lord Jesus be our guest, and may our meal by thee be blest *Martin Luther*

O God, graciously comfort and tend all who are imprisoned, hungry, thirsty, naked, and miserable; also all widows, orphans, sick, and sorrowing. In brief, give us our daily bread, so that Christ may abide in us and we in him for ever, and that with him we may worthily bear the name of 'Christian.' *Martin Luther*.

Deliver us, O Lord, from a deceitful heart. Forgive, we pray, the barbed word deliberately spoken; the thoughtless word hastily said and the envious look furtively cast. Forgive the ear rejoicing in the news of another's downfall; the feet loitering in forbidden paths and the grasping hand reaching out for personal gain; and all for the sake of Christ our Lord. Amen *John Baillie, 1886-1960.*

Christian Basics. There will be a series of three Lent talks at Putnoe Heights Church thinking about the basics of the Christian faith as expressed in the Apostles Creed. I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Refreshments will be served from 7.30pm with each session starting at 8.00pm and lasting one hour. Since the series will look at the foundation of Christian belief it would be particularly helpful for anybody who is considering confirmation. Please speak with one of the ministers if you would like to consider this.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

Thursday 31 March by Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

I believe in the Holy Spirit

Thursday 7 April by Deacon Jane Mason

Holy Week – The Bishop of Bedford will be holding meditations at St Paul's Church Bedford on three consecutive nights in April - 18/19/20
Monday 18 at 7.30pm - Sacrificial love as generosity
Tuesday 19 - Sacrificial love as selflessness
Wednesday 20 - Sacrificial love as faithfulness
The meditations will include a simple communion service - all are welcome to attend.

House Group at the home of Wendy Waters will be held on Mondays for 6 weeks beginning at 7.45pm on 7 March. We will use the Diocesan Lent Course 'Living God's Love'. If you would like to come please phone Wendy Waters 401834.

St. Mark's Craft Stall will have Easter novelties for sale after morning service. All profit goes to St. Mark's Christmas Fair.

Bedford Arts Society

There will be an exhibition and sale of paintings at Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street. Open to the public
Wednesday 30 March 10 - 4pm
Thursday 31 March 10 - 8pm
Friday 1 April 10 - 4pm
Daytime parking is available in the Borough Car Park in Prebend Street, exit code can be obtained from reception. After 5pm park in front of Borough Hall

Spring Breakfast Start your day with

- ◆ A hearty full English breakfast £7
- ◆ A delightful continental breakfast £4

At Sharnbrook Methodist Church, Park Lane
Sharnbrook Saturday 2 April

To reserve your place contact Eileen Smith (782241) or Mike Bonney (781254)

Footprints Walking Group. Sunday 10 April. 2.30pm start. Meet at the war memorial in the

centre of Olney for 3 mile circular walk along the water meadows to Clifton Reynes.
leaders - Margaret and Eddy.

Beds, Essex, Herts Methodist District Women in Britain Network Spring Craft Day on 21st May at Priory Methodist Church 9.45am to 4.30pm. Information and booking forms (to be returned by 7 May) from Pam Seymour tel. 305695.

Putnoe Mission Committee We welcome Carolyn Morris as our Mission Secretary, and once again thank Sylvia for the work which she has done. Carolyn would like to form a small committee and is looking for volunteers. This is an opportunity to consolidate our work both at Kisiizi and through Faith in Action; but also to begin new Mission ventures. Please consider this carefully and, if you are able to help, give your name to Carolyn or myself. Jean Kirk

Thank you. Many thanks to all who helped with the secondhand book sale at Putnoe Heights. A total of £378.75 was raised towards church and mission funds".

Kempston Musical Society presents Faure's Requiem 'Bring and Sing' on Saturday 9 April at Priory Methodist Church Newnham Avenue Bedford. Choir rehearsal 4.30pm. Tea 6pm. Performance 7.30pm. Soloists Jeni Melia and Mark Wisson. Admission: Singers and Audience £5.00 each. Anyone wishing to sing should contact 01234 781010 or 01234 354183 for details. (In aid of Cancer Research UK)

Members of St Mark's Church will be sad to hear that Winnie Elsom has died. Winnie was a member of St Mark's when it first started as a church in Brickhill in 1972

Maundy Thursday Service April 21 7.30pm

Our Maundy Thursday Service at Putnoe this year will incorporate a simple meal in the context of a Holy Communion Service to echo the Passover. We will not be selling tickets but it would be useful to have some idea of numbers so that the catering team can plan accordingly. If you would like to come to this service please could you let the office know at either Putnoe or St Mark's so that we can ascertain catering requirements.

Meditation

We must admire Nicodemus, even if he didn't get exactly what Jesus was talking about. He was willing to ask questions that would set him at odds with some of the other religious leaders. He took risks, and taking risks means having some faith. How are you or can you be like Nicodemus?



King's Arms Hike for the Homeless

We are organising a charity walk. You can do the whole 17.5 miles or just one of the stages. For more details & online registration visit: www.hikeforthehomeless.org.uk or call 01234 350900

Working in Bedford since 1989 we provide a range of services for the homeless including an 18-bed Nightshelter, a 14-bed hostel, Onward Floating Support, a Rough Sleepers Outreach Service and a weekly drop-in meal. We support approx 350 homeless and disadvantaged people each year and our vision is to 'see lives transform'

Lent Books

Although we have started Lent it's not too late to start a Lent Book as part of the observance of the season of Lent. Please see the Ministers if you'd like some suggestions. The pick for Sam this year is 'Fasting and Feasting' by Gordon Giles, providing daily readings for each day through Lent. Others suggestions this year are, 'Into your Hands' by Kevin Scully, which is a more reflective book on how God works to shape history and how we as individuals and communities might respond. Another thought provoking book, which provides reading for each day of Lent, is Brother Ramon's 'When the Crucified my Lord' which is designed for personal and group use and gives an opportunity to stop and reflect on the gospel story each day through Lent.

If anybody would like to borrow the Rob Bell DVD Video 'She' as shown at the Lent Course last week please ask Charlie.

Stage One 4.5 Miles

Priory Country Park, Bedford to Barford Bridge

The route passes Danish Camp (2.75 miles), an ideal short stage for families with young children (5.5 miles there & back cycle & pushchair friendly)

Stage Two 6.5 Miles

Barford Bridge to Wilden Village Hall. Lunch stop at Wilden with free tea coffee & cold drinks available.

Stage Three 6.5 Miles

Wilden Village Hall to Priory Country Park. The last lap back to Bedford through Renhold and across Castle Mill Lock.

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.

Doris Hilda Wilson
Mollie Cutler

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



Please remember to shop at Amazon.com by clicking on the link on ThisChurch.com for just about anything you need. You can also sign up to Easyfunding. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online at discount prices! Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thischurch.com, then we obtain 5%

Forthcoming Funerals

There are no funerals this week

