



# Partnership News

21 March 2010

Fifth Sunday in Lent



## 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

### 9.30am St. Mark's – Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Paul Fricker  
Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank  
Intercessions – Mrs Pat Leusby

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion

Preacher – Mr Paul Fricker  
Leadership — Mrs Jean Kirk  
Intercessions – Mrs Sylvia Cohen

## Palm Sunday 28 March 2010

### 9.30am St. Mark's – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Eric Royden  
Leadership – Mrs Avril Williams  
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Eric Royden  
Leadership – Mrs Sam Ware  
Intercessions – Ministers

**Readings** 1. Isaiah 50: 4-9a .2. Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29. 3. Luke 19: 28-40

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Rita & Nigel Platt and family, in memory of their son Justin, on his birthday.

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

Bless O God those in our midst  
and those around the world  
whom we name in our hearts  
before you at this time;  
we especially ask for those who are poor  
in the basic needs of daily living;  
and for those who are poor in love;  
hear too the prayers we ask  
for those who need  
healing or hope in their lives,  
those who need justice,  
and those who require mercy.



## Easter Services

### Palm Sunday Family Service

Sunday April 5 at 9.30am  
With distribution of Palm Crosses

### Good Friday Service

Friday April 10 at 9.30am  
Stations of the Cross  
(With Coffee & Hot Cross Buns!)

### Easter Day

Sunrise Holy Communion 6.00am  
Holy Communion 8.30am  
(At Putnoe Heights Church)  
Family Communion 9.30am

### Monday of Easter Week

Holy Communion at Sir William Harpur House First  
Sunday of every month at 10.00am at Sir William  
Harpur House. All are welcome to attend.

## Remember clocks move forward one hour on Sunday 28 March



### Palm Sunday Family Service

Sunday March 28 at 11.00am  
With distribution of Palm Crosses

### Good Friday Service

Friday April 2 at 11.00am  
Stations of the Cross, (with coffee & hot cross buns!)

### Good Friday Children's Special

2 April 12.15 to 1.45. The Easter Story, Easter and  
Spring crafts and light refreshments £1.50 per child  
with accompanying adult. Suitable for all ages.

### Easter Day

Sunrise Holy Communion 6.00am  
(At St Mark's Church)  
Holy Communion 8.30am  
Family Communion 11.00am

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 -11.45 am Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**  
Headteacher 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

**12.00pm 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. Liz ☎ 302349

**1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's. David Fowler ☎ 824474

**2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059

**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 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 ☎ 07720713738.

**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

**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

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting March 29 -Royal Marsden Hospital. 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 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016

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

**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** Sally Banks ☎ 870357

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

**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

**2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting March 23 Fellowship Meal. 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 Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎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 & Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month. Brian Ibberson ☎403497

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

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting March 23 'Ghost Stories' Dot Wigg Details from 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 Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

**10am U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month.

**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 31 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

**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 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 AGM 31 March 2010 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details

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

**7.45 for 8pm God talk** - women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

### 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.*

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau at 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 01234 363283

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

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**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 Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group.** 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

**8.00pm 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. Julie 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

**5pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

**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

**6pm T.N.T.** Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun. Please see Liz ☎302349 .



## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 22 June, 8 November.

**St Mark's Leadership Team** – 20th April.

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** – 7 June at the Manse, 18 October

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** ; 24 May

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting** -

**Putnoe Church Council** - 21 June, 25 October.

**Pastoral Group Meeting** - 20th April at 4.30pm

**Churchyard Committee** - 26 May at 11am.

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group—**

**Partnership Council—TBA**

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings**

**Deanery Meeting** - 5 May, 17 June.

**Circuit Property/Treasurers Meeting**

**Circuit Meeting** 8 March at Oakley

**Woodland Burial Trustees** – Sunday 21st March

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth** –

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

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

### Opening Verse of Scripture -Isaiah 53:5

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

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

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Common Worship

Mary took an expensive perfume, poured it on Jesus feet and wiped it with her hair.



### First Reading – Isaiah 43:16-21

This is what the LORD says- he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honour me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise. (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

### Second Reading – Phil 3: 4b-14

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

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

### Gospel Reading –John 12:1-8 All– Glory to Christ our Saviour

Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages. He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. Leave her alone, Jesus replied. It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.

You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.  
(This is the Gospel of Christ—**Praise to Christ our Lord**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

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

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

We sing the praise of him who died 182 Tune Christ Triumphant

Christ be beside me Tune Bunesan

Lord Jesus Christ 617 Tune Living Lord

The royal banners forward go 179 Tune Gonfalon Royal

### **Commentary**

Here is another Bible story about greed, betrayal and love and sacrifice.

Picture the scene; Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead and now he is eating with him and his sisters Mary and Martha. What should have been a house filled with mourning and sorrow is instead the centre of attention as the dead man and his saviour gather to eat. The people around would clearly want to see this Lazarus who had been raised after four days, they would also want to come closer to Jesus who had this extraordinary power. Who knows what he could do for them also?

This provoked the Jewish chief priests and we are given a glimpse of why they want to have Jesus and Lazarus put to death. Simply they are envious and greedy and do not want Jesus to take over their religious authority. Jesus was just too popular and this would have implications for them and their status in the community. There was no answer, Jesus had to go. In this scene we find also Mary who does something quite remarkable. She takes some perfume and breaks the jar open to pour it all over the feet of Jesus. This was no ordinary bottle of perfume but rather one costing a years salary. Can you imagine what you would have said had you witnessed this scene of such lavish adoration? Judas beat us all to it when he complained about apparent waste, claiming that the money could instead have been given to the poor. The biblical account tells us that Judas was not really concerned about the poor, we are told that he was a thief and helped himself to the money that the disciples shared with Jesus. This explanation discredits Judas but perhaps it also serves to demonstrate that the other disciples too, felt that it was a waste of money which would legitimately have helped the poor.?

The money is in some ways incidental, the focus of this story is the woman a person responding to the love and acceptance she found in Jesus. It is not the time to talk budgets, but to show love. The woman response stands in contrast to that of the Chief Priests and Judas who will serve them in their wicked murder of Jesus. It is also a contrast to the behaviour of Peter and the disciples. In the Gospels Jesus is pictured as abandoned by his inner circle of disciples. In the end it will be a few women who are left standing near Golgotha and who will venture to the tomb. The unlikely ones in Mark and John world, the women, become the models. This is deliberately subversive and reflects so much of the experience of Jesus' ministry. Others were so good, so devout, and so busy being so, that they missed the point. This is grindingly obvious, when a woman like this inarticulately breaks the perfume container open and spreads the contents over Jesus feet. Mark even suggests that Jesus predicted how memorable her act would be. Jesus was surrounded by many of noble lives, high religious prestige and good moral deeds. It was none of these which attracted him, nor those who like Peter spoke strongly of their unswerving loyalty. Mary had faith in Jesus and she put that faith into an act of extravagant loving devotion. In so washing his feet her actions spoke louder than words, she showed that > love is beyond that which words can express.

*Charles Royden*

### **Meditation**

Oil is used for very special things in the Bible. Oil is used for anointing things and making a special statement of prayer. It is also used for anointing people. In the Bible people were anointed when they became kings. They just poured oil on their heads and let it run down all over them. It was just part of the ceremony of making them a king. They were "anointed." The word "Messiah" means "One who is anointed" by God. In another language the word is "Christ." Jesus was "Christ", anointed by God, like a king. And so when the woman poured the perfume over Jesus it has been noted that she was in some ways also performing a very special anointing of Jesus.

## Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Grant to us, O Lord, fullness of faith, firmness of hope and fervency of love. For the sake of the gospel may we sit loosely to our wealth and daily embrace you in the poor of the world. As we rejoice in your generosity so may we give ourselves in the service of others; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God our Father, we come today to worship you and confess that devotion to you is often far from our minds. This morning may we refocus our attention upon our love for you and how we show that love. Help us Lord to be more willing to pour out our lives as fragrant offerings of love. We lay our lives before you and ask that we might know that love which does not count the cost.

Lord God, as we wait upon you now, as we listen for your voice in the silence of hearts and as we offer our prayers to you we think of those people in our lives who have loved us with a generous love we think of those who like Mary have not counted the cost of what they have given us; of those who given all of themselves to us as Christ gave himself for the world; and we thank you for them - and ask you to bless them and for you to make us like them.

As we go into this week, O God, help us to have a focus, a purpose that is beyond that of just getting by; beyond that of just trying to make it through another week; show us we pray what you would have us do; reveal to us our own personal and unique ministry—and help us to do it.

Bless O God those in our midst and those around the world whom we name in our hearts before you at this time; we especially ask for those who are poor in the basic needs of daily living; and for those who are poor in love; hear too the prayers we ask for those who need healing or hope in their lives, those who need justice, and those who require mercy.

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### “Messy Church Fiesta.”

“What is this going to be about?” – may be a question which immediately springs to mind. Well, on 20<sup>th</sup> February, I went to a training day at St. Mary’s Church, Wootton along with about sixty other adults of all ages. We were all welcomed into the church hall and after refreshments, were plunged into a busy but inspiring day led by Lucy Moore, from Barnabas, part of the Bible Reading Fellowship. Lucy Moore pioneered the original development of “Messy Church” at St. Wilfrid’s Church, Portsmouth in 2004. It arose from the frustration of knowing that the church had good premises, good leaders, some good ideas but few children and families on a Sunday. Messy Church then grew from trying to find a different approach to giving opportunities to people with little or no church background, to learn about the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. The members of St. Wilfrid’s experimented with a week-day session, late afternoon for about two hours, where families could meet, enjoy creative activities, sit down together to eat a meal, experience worship and have fun within a church context. The initiative taken six years ago has worked so well, that it is now expanding all over the world. Following Lucy’s initial introduction, Lindsay Farr, a student working with Lucy, gave a presentation about spiritual development and this led on to a selection of about 8 craft activities for us to try, which were all linked to the theme ‘The Body of Christ’.

After about 45 minutes the day proceeded with a hot lunch and was followed with a session on ‘Story Telling for Celebration’, led by Lucy Moore. She emphasised that Jesus taught by story telling and Bible stories are an important part of “Messy Church” sessions. Questions, discussion and planning came next and the day finished with a Bible story and prayer.

Church Council has agreed that, with your help and prayers, we can begin our own “Messy Church” at St. Mark’s in the autumn. We are in a similar situation to St. Wilfrid’s, back in 2004 and we know that through research that has been recently carried out with Pre-School and Storybox parents, that a mid-week session would be welcomed. Will you please think about your gifts and see if this is something that God is calling you to do? Let us know if you feel you would like more information and give your name, without obligation, to any of the ministers, Leadership Team or Janet Day, Richard Ledger, Alison Holden, Linda Parry, Marion Prior or Wendy Waters. We will arrange a meeting after Easter with all of those who have expressed an interest.

I would like to finish by quoting one of the verses from our Lent Challenge which has repeatedly come to mind:

*Luke 10, verse 2. “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore to send out labourers into His harvest field”.*

Thank you, Jean Bank.

**Card stall** Easter cards are now on sale.

**St Mark's Craft Stall** will have Easter Novelties on sale from today. All profits to St. Mark's.

**Bedford & District Citizens Advice Bureau.**

Drop in service, no appointment necessary.  
Thursdays:- 11am -12 noon Putnoe Children's Centre, Putnoe Heights Church. 1.00pm - 2.45pm Goldington Children's Centre, 30 Meadway, Bedford. Providing Free, Confidential, Impartial and Independent Advice.

**St. Mark's Pre-school** are collecting Sainsbury's and Tesco's vouchers and would greatly appreciate any. They can be handed into Preschool or the office. Thank you very much. Helen Harman

**Easter Offering 2010** Please give generously in the envelopes available in the foyer, which should be returned by Easter Sunday. The money raised goes to the World Mission Fund working in partnership with 65 Partner churches outside Britain and Ireland. Grants for leadership training scholarships etc. Further information is printed on the envelopes.

**Friends for Life** was set up by the Bedford Deanery and the Bedford North Methodist Circuit, to provide spiritual care and friendship to the residents in the many care homes of Bedford and district. To date, about 40 residents in 9 homes are being visited individually and there are a number of worship teams visiting homes on a regular basis. The potential scope of the work is considerable and is much appreciated by residents and by the staff of the care homes. On Thursday 25 March, Friends for Life is organising a workshop. This is not only for existing volunteers, but for those who wish to find out more about Friends for Life and are considering becoming a volunteer. For more information please contact John Bassill 325227 or Joanne Barrow 213038.

**Charity Theatre Event-Cancer Research UK and Great Ormond Street Hospital** are joining forces with the help of Sharnbrook Mill Theatre Trust to offer tickets for their next musical production of "Man of La Mancha" on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.45pm. Tickets are £12.50 each which will include a glass of wine or soft drink and there will be a Grand Raffle. All profits will be divided equally between the two charities.

The story is that of Don Quixote and the music is very catchy. You will probably know the song "The Impossible Dream" which is from the show. Please contact John Lingings (306676) or Sue & Richard Butler (354183) for tickets, and help us raise a worthwhile sum for these very deserving causes.

**Three Circuits ' Walk** Now the amalgamation of the three north Bedfordshire circuits into one has been formally agreed, how about getting to know the folks in the other circuits by walking with them? On Saturday June 12, there will be a walk covering all three circuits. This not as demanding as it sounds and the terrain of the walk is quite easy. We will start from Priory Methodist Church (in the North Bedford circuit) meeting at about 10.30am with a cup of coffee. We will then walk to Priory Marina and along the old railway trackbed, now a footpath and cycle path, to Willington (in the Bedford South and Amphill circuit. Here we will stop and have a packed lunch (that you will need to bring with you) while the folks at Willington will provide us with some liquid refreshment. From there, at about 1.30pm, we will continue along the footpath ending up at Sandy Methodist Church (in the Biggleswade Circuit) for yet another cup of tea. The total length of the walk is about 7 miles, but if you don't want to do the whole lot you can either do the Priory-Willington leg or the Willington-Sandy leg (both about three-and-a-half miles-ish). As it's a linear walk, transport is something we will need to think about and I suggest that walkers from each church get together to make their own transport arrangements, perhaps taking a car to the end point to bring a group of drivers back to the start point where their cars will be parked (or vice versa). Final details of the walk are still being worked out but this is the general idea of it so put the date in your diary, get out your walking boots and be ready to meet some new friends. For further details give Geoff Talbot a call on 07850 605719.

**Rotas.** The Church rotas for the next three months are available this morning. Please check and make any necessary changes

**Good Friday Children's Special** at Putnoe 2nd April 12.15 to 1.45. The Easter Story, Easter and Spring crafts and light refreshments £1.50 per child with accompanying adult. Suitable for all ages. If you are able to lend a hand during this popular event please contact Liz. Thank you.



Copies of our church Easter cards are available this morning for distribution

**Car Boot Sale** –Monday 5th April is St Mark's first Car Boot of the season. We would be very grateful for bric-a-brac, tools, china, books, CD's, puzzles etc for the church stall. Tray bakes also welcome for the refreshments. Thank you

**Inaugural meeting of the Bedford Borough Third Sector Assembly 'Shaping the Future'**

Date: Tuesday 23rd March 2010

Time: 9.30am - 1.00pm (followed by lunch)

Venue: Bedford Corn Exchange, St Paul's Square, Bedford, MK40 1SL. You can book a place at the Assembly by phone or email:

Phone CVS on 01234 354366, Email your details to: [assembly@yourcvs.org](mailto:assembly@yourcvs.org)

**Storybox at St. Mark's** on Thursdays between 12 and 1,( term time only), would appreciate some more volunteers to help with preparing the food or to tell a story based on the Bible. It will probably only be every 8 or 9 weeks. For further details please see Jaana or ring her on 363283.

**Storybox at St. Mark's** . The preschool children group on Thursdays. The last session before the Easter Holidays will be on Thursday 25 March and we start again on April 22 at 12 noon. We look forward to seeing you then. Jaana 363283.

**Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra [BCCO]** Easter Concert Putnoe Heights Saturday 3rd April at 7.30pm The Orchestra is absolutely delighted to be returning for this, our second performance at Putnoe Heights . Our previous performance was in December 2009 [at which we had an orchestra of 40 musicians], and we have really been looking forward to coming back. In fact, the BCCO is looking to establish this venue as our home base as we really appreciate the support that we have received from both the Church and the local community. Unfortunately, diary clashes mean that our planned concert for July 3rd will have to be staged elsewhere but we are already looking at planning our 2011 concert dates !The reason for this is that the BCCO is all about community. There are

other orchestras in and around Bedford and indeed some of our members also play elsewhere. I like to think that the BCCO is our member's spiritual home though, which has an absolute parallel with the relationship that we seeking to build with your church and the community in Putnoe Heights. Thanks for having us back for a second time and we hope to see many of you on April 3. Tickets and further details are available from the church office 365630.  
Phil Hargreaves, Chair BCCO

**A Hymn for Sunday**

*(Tune Bunessan)*

Christ be beside me,  
Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me,  
King of my heart.  
Christ be within me,  
Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me,  
never to part.

Christ on my right hand,  
Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me,  
Shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping,  
Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising,  
Light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts  
thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues  
telling of me.  
Christ be the vision  
in eyes that see me,  
in ears that hear me  
Christ ever be.

*from St Patrick's Breastplate (8th century),*

**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.

**Peggy Stanley**

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



**Forthcoming Funerals**

**The funeral of Marianne Theed** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 23 March at 10.45am

**The funeral of Sue Lawrence** will take place at St Mary's, Goldington on Monday 29th March at 3pm

**The funeral of Kenneth Sydney Eaton** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 26 March at 1.45pm

**The funeral of Julie Rose Mirto** will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10:00 on Wednesday 31st March 2010