



Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church 22
March 2015
Fifth Sunday of Lent**



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

22 March - Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Ebo Ofori-Quaah
Leadership - Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions - Mrs. Wendy Waters
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr. Ebo Ofori-Quaah
Leadership - Mr. Martin Fannon
Intercessions - Dr. Tim Wilkes
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

29 March - Palm Sunday

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mr. Edward Parry
Intercessions - Mr. Mike Elliott
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mrs. Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Ministers
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Isaiah 50:4-9a 2. Phillipians 2:5-11
3. Mark 14:1-15, 47
Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's
Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur House
on first Monday of every month.

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church have been given by
Pat and Family in memory of Maurice.

A Prayer for Sunday

Give to us, Lord, the peace of those
who have learnt to serve you,
the joy of those who are glad to obey you
and the delight of those who rejoice in your
praise; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Aidan of Lindisfarne (d. 651)

Easter Services

April 3 - Good Friday Service

9.30am St Mark's Church
11.00am Putnoe Heights Church
(With coffee and hot cross buns !)

5 April - Easter Sunday

6.00am Sunrise Holy Communion St Mark's Church
9.30am Holy Communion at St Mark's Church
11.00am Holy Communion at Putnoe Heights Church

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**

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Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@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 - 5.30pm, Friday 9-1pm

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Geoff Gypps 365630
Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Snelson 344417
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs Jean Bank 355698
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's

8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
(See website for more details)

9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955

10.00am-12 U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's. Liz Mason 07816522200 (starts 8 Sept.)

12.00 noon Storybox 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

1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

2.00pm 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 Zoe Wilcox 07767311424

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-8pm Cubs at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

6.30pm Fit For All Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081

7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's (1st week in month) Pat Nicholson 353518

7.00pm Cancer Care Society. St Mark's. (1st week in month) Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020.

7.00-8.00pm Laughter Club at St. Mark's 2nd week each month) Cheryl Green 07729187399

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting– 16 March 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

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

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Lorrie Pearson 01234 340473

11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

1.15pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

1.30pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 1 St Mark's (3rd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Book Group 2 St Mark's (2nd Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895

2.00pm 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.

3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.15-8.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571

7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 14 April Rev. Sam Cappleman Details Diane Bayliss 268101

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.

10.00-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

10.00am 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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 25 March. Contact Putnoe 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 1st week of the month. Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm - 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 15 April 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

5.00–6.00pm Rainbows at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091

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

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

6.00-7.00pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel.01234 353865

7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts at Putnoe ages 10.5-14; Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

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

7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 3446008.

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 1 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

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

10.30pm Spanish Holiday Survival at Putnoe Heights. Elena 01234 266968

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481

12pm Storybox . St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 342613

1.00ui-2.30pm Wiggles & Jiggles Putnoe Heights. Drop in.

1.00 - 2.30pm 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 07768481499

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284

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

8.00pm 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

7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Kaye Logan 309105

Friday

9.30am -3.30pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, 2nd week per month.. 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-7.00pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email: phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

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 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.

2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th Sunday. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – tba

St Mark's Leadership Team -

Annual Congregational Meetings - 26 April 2015

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting –

Putnoe Church Council -

Pastoral Group Meeting

Churchyard Committee - 15 April 11.15am

Circuit meeting –

Deanery meeting - 19 March 7.30pm.

Woodland Burial Trustees – 15 March 12.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 1 June 2015 2pm

St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015, 6 April, 4 May, 25 May and 31 August.

Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 27 September.

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jesus is often shown as self confident assured and driven to achieve his goals. In the passage from John today we read that Jesus was troubled, conflicted about the choices which lay before him. yes, Jesus chose the correct path and leads us all to follow God and make the right choices. However, that does not mean that Jesus is somehow oblivious to the difficulties which we face even knowing which is the right and wrong path to chose, let alone following it. We have a Saviour who understands and can therefore help us and have compassion when we get it wrong.

Sentence of Scripture

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. *John 12*



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*

First Bible Reading - Jeremiah 31:31-34

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

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

Second Bible Reading - Hebrews Chapter 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.'

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

Gospel Reading - John 12:20-33

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my

servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Hymns for Sunday

(Please distribute Morning Worship and hymn sheets)

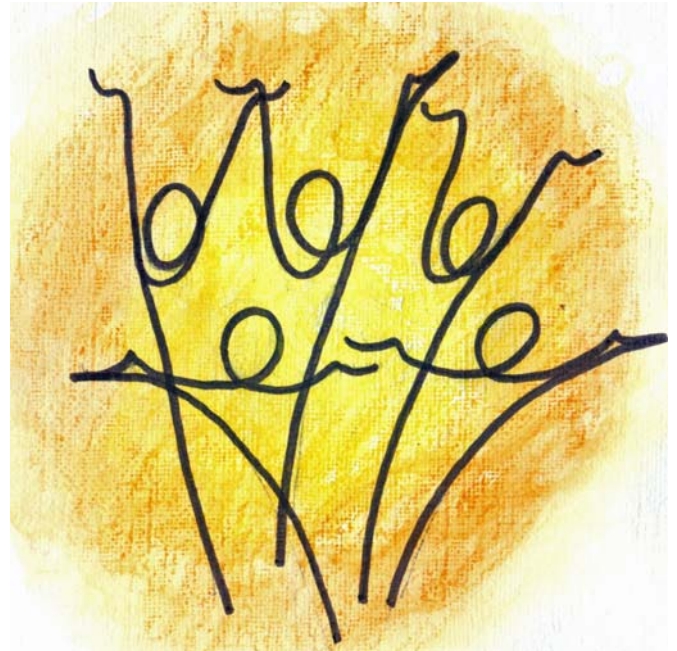
1. O for a heart to praise my God 495 MP
2. I, the Lord of sea and sky 857 MP
3. O love that will not let me go 515 MP
4. Love divine all loves excelling 449 MP
5. Behold the servant of the Lord 788 H&P

Commentary

In our reading today we see Jesus tell his disciples that his heart has been troubled. The Greek word we translate as 'troubled' is 'tetaraktai' and it would be better translated as 'violently disturbed.' He wonders what he should pray for, should he ask God to take it all away from him and give him a quiet life. It reminds me of the film 'The Last Temptation of Christ,' in which Willem Dafoe play a very human Jesus. It was incredibly controversial when it was released in 1988, although it receives an 84% approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes. The most controversial part of the film was probably the sex scene with Mary Magdalene, which is actually something in the mind of Jesus, a hallucination as he endures the suffering on the cross. Jesus wonders how life might have turned out if he had just lived an ordinary life and not taken the path of the cross. What would life have been like if he had married like everybody else and had children and become old. What the film explores is the humanity of Jesus, the doubting of Jesus. To put it in other words, what would Jesus have been like if he had been like us?

Of course the passage today shows that Jesus was like us. A God who became human but who did not experience all of the anguish of humanity would have been a sham. Jesus must have experienced what it is like to be lonely, to be troubled and he must have had sexual feelings, otherwise he cannot be said to be able to understand and feel what we do, his humanity would be a charade. The Book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus was truly tempted *'in every way, just as we are - yet without sin.'* It is important therefore that we see Jesus today in this Gospel reading acknowledging how violent was the disturbance to his life by the challenges and conflicts which challenged him, he was 'violently disturbed.'

It is precisely because Jesus knows this experience of human flesh, from the inside, that he is able to have compassion and understand those who sin and make mistakes. This is why we have a God of forgiveness who opens wide his arms on the cross, instead of pointing the finger. How else could Jesus have forgiven the soldiers who put nails in his hands and feet as he hung on the cross? They had never even asked for forgiveness from the Saviour whose love was so great that he recognised they were unquestioningly following orders as they had done so many times before when they nailed criminals to crosses.



It is such a Saviour who inspires the writer of Hebrews to encourage us to approach God with confidence 'so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need.'

Hebrews chapter 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Of course Jesus rises above his troubled heart and shows that the way to peace and fulfillment lies not in avoiding the cost, but rather in working out God's will. We are all too often tempted to believe that the way to true happiness is to be self interested. A good life might be considered to be a long life in which the person worked hard to have enough to provide for themselves and their family. Jesus died young and poor, teaching his followers that the way to gain life was by being willing to die.

We think of death as the ultimate failure, the great leveller of humankind, the common fate of clay. Jesus uses words in which he clearly sees death in very different terms. Jesus uses the example of a seed which dies in the ground, but instead of that being the end of it, the seed instead gives life. When I was young I grew potatoes on my grandfathers allotment in Liverpool. He gave me a small bag of seed potatoes and I had to dig holes and plant them at the bottom of the holes and cover them over. Eventually green shoots appeared on the surface of the soil and after some weeks of piling more soil and watering I dug down into the soil with a fork. The original seed potatoe was no more, but it was replaced by many more fresh new potatoes. The one potatoe had died, it had been sacrificed to bring about the creation of new life, it was a something of a miracle. The message of Jesus is very clear to those who wish to follow him in the way of the Christian life. The way to abundant life is through personal sacrifice, willing to put aside your own self interest and be concerned rather for the interests of others. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

God's new covenant is appropriated for us through the work of Christ as both priest and sacrifice, and also through our own willingness to lose our lives for the sake of the Gospel. This makes sense, since it is impossible to enter a new life unless we are willing to release the old one, and a new covenant cannot be written on the heart if we remain obsessed with the externals of the old covenant. The call to die in order to live may appear at first as a "works-based" theology, but to view it as such is to misunderstand what it means to die. Dying is not something we do. It is, rather, a release, a ceasing to strive and live, and a submission to the inevitable. In the same way, once we have recognised the inadequacy of the old way of being – the old "covenant" with its external law – we can do nothing other than release it, to die to it, and to submit to the coming change, the inevitable transformation from who we were to who we are to become in Christ. We cannot make this transformation happen, anymore than the seed can make itself sprout. However, we can, if we so choose, resist the death and cling to the old way. This is where Christ's example is crucial for us – as we witness Jesus' willingness to die and trust in resurrection, so we are given the grace and the faith to follow.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Soul of Christ, be my sanctification; Body of Christ, be my salvation; Blood of Christ, fill all my veins; Water of Christ's side, wash out my stains; Passion of Christ, my comfort be; O good Jesus, listen to me; In Thy wounds I fain would hide; Ne'er to be parted from Thy side; Guard me, should the foe assail me; Call me when my life shall fail me; Bid me come to Thee above, With Thy saints to sing Thy love, World without end. Amen. *Translation by Cardinal John Henry Newman of Anima Christi a medieval prayer to Jesus C1300*

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us from all sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

O Christ give us patience and faith, and hope as we kneel at the foot of thy cross, that however ill the world may go, the father so loved us that he spared not thee. *Charles Kingsley*

Mission Accomplished Charity No 1160981. Many thanks to Sam who has finally received confirmation that St Mark's has been accepted by the Charity Commissioners as a registered charity. Sam explains --

Following changes in the way churches are regarded as charitable organisations we have been working with the Diocesan solicitors and the Charity Commission over a lengthy period of time to define the structure and framework that will support our continuing as an Ecumenical partnership. This framework is called the constitution and forms the basis of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, (CIO). Being a partnership has meant, rather surprisingly, we have had to start from scratch with the paperwork and legalities as it appears no other partnership is as far down the path as we are. The process was started for St Mark's and once fully complete will be replicated for Putnoe. The good news is that we heard this week that St Mark's application has been agreed by the Charity Commission, which is a major step forward. This gives us a charity number, which is important for things like claiming gift aid and making grant applications. We will now begin working through the details and implementation over the coming weeks and months. We will then start the process for Putnoe in due course, which should be much simpler as the wording in the framework document and our objectives already been established. Not surprisingly we are beginning to get questions as to how to set up this structure from other ecumenical partnerships in the diocese and beyond!

Date for your diary Auction of Promises at St Mark's Church Saturday 18 April at 7.30pm. Please put this date in your diary. This will be a fund raising evening at which we can offer things we have, experiences, gifts etc. More information to follow. Ian Farthing

Arthritis Research Spring Fayre on Saturday 28 March at Biddenham Village, Nodders Way from 10am to 12 noon Admission 50p accompanied children free. Cakes and preserves, gifts, bric-a-brac, plants, tombola etc.

St Mark's Craft Stall Easter novelties now available from £1 each. This year we have Shaun the sheep. All profits to St. Mark's.

Next Messy Church at St Mark's Church on Wednesday 15 April 3.45 - 5.30pm. Messy Church takes place monthly on a Wednesday from 3.45pm - 5.30pm. For children of lower school age and carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and meal. For more details contact Wendy Waters 401834

Chat and Makes restarts after Easter on April 20
Chat and play restarts in April 16
Story Box restarts on April 16

Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra Concert at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday

28 March 2015 at 7.30pm. Programme includes Romeo and Juliet Fantasy overture and Mendelsohn's Midsummer Night's Dream. Tickets on the door £7, concessions £5

Core Skills for Children's Work Leaders

Saturday 4 July 10am – 3pm at St Andrew's Church, Bedford The Revd Ruth Pyke, Diocesan Children's Work Adviser, will be leading this training day. Core Skills is a course devised by the Consultative Group on Ministry among Children. The modules Ruth will be covering on 4 July are Working as a Team, and Pastoral Awareness. This is a free event for those in St Albans Diocese, but places must be booked in advance. Book online at <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/find-a-course/> or for more information please contact Julie Cirillo on 01727 818160 or email: youthoffice@stalbans.anglican.org

Bedford Credit Union St Mark's Church,

You can now become a member of Bedford Credit Union (BCU) at St Mark's Church. The Bishop of Bedford will attend at St Mark's on for the official opening on Monday 30 March at 11.00am Copies of the new leaflet explaining all about the credit union are available now from St Mark's or can be downloaded from the church website

MacMillan Grand Easter Egg Draw

If anyone requires raffle tickets for the MacMillan Easter Egg, please contact myself or Jane on 01234 348091. I would like to thank everyone who have either given money or who already bought a ticket for their incredible generosity The draw will be the 29 March & Sam has agreed to pull out the winning ticket. Although, I didn't tell him the date so I hope he is free to do it

Bedford Foodbank is holding a 'Doctor Who Day' on Saturday 11 April at The King's House, Amptill Road, Bedford. All profits will go to the Foodbank, which provides emergency food for local people in crisis. Guests include three of the Doctor's companions (Ace, Peri and Polly!), and the actors who play Davros and K9. Choreographer Ailsa Berk, who teaches movement to the actors who play the aliens, will be leading a monster-movement workshop! For more information, please go to the website bedfordwhocharitycon.co.uk or email Simon Danes on info@bedfordwhocharitycon.co.uk

Methodist Woman in Britain Easter offering. Do take an Easter Offering envelope from the church vestibule. Please return with your contribution on Easter Day. Nearest Dedication service will be held at Kempston East on Wednesday 27 May at 2.30pm

St Mark's Clothes Bank Thank you to everyone who supported us . We have just received our first payment of £130.50. This is a great way of clearing out your old clothes, shoes handbags etc. They find a good home with somebody who can't afford new clothes and the church raises vital funds.

Partnership Mission 14- 19 July

Thank you to those people who have been coming forward with great ideas for our mission week. Please keep suggesting events and activities for July when Bishop Richard will be joining us in the Partnership for a week of mission in our community. We will be holding special events and Bishop Richard will be visiting groups and meeting people leading up to special Sunday Services. If you have any ideas of events which you would like to hold or that you would like to participate in, then please speak with Charlie. During this week the aim will be to make contact with as many people as possible and offer them a welcome to our church family in Jesus name.

The Methodist Church World Mission Fund

Easter Offering envelopes are available in the lobby area at St. Mark's on Sunday, 22 March & on Palm Sunday, 29 March. Please help to support the mission partners working overseas & overseas students in ministry training. It also allows the church to make grants to Partner churches for special projects. The offering envelopes can be placed in the collection plates at Easter or handed in at the office. Thank you. Margaret Standley.

Charity Collections Saturday, 18 & Sunday 19

April Cancer Research UK has been given the opportunity to collect outside both Cardington Road and Goldington branches of Tesco on the above dates. We hope to cover from 8am to 6pm at both locations on both days. You will realise this will need a large number of collectors, working in twos, and we need to look beyond our usual loyal helpers. If you feel you could give an hour of your time on either or both of these days please let Sue Butler (354183) know as soon as possible, or telephone Brian Hillier on 01234 720669 when he can try and give you a convenient slot. Please consider whether you could help us with this special opportunity to raise much needed funds and perhaps encourage a friend to collect with you. Thank you.

Footprints There will be a walk from Turvey on Sunday the 12 April 2015. The later start time is 2.30pm. Meet on the bridge where the A428 traverses the River Great Ouse. Park in nearby layby. The walk is over grassy park land behind Turvey Abbey. 3-4 miles. Stiles have been replaced by modern Kissing gates. Some muddy places. Enquiries Alan or Margaret 327219.

St Mark's Church. Can you help us? During the past months our Junior Church has been gradually increasing in number and Linda Turner needs one or two volunteers, who enjoy the challenge of working with young children, to help her on a fairly regular basis on Sunday mornings. If you would like more information, please speak to one of our ministers, Jean Bank or another member of the Leadership Team or to Linda herself, who will be pleased to give you more information. Thank you.



Please shop at ThisChurch.com

Please can you make a point of always going to Amazon through the link on www.ThisChurch.com. If you look at an item through Amazon direct they put a cookie on your machine and we don't get any commission! Please make it a habit to always go through the church website. This costs you nothing and we get a bit of commission.

www.easyfundraising.com. This works exactly the same when you shop with John Lewis, M&S and a whole host of other shops. This has an added benefit that you will also get some special offers - you can't lose! Please click the link on the church website go online and sign up now

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

**Peter Clough
Peter Parker
Maurice Mitchell**

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

Intercessions Bidding and Response

Bidding: Christ of compassion

Response: Hear our prayers and petitions



Forthcoming Funerals

There are no funerals this week