

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

24th April 2011
Easter Sunday



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

1 May– 2nd Sunday of Easter

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

Sunrise Service 6.00am at St Mark's Chapel

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - The Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank
Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - The Reverend Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

9.30 am St Mark's - Family Service with Baptism

Preacher – Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott

11.00 am Putnoe - Family Service

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership – Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions – YPG

Readings 1. Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 2.1 Peter 1: 3-9
3. John 20> 19-31

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this Easter Sunday have been given by Alan and Margaret Massey. The flowers at St Mark's this week have been partially donated and arranged by the flower team-Judith, Margaret, Marion Penny, Rosemary, Tommy & Vera, Thank you to those who have prepared our churches

Christ is Risen - He is risen indeed Alleluia !

THE EMPTY
TOMB

John 20:11-18



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—16 May 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.** May 3 Deacon Jane Mason 'Anjulita Court'. 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 May 3 'Gentle Exercise'. 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 - 27 April 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 May 4 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. Meet again on 28 April. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

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. Meet again on 28 April. 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

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfotrdtkd.com or bedfordtkd@googlemail.com.

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council –

St Mark's Leadership Team

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 June

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .26 May

St Mark's Forum Meeting - 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 –

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

Easter Sunday

Opening Sentence from Scripture .–

1 Corinthians Chapter 5

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

Collect Prayer

(Before we read we pray)

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in

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John 20:11-18

glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading — Acts 10: 34-43

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

Second Reading - Colossians 3: 1-4

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

Gospel Reading - John 20: 1-18

(When the Gospel is announced: **All: Glory to God our Saviour**)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two

angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. (This is the gospel of Christ - **All : Praise to Christ our Lord.**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ: you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation; give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King to the Glory of God the Father. Amen

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

1. Christ the Lord is risen today 193 (Tune Easter Hymn)
2. Low in the grave he lay 202 (Tune Christ arose)
3. The day of resurrection 208 (Tune Ellacombe)
4. Thine be the glory 212 (Tune Maccabeus)

Commentary

At the time, Good Friday seemed anything but good. Indeed it had appeared to be a complete victory for the forces of destruction and left those who associated with Jesus completely bereft. Evil had reared its ugly head and roared; and any idea of a good God was left in tatters. God had appeared to stand at a distance and the cry of Jesus on the cross must have rung in the ears of all who loved him

'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?'

So when Mary went to the tomb, she went in deep sadness and despair, she went into a place of coldness and death, she went to a place with no hope and no happiness, she went to prepare a body for burial, she went to put Jesus in his grave. This spirit of hopelessness is not a stranger to most of us. The song title comes to mind 'Into every life a little rain must fall', yet for some it is much worse than that. Our world appears at this time particularly troubled with unrest and there are those who will never recover from the effects of that most dreadful Tsunami which has left Japan only just beginning to come to terms with the devastation and long term consequences of nuclear disaster.

For all of us, our lives face difficulty at some time or another. Earthquakes and tsunamis come, friends die, wars drag on, relatives get sick, jobs don't work out, people we trust let us down. All of life is subject to the painful realities of decline and decay. Yet Easter reminds us that the God has an answer.

God's love and forgiveness is at work in our curious world. Easter is more than a promise of life beyond the grave, or of happiness in heaven with our loved ones. Easter is a promise that God is at work with us even now. God's power is active in this moment, in all places, in all lives.

At Easter Christians are reminded that evil does not triumph and that God's ways will not be defeated by anybody or anything. Human power and authority might have appeared to triumph in bringing about the death of Christ, but this was not the case. Christ was risen by God and he appeared as a sign to his disciples that they must trust and have faith even when all the odds looked stacked against them.

The values of our world might lead us think that those who use force and power will triumph. In his resurrection Jesus tells us that this is not the case, it is only as we seek to be faithful to God that we discover real life.

This is why we live by the code which Jesus has given to us. To live lives in which we seek God above all else, in which we do unto others as we would have them do unto us. The false God's of this world pretend that happiness is found in serving and pleasing ourselves, Jesus tells us that real peace and true joy comes only from loving God, with all our heart, mind and soul; and loving our neighbour as ourself.

At times we might be encouraged to think that fighting our own corner and looking after our own lives is the most important thing and will bring happiness. Jesus shows us through Easter that we will only ever be able to discover life when we are willing to it in service of God. Life is full of difficulty and death, but God is full of life, and so are we, because Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Alleluia !

Meditation Easter message from the President of the Methodist Conference

Revd Alison Tomlin, President of the Methodist Conference, has issued an Easter message for Holy Week. In her message, Alison reminds people what it means to walk with Jesus through his Passion. The full text follows:

"Passion – have you ever wondered why the Sunday before Palm Sunday is called Passion Sunday? For me, 'passion' is a positive word. I am passionate about justice and peace; I am passionate about the needs of the people I love as well as the needs of our world.

"But for those of us who choose to walk with Jesus through his Passion it is about pain and agony, accepted and received without the active reaction that the word passion suggests, as well as about God's passionate love for humanity. We need to begin to recognise that God's Living Word became 'passive' in order to pay the price that evil always demands.

"So I invite you to resist the temptation to rush through Good Friday and Holy Saturday; to celebrate with laughter and feasting the joy of resurrection before you have stood at the Cross and the graveside with the first disciples. Wherever and however it is right for you, take time to experience the sense of hopelessness and despair and grief they knew. For some of you, currently in the depth of personal grief and loss, that may produce an immediate understanding – or even make your own sorrow feel worse. For others it will feel very different.

"However painful it is we need to be there. For God's sake and our own, we need to recognise the pain and cost of Easter before we celebrate. The God who invites us home into his love was prepared to face death and the grave and hell for us. So I do indeed wish you all Resurrection Joy in the daily presence of the God who loves you that much. And I pray that, whatever you know of happiness or sorrow at this time, you will be sustained by God's compassion and mercy."

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Gracious and loving God, we are mindful today of all who suffer, and especially of those who are most vulnerable and in need. Through your Spirit, let the power and promise of the Resurrection take root in our lives, that we may live as vibrant and faithful witnesses to your love; through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen!

Risen Lord Jesus, as Mary Magdalene met you in the garden on the morning of your resurrection, so may we meet you today and every day: speak to us as you spoke to her; reveal yourself as the living Lord; renew our hope and kindle our joy; and send us to share the good news with others. 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.

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.

Why do we have Easter eggs?

The sight of a living creature emerging from an egg has long been cherished as a graphic example of the wonderful new life which is proclaimed at Easter. The enclosed shell of an egg came to remind people of the sealed tomb from which the risen Christ emerged victorious over death.



Grant to us, O Lord, that most excellent of all virtues, the gift of your divine love. Let love be in our thinking and our speaking, in our daily work and in the hidden places of our souls. Let love be in our friendships and in our life with those it is hard to bear. Let love be in our joys and in our sorrows, in our life and in our death. Amen. *William Temple, 1881-1944*

Easter Liturgy 2011

Introduction: This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God, as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvellous light. May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

All: Lord God - we gather in the name of the Risen Christ to pour forth our praises in glad Easter Celebration. We rejoice that you have not left us without hope - but have come back to us in the victory of the resurrection and given us the assurance of eternal life through Jesus whom you lifted from the tomb. Praise be to your name - both now and forevermore. Amen

The lighting of the Paschal Candle

The candle is lit as the Minister says the following words

Minister: Jesus Christ yesterday and today the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, time belongs to him and all ages; to him be glory and power through every age and for ever. Amen

By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard and keep us. May the light of Christ, rising in glory banish all darkness from our hearts and minds

Minister: The light of Christ

All: Thanks be to God

Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Glory to you, O God: you raised Jesus from the grave, bringing us victory over death and giving us eternal life

Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation

you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us into the truth and breathe new life into us.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit now and for ever. Amen.

Opening Hymn

The Easter Blessing used at the end of the service

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

The Paschal Candle The flame of the Paschal Candle symbolizes Christ as light of the world and his presence in the midst of his people. The term "Paschal" comes from the word Pesach, which in Hebrew means Passover. Traditionally the candle was put out after forty days following the reading of the Gospel on Ascension Sunday. However the Paschal Candle is an important "symbol of Easter" and Easter lasts for the Great Fifty Days until Pentecost, when we move from the Easter colours of white and gold to red. After the Easter season, it is lit during services that include the sacrament of baptism. The Paschal Candle is also lit for funeral services as a sign of the promise of resurrection.



Maundy Thursday Service Thank you to all who helped with the Maundy Thursday Service at Putnoe. If you are interested to know more about the order of service two sources of information are, 'Michele Guinness, A little Kosher Seasoning', published by Hodder and Stoughton and 'The Illuminated Haggadah, with Medieval Illuminations from the Haggadah Collection of the British Library', published by Stewart, Tabori & Chang.

Chat and Play starts again on Thursday April 28 at 9.45am

Story Box starts again on Thursday April 28 at 12noon. A big thank you to all the volunteers.

St.Mark's Craft Group still has a few Easter novelties left @£1 each. All profits to the church.

Bedford Town Band together with The Vauxhall Male Voice Choir share the concert stage for a very special evening of music and song on Friday 29 April 7.30pm at St. Paul's Church, Bedford. Tickets £8 and £7 (concessions) from Frescoes Coffee House, Mill Street or from the door on concert night.

Churches Together in Bedfordshire Annual Forum. Wednesday 25 May at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Flitwick. Speaker The Rt. Revd Richard Inwood, Bishop of Bedford. Buffet meal from 6.30pm, meeting at 7.30pm.

Guided Spring Walk Putnoe Woods on Saturday 30 April at 2pm. Meet by the information board at the main entrance to the woods. Wear comfortable footwear and dress for the weather. Everyone welcome-free of charge! Also meeting re developing Friends of Putnoe Woods and Mowsbury at The Pheasant Pub Tuesday 19th April 7pm. For more information contact Park Rangers 227363.

A Service of Praise to Celebrate the Life of

Charles Wesley on Sunday May 22, 2011 at 6.30pm Putnoe Heights Church. Conducted by Revd Eric Royden

Cleaning wanted Mr and Mrs Clarke of 88 Curlew Crescent are looking for help in the house for a couple of hours daily. Tel 344459.

Christian Aid week 15 -21 May. If you are able to help with delivering and collecting for Christian Aid in the Brickhill area of roads for which St Mark's is responsible, will you please see John and Irene Harrison after the church service or call in at the office. Thank you John & Irene Harrison

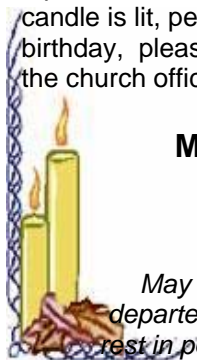
Footprints Walking Group Sunday 8 May 2.30pm start. Meet at Moggerhanger Park for a 3 mile circular walk along the Thornton Way and (hopefully) enjoy the bluebells in Moggerhanger Woods. John & Sally

Easter Offering The theme this year is "Seeds of Life". Envelopes are available in the vestibules at St Marks and Putnoe Heights churches for your use. The money you kindly donate is used in several ways by the World Mission Fund :- for grants for particular requests from Partner Churches. Training and support of Mission Partners as well as for scholarships and leadership training. This work is vital to the on going work of our churches. Please return your filled envelopes on Easter Sunday.

Car Boot Sales – Easter Monday 25 April and 2 May. We would be very grateful for bric-a-brac, tools, china, books, CD's, puzzles etc for the Church stall. Preferably in reasonable condition. The Church will be open on each Sunday afternoon before the sale for you to leave your items. Also, if you are able to provide cakes and tray bakes for the refreshments they would be very welcome. Thank you for your continued support.

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.



**Maude Edith Moore
John Crawley
Dick Kempston**

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



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Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Mr John Crawley will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Tuesday 19 April

