



# Partnership News

24 February 2013

Second Sunday in Lent

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church



## 8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

### Today 24 February

#### 9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Charles Royden

Leadership - Mrs Margaret Appleton

Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Charles Royden

Leadership – Mrs Jean Kirk

Intercessions - - Ministers

### Sunday 3 March Lent 3

#### 9.30 St Marks – Family Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Charles Royden

Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart

Intercessions – Ministers

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Charles Royden

Leadership – Mrs Linda Hoar

Intercessions – YPG

**Readings 1** .Isaiah 55:1-9 **2.** 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

**3** Luke 13:1-9

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

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Diana Johnson in loving memory of her mother, Jean Brown, and by Samantha Ware in loving memory of her mother, Doris McGrellis, who died 40 years ago this week.

*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 on the foyers*

## Prayer for Sunday

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith  
and a generosity of service  
that gives without counting cost.  
A life overflowing with Grace  
poured out from the One  
who gave everything,  
that we might show  
the power of love  
to a broken world,  
and share the truth  
from a living Word.  
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith,  
and a yearning to share it

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a Vice  
President for Hewlett Packard)

### Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre 365630

jane@thisischurch.com

### The Reverend 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.ThisChurch.com

### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com

*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,  
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.  
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

### Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm**

**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

**Centre Manager** Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846

**Leadership Team** Mrs. Jean Kirk 317699

**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** - Morag Stewart 360103

**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

treasurer@thisischurch.com

**Gift Aid Administrator** Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)  
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685  
**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**9.-3.45pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**  
(See website for more details)  
**.9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430  
**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955  
**10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Calligraphy** at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation** at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (see contact details below)  
**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 Carolyn Morris [youth@thischurch.com](mailto:youth@thischurch.com) 365630  
**1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make** For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys,songs,story and refreshments £1. More details email– [chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk) .  
**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** (see contact details below)  
**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  
**6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**6.30pm Boot Camp** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081  
**7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson 353518  
**7.00pm 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– 18 March Judith Stanton. 823313  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567  
**7.45pm Opus Choir** at St Mark's Mrs Sutherland 269100  
**8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Diane Field 404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016  
**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507  
**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389  
**10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** (see contact details below)  
**1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles** 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552  
**1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp.** St Mark's (contacts details below)  
**1–3pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's (contacts details below)

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details)  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895  
**2pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).  
**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.  
**4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468  
**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957  
**7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390  
**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648  
**6.30pm MT Karate** (all ages) Karen King 07941264885  
**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455  
**7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo 07590597891 or [www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk](http://www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk)  
**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** (Meets fortnightly). Next meeting '5 March Members evening. Details Janet King 313946  
**8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers Workshop** St. Mark's 3rd Tuesday in month. Next meeting 26 February Shirley Sadler 01767 651767

## Wednesday

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly. Contact Marion Sutton 217647  
**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.  
**9.30am Discovery & Do** (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666  
**10am-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.  
**10am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. (contact below)  
**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.  
**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks (see contact details below)  
**10am U3A Diet and Nutrition-** Putnoe (contact below)  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit**  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 13 March at Putnoe Heights Office 365630  
**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)  
**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811  
**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** St Marks.(see contact details below)  
**2.00pm Fifty Plus Keep Fit** Mrs Webster 856966  
**2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan**  
**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966  
**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 20th February Wendy Waters /401834  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha

Mistry 01908 392698

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

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

**6-8pm 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. Sylvia Woods 365095

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

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

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 6 March. 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 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

### 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 term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

**110-11.30am Gentle Yoga** For more details contact Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305

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

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays** St. Mark's 267444

**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

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St.Mark's (contact below)

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Mark's Mary Rich 272470

**5.00pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

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

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale 406094

**7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. Carol Plant 01832710504

**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 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

**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 Pat Cass 294220

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

### Friday

**10am -12.00 U3A Photography** St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St. Marks (see contact details below)

**2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist** St Marks. (contact details below)

**2pm U3A Italian**-Putnoe Heights (contact details below)

**2pm U3A Gardening** - Putnoe Heights

4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker (07900 232648

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

**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.**St Marks(2nd week) 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

**6.45pm 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

**10am—5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre.** 1st Sunday Feb/ Apr/Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

**11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior** at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

**U3A** For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 10 April, 11 June

**St Mark's Leadership Team** -

**Annual Congregational Meetings** 28 April 2013

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 3 June

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting** 24 January

**Putnoe Church Council** - 19 February, 10 June, 24 Oct

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -

**Commemoration Service** Sunday 3 November 6.30pm

**Circuit meeting** -

**Deanery Meeting** - 28 February

**Woodland Burial Trustees**— AGM —Sunday 9 June

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** –

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



## Second Sunday in Lent

### Introductory Sentence - Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? We will offer sacrifices in the Lord's tent with shouts of joy; we will sing and make melody to the Lord.

### Collect Prayer

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way may we come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Common Worship Shorter Collect*

### First Reading — Genesis 15:1-12 & 17-18

#### God's Covenant With Abram

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it." But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?" So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon." Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### Second Reading - Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

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

### Gospel Reading - Matthew 13:31-35

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day--for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

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



**Endless Road 1971**

Hofheinz-Doring,  
Margret, 1910-1994

"There aren't any ordinary people in the world; everyone is extraordinary because everyone has been created by God, and is someone to reverence."

## Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Hymns *(Please distribute Hymns Sheets and Morning Worship)*

1. Sing to God new songs of worship
2. Be thou my vision, O god of my heart
3. Who would true valour see
4. Now it is evening, lights of the city
5. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder

## Commentary **Second Sunday of Lent.** **Jesus weeps over Jerusalem.**

On the western slope of the Mount of Olives, just across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem, sits a small chapel called Dominus Flevit. According to tradition, it was here that Jesus wept over the city that had refused his ministrations. Inside the chapel a high arched window looks out over the city. Iron grillwork divides the view into sections, so that on a sunny day the effect is that of a stained-glass window. The difference is that this subject is alive. It is not some artist's rendering of the holy city but the city itself. You can see opposite the Dome of the Rock in the centre.

Down below, on the front of the altar, is the picture at the top of the page. It is a mosaic medallion of a white hen with a golden halo around her head. Her red comb resembles a crown, and her wings are spread wide to shelter the pale yellow chicks that crowd around her feet. There are seven of them, with black dots for eyes and orange dots for beaks. They look happy to be there. The hen looks ready to spit fire if anyone comes near her babies. The medallion is rimmed with red words in Latin. Translated into English they read, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" The last phrase is set outside the circle, in a pool of red underneath the chicks' feet: 'you were not willing.'

The same lament appears in Matthew's Gospel, but Jerusalem does not mean the same thing to him that it does to Luke. Luke's Gospel begins and ends in the temple in Jerusalem. Zechariah learns in the temple that he and Elizabeth will have a child. Mary and Joseph bring their own child there when the time comes. Simeon and Anna deliver their prophecies there, and Jesus returns when he is 12 years old to take his place among the teachers of Israel. All told, Luke mentions Jerusalem 90 times in his Gospel, while all the other New Testament writers combined mention it only 49 times. It is hard to avoid the conclusion that Luke loves the place—so rich in history and symbol, so dense with expectation and fear. Jerusalem is the dwelling place of God, the place where God's glory shall be revealed (Isa. 24:23). It is also the place where God is betrayed by those who hate the good and love what is evil (Mic. 3:2).

If you have ever loved someone you could not protect, then you understand the depth of Jesus' lament. All you can do is open your arms. You cannot make anyone walk into them. Meanwhile, this is the most vulnerable posture in the world --wings spread, breast exposed—but if you mean what you say, then this is how you stand. Given the number of animals available, it is curious that Jesus chooses a hen. Where is the biblical precedent for that? What about the mighty eagle of Exodus, or Hosea's stealthy leopard? What about the proud lion of Judah, mowing down his enemies with a roar? Compared to any of those, a mother hen does not inspire much confidence. No wonder some of the chicks decided to go with the fox. But a hen is what Jesus chooses, which -- if you think about it --is pretty typical of him. He is always



View towards Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, at the church of Dominus Flevit (Jesus Wept). The church is built in the shape of a teardrop to commemorate the place where Jesus wept over Jerusalem

turning things upside down, so that children and peasants wind up on top while kings and scholars land on the bottom. He is always wrecking our expectations of how things should turn out by giving prizes to losers and paying the last first. So of course he chooses a chicken, which is about as far from a fox as you can get. That way the options become very clear: you can live by licking your chops or you can die protecting the chicks. Jesus won't be king of the jungle in this or any other story. What he will be is a mother hen, who stands between the chicks and those who mean to do them harm. She has no fangs, no claws, no rippling muscles. All she has is her willingness to shield her babies with her own body. If the fox wants them, he will have to kill her first.

The passage from Luke today is a clear expression of exactly what Jesus thought his death was all about. Jesus has no need of a bodyguard to protect him, instead his death would offer protection to others. Like the hen with her chicks he will take up the challenge of the cross and lay down his life in Jerusalem. There is an important theological point here: that Jesus went to the cross voluntarily. This passage seems to emphasize the intention of Jesus, the cross will not come because Jesus is trapped in the Garden and his followers let him down. Jesus will not fight back, but this is not because he is a coward, rather because he knows that he must offer his own life for the life of others. Like a hen which will put out its wings to protect chicks, and ultimately give of its own life first, so Jesus shows a willingness to pay the greatest price.

So Jesus calls us all to the shelter of his protecting wings. As he stretches wide his arms on the cross, he calls you and me to come to him for safety. He calls us place our trust in him, irrespective of how great are our fears, the hurts, troubles or pains which we feel. We can have confidence to believe that his outstretched arms are strong enough, his wings sufficiently broad to keep us safe. It is only in the safe shadow of his wings that we are saved. Charles Royden

## **Meditation**

Is not this the fast that I choose? To loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? *Isaiah 58:6-7*

## **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

Jesus, Lamb of God, when you walked this earth you did not consider heavenly equality, though that was yours to choose, but took the role of servant, and in humility and obedience allowed the rough nails of our sin to be hammered into your flesh for the sake of our salvation. And so it is that we acknowledge you as Lord of all, to the glory of God the Father, Son and Spirit, Three.

Forgive those things we have done which have caused you sadness, and those things we should have done that would have brought you joy. In both we have failed ourselves, and you. Bring us back to that place where our journey began, when we said that we would follow the way that you first trod. Lead us to the Cross and meet us there.

You chose a people for your own, to lavish love upon, raise up prophets, priests and kings, to be the nation through which the Messiah would be revealed to the world, and through whom your kingdom would come. You chose this people gathered here to be your children, loved and blessed, forgiven through the one who knew no sin, the King of Glory whose crown was made of thorns, and whose name we raise in worship.

You were a man of suffering, acquainted with grief, loved and despised in equal measure. You understand humanity, know our failings, love us despite the people that we are. When we, like Peter, deny you by word or action, forgive us. When we, like Judas, are tempted to follow a different path, forgive us.

When we, like those in the crowd allow you to be crucified, forgive us. Bring us to the foot of the Cross to stand next to the one who, looking into your eyes declared 'Surely this is the Son of God'

Stretching out Thy divine hands upon the Cross, thou hast joined together that which before was divided, and by thy mediation thou hast offered as a gift to the Father the nature of mortal man, that was under condemnation. Therefore we sing the praises of thy sinless Crucifixion. *St. Joseph the Studite*

Loving God - we stop here today to think not only of ourselves and our needs - we pause not just to have our cups filled by your love - we stop as well on behalf of others. We hold before you those whose cups are filled with bitterness and anger, those who have lost their way and who worship success and the idols of our world. We ask that you give them new hearts - hearts that are filled with goodness and with faith.



**Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church** will be 10 years old this May. If you would like to celebrate this milestone on Saturday 11th May 2013 please can you let me know. Carolyn email Youth@thischurch.com

**John Bunyan's 'Childish Toys'** a one day course for readers of all ages on 16 March 10am—4pm at Bunyan Meeting. Tutors Dr. Pat Pinset and Professor Bob Owens. For further information contact Dr. Clare Walsh 01234 793091 email clare.walsh@beds.ac.uk

**Telecare** - It is of enormous value for us to be able to keep in touch with Church members by Telecare. If you are elderly, especially if you live alone, please register for Telecare. We will just ensure that somebody calls you every fortnight to make sure that all is ok. Please advise the ministers.

**Hilda Hicks** cordially invites everyone from Putnoe Heights and St Marks churches to join her in the celebration of her 90th birthday party on Saturday 9 March from 4-7pm at Putnoe Heights church. RSVP by Thursday 28th February please, to daughter Linda at lindatongue@yahoo.co.uk, telephone 01480 350345 or reply direct to Hilda on 01234 354289.

#### **Messy Church Dates**

Weds 20 March; Weds 17 April; Weds 17 May;  
Weds 19 June; Weds 18 Sept; Weds 16 Oct;  
Weds 20 November; Weds 11 December

**Lunch Club** on 27 February cancelled because of cooker problems. Hopefully 13 March will be normal



**Woodland AGM** -Sunday 9 June 2013 at 12.30pm.

**Woodland Open Day**– Saturday 20 July 2013 2pm—5pm.

#### **Putnoe Heights Church.**

Thank you to all who supported the Christian Aid Super Soup Lunch on Sunday. A total of £230.00 has been sent to Christian Aid and a little more will come from Gift Aid.

A Missions fund donation has been sent from Putnoe Heights Church to Christian Aid for £250 for their Syrian refugees appeal.

**St. Mark's Craft Stall** Easter novelties will be on sale today at £1 each, after the morning service and then from the office.

#### **Children's Easter Arrangements 2013**

At Putnoe Heights Church  
Friday 29 March Children's & Youth Good Friday Special Putnoe Heights Church. 12.15pm to 1.30pm  
£1.00 Donation per child Easter Story, Crafts & Light Refreshments

#### **Clapham Methodist Church Table Top Sale**

Saturday 27 April 10 am to 1 pm Tables available at £5 each. Just pay that cost and the rest of the money

that you make is yours! Proceeds will be for church funds. Bacon rolls and hot drinks available  
To book a table please ring Peggy on 01234 356572.

**St Mark's Church Council** This will now take place on Wednesday 10 April at 7.30pm in the Chapel.

**Footprints Walking Group** Next walk Sunday March 3. Park near Stevington Church (Church Rd.) to start walk from church at 2pm.(note early start)  
Leaders Sue and Wendy.

**Womens World Day of Prayer** Friday 1 March. 2pm St.Paul's Church. Speaker :- Revd. Cassandra Howes. 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Church - Speaker :- Revd. Sharon Grenham - Toze

#### **Putnoe Heights Beavers/Cubs/Scouts news:**

Beavers for 6yrs+ have spaces and no waiting list. Contact Colin Perkins 07563635952.

The Scout group are looking for a new leader[s] contact Tom Oldershaw 07974566509

The Cubs are interested in the history of the Scouting movement within Putnoe over the years.

**Count Your Blessings 2013** –Christian Aid Lent Calendars Many people think of the period of Lent in the fairly negative way of giving up things. Christian Aid gives us the opportunity to look at Lent from a positive point of view by giving to those who are less fortunate. The brochures will be available at both churches today. At the end of the Lent period any contributions you would like to make should be sent directly to the address shown on the printed form in the brochure. Further information from Carolyn Morris at Putnoe Heights and Jean Bank at St Mark's.

**Church Annual Congregational Meeting** will take place after church services on Sunday 28 April. 10.30am St Mark's and 12 noon Putnoe All are invited to attend.

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Thank you for shopping using the links on thischurch.com. Please always use the link on ThisChurch.com to shop through Amazon. Please be careful to make sure that you never access Amazon direct but always use the link on ThisChurch.com, this ensures we get a donation every time you make a purchase. Please also remember the Easyfundraising link. This is really a very good way to shop as it has lots of voucher codes which can save you a fortune on purchases and help raise money.



**Thank You** to everybody who completed a form last week, especially for the email addresses which will be so valuable for enabling us to keep in touch and send out Partnership News—great if you ever miss a week in church ! Please do fill in a form this week.

### Please complete a Church Membership Form

Our Annual General Church Meeting takes place on 28 April after the church service. It is really helpful and sometimes quite important for us to have accurate membership information for this meeting. Our churches pay a financial contribution to the Church of England or the Methodist Church for every member over 16 years of age. It is therefore important to have an accurate record of membership to enable us to pay our church share to the Church of England and the Methodist Church. It is also helpful to have up to date details if we need to make contact with you, perhaps when a pastoral situation arises.

If you consider yourself to be a member of this church, please would you kindly complete this form and return it to the church office, a minister or a member of the Leadership Team. You can also fax or Email your details. Please be assured we do not release your details to any other organisations.

It is becoming increasingly helpful to have a record of email addresses so please would you complete this. It is helpful and cost effective to communicate in this way and we will can send you copy of Partnership News each week which is helpful if you are unable to come to church for any reason. We will not share your details with anybody else.

<b>Name</b>	<i>Please tell us the name by which you would like to be known, i.e. Fred, Betty etc. )</i>
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Telephone</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Denomination</b>	<i>Please simply say which denomination if any you have an attachment to, this might be the church in which you were baptised or grew up.)</i>  C of E, Methodist, Other (please state )
<b>Which Church you attend</b>	<i>(Cross out which does not apply)</i> St Mark's, Putnoe Heights

#### 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.

**Jennie Cooper**

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



#### Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.



The funeral of Reginald Herbert Victor Wesley will take place at 12-15p.m on Tuesday 26th February at the Crematorium.