



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

25 March 2007

5th Sunday of Lent



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights Church. On the 2nd & 4th Sunday at St Mark's Chapel.

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Barry Owen
Leadership - Mrs Linda Parry
Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Barry Owen
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen
Joan Crossley is preaching at Priory Church this morning, Charles Royden is at Park Road

Palm Sunday - April 1

9.30am St Mark's - Family Service with Baptism

Preacher – Rev Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day
Intercessions - Mrs Alison Holden

11.00am -Putnoe Heights - Family Service

Preacher - Rev Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Sam ware
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Reading 1: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Reading 2: None

Reading 3: Luke 19:28-40

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have been given by Lena and Alan Cooper to celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

Prayer for Sunday

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

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisisChurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership News is also archived on our
church website www.ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

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

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school

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.

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎721063

12.00-1.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

2.30-4.30pm Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock ☎01908 565044

4.15-6.00pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Ms Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎364710

7.00pm Herts in Beds Cardiac Supprt Group. St Mark's (1st Monday) Contact Kate Parsons ☎351150

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott ☎768419

7.15 m Guides. St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

7.30pm Creative Needles. Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward ☎307648.

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's each month next 16 April Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

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

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

10.00am Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman ☎822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights. Andrea ☎210177 or Magella ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's (4th Tuesday only) Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's (3rd Tuesday only) Mrs Burman ☎364723

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next

meeting 27 March Jane Preston. CMA in Romania Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's Meets fortnightly. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Meets fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45-5.30pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 0582468.

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

7-8pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎214107.

7-9pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

7- 10pm Card Makers Club meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton ☎346718

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

7.30-10.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Mks

7.45pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 27 March 'Crafts for Easter' Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

8.30pm Qi Gong. Mrs D Steele ☎356384

Wednesday

9.00am Paint Tots Jacqui Harrahan ☎824475

9.30am Childminding Support Group. Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949

9.30am - Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787.

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

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 4 April 2007 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.30-4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce ☎781133

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966

4.15-6pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

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

6.15-7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

6.30-7.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society meets monthly. Putnoe Heights. Sylvia Woods ☎365095

7.00pm Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

7.00pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly. Putnoe Heights.

Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.45pm Badminton Club. Putnoe Heights

All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00-10.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (1st week) Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

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

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

9.45am-11.30am Chat and Play St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.50 for first child + 50p for each extra child over 2 years. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

12pm Storybox. St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Biblebased story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Andrea ☎210177 or Magella ☎325293.

2.30pm Bedford Arts Soc St Mark's
Malcolm Smith ☎400741

2- 4.30pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30-7.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's.

Mrs Margaret Ralph ☎01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's

Mr & Mrs Pike ☎823795

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights

Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

7.30pm-11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club St Mark's

Mr P Housden ☎376597

7.30-9.30pm Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's

3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby ☎344442

7.30-9.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe

Heights Bible Studies every 2 Thursday- Pastor Tarr ☎360188

7.45pm Housegroup meets fortnightly

Betty Wyatt ☎350188

8.00-10pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st

Thursday each month. Mr Broadhouse ☎740271

8.00-10.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th weeks) Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's (1st and 3rd weeks)

Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30am & 12.30pm Photography Group (4th week)

Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

1.30-2pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights

Contact Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve

Whitehead ☎356875

6.30-9.00pm Line Dancing. St Mark's

A night of fun Christine Rushton ☎782360

7-10pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights

from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7.30pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.

Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey ☎349179

Saturday

9.00- 12.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing

acting, singing. Kate Randle ☎01234 782414

7.15-10.30pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's

Ann or Peter ☎212066

Sunday

Church and Sunday School with crèche for under 3's

9.30 - 10.30 at St. Mark's

11-12 at Putnoe Heights.

1 - 3pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights

Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

6-7.30pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly)

join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Liz ☎302349.

6 -7.30pm T.X.T Putnoe. for 13 + fortnightly, join us for

fellowship, debate & discussion. Liz ☎302349

TNT meets again Sunday 25th March at Putnoe for Learning Sign Language

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 12 June

Circuit Meeting -

St Mark's Leadership Team – 9 May 07 at the

Vicarage, 26 June Linda's

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –30 April at

Alan Cooper's

St Mark's Church Management Meeting - 24

April, 20 June.

Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 14 May,

16 July

Putnoe Church Council - 11 June

Pastoral Group Meeting – 8 May 07

Churchyard Committee - 6 June 07

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting 28 March

7.30pm at 14 Flint Walk

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council - 5 April 7 June, 5 July

Deanery Meeting -

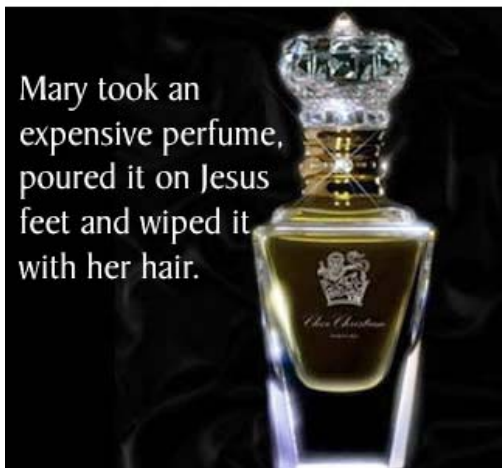
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth– 23 April at

1.00pm

Calendar dates appear on our church website

www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's

Church Office of the dates of your meetings.



Fifth Sunday of Lent

Opening Verse of Scripture Isaiah 53: 5

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

Collect Prayer for the Day

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

First Bible Reading - Isaiah 43: 16-21

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

Second Reading - Philippians 3: 4b - 14

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

Gospel reading - John 12: 1-8 (Glory to Christ our Saviour)

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

put into it. Leave her alone, Jesus replied. It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me. (This is the Gospel of Christ—**Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymns and Psalms)

1. Morning has broken 635, 2. Moses I know you're the man 450, 3. The Church of Christ 804
Tune: Heronsgate, 4. There's a wideness 230, 5. I will sing the wondrous story 223 Tune: Hyfrodyl

Commentary

Bethany means 'place of the poor.' In our Bible passage Jesus is anointed with really expensive perfume an action which might be considered totally unsuitable in a place of poor people!

Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. This house should have been a house filled with mourning and sorrow, instead it is the centre of attention as the dead man and his saviour gather to eat. The people around would clearly want to see this Lazarus who had been raised after four days. Bethany is a small village only a couple of miles from Jerusalem and it would also have been crowded with pilgrims who had come to observe Passover in Jerusalem at this time. People would also have wanted to come closer to Jesus who had this extraordinary power over death, they would have wondered what he could do for them also?

Jesus is with Mary and Martha and Lazarus, who he raised from the dead. Mary, the same Mary who had sat at the feet of Jesus as her sister Martha had been 'distracted with much serving, is once again centre stage. Once again Martha is serving, and once again Mary is rapt with love and devotion, sitting at his feet. But now Mary springs into action. In one spontaneous, reckless and, some would say wasteful gesture of extravagance, she anoints the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume and wipes them with her hair! It's a very sensual, a very intimate, and a very shocking scene. For a woman to let her hair down in public in this way and behave towards Jesus with such physical intimacy must have aroused considerable attention and scorn. To let down her hair and massage the feet of Jesus with perfume is quite a highly charged act in any culture, but at the time it was positively outrageous. We can all imagine how the disciples must have wanted to have a go at Mary for being such a tramp and behaving in this shameless fashion.

Remember, this was no ordinary bottle of perfume but rather one costing a years salary. Can you imagine what you would have said had you witnessed this scene of such lavish adoration? Judas beat us all to it when he complained about apparent waste, claiming that the money could instead have been given to the poor.

The biblical account tells us that Judas was not really concerned about the poor, we are told that he was a thief and helped himself to the money that the disciples shared with Jesus. This explanation discredits Judas but perhaps it also serves to demonstrate that the other disciples too, felt that it was a waste of money which would legitimately have helped 'the poor.'

Judas challenged Mary on the grounds of extravagance, but we know from Matthew's Gospel that all of the disciples disliked the waste of perfume being used on Jesus. Matthew in his Gospel says When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. (Matthew 26:8) In Mark's Gospel too he records that it was "some who were there" who protested. (Mark 14:4), not just Judas!

Truthfully all of us would be appalled when we heard about this lewd behaviour and flagrant waste. Everybody except Jesus. Jesus defends Mary: "Leave her alone, " he says. "She is anointing me, making preparations for my death. "

Jesus knows how much Mary loves him, and he recognises the goodness in her devotional act of extravagant love. She loved Jesus, and she poured out her love like priceless perfume, like there was no tomorrow, without ever counting the cost. The perfume Mary poured out was worth a year's wages, would we be prepared to pour out that kind of money on somebody we love? Would we be prepared to pour it out on Jesus?

Mary had much to be thankful to Jesus for, he had raised her dead brother Lazarus from his stinking tomb, how could she deny Jesus her best perfume? What Mary did was highly provocative, but she was highly motivated and her spontaneous act of loving gratitude could not be inhibited by social etiquette. Mary responds to the love and acceptance she found in Jesus. Her affection for Jesus is an example to us all. It is not the time to talk budgets, but to show love. What Mary did was outstanding. She gave Jesus not just words or promises about her love. She put those words into direct action. She did not consider the cost because her love was greater than financial considerations. We need so very much to learn the lesson which Jesus understood about generosity when he publicly approved of what she did. The woman's response stands in contrast to that of the Chief Priests and Judas who will serve them in

their wicked murder of Jesus. It is also a contrast to the behaviour of Peter and the disciples. In the Gospels Jesus is pictured as abandoned by his inner circle of disciples. In the end it will be a few women who are left standing near Golgotha and who will venture to the tomb. The unlikely ones in Mark and John's world, the women, become the models.

This is a deliberately subversive passage, and reflects so much of the experience of Jesus' ministry. Others were so good, so devout, and so busy trying to be holy that they missed the point. This action made by the woman when she breaks the perfume container open and spreads the contents over Jesus' feet, speaks louder than a thousand words. Mark even suggests that Jesus predicted how memorable her act would be.

Jesus was surrounded by many of noble lives, high religious prestige and good moral deeds. It was none of these which attracted him, nor those who like Peter spoke strongly of their unswerving loyalty. Mary had faith in Jesus and she put that faith into an act of extravagant loving devotion. In so washing his feet her actions spoke louder than words, she showed that love which is beyond that which words can express.

All of this provoked the Jewish chief priests and we are given a glimpse of why they want to have Jesus and Lazarus put to death. Simply they are envious and greedy and do not want Jesus to take over their religious authority. Jesus was just too popular and this would have implications for them and their status in the community. There was no answer, Jesus had to go. In a short time this greed will end in the cross for Jesus. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

The truth is that we all find it much easier to accept generosity and to justify extravagance when it is shown towards us. We can convince ourselves that we really do need an expensive holiday, a new car or private health care. However the Puritan within us all is much more critical when it comes to the expenditure of others. We have been dismissive of the financial priorities of other people. Surely there is no need for people to waste money on fripperies like Gucci scarves or a couple of thousand pounds on a case of port? But then we have to deal with the Gospels, where Jesus makes it just so difficult to be sensible about expenditure. He seems to delight in waste and extravagance, like the time when he not only fed the hungry crowds, but he went and made too much food and there were basket left over. Or the time when Jesus turned water into wine, not just a little wine but 180 gallons of it, when everybody had already been drinking too much and it was good wine! So too in the lesson today we have another example of generosity going too far.

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. Amen

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

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

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

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

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

BEH District Craft Day on 31st March at Priory Methodist Church from 10am to 4.15pm. Places to be booked by 12th March please. Further details and booking form from Pam Seymour. Tel: 305695

Help Please! I need to collect plastic sleeving, such as that which brings catalogues and magazines through the post, for a Guide Project I am launching after Easter. Any size will be useable, especially if cut open, not torn and brought it to me flat not folded! I need to collect about 1000 sleeves so any help you can give will be appreciated. I'll let you know when I have sufficient! Marion Prior

St. Mark's Church Pre-School are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. Please ask friends and family if they could collect them for Pre-School and leave them at the office. Helen

Goldington and Putnoe Children's Centre now has an office at Putnoe Heights Church and will be taking over the management of the Toddlers Playtime group in April. Would you like to support the centre as a Trustee? They are looking for individuals with varied business experience. Meetings are held monthly with all expenses paid and training opportunities are available. Please contact Linda Hoar 782717.

Good Friday Special Putnoe Heights 6 April 12.15—1.30 Easter Craft activities, the Easter Story & refreshments. Last year this event attracted 100 children & their carers if you can help out in any please contact Liz.

Make an Easter garden in an ice cream tub competition. Open to all individuals & family groups. Judging at the Good Friday special. Please save empty margarine tubs & empty litre size milk bottles for Easter children's projects.

Line Dancing at St Mark's. Lessons begin 20 April. Further information contact Christine Rushton 01234 782360.

Bedford Care is a Christian organisation set up to provide help for people in need in such areas as domestic support, transport to hospital and small household jobs. It is provided throughout Bedford, Kempston, Bromham, Clapham and Elstow. This requires volunteers who are able to carry out these duties and also to become 'duty officer' to man the phone. There is an urgent need for volunteers so if you can help—please ring the duty officer on 215500, leaving your name and contact details. Thank you Richard Tarleton-Hodgson MBE, Church Liaison Officer.

Churches Together Annual Forum 2007. To be held at St Nichols Church Hall, Barton. We would like our churches to be represented, can you go?

Fancy a dig ? There will be a Brickhill Parish Council Allotments open morning on Saturday 31 March between 10 am and 12 noon This is an opportunity for residents and tenants to visit the site and ask questions/express concerns about the allotments.

Woodland Burial A date has been set for the consecration of the St Albans Woodland Burial Ground—23 April at 2.00pm. Anybody interested is welcome to come along. Bring your wellies.

Bark, This is an excellent time to think about putting bark on your borders. The introduction of bark helps by retaining water, preventing weeds and breaking down poor soil. The Gardens at St Mark's have been using this for the past 10 years to good effect. St Mark's has just received a new delivery and we are able to supply the bark at a ridiculously cheap rate of 50p per bag—please supply the bag and yourself. Bags can be any size, provided that they can be lifted without mechanical effort.

Easter Offering 2007 - "Crossing divides" Easter Offering envelopes are now available and issued by Women's Network! The proceeds are used for grants to Partner Churches Overseas, World Church in Britain Programme, Experience Exchange Programme (run jointly with USPG) and other projects. Please give your generous support and return your envelope on Easter Day. The offering Dedication Service will be held at Priory Church on Sunday 6th May at 6.30pm. All welcome.

St Mark's Easter Leaflets On Saturday 31st March can you spare an hour to help deliver St Mark's Easter paper to as many roads in the Brickhill area as possible? Meet at the church 10am and then back to church for coffee and Hot X Buns at 11am. The more willing hands, the more roads we can cover. If you are able to take some today to deliver during the week, that would be fantastic.

Bedford Deanery Synod is seeking a part time co-ordinator to develop a scheme to enhance the pastoral care provided for residential and nursing homes. To work for an initial period not exceeding one year. Are you:-a good communicator, computer literate? Do you relish a challenge and enjoy working with a diverse range of people? Hours: flexible; between 10 and 21 hours per week. Remuneration: negotiable. If you think this post is for you, please send your CV and covering letter to Stanley Pullinger, 111 Wendover Drive, Bedford MK41 9QX (Tel: 01234 342365) arrive no later than 16th April



Putnoe Heights Church

50th Anniversary Weekend

16-17th June, 2007

Plans for the weekend are now well advanced. Thank you to all those who have offered me photographs and other items from the past; I am happy to accept more. If anyone has them at the back of their cupboard, I would particularly like to borrow any photographs or cuttings showing:
-Rev. Alan Stafford or Rev. Cyril Rosamond who together covered the period 1958-70
-views of the church interior 1973-1995 which might include the organ at the back of the church. Many thanks. Gerry Allen

Concert by Bedford Town Concert Band (directed by Kevin Nicholls) and the choirs of Hills and Hazledene Lower schools will be performing at Putnoe Heights on Wednesday 28 March at 7.15pm. The programme is called Songs and Music from Stage, Silver Screen and Television. Tickets Family £6, adult £4 at the door or from Roger Nicholls 357268. Next Concert on Sunday 22 April at 3pm at Putnoe Heights.

TNT meets tonight at Putnoe 6pm for 'Learning Sign Language.

Partnership Family Quiz Night Saturday 19 May at Putnoe. More details to follow. Liz

Chat and Play a mums & toddlers group has got off to great start. It operates from 9.45—11.30am at St. Mark's Church. £1.50 for first child + 50p for any others over 2. More details from St. Mark's 342613 or Emma Strangwick 211070.

Footprints Rambling Group The next walk is Sunday 1 April (yes really, no fooling!). We will meet outside Houghton Conquest Church (grid ref TL043414) at 2,30pm for a 3½-4 mile circular walk via King's Wood and Houghton House. Boots are essential as it is muddy in places, although we will try to adjust the route to by-pass the worst of the mud wherever possible. It's well worth the effort, though, because it's a varied, interesting and beautiful walk with spectacular views. Do join me! Alison Holden. 403551/07710520674.

For Sale battery powered golf caddy complete with battery in excellent working order. Offers accepted around £50 which will be donated to St. Mark's Church. Contact Pat Mitchell 354879

Jenny Emsley would like to thank the Wine Buffs for supporting our fund raising evening. £385 was given to church funds and £385 to the NSPCC.

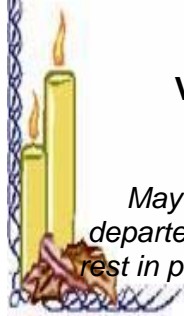
Putnoe Easter Leaflets Thank you to all of those who turned out to deliver Easter leaflets at Putnoe on Saturday. There are still more leaflets to go out. Please take some this morning if you are able.

See Round. News from the Diocese is available for you this morning. Please take a copy—we pay for it!

Rotas. Please make sure that you have obtained a copy of the rota for the next quarter. Methodist Plans are also now available.

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.



**Clifford Collier
Valerie Balderstone
Mona Kate Field**

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



Rest in Peace

The funeral of Donald George Clifton will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 28th March at 2.30pm. *Crossley*