



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

25 March – Fifth Sunday in Lent



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

Today – 25 March

9.30am St. Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership -Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions -- Mrs Sylvia Cohen

1 April –Palm Sunday

9.30am St Mark's - Family Worship

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership –
Intercessions -

11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship

Preacher - Deacon Jane Mason
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions – YPG

Bible Readings

1 Psalm 118 1-2,19-29 2.Philippians 2: 5-11
3.Mark 11: 1-11

Midweek Worship 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 Dorothy Billingham in loving memory of her husband Ridley, and by Jenny Blakely in loving memory of her mum, Phyl Bland, and friend Ettie Cobby

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by John and Janet Day in loving memory of their mums, Marie and Joan and in the Chapel by Doreen and George Gormley to celebrate their 49th Wedding Anniversary.

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

Prayer for the Week

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a Vice
President for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535 jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

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
and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our
church website www.ThisIsChurch.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. Linda Hoar 782717
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091
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 - Laura Farthing 210892
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. 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.-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)

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

2.00pm U3A History Group St Marks.(see contact details below)

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 Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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– 16 April 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 ☎07790206016

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 (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 Group. St Mark's (see contact 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 below)

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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (see 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.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

4.30pm—6pm BIGG Writing Putnoe Heights Natalie John 07772184721

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎0789187957

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

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

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 April 3 - Minister for Wixams. 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.

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.(see contact details 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)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 28 March 2012 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

1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)

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 21st March. Wendy Waters401834

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. Contact Emma Gordon 365630.

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 Mrs O Holt ☎266004

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 4 April 2012. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 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. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

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 (large hall) Children's Chatty Time 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

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.

1.45 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Mrs. P. Cass ☎294220

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Marks. (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Marks Mary Rich ☎272470

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights 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 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 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 Whist St Marks. Patricia Holland.☎262823

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact

Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

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

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 Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or

www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's (not 25 March) Contact

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 – 19 June

St Mark's Leadership Team - Thursday 17 May

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 28 May

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 11 June

Pastoral Group Meeting - Tuesday 19 June 4.00pm

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm

Harvest Festival 30 September

Circuit meeting - 12 June

Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees– 12 May Open Day at wood

Putnoe Heights Children &

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Opening Verse of Scripture – . Psalm 107

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Collect Prayer (*Before we read we pray*)

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

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. Jeremiah 31:31



First Reading - Jeremiah 31:31-34

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

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

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

Second Reading – Hebrews Chapter 5:5-10

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

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

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

Gospel Reading – John 12:20-33

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me. "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

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

Post Communion Prayer

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

Hymns *(Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymns & Psalms)*

1. Jesus is Lord 260
2. From the depths I call you (On Partnership News)
3. We sing the praise of him who died 182
4. O for a heart to praise my God 536
5. We have a gospel to proclaim 465

Commentary

Our reading from Jeremiah speaks of the Old Testament. The new covenant does not involve the giving of a new law but will give a new inward power for fulfilling the law we already know.

Jeremiah has a lot to say about the wickedness of the heart, so in verse 33 we see that to be effective the law needs to be "written upon their hearts". This is close to what Ezekiel says about the new heart that God promises, where everything is, or can be, changed. "I will give you a new heart; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel:36Verse 26) Our Old Testament reading ends with God saying "I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. So the promise of the new covenant is not of sinlessness, but rather of forgiveness of sins that brings restoration of the fellowship with God which was broken when the old covenant was broken. No wonder this passage is sometimes called "the gospel before the gospel". It is good news, Old Testament style! It is with the coming of Jesus that what Jeremiah prophesied is fulfilled. This is what Susan Sayers has to say about the reading from John's Gospel: "With Jesus Christ there in person, people can see and understand what God is like, and with God's Spirit poured into their hearts, after Jesus' Ascension, the new and intimate relationship with God becomes a reality for those in every age and place. In today's Gospel we are told by John that some Gentile Greeks are actually seeking Jesus out. He had just finished cleansing the temple so that it could be restored as a house of prayer for all nations, and now here are representatives of those other nations asking for him. With their coming, it is as if Jesus suddenly catches sight of the future, rolling out into the distance of time and space, with people of all nations giving God glory and worshipping him in Spirit and in truth. At the same time he recognises that his own finger is poised on the button that will make it possible. He is acutely aware of the necessary agony he must suffer for it to happen, and, in his humanness, shrinks from that. He battles with what we all know so well - the powerful human instinct to preserve ourselves and avoid pain and conflict. Being the Son of God did not immunise Jesus against struggle of sacrifice. Gloriously, love triumphs, and Jesus relinquishes everything to the will and glory of God;

It must be done, and willingly done. Immediately and powerfully the Father's love affirms what he has chosen, and all in the crowd who have ears to hear, whether Jew or Gentile, hear that unity of loving will for the good of the whole world". Jesus is very sure in what he says about the grain of wheat, and about drawing all men to himself if he is lifted up. And when he was lifted up on the cross, despite darkness covering the earth, despite his cry of desolation "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?", he dies with a shout of triumph. "It is finished" is not the weary sigh of defeat. The word he uses is "tetelestai", meaning it is accomplished. A shout of victory - like the Olympic athlete winning gold - "I've done it!" "I've won!". Jesus knew at the point of his death that he had beaten the forces of darkness - as Easter Day was to confirm. Yet the faces of darkness remain strong in our world today it would be foolish to pretend otherwise—and all men have not yet been drawn to Christ. His kingdom is - but not yet! There is a lot of work for God and us to do, but as we read in Ezekiel, God says "I will put my spirit in you", and we see in Hebrews that Jesus intercedes for us and is the source of eternal salvation. "Faith shouts in triumph love must win" the hymn says.

Richard Ledger

Meditation

There for him high triumph waits, lift your heads eternal gates! Christ has vanquished death and sin; take the King of glory in!. See! The heaven its Lord receives, yet he loves the earth he leaves: though returning to his throne, still he calls mankind his own. Still for us he intercedes; his prevailing death he pleads; near himself prepares our place, he the first fruits of our race. *(Charles Wesley, Thomas Cotterill)*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

May none of God's wonderful works keep silence, night or morning. Bright stars, high mountains, the depths of the seas, sources of rushing rivers: may all these break into song as we sing to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May all the angels in the heavens reply: Amen! Amen! Amen! Giver of grace. Amen! Amen! Amen! *(Third century hymn)*

Lord our God, help us to give our minds to you in our worship, so that we may listen to what you have to say to us, and know your will. Help us to give our hearts to you in our worship, so that through us your will be done. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *(From Contemporary Prayers for Church and School)*

Holy Spirit of God, source of knowledge and creator of fellowship; open our minds to recognise the truth and our hearts to welcome it, that in company together we may learn your will and be strengthened to obey it: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *(Basil Naylor)*

Here is my heart, O God, here it is with all its secrets; look into my thoughts, O my hope, and take away all my wrong feelings; let my eyes ever be on you and release my feet from the snare. *(St Augustine (354-430))*

Lord Jesus, I don't know much about you, but I am willing to learn; And I am ready to give all that I know of myself to all that I know of you: And I am willing to go on learning. *(Donald Coggan)*

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified; mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *(From the American Prayer Book)*

LENT

Lent Course Continues.

This week we will return to Putnoe for the final session which will be led by Jane. &.30pm refreshments with an 8.00pm start

Maundy Thursday Partnership Service of Holy Communion on 5 April.

By popular request our Maundy Thursday service will be held at Putnoe at 7.30pm and will take the form of a Last Supper, with a meal provided kindly by the catering team. . If you would like to come please let one of the church offices know as this will help with catering. If it would be helpful to have a lift to the service please let us know. We look forward to seeing you .

 Living God's Love

Vision for Action Prayer

Living God,
draw us deeper into your love;
Jesus our Lord,
send us to care and serve;
Holy Spirit,
make us heralds of good news.
Stir us, strengthen us,
teach and inspire us
to live your love
with generosity and joy,
imagination and courage;
for the sake of your world
and in the name of Jesus,
Amen.

House Group at the home of Wendy Waters, 13 Farnham Way, 7.45pm on; 26 March. We will use the St Alban's Diocese Old Testament based Lent Course 'Transforming Life'. New people most welcome. For more details contact Wendy Waters 401834.

"Spring Clean" morning at Putnoe Heights Church 10am to 12noon on Saturday 12 May. All helpers welcome. "

Songs of Praise with Pam Rhodes at Elstow Abbey 6pm Sunday 29th April. £8 adults £5 concessions £3 children Tel. 01234 261477

Beds, Essex, Herts District Methodist Women in Britain Spring Craft Day on 31 March at Priory Methodist Church 9.45am to 4.30pm. Information and booking forms from Pam Seymour 305695 or Ann Hitt 404186. Forms to be returned by the 19 March.

Good Friday Witness 12noon 6 April, Harpur Square Bedford Churches Together. All welcome.

Chat and Play finishes Thursday 29 March and resumes 19 April

Story Box starts again Thursday 19 April.

Prayer Group will not meet on 5 April

St Mark's Preschool are collecting Sainsbury & Tesco school vouchers & Petit Filous lids and would be grateful for any contributions. Thank you.

Putnoe Heights church office have some pens (inscribed with the church name and tel. number), for sale at £1 each. Proceeds for church funds.

Bedford Town Band invites you to "An Evening of Brass" to be held at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 31 March 2012 at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 & £7 available from Frescoes Coffee House, 20 Mill Street Bedford, Central Box Office, Harpur Street, Bedford or at the door on the night.

Footprints Walk, Sunday 1 April. You are warmly invited to enjoy fresh air and gentle exercise on Sunday 1st April. Warwick and Alison will be leading a walk of just under 3 miles, starting from the car park of St Leonard's Church, Old Warden, at 2.30pm. This is an easy walk on reasonable paths, offering a mixture of woodland and open views. Bring your binoculars to watch the birds you'll see from the Greensand Ridge! There may be some mud after heavy rain but, on the day we did it, the mud could be avoided. For more information, please contact us through St Mark's. Alison and Warwick Holden

Thank You to Judith Stanton and her supporters for their generous donation of £100.

St Mark's Church car boot sales for 2012

9 April 7 May 4 June 27 August, lots of help very much appreciated.

Banns of Marriage We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Thomas William Wisson and Sarah Jane Harrington, both of this parish. This is for the second time of asking.

Charity Quiz Night. Friends for Life is an ecumenical project, our aim is to co-ordinate and develop the churches' ministry to the residents and carers in care homes across Bedford. We are holding a Social Evening Quiz Night at the White Horse, Newnham Avenue on Wednesday, 11th April. The cost is £5 per person and will include a buffet and prizes. If you would like to join us or donate a raffle prize please contact via the website; friendsforlifebedford.org.uk or ring Joanne Barrow on 01234 213038

Special thanks to all the church family for your prayers, visits and messages of good will during and after my recent stay in hospital. The biggest surprise was the beautiful flower arrangement delivered by Margaret Appleton. It has all meant a lot to me. Thank you so much. Jean Bank

A Hymn for Sunday

Antiphon: Come to me and I shall give you rest

1. From the depths I call you.
Listen, Lord, and hear my pleading.
2. Love and mercy flow from you,
Lord of life and kind redeemer.
3. In the dark I hope for you,
You are light of new day dawning.
4. Weak and frail we come to you,
God of love and new beginning.



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St Mark's Church Easter Service

Palm Sunday Family Service
Sunday April 1 at 9.30am

Good Friday Service
Friday April 6 at 9.30am
Stations of the Cross
(with coffee & hot cross buns!)

Easter Day
Sunrise Holy Communion 6.00am
Family Communion 9.30am

Putnoe Heights Church Easter Services

Palm Sunday Family Service
Sunday April 1 at 11.00am

Good Friday Service
Friday April 6 at 11.00am
Stations of the Cross
(with coffee & hot cross buns!)

Good Friday Children's Storybox
12.15pm for all children
Crafts, stories, Easter activities
and refreshments

Easter Day
Family Communion 11.00am

Easter cards are available this morning, please take and deliver to friends and neighbours to invite them to church at Easter

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.

Jean Spendlove
Peter Skevington

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

Rotas

Please note that St Mark's draft rota for April - June is now on display in the foyer. Please make any changes and we can print off next week.

Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of James Thomas Davis will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 30 March at 11.30am

