



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

27 April 2014

Second Sunday of Easter



Sunday Services

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

Today – 27 April 2014 - Second Sunday of Easter

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs. Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mr. Margaret Appleton
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds
11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship & Baptism
Preacher– Revd. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mr. Barry Southam
Intercessions - Mrs. Claire Peck
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

4 May 2014 - Third Sunday of Easter

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership – Mr M Ovenden
Intercessions - Deacon Jane Mills
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds
11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship
Preacher– Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership Team - Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions - Young People
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 2. 1 Peter 1:17-23
3. Luke 24: 13-35

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 St Mark's Church this week have been given by Joyce Bean in memory of her husband Raymond.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Alan and Diane Bayliss in celebration of their wedding anniversary and in memory of their parents;

and by Margaret Massey and Charles Dudeney, and Geraldine and Maurice Sykes, to celebrate the christening of their grandson, James Michael Dudeney.

Welcome

We welcome you to the service today and especially the family and friends of James Michael Dudeney who has been brought for baptism at Putnoe Heights Church

Prayer for Sunday

Give us patience, O God, in the hour of trouble; humility in the hour of success and constancy in the hour of temptation. Grant us thankfulness for your benefits, fear of your judgement and hope in your enduring mercy; now and for ever. Amen.
John Cosin (1594-1672)

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre
Tel. 348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Canon Charles Royden

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

Partnership News is sent out by email every Saturday in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to vicar@thisischurch.com. Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website www.ThisIsChurch.com
Twitter follow at [bedfordchurches](https://twitter.com/bedfordchurches)

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinators

Mrs Wendy Waters 342613 office@thisischurch.com
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 Jenny Snelson 344417
Treasurer Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188
Youth Team Leader Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mr Michael Ovenden 826738
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605



Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Sessional and Full Day care available—open Mon.—Fri. Full Day Care 8.30am to 5pm Sessional times 9am—12noon and 12.45pm - 3.45pm

For more info please contact Laura Leggett 01234 326685 or www.hazeldeneheights.com

8.30-12.30pm St Mark's Pre-School Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

9.00-3.45pm 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 M. Berry 211955

10.30am U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details email-chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk

2.00pm U3A Calligraphy at St Mark's (2nd week in the month) Contact Janet King 313946.

12.00 noon Story box Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com 365630

2pm U3A Music Appreciation Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Italian Putnoe Heights— fortnightly

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

5.30 - 8.30 NHS Eat Smart Think Active at Putnoe Heights. For more details contact Emily Taverner 01234 792013

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 in month) Pat Nicholson 353518

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

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

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

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's (Weeks 3 & 5 in the month).. Next meeting— 21 April Judith Stanton. 823313

7.30pm No Fear Bridge Club St. Mark's Mrs. Susan Ford 300218.

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

7.45-9.15 Get Fit Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights Diane Field 01234 404976

Tuesday

9 –1pm Bedford Stop Smoking at Putnoe Heights. For more details please contact Olivia Tornyie 01234 276826

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Charlotte Williams 07968207442

9.30am Candleworking (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 Contact Janet King 313946

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

1.3pm U3A Choir. St Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

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

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

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

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's (1st & 3rd week in month). Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mary Stubbs 406784.

4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.30-8.30pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957

7pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.00pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455 (Unfortunately Jan has had to cancel her sessions at the moment, but hopes to re-start in September.

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets fortnightly) 29 April 'Friends of Putnoe Woods.' Details Janet King 313946

8.00pm Hearts in Beds Committee St Mark's (week 4 in month) Mrs N Aspey 309816

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights.

Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.

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 Janet King 313946

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

10am U3A Card Making, St Marks Contact Janet King 313946

10am U3A Diet and Nutrition- Putnoe Contact Janet King 313946

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm –4pm St Mark's Nursery

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 7 May Putnoe Heights Office 365630

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft at St Marks.Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church. St Mark's (3rd Week in month). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 16 April 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

6-7pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel. 01234 353865

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Colin Jackson 363398 or Brian Sallows 407725.

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

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 344600

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 30 April Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (Week 1 in the month) Greta Cansfield 215016

Thursday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Pre School Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

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

9.15am Spanish for beginners Plus at Putnoe Heights

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

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07932616468

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

1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic at St Mark's (Weeks 1 & 3 in the month)Contact 897401

1pm-2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552. 2pm - Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm U3A Current Affairs - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Mark's Contact Janet King 313946

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Mark's Jean Paterson 307210

3.15-5.15pm Social Care Solutions Drama Group Claire Creek 262650

5.45pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry St Marks (2nd and 4th week in month)Contact Janet King 313946

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale 406094

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

7.30pm Gentle Birthing St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231

8 -10pm Bedford Folk Dancers (formerly Barn dancers)

Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week.Except August. All welcome, cost £2.50

Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's (1st week in month). John Broadhouse 01525 404014

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Susan Perugi 300219

Friday

8.30am—12.30pm St. Mark's Nursery Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

8.30am Diabetic Centre St Mark's (1st week in month) Deborah Hennessey 792013

9am -1pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly . Contact Marion Sutton 217647

10am -12.00 U3A Photography St Marks.(4th week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St. Marks Contact Janet King 313946

2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist St Marks. (2nd week in month) Contact Janet King 313946

2pm U3A Gardening - Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

7.00pm-9.00pm Meditation St Mark's.Cheryl Green 07729187399

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St Marks(2nd week in month)Carol Brown 01438 233385

Saturday

9.00am Faith Temple Ministries St Mark's (1st week in month) Dawn Kelly 07863762593

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard 01234 782414

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry 01462 674792

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre. 1st Sunday 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

Messy Church Dates Weds 19 March, 16 April, 21 May, 18 June.



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council – 17 June, 14 October

St Mark's Leadership Team - 20 May, 9 Sept

Annual Congregational Meetings—27 April

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 30 April

Putnoe Church Council - 10 July

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service - 2nd November

Circuit meeting – 19 June

Woodland Burial Trustees— AGM - May 25

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting – Monday 9 June 1.10pm

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

Second Sunday of Easter

Sentence of Scripture 2 Peter 2:2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Collect Prayer for the Day *Before we read we pray* Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father *Common Worship Shorter Collect*



First Bible Reading - Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymns *(Please distribute Morning Worship, hymn sheets and baptism booklets at Putnoe)*

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| 1. | I know that my redeemer lives | Torquay | HP 196 |
| 2. | Our risen Lord, our King of Kings | Vulpius | |
| 3. | Easter jubilation fills the streets and towns | as (SF 299) | |
| 4. | The strife is o'er the battle won | Victory | HP 214 |
| 5. | The day of resurrection | Ellacombe | HP 208 |

Commentary

After the great high of Easter we come back down to earth with a bump and so today has been called Low Sunday. There is also that old funny name 'Quasimodo Sunday'. The character from Victor Hugo was named Quasimodo because he was found in church on this Sunday in which the Antiphon at Mass began with the words from 1 Peter 2 :2

'Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.'

Quasi modo geniti infantes, rationabile, sine dolo lac concupiscite ut in eo crescatis in salutem si gustastis quoniam dulcis Dominus.

However today is anything but an anti-climax, for we read of the visit of the risen Lord Jesus to his disciples and we hear words of comfort, encouragement and commission.

Reading the passage in John today it is clear that there are reasons for concern among the disciples. They had seen Jesus killed in a most brutal and unjust fashion. The powers of the mighty Roman state had combined with the Jewish religious leaders in an unholy and unjust alliance. With corrupt authorities acting in such a way nobody was safe. We see this all over the world still today, when the established powers of the state have gone bad, then nobody is safe and individuals feel themselves to be powerless victims, vulnerable with no appeal to a higher authority. As well as the obvious fear, the disciples were also bewildered. They had not joined up the dots to reveal who Jesus was, the events were still a confusing puzzle. Mary had reported seeing an empty tomb and Peter and others had found the grave cloths. Later Mary had claimed to have actually seen Jesus alive, but why was it that she failed to recognise him until he spoke her name, why had he seemed to her like the gardener? So it was that as some of them gathered in the evening, they made sure that the door behind them was securely locked. We would all have done the same, terrified that the next knock might be from another groups of soldiers sent by Jewish authorities. The future was frightening, who might be arrested and killed next? Even if Jesus had been raised from the dead what did this mean? Was Jesus a ghost? Why had he come back? Was Jesus going to punish them for having denied him and abandoned him in his hour of need?

Little wonder then that when the risen body of Jesus appears in their midst in spite of closed doors, the first words which Jesus utters are 'peace be with you' or in Hebrew 'Shalom alekem'. 'Shalom' as we say, was a common greeting and yet in this case it is now a supreme greeting and it is seen used as a greeting in every epistle of Paul in the New Testament. Jesus is shown to say these words three times in this passage, twice on this first appearance and one a week later when the disciples are again meeting behind locked doors and Jesus make a reappearance for the sake of Thomas. On both visits Jesus shows his wounded hands and his side. The disciples have no doubt that this is the crucified Jesus and they respond with joy! Not sufficient joy to enable them to overcome their fear and stop locking the doors behind them, but nevertheless the response to the presence of Jesus is one not of fear but relief, thanksgiving and happiness.

We would all have acted like the disciples, locked ourselves away in fear behind closed doors and refused to believe Jesus unless we saw him for ourselves. We would have had a complete lack of confidence and be full of guilt at what we had done in letting Jesus down. In some ways not a lot has changed and this often the situation in which we find ourselves today. As a Church we can be fearful of events taking place around us which knock our confidence and cause us to lose faith and trust in God, perhaps event to question whether God is really there at all, or whether we are all just making it up. We might be like those first disciples and be paralysed by a sense of our own failure and inadequacy.

Yet we see that it is to such people that Jesus entrusts his work. Jesus does not ask for superficiality and pretence, he meets us in our doubts and difficulties and encourages us to move forward with him.

I don't know about you but I have much higher regard for somebody who struggles with their faith and is aware of their own inadequacies than somebody who thinks they know it all and so sure of themselves.

The poet William Austen (d1634) wrote 'He that never doubted scarce ever well believed '

Remember the servants of God who with their honesty were conscious of their own inadequacies which seem a prerequisite for those whose seek to serve God.

- Think of Moses, I cannot do this God, I cannot speak.
- Think of Jeremiah, struggling with deep depression, in that deep dark pit of despair which is only known by those who have been in it.
- Think of Peter who had a life which seemed characterised by dreadful times of failure, which led him to deny Jesus three times.

It is also often the most honest, thoughtful and deep thinking Christians who have fears and doubts. We can be utterly naïve and think that the moon is made of blue cheese, but that is not the kind of faith which we should encourage. As children we see things in easy blacks and whites, as we get older we see more shades of grey. God is bigger than the measure of our minds, we cannot contain God within our imagination or understanding, inevitably there will be much we do not understand, and God is all the more to be worshipped for that. It is with this in mind that it is sometimes said that the role of the preacher is 'to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.' *Charles Royden*

Meditation

The wounds which Jesus showed to the disciples are important credentials to us as suffering human beings. This poem is by Edward Shillito (1872-1948), who was a Free Church minister in England and he published it shortly after the butchery of World War 1

If we have never sought, we seek Thee now; Thine eyes burn through the dark, our only stars;
We must have sight of thorn-pricks on Thy brow, we must have Thee, O Jesus of the Scars.

The heavens frighten us; they are too calm; In all the universe we have no place.
Our wounds are hurting us; where is the balm? Lord Jesus, by Thy Scars, we claim Thy grace.

If, when the doors are shut, Thou drawest near, only reveal those hands, that side of Thine;
We know to-day what wounds are, have no fear, show us Thy Scars, we know the countersign.

The other gods were strong; but Thou wast weak; they rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne;
But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak, and not a god has wounds, but Thou alone.

Book review by Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Several people have asked me for details of the book I mentioned in my sermon last week. It is by Colm Toibin and is called 'The Testament of Mary'. It does not propose to be theological treatise but is a beautifully written piece of literature shortlisted for the Man Booker prize in 2013. It tells the story of Mary trying to piece together the events that led to her son's brutal death and make sense of his life, which she sees as one where Jesus appears to be surrounded by men who could not be trusted or had questionable backgrounds. She is surrounded by overpowering grief and continues to live in fear for her life and uncertainty in exile, as she looks for answers to her imponderable questions. Yet running through the book is an underlying golden thread of hope. It's a hard and challenging book but certainly worth a read to give a different perspective on the events of Easter.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Prayer and Action

Prayer as a whole is not only in the words by which invoke the divine mercy, but also in all the things which we do in the service of our Maker by the devotions of faith....For how could anyone invoke the Lord with words in every hour and moment without a break? But we pray without ceasing when we perform only those works which commend us by our godliness to our maker.

Bede's Commentary on the Gospel of St Mark

Prayer to the Wounded Christ

O wonderful dispenser of the divine medicine, who allowed your side to be opened with the spear, open to me knocking, I beg, the door of life and, having entered through it, I will acknowledge you; through the wound in your side, cure the wounds of all my sins through the medicine of your mercy, lest I should ever be made guilty of your body and blood by receiving it unworthily, as a punishment for what my sins deserve; but grant that my soul may be filled with the abundance of your mercies and that you who are my ransom may also be my reward, O Lord Jesus Christ.

The Book of Nunnaminster (C800)

Preserve us, O God, in the faith of your saints, a faith both tried and trusted. May we enjoy both now and for ever the eternal love of the Father, the abiding love of the Son and the indwelling of love of the Holy Spirit, one God in glory and majesty, world without end. Amen *Hilary of Poitiers, 315-367*

Putnoe Heights Ladies. You may be aware that our men folk have recently enjoyed two convivial evenings out together. It's our turn now! I have agreed to arrange a similar evening for the ladies. Please give me your name if you would like to join us on Wednesday May 21 at 7.30 p.m. at the Cappuccino Bar in Newnham Street, Bedford. The cost will be £15, which will cover a starter, main course and a drink. Lifts can be arranged between us, so don't let lack of transport stop you from coming out for an evening of delicious food and cheerful company. Margaret Massey. Tel. 01234 327219 or massey-1@tiscali.co.uk

Thank you to Judith Stanton and her supporters in donating £82 to Church funds.

Open House More volunteers to help the group on a Wednesday would be welcome.

St Mark's Chat and Play starts again on Thursday April 30

Open Day at St Mark's Pre-School and All Day Childcare on Saturday 10 May 2014 from 2.00pm-4.00pm (Now taking bookings for September 2014). Activities for the children, face painting etc Coffee and cakes. Families Welcome.

Flower Arranging Demonstration by Rev. Alan Ashton, on 30 April at Priory Methodist Church at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from Ann Hitt or at the door.

MWIB Easter Offering The Easter Offering envelopes in the foyer at both Putnoe Heights and St Mark's Church explain how the money collected is used. Please take one and return it with your contribution on Easter Sunday. This year's theme is 'Risk The Path He Trod'. The dedication service will be held on Thursday 22 May at 2.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church Biggleswade.

Action for Children Please bring your boxes to be opened and contents counted at Ladyslaude Court on Thursday 8 May between 2—4.30pm. Welcome to all for tea and cakes and updates on the work of the charity. Could you be a new box holder?

Footprints Walk The Footprints walk is Sunday, May 4 and will take in Ampthill Park and Millbrook. Refreshments will be available at The Hub in the park afterwards. Please meet at Ampthill Woburn Street car park (it's in the park itself) at 2.30pm

Christian Aid week 11-17 May "Give people a future without fear" Christian Aid is an agency that works to bring an end to poverty around the world and every year, one week is designated to a national House to House collection by Christians

of different traditions working together for that common aim. Please be willing to help with the delivery and collection of gift envelopes, on behalf of St. Mark's and Putnoe Heights Churches, in the Brickhill and Putnoe areas during the week of 11-17 May. The envelopes and collector's information packs will be ready to collect in each church on 27 April, 4 and 11 May. Contacts for more information are - Carolyn Morris, Putnoe Heights and Jean Bank, St. Mark's

Car Boot Sale

Thanks to everybody who helped make the car boot sale on Easter Monday such a great success. We raised £1192 which is a fantastic start to the car boot season. The next one takes place on May 5 and we would really appreciate your help again. We were especially grateful to everybody who had turned out their cupboards to give things to sell on the church stall. Please take the chance to look through your home for anything which we could sell.

Cash for Currency

Thank you to everybody who has helped Open House by donating coins and notes. In the first four weeks of people handing in foreign coins and the occasional banknote for Stuart Green has sorted it and converted it into £54 sterling for Open House funds ! We would be grateful for more British and foreign coins and notes, no matter how old. Please remember to keep any coins from your holidays !

We can turn every coin and note, no matter how old or how small, into cash to help fund our Openhouse project to help people with learning difficulties. So search out those old pesetas or shillings or whatever and bring them along to the Church Office anytime so we can sort them out and get the best possible value for everything you donate. Remember, everything can be used to generate funds for Openhouse.

The Annual Meeting of Money Advice at St Andrews Church will take place on Tuesday, 20 May at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church Centre, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2PF Come and hear what we can offer our clients and how we are developing a professional service for our current and future clients.

For more information, contact:
Fiona McLeod
Money Advice at St Andrew's Management Group
01234 350030
or
fionamcleod31@gmail.com



Annual Congregational Meetings at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights 2014

To take place after Sunday worship 27 April 2014

Opening Prayers Charles Royden

Preliminary

Appointment of minute secretary to the ACM

Record of number of persons present

(Please note that no record is required of names of those present or apologies from the congregation for absence)

Giving Thanks

Expressions of thanks to any leaving office

Elections to Office

Election of Church Leadership Team

Election of Deanery Synod representatives

Election of Church Council representatives

Presentations

Presentation of Terrier and Inventory

Presentation of current church policy documents

Presentation of August church accounts

Presentation of membership lists (Electoral roll etc.)

Presentation of review usually by Church Leadership Team and presented in written document form

Closing Prayers

Please note that there will not be 'any other business.' Matters concerning the life of the church should be referred to members of the Church Leadership Team for their attention, to be brought subsequently to Church Council .

Church Membership

Thank you to those folks who have updated their membership details and to Avril Williams who looks after our database. If you have not checked your membership details or if you have changed any information such as email, then please do let us know. The following figures are accurate this year

Putnoe Heights

Joint 6, Anglican 66, Methodist 61,

Other denominations 13

St Mark's

Joint 3, Methodist 14, Anglican 69, Other 12

From the Archbishop of Canterbury Easter address

When Mary hears her name spoken, we are told, she turns towards him. A moment before and she is in the deepest despair, a second after, her life has changed. For death has more than met its match. It has been defeated. Everything changes.

We cannot expel God, nor the life of God, from his world. In fact this new life insists that there is nowhere God is absent, powerless or irrelevant. There is no situation in the universe in the face of which God is at a loss. The one that was dead is now alive. Where there was weeping there is now joy.....

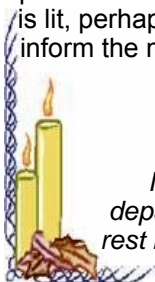
The announcement that Jesus is alive changes everything; not simplistically or even instantly do circumstances and situations change. But it changes us. It gives us hope where we were in despair, faith where we were lost, light where we were in darkness, joy where we were entirely in sorrow. That joy in the huge life of Jesus is present in the food banks, the credit unions, the practical down to earth living that the churches are demonstrating across this country.

The new life of Jesus is given to us. It is news that the world cannot ignore, that we cannot neglect, it is the news of joy immeasurable.

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5303/the-one-who-was-dead-is-now-alive-archbishop-justins-easter-sermon>

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.



Dick Kempston

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

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of David Arthur Anderson will take place at the Crematorium at 1.45p.m on Friday 2 May

The funeral of Sidney Ernest Howard will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12.15pm on Friday 9th May