



Partnership News

**Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
29 March 2015
Palm Sunday**



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

29 March - Palm Sunday

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mr. Edward Parry
Intercessions - Mr. Mike Elliott
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds
11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion with PCH
Preacher - Deacon Jane Mills
Leadership - Mrs. Sue Allen
Intercessions - Ministers
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

5 April - Easter Sunday

6.00am Sunrise of Holy Communion
8.30am - Please note there is no 8.30 Holy Communion
9.30am St Mark's - Easter Holy Communion
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions - Mr. Richard Ledger
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds
11.00 am Putnoe - Easter Holy Communion
Preacher - Rev. Canon Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs. Jenny Snelson
Intercessions - Mrs. Sue Allen
Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Acts 10:34-43 2. 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Thank You

The flowers at St. Mark's this week have been given by Milly Rollinson in memory of her parents.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by Dorothy Billingham in loving memory of her husband Ridley, by Gwen Binston to celebrate her 80 birthday and by Harry Stokes and family in memory of Mary Stokes.

Last weeks flowers at Putnoe were given by Jenny Blakey in memory of Phyl Bland and Hettie Cobley, Rita and Nigel Platt and family in memory of Justin on his birthday and by Joy Parker in memory of her husband Peter.

A Prayer for Sunday

Accept, O Father, the sacrifice of our thanksgiving: of praise, for your great mercies; of prayer, that we may grow in grace; of penitence, that our sins may be forgiven; and of love, that only gift which you seek in us or desire; and this we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

John Donne (1572-1631)

- Easter Services -

St Mark's Church

April 3 - Good Friday Service
9.30am Stations of the Cross
(With coffee and hot cross buns !)

5 April - Easter Sunday
6.00am Sunrise Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion

Putnoe Heights Church

April 2 Maundy Thursday
7.30pm Holy Communion

April 3 - Good Friday Service
11.00am Stations of the Cross
(With coffee and hot cross buns !)

Good Friday for Children
12.15 - 1.30pm Children's Easter Activities
Easter story, crafts & refreshments

5 April - Easter Sunday
11.00am Holy Communion



Easter - The one day that changed the world

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

8.00am-5.30pm Pre-school Mon-Fri St Mark's

8.00am-5.30pm Top Marks Mon-Fri St Mark's Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
(See website for more details)

9.00am-12noon St Mark's Pre-School Nursery
Manager Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

9.30-10.30am - Body Control Pilates –Putnoe Heights Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's Mrs M. Berry 211955

10.00am-12 U3A Play reading Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

11.00am-12noon Pilates St. Mark's. Liz Mason 07816522200 (starts 8 Sept.)

12.00 noon Storybox 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

1.30pm Chat & Make. Term time for babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys, songs, story and refreshments £1. More details contact St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts On April 20

2.00pm 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 Zoe Wilcox 07767311424

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-8pm Cubs at Putnoe Ages 8 –10.5 Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509

6.30pm Fit For All 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– 30 March 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

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Lorrie Pearson 01234 340473

11-12.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

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

1.30pm 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

2.00pm 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.

3.30-6.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

7.15-8.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 07891879571

7.00pm - 8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7.30pm Ladies Tuesday Club at Putnoe Heights (Meets monthly Next meeting 14 April Rev. Sam Cappleman Details Diane Bayliss 268101

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.

10.00-2pm Open House at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.

10.00am 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

11.15am U3A Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 8 April. Contact Putnoe 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 1st week of the month. Janet King 313946

2.00pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan Putnoe Heights Contact Janet King 313946

2.00pm - 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 15 April 2014 Wendy Waters 401834 Jean Bank 355698

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

5.00-6.00pm Rainbows at Putnoe Heights Mrs Gill Lake 218091

6.00pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731
6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton 01234 297138 or 07910835994
6.00-7.00pm ATSK Karate at Putnoe Height Kevin Stark Tel.01234 353865
7.00pm-9.00pm Scouts at Putnoe ages 10.5-14; Email:phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
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
7.15pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe 3rd Wednesday in every month except August Mrs Jo Street 3446008.
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 1 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

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306. Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.
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 Contact St Mark's Church Office 01234 342613 or Janine 01234 297481 Restarts 16 April
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. Restarts 16 April. Contact Jaana Swaby 342613
1.00ui-2.30pm Wiggles & Jiggles Putnoe Heights. Drop in.
1.00 - 2.30pm 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 07768481499
6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Brenna. 07919402797.
7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Audrey Halford 407284
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
8.00pm 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
7.30pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th week in month) Mrs Marie Cotchin 402089
7.30pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's (1st and 3rd week in month) Kaye Logan 309105

Friday

9.30am -3.30pm Machine Knitting group at Putnoe Heights, 2nd week per month.. 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-7.00pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468
6.30pm-8.00pm Beavers at Putnoe Ages 6-8 Email: phxg.enquiries@gmail.com Tel Tom 07974566509
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



St Mark's Church Council – tba
St Mark's Leadership Team -
Annual Congregational Meetings - 26 April 2015
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –
Putnoe Heights Management Meeting –
Putnoe Church Council -
Pastoral Group Meeting– 15 September 2015 4.00pm
Churchyard Committee - 15 April 11.15am
Circuit meeting –
Deanery meeting - 19 March 7.30pm.
Woodland Burial Trustees – 15 March 12.30pm
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting - 1 June 2015 2pm
St Mark's Car Boot Sales 2015, 6 April, 4 May, 25 May and 31 August.
Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 27 September.
Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of

Palm Sunday

Sentence of Scripture - Matthew 21:9

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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 50:4-9a

The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my ear; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

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

Second Bible Reading - Philippians 2:5-11

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

Gospel Reading - Mark 11:1-11

(Please stand when the reading is announced - Glory to Christ our Saviour)

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.' "

They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted. "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

(This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

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

Hymns for Sunday

(Please distribute Palm Sunday Service of Holy Communion with PCH and Mission Praise)

1. All glory laud and honour
2. Seek ye first
3. Ride on, ride on in majesty
4. Make way, make way

Commentary

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy week, a time of incredible change, which progresses through a 'roller coaster' of emotions; excitement, joy, anger, love, fellowship, betrayal, anguish, denial, and ultimately a humiliating and agonising death.

For me, the readings of Lent this year have demonstrated Jesus at his most human, experiencing emotions I can recognise, both from my own life and from the lives of those amongst whom I minister. I find it easier to identify with this Jesus, and see how his teaching can be so relevant to my own life, yet it is leading to a decision I fear I could not make.

Today's gospel reading starts with Jesus and his disciples arriving at the Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem, and a place where we return for his last moments of earthly 'fellowship' on Thursday evening, as he retires to pray after the Passover meal with those closest to him. They were in Jerusalem to celebrate the festival of Passover, as many did every year, people were gathering from many different places to celebrate. Jerusalem was such an important place, in many ways the 'home' of the Jewish faith, and a place about which many prophecies were written. Indeed, the very act of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey recalls the passage from Zechariah;

'Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud O daughter of Jerusalem. Lo, your king comes to you, triumphant and victorious is he, riding on an ass and upon a colt the foal of an ass.'

In the midst of the 'hubbub' of such a regular gathering it seems like this time there was an added air of anticipation, as if people were expecting something dramatic to happen. People in an occupied homeland can, understandably, be keen for change and Jesus offered them hope. The crowds that had gathered, swelling the population of Jerusalem to a seething mass, now line up to welcome this leader they had heard about, perhaps feeling that he would be the one who would save them from their oppressors.

As for a 'triumphal entry' he arrives, not 'in style' but in humility. The crowds, however, appear to welcome him as royalty, spreading their cloaks on the road in similar fashion to when Jehu was anointed King (2 Kings 9:13). Jesus was treated as royalty, and this is perhaps, ultimately, what tipped the balance of Rome in favour of his critics, a man that could hold such admiration was clearly a threat to a people who at times suggested their own Emperor was a god.

I can't help but wonder if doubts were being seeded too in the minds of those who welcomed him, arriving on such a small beast was poles apart from the triumphal Roman processions that many of them would have familiar with. Was this truly a man that could overthrow?

People can be so fickle, within the space of a week the cry of the crowd had changed from one of welcome to one of hatred. Are we any different today? How often are our sports personalities, Actors, TV presenters and politicians built up only to be eagerly torn down at the slightest hint of failure or 'wrongdoing', their 'dirty laundry' being drawn out in the media, as if it were public property.

The palm crosses we receive represent the opposites of Holy week, symbolising both the bright and vibrant palm branches waved by the crowd and the dead wood of the cross this road led to. When you look at yours, maybe it can help remind you that there is always hope. Even in the

midst of his anguish Jesus found it within himself to forgive, to reach out to others and to ensure those he cared about would be looked after, and he does this still for each one of us today.

Our faith does not protect us from hard times, yet through it we are set among people who can support us, and given the gifts to come through, changed, but stronger because of it. Today's service also includes the gift of sharing in communion, with the offer of prayer for healing. Healing was such an integral part of Jesus' ministry, and for each of us, whatever our needs we are welcome before him, for in his own brokenness there is healing. *Deacon Jane Mills*

Meditation Prayer Liturgy for Palm Sunday

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **All Lord, have mercy.**

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead Six short prayers for the Lenten period

Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. Amen

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. Amen

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. Amen

Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. Amen

Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realise my need of you. Amen

Lord, you've guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you'll not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus. Amen

Date for your diary Auction of Promises at St Mark's Church Saturday 18 April at 7.30pm. Please put this date in your diary. This will be a fund raising evening at which we can offer things we have, experiences, gifts etc. More information to follow. Ian Farthing

St Mark's Craft Stall Easter novelties now available from £1 each. This year we have Shaun the sheep. All profits to St. Mark's.

Next Messy Church at St Mark's Church on Wednesday 15 April 3.45 - 5.30pm. Messy Church takes place monthly on a Wednesday from 3.45pm - 5.30pm. For children of lower school age and carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and meal. For more details contact Wendy Waters 401834

'Fruit Corner Yogurt Pots' - If you buy these types of yogurts please save them for Messy Church. We need them for Wednesday 15 April. Please leave at St Mark's office or contact Wendy Waters.

St Mark's

Chat and Make restarts after Easter on April 20

Chat and play restarts in April 16

Story Box restarts on April 16

Core Skills for Children's Work Leaders

Saturday 4 July 10am – 3pm at St Andrew's Church, Bedford The Revd Ruth Pyke, Diocesan Children's Work Adviser, will be leading this training day. Core Skills is a course devised by the Consultative Group on Ministry among Children. The modules Ruth will be covering on 4 July are Working as a Team, and Pastoral Awareness. This is a free event for those in St Albans Diocese, but places must be booked in advance. Book online at <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/find-a-course/> or for more information please contact Julie Cirillo on 01727 818160 or email: youthoffice@stalbans.anglican.org

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Bedford Credit Union St Mark's Church,

You can now become a member of Bedford Credit Union (BCU) at St Mark's Church. The Bishop of Bedford will attend at St Mark's on for the official opening on Monday 30 March at 11.00am. Copies of the new leaflet explaining all about the credit union are available now from St Mark's or can be downloaded from the church website

St Mark's Clothes Bank Thank you to everyone who supported us. We have just received our first payment of £130.50. This is a great way of clearing out your old clothes, shoes handbags etc. They find a good home with somebody who can't afford new clothes and the church raises vital funds.

Our special thanks to Martin Fannon who has been working on the new audio visual system for us at Putnoe.

Putnoe Storybox A big thank you to all our Putnoe storybox volunteers. Storybox at Putnoe will start again on Monday 20 April



Special Services for Lent This Week

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church

On the night before his death Jesus had a final meal with his friends. Before this festival meal for Passover, Jesus surprised his friends by washing the feet of every person, a task that was normally done by a servant. He wanted to show his followers that they should love one another in humble ways. Later in the meal, which is known as 'The Last Supper', Jesus passed round bread and wine. He said the bread was his body broken for them and the wine was his blood shed for them. He was telling them that he was going to die and that when they share bread and wine they should remember him. We share bread and wine at church services all year round, but it is even more special on Maundy Thursday.

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross

This is a particularly moving service as we read the Gospel accounts of the events leading up to Jesus arrest and crucifixion. Each reading has a short meditation and the bible passages are interspersed with a selection of hymns. The service lasts an hour and there is coffee and hot cross buns afterwards. This year we have some beautiful images to assist our meditation which were painted by prisoners from Bedford Prison. They will be displayed on screen at both churches.

Don't Forget !! Good Friday Children's Special activities at Putnoe Heights from 12.15 - 1.30pm. Easter crafts, story and light refreshments. Suitable for all ages.

Partnership Mission 14- 19 July

Thank you to those people who have been coming forward with great ideas for our mission week. Please keep suggesting events and activities for July when Bishop Richard will be joining us in the Partnership for a week of mission in our community. We will be holding special events and Bishop Richard will be visiting groups and meeting people leading up to special Sunday Services. If you have any ideas of events which you would like to hold or that you would like to participate in, then please speak with Charlie. During this week the aim will be to make contact with as many people as possible and offer them a welcome to our church family in Jesus name.

The Methodist Church World Mission Fund

Easter Offering Do take an Easter Offering envelope from the Church vestibule at St. Mark's or Putnoe Heights on Palm Sunday, 29 March. Please help to support the mission partners working overseas & overseas students in ministry training. It also allows the church to make grants to Partner churches for special projects. The offering envelopes can be placed in the collection plates at Easter or handed in at either office. Thank you. Nearest dedication service will be held at Kempston East on Wednesday 27 May at 2.30pm.

Charity Collections Saturday, 18 & Sunday 19

April Cancer Research UK has been given the opportunity to collect outside both Cardington Road and Goldington branches of Tesco on the above dates. We hope to cover from 8am to 6pm at both locations on both days. You will realise this will need a large number of collectors, working in twos, and we need to look beyond our usual loyal helpers. If you feel you could give an hour of your time on either or both of these days please let Sue Butler (354183) know as soon as possible, or telephone Brian Hillier on 01234 720669 when he can try and give you a convenient slot. Please consider whether you could help us with this special opportunity to raise much needed funds and perhaps encourage a friend to collect with you. Thank you.

Footprints There will be a walk from Turvey on Sunday the 12 April 2015. The later start time is 2.30pm. Meet on the bridge where the A428 traverses the River Great Ouse. Park in nearby layby. The walk is over grassy park land behind Turvey Abbey. 3-4 miles. Stiles have been replaced by modern Kissing gates. Some muddy places. Enquiries Alan or Margaret 327219.

St Mark's Church. Can you help us? During the past months our Junior Church has been gradually increasing in number and Linda Turner needs one or two volunteers, who enjoy the challenge of working with young children, to help her on a fairly regular basis on Sunday mornings. If you would like more information, please speak to one of our ministers, Jean Bank or another member of the Leadership Team or to Linda herself, who will be pleased to give you more information. Thank you.



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www.easyfundraising.com. This works exactly the same when you shop with John Lewis, M&S and a whole host of other shops. This has an added benefit that you will also get some special offers - you can't lose! Please click the link on the church website go online and sign up now

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

Margaret Bond

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 Patricia Carmen Muncaster will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 13 April at 10.00am

The funeral of Myrtle Mary McConnell will take place at 12.15p.m. on Tuesday 14 April at Bedford Crematorium