



Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church

30 March 2014

Mothering 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

Today – 30 March 2014

9.30 St Marks - Family Worship

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership – Mr Edward Parry
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing
Organist - Mr John Mower

11.00 am Putnoe — Family Worship

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership Team Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae
Intercessions — Ministers
Organist - Mr John Mower

6 April – Family Worship

9.30 St Marks – Family Worship

Preacher - Miss Helen Boshier
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott
Organist – Mr Clive Simmonds

11.00 am Putnoe – Family Worship

Preacher– Miss Helen Boshier
Leadership Team - Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions — YPG
Organist - Mr Clive Simmonds

Readings 1. Ezekiel 37: 1-14 2. Romans 8: 6-11
3. John 11: 1-45

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 John and Janet Day to celebrate their
45th Wedding Anniversary.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week
has been given

By Margaret and Alan Massey in loving memory of
their parents, Jessie & Wilfred, and Mabel & Harry;
By Harry Stokes and family in loving memory of Mary
Stokes and her parents, George & Doris Curness;
By Dorothy Billingham in loving memory of her
husband Ridley;
By Eileen and John Marriott to celebrate their
Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Prayer for Sunday

May the cross of the Son of God, mightier than all
the powers of evil, bless our going out and our
coming in. By the holy cross may we be delivered
from all anger, all temptation and all unruly passion;
and may almighty God bless us, the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.
Traditional Indian Liturgy

MARRIAGE

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of
Paul Robson and Julia Suzanne Cooper to be
married at St Mark's Church

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. 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) 1 April Members Quiz 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 9 April 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 2 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 total beginners. 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



Diary Dates



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

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

Annual Congregational Meetings—27th April

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 30th April

Putnoe Church Council - 10 July

Pastoral Group Meeting - 1 April 4pm

Churchyard Committee -

Commemoration Service - 2nd November

Circuit meeting – 19th June

Woodland Burial Trustees— AGM - May 25th

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

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

Mothering Sunday

Sentence of Scripture Isaiah 66.13

As a mother comforts a child so will I comfort you, says the Lord.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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 Collect for Mothering Sunday



First Bible Reading - Colossians 3: 12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

Gospel Reading - Luke 10: 38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

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

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns *(Please distribute Mothering Sunday Service Sheets).*

1. For the Beauty of the Earth
2. Love is something if you give it away
3. Wide, wide as the ocean
4. Put peace into each other's hands
5. Love Divine, all loves excelling

Commentary

Mothering Sunday, which falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent, is also known as 'Refreshment Sunday', and in the Catholic tradition 'Laetare Sunday', Laetare means 'Rejoice' in Latin. The precise origins of the traditions vary, what seems to be significant is that this Sunday is the half

way point of Lent. With Lent being observed in different ways, all of which point to a period of self-examination and deprivation, such as fasting or giving up something which we normally enjoy, be it a particular food or drink, or even a pastime. The purpose of which is to try to emulate, in some small way, the deprivation and the resisting of temptation which our Lord experienced during his forty days in the wilderness. Some people will attempt more extreme observance of Lent; I read recently of a curate in the UK who was going to fast throughout and only drink water. As I write I don't know how he is fairing.

The idea that half way through Lent we can 'refresh' ourselves by eating and drinking what we may have 'given up' really appeals to me. This links in nicely to Mothering Sunday, which in the UK, is a time when we give thanks for our mothers, but was also in the past a time when people, who worked away from home, returned to see their families and visited their 'Mother Church'. Both of which are times to 'Rejoice'. So, whatever our understanding on the significance of the fourth Sunday in Lent, it does seem to lend itself to a break from the austerity of the period.

Another aspect of Lent and one which our Bible reading of Luke 10: 38 – 42 reminds us of, is to use it as a time of listening to God. Of course ideally we endeavour to listen to God every day, but in all reality with the ever increasing busyness of life this is not always achieved. Even if we are older, or have a disability, which restricts our activity and are unable to be out and about as much as we would like, frequently there is a constant round of medical appointments which absorb our time and energy. The increased use of hand held technology such as phones and tablets can lead to a constant round of interruptions, where we feel obliged to instantly respond to texts, emails and tweets, perhaps breaking in to time we have set aside for ourselves and God. Perhaps these are the modern equivalents to our natural 'Martha' instinct to keep occupied, to concern ourselves with the daily business of living rather than putting God first? Not heeding the words of Luke 12:31, 'Seek his kingdom, and these things shall be given to you as well'.

So what is Jesus suggesting in Luke 10: 38 - 42? I am sure he was aware of the necessity of time spent on hospitality, so I don't believe he was being overly critical of Martha. Rather that it was about getting the right balance between 'being' and 'doing'. After all he was a very busy man in just three years, he travelled all round Israel teaching a wide range of people about God and His Kingdom. Probably walking most of the way or going by donkey, no cars in those days! Sometimes that teaching was to vast crowds, usually on hillsides; sometimes in synagogues, buildings which are similar to our churches, to Jewish leaders and teachers; sometimes, as in today's reading, to a small group of close friends in their homes. Whilst on his travels he also spent time healing people with a variety of illnesses and disabilities. But amongst all this activity he frequently slipped away alone, or with only his closest friends, to a place of quiet where he could rest and pray and no doubt listen to his Heavenly Father. If we are to follow in his footsteps we also need to regularly put aside our busyness to find time for rest, quiet and prayer where we can listen, just as Mary listened, to Jesus and God. *Wendy Waters*

Meditation

"So, summing up: On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have brought your crops in from your fields, celebrate the Feast of God for seven days. The first day is a complete rest and the eighth day is a complete rest. On the first day, pick the best fruit from the best trees; take fronds of palm trees and branches of leafy trees and from willows by the brook and celebrate in the presence of your God for seven days—yes, for seven full days celebrate it as a festival to God. Every year from now on, celebrate it in the seventh month. Live in booths for seven days—every son and daughter of Israel is to move into booths so that your descendants will know that I made the People of Israel live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am God, *your God.*" *Leviticus 23: 39 – 43 Living Bible*

'Living in booths for seven days', in the time of Moses this took the people of Israel out of their comfort zone, into a place where they could appreciate all that God had done for them. This is the Jewish 'Festival of Tabernacles' celebrated in September or October, when some Jews still erect and live in tents in their gardens.

Modern day retreat centres can fulfil this same purpose, helping us to 'get away from it all', to leave our 'Martha' selves at home and allow our 'Mary' selves to slowly immerse. So that we can turn off technology, to tune into Jesus and retreat into God space. *Wendy Waters*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

God of our forbears, help me to get out of the box and find the place where I may re-orient my life with you. Teach me to go wherever and do whatever it take to stop running my life my way. *Ray Simpson*

Lord Jesus, in the busyness of daily life help us to step away from the daily round of demands and retreat into you space.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our own mothers and all those who do and have helped us to grow into the unique individuals we are. We thank you for their dedication and determination that our lives will be filled with good things sometimes sacrificing their own well being for ours.

Lord Jesus, whose earthly family were forced to leave their own country in order to protect you from death in childhood, protect we pray all families who are forced to move for their own safety. We pray for those who have fled from war zones, fled from random and targeted acts of assault, rape, violence, whose homes and livelihoods have been destroyed. May they find safe havens and hope through the kindness and protection of others.

Heavenly Father as we celebrate the joys of motherhood, help us we pray to not forget those who wished for the joy of motherhood but for whom this has not been possible, may they know your special care and concern for them at this time. We pray to for those whose mothering has been a cause of grief and despair, be with them all at their point of need. **Amen**



Please be sure to book in your diary Celebrate 100 at The College Equestrian Centre at Keysoe, north of Bedford.

Marquees will be provided for seminars and displays. We have speakers, musicians, an orchestra, choirs and Christian performers including 'Songs of Praise'

presenter Pam Rhodes, singer Jonathan Veira, children's worship leader Duggie-Dug-Dug, speaker Canon J John, the Very Revd. Dr. Jeffrey John and the Holy Kapow Circus. Throughout the day there will be many displays on Church crafts and attractions, including the acclaimed Essex Dog Display Team. Classic cars from across the past 100 years will be on show, with a history of MG cars. There will be free fairground rides for children to enjoy, It's a Knockout and much, much more. service which will include a Eucharist at which Bishop Alan will give an uplifting address. There is a back-up indoor arena in the event of inclement weather. The event starts at 10am and ends at 5pm.

Easter Services at Putnoe Heights and St Mark's Church

Palm Sunday Family Service

Sunday 13 April at 9.30am
With distribution of Palm Crosses

Palm Sunday Family Service

Sunday 13 April at 11.00am
With distribution of Palm Crosses



Messy Easter

Wednesday 16 April
3.45pm - 5.30pm

All the usual Messy Church
crafts stories and activities

Maundy Thursday Service

7.30pm

Good Friday Service

Friday 18 April at 11.00am
*Stations of the Cross,
(with coffee & hot cross buns!)*

Good Friday Service

Friday 18 April at 9.30am
*Stations of the Cross,
(with coffee & hot cross buns!)*

Good Friday Special for children of all ages

12.15pm - 1.30pm for all children - *Crafts,
stories, Easter activities and refreshments*

Easter Day

Sunrise Holy Communion 6.00am
Holy Communion 9.30am

Easter Day

Holy Communion 11.00am



Congratulations to Eryl Tucker for successfully abseiling down Elstow Abbey for Christian Aid on Saturday.

If you would like to sponsor Eryl then it is not too late. You can do it online at [justgiving.com / eryltucker](http://justgiving.com/eryltucker) or if you would prefer, cheques (payable to Christian Aid) or cash.

Lent 2014

On Wednesday 9 April we will be hosting a performance of the Passion Play Inheritance by the Riding Lights Theatre Company at St Mark's. This is a meditative and reflective opportunity to consider the Passion and our response.

Written by Bridget Foreman, Inheritance weaves the strands of the biblical Passion into a dramatic new narrative. It evokes the community where Jesus lived, the people who knew him best, the powers that brought him to execution. And in the shadow of the cross, it casts light on some of the women who Jesus stands alongside, sharing in their suffering.



Book now ! Tickets have now been released to all churches

The performance starts in church at 7.30pm drinks are available beforehand in the hall.

Footprints On Sunday the 6 April 2014, there will be a walk in Riseley. Meet at 2.30pm at All Saints Church Riseley. Location High Street, Gold Street (found nearly opposite Fox and Hounds High St) first right along Church Lane to end. There is no parking at the Church. There is street parking in the High Street (then a short walk along footpath to church) or at the car park at the village hall in Gold Street (Provided there is nothing on that afternoon) The walk has a few stiles and at the moment muddy and rutted in places. Any queries to Alan or Margaret (massey-1@tiscali.co.uk)

Putnoe Heights flower posies for Mothering Sunday.. Donations towards the cost of flowers, both for Mothering Sunday and for Easter, will be appreciated. Please speak to Ann Hitt or Sue Allen.

St Mark's Chat and Play finishes on April 3 and starts again on Thursday April 30

St Mark's Storybox finishes April 3 and starts again on Thursday April 24

Junior Church finishes on April 26 and starts again on April 27.

Prayer Group will not meet on Thursday April 10

MWIB Circuit Quiet Day 9 April at Priory We are sorry to announce the cancellation of the Circuit Quiet Day because of major health issues with those involved in the leadership and organisation. Please will you tell anyone who you know may have been hoping to attend.

Nordic Walking – Meet Monday morning in Brickhill at 9.30am. Two locations. Please contact www.northbedsnordicwalking.co.uk or 07758205455. £3 per walk. Very friendly welcoming group.

Pastoral Support Team - Next meeting 4.00pm on Tuesday 1 April in the chapel at St Mark's

Churches Together in Bedfordshire Annual Forum Thursday 22 May at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Flitwick. Speaker Revd. Dr. Janet Wootton. Buffet meal from 6.30pm AGM at 7.30pm Speaker at 8pm. All Welcome.

Highfield Residential Care Home St. Mark's group will hold an Easter Service on April 13 (Palm Sunday) At 2.30pm. All well wishers are welcome to come and help. Vera Pearson.

Annual Congregational Meetings

These will take place after Church on Sunday 27 April. Everybody is invited to attend.

Easter ..

New Life



Easter Cards

Invitations to our Easter service are available for distribution at both churches this morning. Please use these to invite friends and neighbours to our Easter services

Churchyards Committee

There will be a meeting of the Churchyards Committee on Wednesday 2 April at 11.00am



Messy Cathedral On Saturday 7 June 2014 10.30am - 1.30pm - Booking Essential Creative activities, lunch provided, come and experience Messy Church in the historic and awesome cathedral



Open House Run at St Mark's by volunteers, Open House is a weekly (Wednesday) drop in group for people with learning and physical disabilities their family, friends and carers. This group has been very successful and the increase in numbers has meant that we need more volunteers. Working with our special people at Open House is very rewarding; volunteers do not need experience or a background in this area. Empathy, patience, flexibility and a happy disposition are a key requirement, If you are interested and would like more information please call Cheryl Green on 07729 187399

Open House is offering a unique opportunity for people with learning disabilities to access a free service. Cheryl Green is the group organiser and she has seen the group expand dramatically with many more people joining. The group is entirely voluntary organised and receives no funding. In order to raise some funds to help provide this service we are asking you to search out any coins which you may have and give them to us. The coins may be British or foreign coins, we have somebody who will ensure that we receive the best value for them.

It may be old foreign currency left over from that holiday years ago, or a few old British coins lying around. They may be no use to you but they are to us. 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.



From Tears to Laughter a recital on April Fool's Day followed by refreshments. April at St. Andrew's Church. Joanna Reveley-Flute,— Simon Giliver-piano. Admission by donation-proceeds to Christian Aid.



Wi fi Wifi is now freely available throughout St Mark's Church Community Centre. The password is **jesuslovesme** If previous users experience difficulties, then please delete your old connection and start a new one with the new password

Bedford Community Chamber Orchestra are at Putnoe Heights Church on Saturday 5th April at 7.30pm. Spring Concert based on a flying theme, to include: Delius and Tchaikovsky .Tickets: £7/ £5 concessions. Available on the door or contact www.bcco.org.uk Tel:07766517445.

Housebound - If anyone who is housebound would like Holy Communion taken to them during the Easter period could you please inform St Mark's Church Office on 01234 342613



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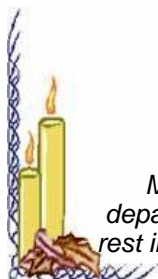
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Rest In Peace

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.

**Doreen Smart
Millie Meads
Mary Appleton**

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 Robert Vaclaw Newman will take at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 8 April at 12.15pm