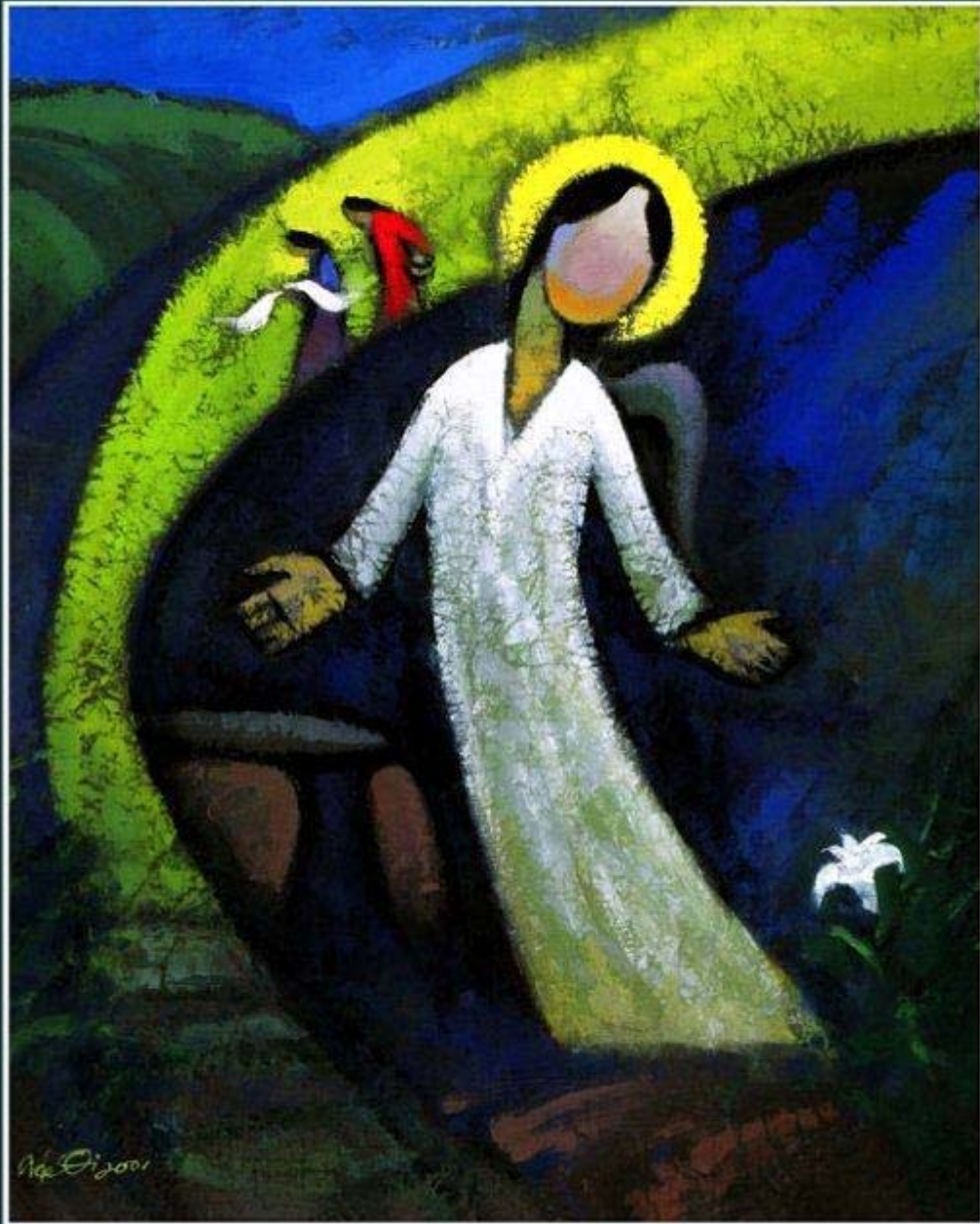


# Partnership News

31 March 2013  
Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
Easter Sunday



# Christ is Risen!

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)  
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685  
**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**9.-3.45pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**  
(See website for more details)  
**.9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights  
Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430  
**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry 211955  
**10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Calligraphy** at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation** at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (see contact details below)  
**12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Carolyn Morris [youth@thischurch.com](mailto:youth@thischurch.com) 365630  
**1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make** For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys,songs,story and refreshments £1. More details email– [chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk) .  
**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** (see contact details below)  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190  
**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 01767699399 or 07720713738.  
**6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859  
**6.15pm-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 Pat Nicholson 353518  
**7.00pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst 01908 377020  
**7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091  
**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting– 15 April Judith Stanton. 823313  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016  
**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507  
**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389  
**10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** (see contact details below)  
**1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles** 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552  
**1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp.** St Mark's (contacts details below)  
**1—3pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's (contacts details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details)  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895  
**2pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).  
**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225  
**2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs 406784.  
**4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468  
**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957  
**7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390  
**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648  
**6.30pm MT Karate** (all ages) Karen King 07941264885  
**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455  
**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** (Meets fortnightly). Next meeting '2 April Easter Thoughts Details Janet King 313946  
**8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers Workshop** St. Mark's 3rd Tuesday in month. Next meeting 23 April Shirley Sadler 01767 651767

## Wednesday

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly Changing to Fridays from 5 April (Same time an place.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647  
**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.  
**9.30am Discover & Do** (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666  
**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 below)  
**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.  
**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks (see contact details below)  
**10am U3A Diet and Nutrition-** Putnoe (contact below)  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit**  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 10 April at Putnoe Heights Office 365630  
**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)  
**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811  
**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** St Marks.(see contact details below)  
**2.00pm Fifty Plus Keep Fit** Mrs Webster 856966  
**2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan**  
**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966  
**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 20th March Wendy Waters 401834  
**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.



**6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen King 079412 64885

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

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

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004

**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 3 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 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon 356306

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

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Denise Green 244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

**110-11.30am Gentle Yoga** For more details contact Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305

**12pm Storybox .** St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 363283

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays** St. Mark's 267444

**1pm—2.30pm Drop in (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

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St.Mark's (contact below)

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Mark's Mary Rich 272470

**5.00pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale 406094

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

**7.30pm Gentle Birthing** St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231 (as from 4th April)

**8 -10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers)** Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

**8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle.** St Mark's 1st week in month. Mr Newton 01525 378193

**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Pat Cass 294220

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

### Friday

**10am -12.00 U3A Photography** St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St. Marks (see contact details below)

**2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist** St Marks. (contact details below)

**2pm U3A Italian**-Putnoe Heights (contact details below)

**2pm U3A Gardening** - Putnoe Heights

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

**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker (07900 232648

**6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994

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

### Saturday

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

**Young Embroiderers** bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher 357198

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

**6.45pm Duplicate Bridge.** St Mark's Mrs Pillinger 212066

### Sunday

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

**10am—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 20 March; Weds 17 April; Weds 17 May;  
Weds 19 June; Weds 18 Sept; Weds 16 Oct;  
Weds 20 Nov, Weds

**U3A** For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 10 April, 11 June

**St Mark's Leadership Team** -

**Annual Congregational Meetings** 28 April 2013

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 3 June

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting**

**Putnoe Church Council** - 10 June, 24 Oct

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -

**Commemoration Service** Sunday 3 November 3 pm

**Circuit meeting** -

**Deanery Meeting** -

**Woodland Burial Trustees**– AGM –Sunday 9 June

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** –

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

# Easter Sunday

## Introductory Sentence

### Psalm 118:28

You are my God, and I will give you thanks;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give  
thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love  
endures forever.

## Collect Prayer

Most glorious God, who on this day delivered  
us by the mighty resurrection of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, and made your whole creation  
new: grant that we who celebrate with joy his  
rising from the dead may be raised from the  
death of sin to the life of righteousness;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and for ever. Amen. Methodist Worship

## First Reading — Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize  
how true it is that God does not show

favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen— by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

## Second Reading - 1 Corinthians Chapter 15:19-26

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

## Gospel Reading - John 20: 1-18 (When announced - **This is the Gospel of Christ**)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head.



### *Mary Magdalene - the first apostle*

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples  
with the news: "I have seen the Lord!"

The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. Woman, he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

**Post Communion Prayer** Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Hymns** (*Please distribute Hymns Sheets and Ordinary Holy Communion Booklets* )

### **Commentary**

Jesus was killed out of envy and greed by those in power who saw him as a threat to their wealth and status. They refused to allow this carpenter from Galilee to come in and upset the apple cart. They had a workable situation in spite of Roman occupation and Jesus put the whole thing in jeopardy by his words and his actions, such as the overturning of the money tables in the temple. Jesus was not killed because he threatened the power of Rome, he was killed because he challenged the temple, the priests and religious powers.

Then no sooner had he died than he came back to life again. He appeared to his disciples and he spoke words of peace and forgiveness and told them to go and do likewise. Those who saw Jesus then went out and told others that Jesus who had died had come back from the dead and that they were witnesses. Some of them took some convincing. We know that Thomas wanted to actually touch Jesus before he believed. I am sure that we would all have been the same. However once they had seen Jesus, once they had had the opportunity to speak with him and eat with him, then the reality of what had happened transformed them as individuals and as a group. Of course we are those who Jesus spoke about when he said 'Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed'

We believe as people of faith and we hold the faith through times of blessing and adversity, through the highs and lows of daily life. We hold the faith in heart and mind, and our faith is nourished through worship and Christian fellowship. The validity of the resurrection is not something which can be proved and the attempts to seek to convince folks who do not wish to believe by reliance upon the facts themselves is a futile activity.

Those who want to poke holes in the resurrection point to inconsistencies in the Biblical narrative. Matthew has the resurrection stories in Galilee, Luke in Jerusalem, John in both. In Mark there is one man in the tomb, in Luke there are two men, in Matthew it is an angel and in John two angels. For believers these very differences can suggest that the disciples didn't get their heads together and concoct a good story.

However there are two features of the resurrection which I do believe think stand out as significant.

**The anger of the Jewish authorities** The first thing of importance is that we need to remember the anger which existed towards Jesus from the Jewish authorities. They hated him enough to murder him. When the stories started to go around about the resurrection of Jesus the Jewish authorities were unable to produce a dead Jesus corpse. It is true that the disciples might have stolen the body themselves but this brings us to the second point.

**The fearlessness of the disciples.** They were so energised by the resurrection appearances of Jesus that they fearlessly proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus to the extent that they were not only prepared to die but willingly gave of their lives, some in the most cruel manner.

I remember a few years ago we had a church trip to see the Passion of Christ, a film which focussed on the death of Jesus and which was quite graphic about the crucifixion scene. We all came out wondering why we had put ourselves through such a gruesome experience. We do well to remember that the disciples also gave up their lives in equally horrific deaths. It would be quite absurd to imagine that men



and women would give their lives for something which they knew to be a deliberate deception. There is no more credible witness than one who is prepared to die rather than change their testimony. No wonder it is said that the blood of the martyrs, or witnesses, was the seed of the church.

Jesus appeared to those who were thinking about him, who were looking for him. Still today Jesus is present to those individuals and groups who seek him. To those who honestly seek, the resurrected Jesus is alive today. This is because the resurrection of Jesus is not just a historical event, an event bound in our physical world, the resurrection is a spiritual reality in which encounter is just as important as understanding.

We obtain a glimpse of this in the Gospels themselves and it is important to remember this. When we speak of the resurrection we need to remind ourselves that Jesus was not resuscitated, his broken body was not just made to live again. Jesus was raised but he was raised spiritually not just the old Jesus made alive. The risen Jesus is able to pass through walls and it is all very Star Trek the way that Jesus is able to materialise in places and then disappear again. Shortly we will have the Ascension of Jesus and we need to remember this when we see those images of Jesus going up to heaven with his little feet eventually sticking out of the clouds ! The risen Jesus did not have a physical body which was like his body before he died. Death and his subsequent resurrection changed Jesus. Jesus was no longer restrained by the physical laws which we are subject to.

The transformation of the disciples into what we know now as the Christian church, occurred because of the resurrection. The broken hearted, disillusioned disciples left behind their fears and despair and changed from frightened cowards into fearless lions. Think of the complete transformation of Peter, a man who had let Jesus down really badly. He had been tongue tied when asked if he was one of Jesus followers, until he swore at those who accused him and ran away. After the resurrection all of that changed. He leaves his hiding place and preaches about Jesus and his resurrection in Jerusalem.

As we would expect, the Jewish leaders who had killed Jesus to put an end to the challenge to their livelihood, have him arrested and he is brought before the Sanhedrin, the same court which sentenced Jesus to death. Peter is brought before Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and we are told the other powerful men of the family. This is a scene reminiscent of the Godfather, these are a family of men of great power, who have proved that they will stop at nothing if you challenge them. Does Peter hide, does he say sorry, does he try and get out of the court with his life ? No Peter tells these killers that he acts in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the one they crucified but whom God had raised from the dead. He was threatened and told that he must no longer mention Jesus but Peter replied.

*Who should we obey you or God? We cannot stop from speaking about what we have seen and heard.'*

And there we have it. The inability of the powerful Jewish leaders who had Jesus killed to disprove the resurrection and the powerful testimony of men and women like Peter who no longer cared whether the Jewish leaders killed them because as far as they were concerned Jesus had conquered death itself. But of course there was more than just a fearless confidence which possessed these disciples. They were unafraid because the spiritual resurrection of Jesus meant that Jesus was no longer confined to earth and time, Jesus was with them when they were arrested, he was with them when they faced the Sanhedrin, Jesus was with them when they were put to death because they refused to deny the truth of the risen Jesus. The same risen Lord meets with us today as we put our trust in him. *Charles Royden*

**Meditation** J.R.R. Tolkien, reflecting upon the resurrection, describes the Easter event like this:

I coined the word 'eucatastrophe': the sudden happy turn in a story which pierces you with a joy that brings tears (which I argued it is the highest function of fairy-stories to produce). And I was there led to the view that it produces its peculiar effect because it is a sudden glimpse of Truth, your whole nature chained in material cause and effect, the chain of death, feels a sudden relief as if a major limb out of joint had suddenly snapped back. It perceives... that this is indeed how things really do work in the Great World for which our nature is made. And I concluded by saying that the Resurrection was the greatest 'eucatastrophe' possible in the greatest Fairy Story – and produces that essential emotion: Christian joy which produces tears because it is qualitatively so like sorrow, because it comes from those places where Joy and Sorrow are at one, reconciled, as selfishness and altruism are lost in Love. (*The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien, #89*)

### **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

Let our hearts adore you for ever, O Lord, that, waking or sleeping, we may never cease to worship you. May your angels keep watch over us day and night, and may the praise from our lips mingle with the songs of heaven. Amen. *Gregory of Nazianzus (329-389)*

"Rejoice, rejoice and sing, rejoice and be glad... for earth and heaven are joined and humanity is reconciled to God!" *Book of Common Prayer pp. 286-7*

**St Mark's Church Council** This will now take place on Wednesday 10 April at 7.30pm in the Chapel.

**Church Annual Congregational Meeting** will take place after church services on Sunday 28 April. 10.30am St Mark's and 12 noon Putnoe  
All are invited to attend.

**Easter Offering 2013** . Please give generously and return your envelope with enclosed contribution on Easter Sunday. With the enlarged circuit there are 2 venues for the Dedication Services to be held in May, and the theme will be Beyond the Harbour Wall.

**St Mark's Preschool** are saving Sainsbury tokens. If anyone has unwanted tokens they would be delighted to have them. There is a box out during Pre-school hours or you can give them to Janet Day or hand them in at the office. Thank you very much.

**First Boot Sale of the Year**—Monday 1 April  
Any unwanted bric-a-brac, books, tools, jewellery, coins etc greatly appreciated. Tray bakes for the refreshments will also be appreciated.

We are now Starting our 22nd Year of Car Boot Sales held four times a year on Bank Holiday Mondays. How time flies! We have a fantastic team who give up their Bank Holiday Monday mornings come rain or shine to help out. We start on Easter Monday 1st April followed by 6th May 2013, 27th May 2013, 26th August 2013. Starting time 8.00pm for sellers, 9.00pm buyers. Excellent Refreshments and facilities

**Spring Fayre — Arthritis Research UK** —a Spring Fayre will be held on Saturday 6 April from 10am to 12 noon at Biddenham Village Hall, Nodder's Way. Sales will include cakes and preserves, gifts, local honey, cards, books, toys, paintings, new and nearly-new clothes, bric-a-brac etc. There will be a tombola and competition and children's activities. You can sit and chat with friends over light refreshments. Admission is 50p (accompanied children free) so do come along and bring friends to support this very worthwhile cause. **MARIAN GODDARD**—Hon. Secretary—Bedford Branch Arthritis Research UK Tel. 01234 344617

**Putnoe Heights Church** will be holding a Table top sale on Saturday 20 April 10am to 12.30. light refreshments. for further details please email [youth@thisischurch.com](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com) or speak to Carolyn Morris or Jenny Snelson

**Footprints Walk** The next walk is on Sunday April 7. It will start at 2.30 (note the later start time) from the Town Square Car Park in Olney. Parking in Olney can be difficult so please arrive in good time. The walk will take about 1 1/2 hours and includes water meadows which could be muddy so please wear appropriate footwear.  
Leaders:- Sylvia 343424, Martin & Sue 954102

**Methodist Women in Britain.** District Craft Day on Saturday 18th May at Priory Methodist Church, Bedford from 9.45am to 4.30pm. There are 13 different workshops and everyone is welcome to attend. Hot and cold drinks are provided but please bring your own lunch. The cost is £4 per half day session and please book early as places are limited. Closing date for bookings is 9th May. Booking form and details of workshops are available from Pam Seymour 01234 305695 email-[pams@tgis.co.uk](mailto:pams@tgis.co.uk) or Ruth Watkins 01296 485087

**Putnoe Heights Church Storybox and Storyboxplus** are meeting on Monday 15 April 12noon to 2pm. Please bring packed lunch, drinks provided. For further details email [youth@thisischurch.com](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com)

**Chat and Play** at St.Mark's starts again on Thursday 18 April

**Story Box** at St. Mark's starts again on Thursday 18 April at 12 noon.

**Chat and Make** starts again on Monday 22 April

### **Easter Message from the Methodist President**

The President of the Methodist Conference challenged the myth that poverty is the fault of the poor in his Easter message this week. Who's to blame?

The Methodist Church, through our Joint Public Issues Team, has been bringing to our attention a great untruth perpetrated by some press and some politicians alike: we're told that poverty is the fault of the poor.

There has always been a temptation to do this, something John Wesley was well aware of when he said it is, "foolish and wickedly false... to say [the poor] are poor because they are idle".

A few years ago our beliefs about poverty, grounded firmly in careful study and research, understood many social ills, such as drug and alcohol use; struggling relationships; lack of work; illness and the rest, came about as the result of being poor. Some in the public domain have been trying to turn the consequence of poverty into its cause. We must speak out against this untruth.

Being poor isn't good for you. How can someone be well when basic human needs are denied; when access to everyday life is denied and the power to change is removed? Poverty is a bad thing. It causes social ills. Ills do not cause poverty any more than spots cause measles. But blame is always a way out of feeling uncomfortable about injustice. We'd prefer to think that others "had it coming" and we try hard to distinguish between the worthy and unworthy. Who's to blame?

This is a verse from an ironic song by Sydney Carter in which a robber is being crucified next to a carpenter:  
*It was on a Friday morning that they took me from the cell  
and I saw they had a carpenter to crucify as well  
You can blame it on to Pilate You can blame it on the Jews  
You can blame it on the Devil It's God I accuse  
It's God they ought to crucify instead of you and me  
I said to the carpenter, a-hanging on the tree*

God's response to "blame" is "I'm responsible" - and the cross is a huge statement by God that as creator, God claims responsibility. God gave human beings a wonderful gift of freedom programmed deeply into our nature. A huge risk; for true choice means we can choose not to love, and not loving has profound consequences, not only for our happiness, but that of others. In that sense, because God is responsible, poverty and sin, sickness and sadness become possible. But God is not to blame, for the creator's intention is only good; freely given love is the greatest of all gifts and the most challenging of all expectations.

Who is to blame for poverty? That is possibly an unhelpful question, so put it in a God-centred way. Who is responsible for poverty? And the God answer is: "I am, you are, we are." This is the "cross" solution: a unilateral acceptance that God has given us a challenge and a gift, and by being responsible we side with God in the only way we can: to end misery and extend his rule of love and joy. Wesley put this in a practical and uncomfortable way: "Every shilling which you needlessly spend... is, in effect, stolen from God and the poor."

**Visit To St Albans Cathedral** Charlie will be installed as an Honorary canon of St Albans Cathedral on Saturday 27 April at 4.00pm. You are all invited and welcomed to the service. However we do need to tell the cathedral how many people might be expected. If you would like to come please telephone either church office or send an email.

### At St Mark's Church

*Bidding and Response for Intercessions*  
Bidding: Risen, responsive Lord  
**Response: Respond we pray.**

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### 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 31 March - Easter Sunday

**6.00 St Mark's – Sunrise Service**  
**9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion**  
Preacher – Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart  
Intercessions – Mrs Wendy Waters  
**11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion**  
Preacher – Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership – Mrs Jean Kirk  
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

#### Sunday 7 April Easter 2 - Low Sunday

**9.30 St Marks – Family Worship**  
Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing  
Intercessions – Mr warwick Holden  
**11.00 am Putnoe – Family Worship**  
Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership – Mr Barry Southam  
Intercessions – YPG

**Readings** 1. Acts 5:27-32, 2. Revelation 1:4-8  
3. John 20:19-31

### Thank You

Flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have been given by Pat and Frank Tuffin to celebrate their birthdays ( 80 and 86 respectively )

Flowers at St Mark's have been donated by the flower arrangers.

**Thank you to** our flower arranger organisers Marion Prior and Ann Hitt and all those who help them every week to prepare our churches so beautifully for worship.

### Prayer for Sunday

Christ is Risen  
The world below lies desolate  
Christ is risen  
The spirits of evil are fallen  
Christ is risen  
The angels of God are rejoicing  
Christ is Risen  
The tombs of the dead are empty  
Christ is risen from the dead  
The first of the sleepers  
Glory and power are his forever and ever.

*Hippolytus of Rome c 190-c236*

### 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.

#### Aphrodite Hubbard

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

### Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.

There are no funerals this week

