



# Partnership News

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
5 April 2015  
Easter Sunday



**Alleluia! Christ is risen**

**He is risen indeed Alleluia !**

# 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– 20 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

**9.30am 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 22 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 15 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 with crèche for under 3's

**10 - 5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre.** 1st Sunday 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.

**2- 4.30pm Indoor Bowls** at St. Mark's 2nd & 4th Sunday. Ray Seymour 305695 or church office.

## Diary Dates



**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** - TBA

**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 your meetings.*



# Easter Sunday

## Sentence of Scripture - 1 Corinthians Chapter 5

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

## Collect Prayer for the Day

*Before we read we pray*

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

## First Bible 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 men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout 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 tree, 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 Bible Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I'm making known to you, brothers, the gospel that I proclaimed to you, which you accepted, on which you have taken your stand, and by which you are also being saved if you hold firmly to the message I proclaimed to you—unless, of course, your faith was worthless.

For I passed on to you the most important points that I received: The Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures, he was buried, he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures—and is still alive!— and he was seen by Cephas, and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Next he was seen by James, then by all the apostles, and finally he was seen by me, as though I were born abnormally late.

For I am the least of the apostles and not even fit to be called an apostle because I persecuted God's church. But by God's grace I am what I am, and his grace shown to me was not wasted. Instead, I worked harder than all the others—not I, of course, but God's grace that was with me. So, whether it was I or the others, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

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

## Gospel Reading - John 20:1-18

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

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



Women gather at the tomb to anoint his body with spices but the tomb is empty. The women's gaze focuses on the tomb, from which a white lily springs. Jesus is not there. They are perplexed - notice the different hand gestures of each one, so aptly expressing their emotions. They are modestly dressed but flamboyantly female, even in this poignant moment. Notice also the butterfly behind them - a symbol of the risen Jesus?

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, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, 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 their homes, 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 returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning 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**

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Hymns for Sunday** (*Please distribute Easter Communion Booklets and Hymn Sheet if desired*)

1. Jesus Christ is risen today
2. Easter jubilation
3. The day of resurrection
4. Thine be the glory

### **Commentary**

Our Garden of Remembrance has more flowers than usual at this time of year, so does the woodland burial ground. People visit and recall memories of their loved ones, these are special places for us and we look after them, but they are inevitably also places where strong emotions abound. We can only imagine how those women who went to the tomb of Jesus must have felt. They had seen such a cruel and unjust death take place, it was not so much a trial as a murder. Worse still was the fact that one of their own friends had betrayed them and Jesus. The stage is set for years of mourning and sorrow and bitter regret. How many times will they visit the grave with flowers and remember what was and think of what might have been? The scene is all too familiar to those who mourn.

What happens next is set to make matters worse. Not only has Jesus died, now somebody has taken the body. Take no notice of people who say that when they are dead you can put their body in the wheelie bin because it is not important. The body is important and it means a great deal to those who mourn. Think of the enormity of grief experienced by those whose loved ones have been murdered and who sometimes spend the rest of their lives searching for the body. Think of the relatives of those who have died following a plane crash, they so desperately want to find the plane and recover the bodies of their loved ones. Great efforts are being taken now to recover the bodies of those who died in the Germanwings crash, using DNA to match parts of bodies broken in the impact.

Little wonder then that Mary would be distraught at coming to the tomb and finding the body of Jesus removed. Things could hardly have become worse, now with the loss of the body it was another indignity. We all have huge emotional feelings following a death, Mary feels all of this and more and it is in the midst of these feelings that she encounters Jesus in the garden. This is the resurrection moment which changes her life. Mary changes from despair to a living witness of the risen Lord, and not just her but the other disciples also. They too will soon see Jesus and believe. A change took place beyond human knowing which transformed them from terrified victims of a powerful state and religious system, to willing martyrs, who would challenge anybody who stood in their way, because they believed that the worst that could happen is that they would be killed and raised with Jesus.

This first Easter a new kind of people was born and the world was changed for ever. We are a part of that change, we understand that God has a plan, and none of the suffering of this world has lasting power. We will all experience our own Good Fridays, times which are horrible, perhaps painful emotionally, spiritually and physically. Yet there is no circumstance which will not be changed by the coming of Easter. This is why it is Easter which is the most important time for the Christian, not Christmas! It matters to us to

celebrate the birth of Jesus, but he came not just as a great teacher, he came to conquer death. Friday is called 'Good' because of Easter, it is seen for what it is, the time when out of despair came hope, out of the darkness of death came the light of life.

We do not know the physics behind the resurrection, how Jesus 'appeared,' but we do know that it was real, so real that people changed. These changed people grew in number as others 'met' with the resurrected Jesus, physically or spiritually. The resurrection happened 2,000 years ago, but the risen Lord Jesus has continued to meet with those who seek him ever since. Mary was the first to see Jesus but that Easter resurrection experience is something promised to all would in faith open their eyes and see the Risen Lord. *Charles Royden*

## Meditation

In Latin America in the 1950's, Christian Roman Catholics developed a way of understanding God which was rooted in the experiences of the poor, it was called Liberation Theology. It looked at the structures of society and saw that there was a fundamental injustice in the way that things were organised. These Christians believed that God loved the poor and he was concerned for them and wanted them to be freed from oppression, in exactly the same way that God had freed his people from Egyptian slavery and led them out of Egypt through the Red Sea in the great Exodus.

Social injustice was not of such concern to Christians in other parts of the world and it must have been hard for these Christians and their leaders who were fighting against corrupt institutions whilst being criticised by Christians around the world who saw them as Marxists, who should have been more concerned about personal piety than social justice.

When I was studying theology at college Liberation Theology seemed to be the very best type of theology, because at its heart lay a desire to make real change in the world. They wanted to change not just what we preach but also what we practice, or '*praxis*' - the technical word used by Gustavo Gutierrez who wrote the book 'A Theology of Liberation.

This was about making real change not just talking about it. God was upset about those who were poor, marginalised, despised, weak and defenceless and God expected something to be done about it. It is hardly surprising that Liberation Theology spread so that the ethos of liberation affected women and black people who also felt marginalised.

As part of our Lent journey this year a few of us travelled to St Albans to hear about Oscar Romero. He was appointed Roman Catholic Archbishop in El Salvador in 1977 and was considered to be a good conservative appointment by the establishment. However following the murder of his friend, a Jesuit priest named Rutilio Grande he changed. He reflected upon the good work he knew his friend was doing for the poor and he said

*"When I looked at Rutilio lying there dead I thought, 'If they have killed him for doing what he did, then I too have to walk the same path'*

Oscar Romero became openly critical of the exploitation of the poor, the assassinations and torture used by the government. He was critical of President Carter for sending American financial aid to the government to fund oppression. He preached a sermon calling on the soldiers of El Salvador to obey God rather than their military commanders and to stop violating human rights. The following day he was shot whilst standing at the altar celebrating mass. In our lecture we saw the blood soaked robes which he wore, bearing the hole from the assassins bullet. We heard about the efforts to preserve things from his life, his frugal personal belongings which mean so much to those who knew and cared for him.

Things have changed in the Roman Catholic Church and slowly there has been a growing appreciation of the martyrs who stood out against injustice. In 2000 Pope John Paul II declared him to be 'That great witness of the Gospel.' Pope Francis has now declared that Oscar Romero will be made a saint on 23 May this year. He will be made a saint not because he wanted to change a government, but rather because his faith refused to allow him to keep silent when God's children all around him were treated with such cruelty and injustice.

Writing about Easter Day, Gutierrez says, '*How are we to celebrate Easter joy with all the human suffering, especially of the poor and the have-nots, which seem to choke our shouts of joy in our throats.*' He goes on to reflect that much of what is said about Easter sounds hollow because those who write about Easter have never experienced unjust death, as known all too frequently by those in Latin America. In the midst of whatever difficulties we find ourselves, even death itself, we will be liberated ourselves as we resolve to alleviate the suffering of others. Paschal joy comes to those who like Oscar Romero, seek to bring life to others through their faith. *Charles Royden*







### **Bedford Credit Union St Mark's Church**

Not only did the Bishop of Bedford, The Right Reverend Richard Atkinson open the Bedford Credit Union at St Mark's Church Community Centre, Brickhill on Monday 30 March, he personally opened his own Credit Union Account!

Bedford Credit Union (BCU) is a not-for-profit organisation owned and run by its members, providing savings facilities and low-cost loans. With over 1500 members, the BCU provides an alternative to High Street banks and doorstep lenders. It encourages regular saving and aims to educate members in money management and can also signpost members to local debt counselling services.

The Bishop of Bedford said, 'Our church supports credit unions in our community, they are owned by their members, not for profit, and they offer a vital alternative to high interest loans. Bedford Credit Union at St Mark's Church will provide easy access for residents as the church office is open 9.00am - 5.00pm every weekday. Colin Bolster, Chairman of Bedford Credit Union said 'This is a great example of how different organisations can work together for the benefit of our local community and we very much hope that this initiative will be a great success.'

Volunteers working at the church have received training so that they will be able to offer residents of Bedford the opportunity to join Bedford Credit Union and make payments to their accounts at St Mark's Church. More broadly, volunteers carry out many key functions, including promoting the Credit Union in the community and workplace, acting as cashiers at our Collection Points and making decisions on loans.

You can now become a member of Bedford Credit Union (BCU) at St Mark's Church. 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

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

### **The Big Night Out Auction of Promises**

Come to St Mark's Church Saturday 18 April at 7.30pm for a great fun night out whilst we raise money for the new tile floor. We have booked entertainment with music and dancing. Tickets will be just £3 to include a welcome drink. Please feel free to bring your own drinks for the night, there will be 'nibbles' but no food provided.

Some of the things promised !

Day out at Silverstone with special access

Day out in a sports car

Holiday

Fishing experience and lunch Grafham

**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 on April 16 **Storybox** restarts on April 16

**Car Boot Easter Monday** If you have any items for the church stall please leave them in the Wren building which will be open all day on Sunday. Any cakes or tray bakes will be very welcome. Please leave in the church kitchen on the work top by the cooker.

**Footprints** There will be a walk from Turvey on Sunday 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.

**Thank you to everyone** who helped with our Good Friday Children's special. We welcomed 17 children and their families to our Church to take part in our Easter story led by Deacon Jane, as well as an hour of Easter craft making. *Carolyn Morris*

### **MacMillan Grand Easter Egg Draw**

A big thank you to everyone who bought a ticket, the raffle raised £318 & the winner of the egg was Barbara Keighley at Putnoe Heights Church. She will be using the egg to make her Grandchildren very happy over Easter.

At the end of year the Bedford MacMillan Charity Committee will add all the monies collected from their fund raising activities together & send it to MacMillan's central office.

# Easter 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

### 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

### 12 April - Second Sunday of Easter

**9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship**

Preacher - Mr. Geoff Talbot

Leadership - Mrs. Wendy Waters

Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

**11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship**

Preacher - Mr. Geoff Talbot

Leadership - Mr. Barry Southam

Intercessions - Mrs. Sam Ware

Organist - Mr. Clive Simmonds

**Readings 1.** Acts 4:32-35 **2.** 1 John 1:1-2:2

**3.** John 20:1-18

Mid Week Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Mark's Chapel every Wednesday and at Sir William Harpur House on first Monday of every month.

## Prayers for Easter Sunday

### Intercessions Bidding and Response

Bidding: Jesus, Risen Lord

Response: Open to us the gate of Glory

May the light of Christ rising in glory scatter the darkness of our heart and mind *Roman Missal*

Risen Lord Jesus,  
as Mary Magdalene met you in the Garden  
on the morning of your resurrection,  
so may we meet with you today and every day.  
Speak to us you spoke with her in the garden,  
reveal yourself to us as the Living Lord  
renew our hope and kindle our joy  
and send us out to share the good news  
with others. Amen.

God our Father, we come today to worship you and confess that devotion to you is often far from our minds. This morning may we refocus our attention upon our love for you and how we show that love. Help us Lord to be more willing to pour out our lives as fragrant offerings of love. We lay our lives before you and ask that we might know that love which does not count the cost.

Lord God, as we wait upon you now, as we listen for your voice in the silence of hearts and as we offer our prayers to you we think of those people in our lives who have loved us with a generous love we think of those who like Mary have not counted the cost of what they have given us; of those who given all of themselves to us as Christ gave himself for the world; and we thank you for them - and ask you to bless them and for you to make us like them.

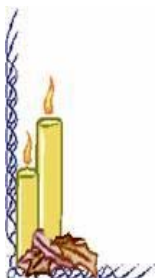
As we go into this week, O God, help us to have a focus, a purpose that is beyond that of just getting by; beyond that of just trying to make it through another week; show us we pray what you would have us do; reveal to us our own personal and unique ministry—and help us to do it.

Bless O God those in our midst and those around the world whom we name in our hearts before you at this time; we especially ask for those who are poor in the basic needs of daily living; and for those who are poor in love; hear too the prayers we ask for those who need healing or hope in their lives, those who need justice, and those who require mercy.

Lord God - we gather in the name of the Risen Christ to pour forth our praises in glad Easter Celebration. We rejoice that you have not left us without hope - but have come back to us in the victory of the resurrection and given us the assurance of eternal life with he whom you lifted from the tomb. Praise be to your name - both now and forevermore. Amen.

## 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



*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