



Partnership News

7th April 2013

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church
Easter 2- Low Sunday



Thank You

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

Today 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. D. Sam Cappleman
Leadership Mr. Barry Southam
Intercessions - YPG

Sunday 14th April Easter 3

9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship
Preacher – Mrs. Liz Little
Leadership – Mrs Elizabeth Bean
Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott
11.00 am Putnoe – Morning Worship
Preacher – Mrs. Liz Little
Leadership – Mrs. Vita Hudson-Rae
Intercessions – Mrs. Sylvia Cohen

Readings 1 Acts 9: 1-6, **2.** Revelation 5: 11-14
3. John 21: 1-19

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

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Doreen and George Gormley to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by June Cook for George and Doris Curness - loving parents, grandparents and great grandparents; and also in loving memory of Mary Stokes, from her beloved husband Harry and family.

We are grateful when people make donations towards flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Ann Hitt 404186 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota on the foyers

Prayer for Sunday

God of life and love,
your son made himself known
to his disciples
in the breaking of the bread.
Open our eyes
that we may see him
in his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a Vice
President for Hewlett Packard)

Deacon Jane Mills
c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre 365630
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend 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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator
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. Jean Kirk 317699
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 - Morag Stewart 360103
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

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
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 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 .
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 '16 April Life as a Nanny in the 1980's Pam Crouch. 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 17 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 2 Low Sunday

God has performed amazing works of immeasurable greatness, particularly the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. On this first Sunday after Easter, we share the conviction of Peter and the apostles who can't help but share the message of God's love and forgiveness. Yet we also share the all-too-human doubting of Thomas, as we struggle to believe the unbelievable.

Introductory Sentence Psalm 118:1

Give Thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Before we read we pray

Faithful God, the strength of all who believe and the hope of those who doubt; may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing; 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 5:27-32

Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead--whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Revelation Chapter 1:4-8

John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits [1] before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father--to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins,



Doubting Thomas by Nicholas Piliero

I have a serious interest in studying and painting the "old masters" in my style. The subjects have deep meaning to me such as this one does. I have had a "death experience", "there are no words for it". But through that encounter, I experienced the presence of GOD; "THE GREAT LIGHT". You would think I no longer would doubt. But there are times, very few and far between, when I lose faith for a moment. For faith and fear cannot live in the same house. When I feel that doubt I'm consumed with terror! I should know better; but I still get those doubts. It's during these times that I am of my strongest faith; for GOD loves me and will protect me as he has so, so many times before. It is to be human and natural to have fears, but I go back to that LIGHT and all is calm within me. Yes I still have fears, but I've learned 96% of them never come true, they are just in my head. But indeed, there are positive fears we must have to survive; fear of fire and such. But as long as I know that a POWER greater than myself is with me, I have serenity. So yes; I understand Thomas and I learn from him. PILIERO

they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God.**)

Post Communion Prayer

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

Hymns (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Hymns and Psalms*)

1. The day of resurrection, 208; *Ellacombe*
2. Through all our days, Partnership News; *Greensleeves*
3. Rejoice the Lord is king, 243;
4. Ye choirs of new Jerusalem, 823 *St Fulbert* ;
5. Jesus Lives! They terrors now, 198

Commentary The Challenge of the Resurrection

Whatever way the Jewish and Roman leaders considered the resurrection it was a threat to their authority and as such they would try to suppress or marginalise its communication and its reality. To them it would appear as a dangerous challenge to their precarious position and somewhat fragile pragmatic alliance and a human scheme designed to undermine their grip and rule on the region. To those who did not understand the cosmic and spiritual dimension of what had just happened it would be seen as just another attempt by the rebellious people to destabilise Jerusalem and the surrounding areas to their own advantage. But the resurrection was not some human idea or master plan, some scheme designed at usurping power. It was a divine intervention of God in our world, His gift to a people who were still to understand the implications of the three days of the cross and resurrection, even those who would profess themselves as believers. The disciples' gathering together in a locked room is testimony to this. But whilst it was not a challenge by the people to the ruling authorities, it was a challenge by God to them. A challenge to get things in God's perspective, not their own, carrying echoes of the message of the Old Testament prophets into the very heart of religious and political life at the time. To rulers who considered themselves to be utterly supreme and answerable to no one but themselves (and possible Rome), to the religious authorities who believed they had unique and privileged insight into God and His workings it was a radical challenge, and one which must be dealt with if their comfortable world was not to fall apart.

The message we read in Revelation underpins the message of the resurrection. Jesus is the first born of the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth and ultimately His kingship will be acknowledged over all the earth. The resurrection positions Him as king in waiting, already on His royal throne and beginning to establish his Kingdom, rule and reign on earth. As such Jesus' resurrection challenges long held allegiances as he invites us to have Him as our King of King and Lord of Lords. There cannot be multiple kings and Lords in anyone's life. In the book of Revelation it is clear that there is already a claimant to the title of Lord of Lords and King of Kings, and he sits in Rome, ruler of all he surveys. Ruling an empire acquired and controlled by brute force and vicious regimes. The writer of Revelation, John, sees things somewhat differently. There is a different true and real King who is ruling a different Kingdom, a Kingdom won through suffering and service and maintained not by brute force, but the exact opposite, forgiveness. And in making all believers into a living society of priests and kings, the power authority is not centralised in any particular human figure but is the power and authority which comes from God Himself and is shared among His people, those who profess the resurrection in their lives. The one who was resurrected is to be imitated by His followers who will in turn continue to establish His Kingdom on earth, as in heaven. It's a radical gospel, one which continues to challenge the authorities of the world with the life giving love

of God. A power which sometimes is not easy to understand, a power which is sometimes beyond knowing, but is a power which stems from the resurrection itself and a God which even death could not contain. Tom Wright writes,

'When Jesus said "Peace be with you"', he wasn't assuring his disciples of a quiet life!

Was Thomas concerned through some ideal of self-preservation or not wanting to challenge the status quo? Or did he perhaps see the wider implications in his own pragmatic way and wanted to be sure because of what those implications would mean for the world, shattering as it would everything that people had seen as a foundation to their very being for decades, if not hundreds of years. Just as with the disciples in the locked room, God is patient with us when we fail to understand the full implication of the resurrection in our own lives and offers us peace. Peace not for a quiet life but peace for an assurance we have His presence with us in our lives to take on the 'powers and authorities' in our own lives and which surround us daily but which are not aligned to the will of God.

We too, like Thomas, can make our testimonies to being witnesses to the resurrection in our own lives, however feeble and faltering, and let the Holy Spirit which God gives to all believers take those words and actions into the lives of those around us, that they may know the power of a God who intervened in our world through the sacrifice of the cross and resurrection, that they too may profess like Thomas and live ourselves, Jesus is my Lord and my God. *Sam Cappleman*

Meditation

Thomas appears three times in John's gospel and each time he appears to be a realist with a pragmatic our daily Easter and practical outlook on life. The first time he appears is when Jesus is setting out to Bethany and putting His life in danger and Thomas says, 'Let us go and die with him'. Next, at the Last Supper when Jesus invites the disciples to follow Him Thomas replies, 'We don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way'. So it's perhaps not surprising that Thomas, grounded in reality and pragmatism says that unless he sees the hands and side of Jesus and the wounds that the nails had made that he will not (cannot) believe. He wants to touch the risen Christ to be sure. For Thomas, only the wounds have the power to reveal the love of God and change the apparent doubt into faith. Jesus then appears in the locked room and invites Thomas to reach out. And at this stage it's not clear whether Thomas touched the wounds and everything changed for him, or whether the wounds touched Thomas and everything changed. We can never physically touch the wounds of Christ, but like Thomas, we can let the wounds touch us on journey of the resurrected Christ.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Risen Lord Jesus, you come to us in the most surprising - and the most ordinary - ways. Just when we begin to forget or doubt you, when we begin to live our lives as if you don't matter, you come - speaking to us, feeding us, encouraging us. You never forget us or fail us. Without you we are weak and fail often but with you we are strong. May we be made deeply aware of your presence this day. Amen

God of the prophets, you fulfilled your promise that Christ would suffer and rise to glory. Open our minds to understand the scriptures that we may be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity, of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Each morning and each evening let the peace of the Father be ours. Each day and each night let the peace of the Son be ours. Each dawn and each dusk let the peace of the Spirit be ours. Let the blessing of the three in one be ours; both now and for ever. Amen. *Carmina Gadelica*

Heavenly Father, You gave your Son, Jesus Christ to show us the Way of justice, truth and peace. Help us hold his example before our eyes, in the way that leads to a better world on earth and eternal life in the Heaven. Amen

God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, with the blood of the eternal covenant: make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

**Risen Lord, give me strength to trust that in your mercy
you have gone before us from the darkness of the tomb
to lead all people back to God.**

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.

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.

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 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

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

Band Concert Bedford Town Band are to hold a Spring Concert at Putnoe Heights Church on Friday 12th April at 7.30pm Tickets will be available on the door at £8 and Concessions £7. Do come along and hear this first concert of 2013.

Putnoe Heights Church will be holding a Table top sale on Saturday 20th April 10am to 12.30. setting up at 9am. Tea, coffee, light refreshments. There will be a Church cake stall; a Church table and a Missions table, all donations welcome. Tables £6 booked in advance, £8 on the day. Entrance 50p. For further details pls email youth@thisischurch.com or speak to Carolyn Morris

Kempston Musical Society. The music of Karl Jenkins. Choral Suite: The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace and Stabat Mater. At Kempston East Methodist Church on Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm. Admission £7.00. For further details telephone Bedford 781010 or e-mail kempstonmusicalsociety@hotmail.com

Pastoral Group Please can we arrange a meeting for 4pm on Tuesday 7 May in the chapel at St Mark's

Visit To St Albans Cathedral Thank you to those who have booked to attend the service at St Albans Cathedral on Saturday 27 April at 4.00pm. We will provide you with details for the service shortly



Pope Francis on the Feast of St. Joseph, at the Mass of his Inauguration
The vocation of being a "protector", however, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting

all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves, in time, protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts!

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Jesus

In the dark places
Jesus is your light

In the uncertain places
He is your assurance

In the stressful places
He is your peace

In the lonely places
He is your companion and friend.



A Hymn for Sunday

Through all our days we'll sing the praise
Through all our days we'll sing the praise
of Christ, the resurrected;
who, though divine, did not decline
to be by men afflicted:
pain, pain and suffering –
he knew its taste, he bore its sting;
peace, peace has come to earth
through Christ our King and Saviour.

His birth obscure, his family poor,
he owned no crown, no kingdom;
yet those who grope in darkness, hope
since he brought light and freedom:
shame, shame and agony –
thought guiltless he of felony;
shout, shout his sinless name,
our Jesus, king and saviour.

At fearful cost his life he lost
that death might be defeated;
the Man of Love, now risen above,
in majesty is seated:
low, low was his descent
to those by sin and sorrow bent
life, life to all who trust
the Lord, our king and saviour.

And all who trust will find they must
obey the will of heaven;
for grief intense can make some sense
to those who are forgiven:
hard, hard the road he trod –
the Son of Man, the Son of God;
hope, hope in Christ alone,
our reigning King and Saviour.

Tune: Greensleeves

Religious leaders from across the G8 countries have called on heads of government to follow the UK in fulfilling existing commitments to spend 0.7 per cent of national income on aid. Over 70 religious leaders, including leaders from the Methodist Church, The Baptist Union of Great Britain and the

United Reformed Church, emphasised in a letter to the Financial Times that from April 5 only 1,000 days remain to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the 2015 deadline. With a focus on tax, trade and transparency, the religious leaders argue, the UK Presidency of the G8 has the potential to advance the MDG agenda in ways that will strike at the underlying causes of poverty, in particular by ensuring the wealth created by developing countries is not lost through unfair tax practices, a lack of transparency or a failure to secure the benefits of trade for developing countries.

The financial crisis may be a reason but is not an excuse for hesitation or deferral, the letter states: "Reaching a purposeful consensus on these areas won't be easy. But, if the political will and moral leadership is forthcoming, this year's G8 could help to create an environment that encourages the conditions for inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic growth - conditions that are desperately needed if we are to realise the MDGs and even greater things beyond." The letter was signed by the Archbishop of Westminster, The President of the Methodist Conference, The Archbishop of Canterbury and The Archbishop of Glasgow.



Truth and Lies about Poverty

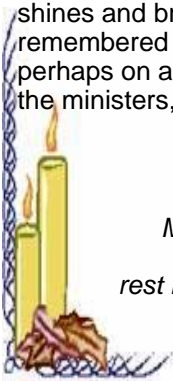
In 1753 John Wesley said, "So wickedly, devilishly false is that common objection, 'They are poor, only because they are idle'." Yet today church-goers and the general public alike are

willing to believe that the key factors driving poverty in the UK are the personal failings of the poor – especially 'idleness'.

A report from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church lays bare six myths about the poor which enable the majority to live with the comfortable assumption that both poverty and wealth are deserved. Download the full report Truth and lies about poverty <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandliesaboutpoverty/>

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 Jacqueline Daniels will take place at the Crematorium at 4.00p.m. on Thursday 11th April.

*Please remember these families
and friends in your prayers.*