



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

8 April – Easter Sunday



Church of
England

Christ is Risen!



*God has raised this Jesus to life,
and we are all witnesses of it.*

Acts 2:32

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)

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

2.00pm U3A History Group St Marks.(see contact details below)

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 Fit for Life Yoga - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571

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– 16 April Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

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 Folbigg ☎351223

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 Group. St Mark's (see contact 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 below)

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets

monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895

2pm U3A Photography Group 3 St. Mark's (1st Wk) (see 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.

3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.

4.30pm—6pm BIGG Writing Putnoe Heights Natalie John 07772184721

6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718

6.15pm Pilates St Mark's Church Jane Butcher ☎0789187957

7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting April 17 Easter Details call Janet King 313946

8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.

9.30am Discovery & 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.(see contact details 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)

12.30pm Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 25 April 2012 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

1.45 Scots Society Whist Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147

2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft St Marks.(see contact details below)

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 18th April Wendy Waters401834

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

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol 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. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Mrs O Holt ☎266004

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 18 April 2012. Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Valmai 219555 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. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

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 (large hall) Children's Chatty Time 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information ☎340552.

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.

1.45 Friendly Chicago Bridge at Putnoe Heights £2 per session inc. refreshments. New members welcome. Contact Pat 01234 294220.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Mrs. P. Cass ☎294220

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games. St.Marks. (see contact details below)

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society St Marks Mary Rich ☎272470

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights 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

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 Law 825574.

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 Whist St Marks. Patricia Holland.☎262823

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's. Contact Laura Harrow ☎07834529833

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

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.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's (not 25 March) Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

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 – 19 June

St Mark's Leadership Team - Thursday 17 May

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 28 May

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting

Putnoe Church Council - 11 June

Pastoral Group Meeting - Tuesday 19 June 4.00pm

Churchyard Committee -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Commemoration Service 4 November 3.00pm

Harvest Festival 30 September

Circuit meeting - 12 June

Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees– 12 May Open Day at wood

Putnoe Heights Children &

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

Easter Sunday

Opening Verse of Scripture Luke 24 v 1

On the first day of the week, the disciples went to the tomb, and they found the stone rolled away. Alleluia!

Collect Prayer *(Before we read we pray)*

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

New every
morning is
God's
love



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 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 **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians Chapter 18 v Verses 1 - 11

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them— yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord – **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading – John Chapter 20 Verses 1 – 18 (All: 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 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.

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

Post Communion Prayer Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns *(Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Holy Communion)*

1. Christ the Lord is Risen again, 192 *Wurtemberg*
2. All creation join to say, *(On Partnership News Tune Orientis Partibus)*
3. Jesus Lives! Thy terrors now, 198
4. The day of Resurrection, 208

Commentary Long term implications

The Passover story is an inspiration to all believers. One writer has summarised it thus, 'It illustrates courage in the face of persecution, and despair. It speaks to us of heroes who are ordinary people like each one of us. It points out that miracles are everyday occurrences if only we would notice them. And most of all, the story keeps reminding us that God is present in our lives, guiding and protecting us.' As we reflect on the glorious message of Easter and celebrate the Passover Messiah who has come to die and rise again for everyone, irrespective of race, gender or other creed we see the reality of the Passover in our own lives. God, through Jesus and His Holy Spirit is with us whatever our circumstances. The God who cares for His Son, even through dark days of Good Friday, and the cross and is also with Him in the glory of the resurrection, cares for us and protects us too. We see in the miracle of the resurrection of Jesus and the empty tomb that God works in the ways He chooses, not us, sometimes far beyond what our human minds and eyes can comprehend. He brings real freedom to everyone, whatever their captivity. John encapsulates all of this in today's gospel reading and brings to conclusion the things he began his gospel with, Light has come from the darkness, new life has come from the Word dwelling among us, and all are invited to return to Jesus' God, who has now become their God. What Christ has started with His incarnation has come to fulfilment with his death and resurrection. And what is started with the resurrection continues to have ramifications today and find its fulfilment in the enabling work of the Holy Spirit in God's people.

The resurrection was an event which was to transform the world and the lives of all those who encountered it. For whilst the resurrection is an historical fact, it's also a process in which each one of us is invited to participate day by day as we allow God's Easter and resurrection power to transform our lives every day. Easter day is the day that confirms God's mission is accomplished. God has reclaimed all creation for His own. We, as individuals and as a body of believers in the church, are called to live out this new life and to encourage others to enter into it as we live out the reality of our Easter faith enabled by the Holy Spirit. When the disciples found the empty tomb it marked the beginning of a resurrected life, but not just for them, but the entire cosmos. As Epiphanius (320 – 403 AD) a Bishop of Salamis at the end of the 4th Century said, 'Today [Easter Sunday] God has fulfilled all types, symbols, and prophecies. Christ our Passover, the true Passover, "is sacrificed," and in Christ all is made new: there is a new creation, a new faith, new laws, a new people of God, ..., a new Passover, a new and spiritual circumcision, a new and un-bloody sacrifice, a new divine covenant. We too, like the early disciples, must be renewed every day. 'We must renew a right spirit within our hearts and so prepare to enter into the mysteries of this new and perfect feast and to exult in this day's heavenly joy'. But our highly rational world has problems dealing with concepts such as the resurrection and virgin birth, so it's not surprising

that Christian festivals such as Easter and Christmas have been secularised and sanitised by the world at large. As John Kavanaugh writes, 'The postmodern [current] world has problems with resurrection. It has problems with anything transcendent. [It believes] ...this life is all there is. You only go around once. So grab all you can in today's world with gusto. It doesn't get any better than this'. The resurrection can be a difficult message for the world to understand. For the disciples who witnessed the empty tomb it was only as the risen Lord repeatedly came to them did their belief grow and begin to comprehend the vastness, implication and richness of the significance of the empty tomb. Similarly, only as the risen Lord repeatedly comes to us and our world does our own belief in the meaning of the empty tomb continually grow and the resurrection makes sense to a world in need of transformation and renewal which is far beyond that which human endeavour will ever be able to achieve. Our Easter faith should never be still, the risen Lord is always restless and active, waiting to transform our lives. John starts his gospel by describing the transformation that will happen when the old world order gives way to the new. He illustrates this by using the wedding in Cana, which happens on the third day, and by the changing of the water into wine. He specifically describes this miracle as the first and overarching sign of the gospel. As he closes his gospel we see the true significance of the transformation that takes place on the third day. The water of the cross transformed into the wine of the resurrection. The old world order of death is transformed into the new world order of life, this time for eternity, as God touches the world through the resurrection of His Son and transforms the entire cosmos. At Easter we celebrate the New World order which God brings to our world and in so doing we again become part of that ongoing transformation process. Alleluia!! *Sam Cappleman.*

Meditation

In the retelling of the Passover story each year, the Haggadah, there is a section where the father responds to each of four different sons: a wise son, a wicked son, a stupid son and one who can never ask the right question. Each of them asks about the meaning of an aspect of the Passover celebrations. Perhaps there is a wise child within each one of us, just as there is a child who seems to always want to do the things which are contrary to God's law. Perhaps sometimes we feel a bit simple and at other times we are bewildered by what we see happening in life and the wider world and don't know what we should be asking God to do. Whatever facet of the child seems uppermost in our lives at any one time, the message of Easter reflects that God died and rose for each of those children in us, and is ready to receive us in the arms of His conquering Easter love.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

We praise you and adore you, Lord God almighty, because by the triumphant resurrection of your dear Son our Lord, you have broken the power of sin and death, and you enable us to walk in grace as children of light. **Amen**

Blessed are you, creator of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. As your dawn renews the face of the earth bringing light and life to all creation, may we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God forever. **Amen** (*After Lancelot Andrewes, 1626. Common Worship*)

Easter message from the Methodist President

In his Easter message, the Revd Leo Osborn, President of the Methodist Conference, considers the different ways in which people came to Christ on the first Easter Day.

I wonder how you will be coming to church on Easter Sunday? Maybe by car, train, bike or on foot? I hope to be arriving at church by boat as I meet with a congregation on the Amazon River in Brazil! Some of you may be "coming to church" in your own home through radio, TV, or internet. But how will you really come? On the first Easter Day: **John** came running, eagerly, filled with amazement and, later, with joy. **Peter** came stooping, wondering: If the tomb was empty where was Jesus? **The two on the road to Emmaus** came puzzling: "We had hoped but . . ." **Mary** came weeping, grief stricken: "They have taken my Lord away and I don't know where they have laid Him." **Thomas** came doubting: "Unless I see I will not believe".

But, however they came, sooner or later they met with the Risen Lord. And, however you come, I pray that The Risen Lord will bless you with His living presence and lasting peace.
Happy Easter!

Thanks To Rosemary who has knitted 100 easter chicks for St Mark's Church Funds

"Spring Clean" morning at Putnoe Heights Church 10am to 12noon on Saturday 12 May. All helpers welcome. "

Chat and Play restarts Thursday 19 April
Story Box starts again Thursday 19 April.

St Mark's Preschool are collecting Sainsbury & Tesco school vouchers & Petit Filous lids and would be grateful for any contributions. Thank you.

Putnoe Heights church office have some pens (inscribed with the church name and tel. number), for sale at £1 each. Proceeds for church funds. .

St Mark's Church car boot sales for 2012
9 April 7 May 4 June 27 August, lots of help very much appreciated.

Charity Quiz Night. Friends for Life is an ecumenical project, our aim is to co-ordinate and develop the churches' ministry to the residents and carers in care homes across Bedford. We are holding a Social Evening Quiz Night at the White Horse, Newnham Avenue on Wednesday, 11th April. The cost is £5 per person and will include a buffet and prizes. If you would like to join us or donate a raffle prize please contact via the website; friendsforlifebedford.org.uk or ring Joanne Barrow on 01234 213038

Spring Fayre - Arthritis Research UK— On Saturday 14 April a Spring Fayre will be held from 10am to 12 noon at Biddenham Village Hall. Cakes and preserves, gifts, cards, plants, books, paintings, toiletries, bric-a-brac, new and nearly new clothes, toys, tombola and competition. Admission 50p (accompanied children free), come along and support a very worthwhile cause. Marian Goddard – Hon sec Bedford Branch-01234 344617

Putnoe Heights Church Council. There will be a brief meeting after the service on 15 April to consider Assessment proposals.

100th Birthday. All friends are invited to a bring-and-share buffet lunch at Putnoe Heights on Sunday 29th April, 12.30 for 1.00 pm, to celebrate the 100th birthday of Miss Jennie Cooper. Please see Sue Allen for a list of suggested contributions to the meal. At Jennie's request, no presents or flowers but donations welcome to be shared by MHA and Church funds.

Putnoe Heights Prayer Group will meet on the 13 & 27 April at 1.45pm

News from Kisiizi We heard from Ian and Hanna Spillman that, rather unexpectedly, they will be

returning to Kisiizi at the end of April. Ian has been asked to take on the role as acting Medical Superintendent, which he has accepted, and as a result he will be standing down from his NHS Consultant post as will Hanna from her Midwifery role in order that they are able to move to Kisiizi over the next few weeks. They would greatly value our prayers as they have much to do both as they prepare to move to Kisiizi and when they arrive at the hospital there where they will further support and strengthen the management team in addition to their medical duties.

The next Lunch Club at Putnoe Heights is on the 25th April not on the 11th April.

Car Boot Sale—Monday 9 April. We would be very grateful for bric-a-brac, tools, coins, china, books, CD's, puzzles etc for the Church Stall. The Church will be open on Sunday afternoon before the sale for you to leave your items. Also if you are able to provide cakes and tray bakes for the refreshments they will be very welcome. Thank you for your continued support.

Fashion Show and Nearly-New-Sale at Putnoe Heights Church on Friday 20 April at 7.30pm. All welcome and there will be many bargains in all sizes. Entrance fee £3. 50

Bedford Town Band invites you to a 'Celebration of Brass'. This is a Charity Concert in aid of Bedford Hospital Primrose Unit - support for cancer patients. The concert will take place at St. Andrew's Church Kimbolton Road, Saturday 14th April at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 & £7 available from Frescoes Coffee House, 20 Mill Street, Bedford, Bedford Box Office, Harpur Street and at the door on the night or ring John Lingings on 306676.

Kempston Musical Society present an evening of Mozart, including Requiem at Kempston East Methodist Church on Saturday 28th April at 7.30pm. Admission £7.00. For further details telephone Bedford 781010 or e-mail kempstonmusicalsociety@hotmail.com

Milton Ernest Garden Society are hosting an evening with Matthew Biggs (Channel 4 & gardeners Question Time) talking on 'The Wonder Of Plants' on Tuesday 17 April at 8pm in the village hall. Visitors £3 (includes raffle & refreshments). All welcome.

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust will be having an open day at Keysoe on May 12 from 12 noon. All are invited to visit the woodland and enjoy refreshments.

**Thank you for shopping through
www.thischurch.com**

All creation join to say:

Christ the Lord is risen today!
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
sing, you heavens, and earth reply:
Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done;
Fought the fight, the battle won:
See, our Sun's eclipse has passed;
See, the dawn has come at last!
Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal:
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise –
Christ has opened paradise:
Alleluia!

Now he lives, our glorious king;
now, O death, where is your sting?
Once he died, our souls to save –
where's your victory, boasting grave?
Alleluia!

So we rise where Christ has led;
Following our exalted head;
Made like him, like him we rise –
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies:
Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to you by both be given;
Every knee to you shall bow,
Risen Christ, triumphant now:
Alleluia!

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Tune: Wurtemberg (HP 192)*

Easter Liturgy

Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
All: **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

The Easter Paschal candle is lit,
Minister: Jesus Christ yesterday and today the beginning and the end Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him and all ages; to him be glory and power through every age and for ever.
Amen.

All: **May the light of Christ, rising in glory banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.**

Minister: The light of Christ
All: **Thanks be to God**

Opening Prayer

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

The Paschal Candle

Today we light the Paschal Candle, it takes its name from the Hebrew word 'Pesach' meaning Passover. Passover was that time when the Israelites celebrated their exodus from slavery in Egypt. It was the feast celebrated by Jesus with the disciples (Maundy Thursday) on the night before he died. The Paschal Candle is then lit for every service in our church during the full 50 days of Eastertide. After the solemn weeks with purple colours of Lent we wear the white of Easter and the brightness of the candle symbolises the joy of the resurrection.

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.'

Thank You

To all those who have helped prepare our churches for our Easter worship



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Sybil Marjorie Harper will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 11 April at 12.15pm

The funeral of Charles Norman Fuller will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12.15pm on Tuesday 17 April.