



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership New

## 9 March 2008

### Fifth Sunday of Lent



Church of  
England

#### Partnership Church Services Today

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

**9.30am St Mark's –Morning Worship**  
Preacher - Richard Wycherley  
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard  
Intercessions– Mr Richard Ledger

**11.00am Putnoe - Morning Worship**  
Preacher - Richard Wycherley  
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt  
Intercessions -Mr Eddy Peck  
Joan is preaching at Clapham today

#### 16th March

**9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion**  
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams  
Intercessions –Mrs Morag Stewart

**11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion**  
Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman  
Leadership Team –Mrs Wendy Nash  
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

**Bible Readings.**

1. Isaiah 50: 4-9a
2. Psalm 118: 1-2,19-29
3. Matthew 21: 1-11

#### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe have been given by Sheila Tapping in memory of her brother on his birthday, and also of her parents and sister, who all died in March in different years.

We are always grateful for any donations for 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 Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

#### Prayer for Sunday

Praise to you, O Lord and our God, for the jewel of our sight, the treasure of our hearing, and the glory of our speech. Pardon our ingratitude and teach us to render you a thankful heart. Open our eyes to your glory, our ears to your word and our mouths to proclaim *your goodness; now and forever. Amen.*  
*Thomas Traherne, 1636-74*

#### Contact Details

**The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman**  
107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR  
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com  
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

**The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley** (Day off Friday)  
30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.  
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

**The Reverend Charles Royden** (Day off Thursday)  
The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY  
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

#### For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

#### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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.*

#### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

**Open 9am—5pm Monday to Friday**  
**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417  
**Leadership Team** Mr Alan Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604  
**Treasurer** Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** - Mr John Hitt 404186  
**Youth & children's worker** - Mrs Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

#### St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com  
**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613  
**Leadership Team** - Mrs L Parry 216724 Mob 07922053740  
**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com  
**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

**8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school**

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

*(See website for more details)*

**9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

**10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

**10.45am U3A Playreading** St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

**12.00pm Story box** 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. ☎Liz 302349

**1.45pm U3A History Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

**4.00pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

**4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747

**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 ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

**7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 17 March Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

**8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

**10am -Bedford Arts Society** starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

**1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

**1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

**2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

**2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 11 March Mr.H.Fenley 'A Bevin Boy' Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

**3.45pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

**7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group** St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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

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

**7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

**7.30pm Chartered Management Institute** St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting March 11th -Quiz. Easter Bonnet Competition. .Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

**9.15am Paint Tots** St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

**9.30am Childminding Support Group** Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949

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

**9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

**10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

**10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

**Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 12 March 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch** St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .

**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

**1.45 Scots Society Whist** monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

**2pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎400584

**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966

**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

**6.30pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

**7pm U3A Whist Group** St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

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

**7.00pm Yoga** St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

**7.00pm U3A Sky at Night** 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Mr Farish ☎824984

**7.45pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome.  
Ken Marriott ☎214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** St Mark's,  
1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting AGM 19 March  
2008 Graham ☎406359 or Danny ☎401668.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's 1st  
week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group.** Putnoe Heights in the  
quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424  
*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the  
information table.*

**9.40am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-  
school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

**9.45am Chat and Play** weekly at St. Mark's. A group for  
Mums & toddlers. £1.75 for first child. More details from St.  
Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

**1.30pm-3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic.** St. Mark's ☎267444

**12pm Storybox** weekly at 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 Emma Strangwick ☎211070

**1.30pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎  
325293.

**2pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**5.30pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph  
☎01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

**6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St. Mark's  
Mr C Hill ☎772922

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

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group.** St Mark's 2nd & 4th  
week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

**7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc.** at Putnoe bi  
monthly Mrs. E. marriot 303834

**7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club** St Mark's Mr P  
Housden ☎376597

**7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's  
3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

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

**8.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's 2nd & 4th  
week Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

**8.00pm Brickhill Wives** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next  
meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

### Friday

**9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography  
Group** St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

**9.00am Clubhouse** St. Mark's for those with Learning  
Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

**1.30pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights Contact  
Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve  
Whitehead ☎356875

**6.30pm -7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm  
Improvers** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

**7pm Bedford Arts Society** fortnightly Putnoe Heights  
from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

**7pm Youth Club for age 10-15.** St Mark's Church.

Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

**7.45pm Astrology Group** St Mark's as from 11th January.  
Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

### Saturday

**9.00pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel  
357198

**7.00pm 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 Revd.  
Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

**6pm T.N.T.** Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us  
for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Next meeting 10  
February Liz ☎302349

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 17th June ,  
18 November

**St Mark's Leadership Team** – 7th April, 13 May

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** – May 12th

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee** –  
21st April

**Putnoe Heights Management Meetings** 14th April  
and 14th July.

**St Mark's Church Forum Meeting** - 11th March .  
5 May, 11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at 12  
noon

**Putnoe Church Council** - 16 June, 6 October.

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** - 11 June

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group** – Weds 26th  
March, 7.30 at 14 Flint Way

**Partnership Council** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -

**Deanery Meeting** - 12 June, 18 September, 13  
November

**Circuit Meeting** - 10 March , 12 June

**Woodland Burial Trustees** - Sunday 6th April 2008  
in the Wren Room at 3.30pm

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth**–

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

## 5th Sunday in Lent

### Opening Verse -Romans 8: 11

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.



### Collect Prayer for the Day

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### First Bible Reading - Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.' " So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' " So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.' " (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

### Second Bible Reading - Romans 8: 6-11

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

### Third Reading - John 11: 1-45

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. Then he said to his

disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light." After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples

thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord— **All: Thanks be to God** )

### **Post Communion Prayer**

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

### **Hymns** ( Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise)

**1.** Spirit of the Living God **612** **2.** Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise **327** **3.** Come down, O love divine **89** **4.** Jesus the Lord said **384** **5.** Lord, the light of your love is shining **445**

### **Commentary**

The readings today think about death and resurrection, surely these are issues faced by every living soul. But the condition of death can mean so much more than just the physical moment when we need an undertaker. When the prophet Ezekiel spoke to the people they were living, but they were in a condition of

death. As Sam spoke to us in our Lent Course this week, they were a shattered and captive nation; they were exiles in Babylon. On their own, they had no future and no hope of restoration. They were like “Dry bones” strewn on a desert landscape. This picture conveys to us how the people felt, despair and lifeless. They lived in a foreign land and could no longer call themselves a people and they lacked the resources to do anything about it. We all know people like that: a death or serious illness has changed their lives dramatically and they despair about the future.

Yet Ezekiel tells that when God is involved, nothing is hopeless. God makes a promise, “I will open your graves and have you rise from them and bring you back to the land of Israel.” God did fulfill that promise and the people were brought back home. They were raised from their graves and they, who were no-people, became a new people through the Spirit of God. Death and its manifestations affect even those who are still physically alive. But, the prophet assures us, God has power over death in all its forms.

John spends a long time telling the story of how Jesus gives life to Lazarus. It is an important episode, the decaying corpse of Lazarus, locked away in a tomb is brought to life and it aroused much faith in Jesus. Understandably the Jewish authorities were furious about Jesus who had so much power that he was a serious threat to them, their religion and way of life. From now on the Jewish leaders had a decision, either kill Jesus or he would start a religious revolution in which they would be overthrown. We all know how this ends, they made their decision and choose to pursue him to death on the cross. Thankfully they underestimated the power of Jesus, not only could Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead, he could be raised himself, to a life that could never be taken away again - everlasting life. That is what Easter is all about, discovering the new life which Jesus gives, so that we need not fear anybody or anything, not even death itself.

But there is also something more which is very symbolic about this passage. Jesus finds Lazarus in Bethany. Lazarus means ‘God helps,’ whilst Bethany means ‘House of Affliction.’ We can all find ourselves in a place of affliction, a place so bad it is like death itself in its debilitating hopelessness. Sometimes the living need someone to call them out of their graves and to give their spirit new life, just as the people in Ezekiel’s time needed God to raise them from their graves. Our Christian faith is not just about a reward in the next life, Jesus is concerned about our lives now. He call us out from our darkest places, he calls us to leave the tomb and gives us the strength to live as his resurrected people? *Charles Royden*

### **Meditation**

One of the demonstrators who spent several hours on the roof of the House of Commons last week was Tamsin Omond (23) , a parish administrator. She said that church people should limit their flights to one a year, and then “only if essential.”

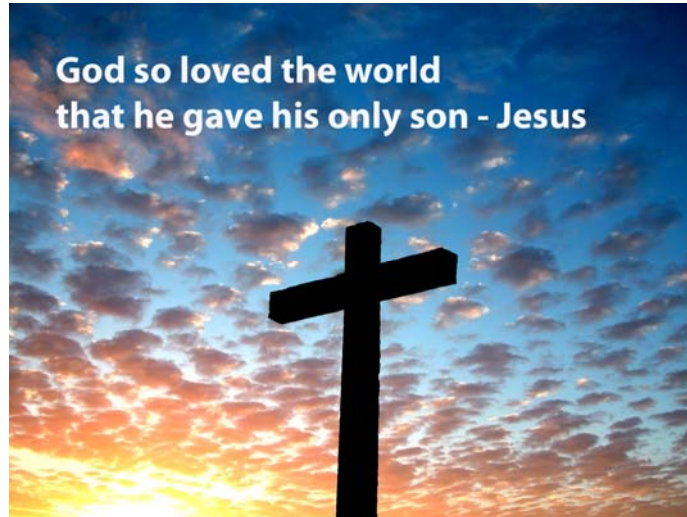
Miss Omond spends half her time working for St Mary’s, Primrose Hill, in north-west London. Last week she hung banners from the Palace of Westminster roof to protest against the expansion of Heathrow. She is no dummy, having recently been awarded a first-class degree at Trinity College, Cambridge. She now faces 51 days’ imprisonment and a £5000 fine. She said, “my Vicar had been talking to me about spiritual development the evening before, and what I was going to do in the future. I told him I was getting more involved in direct action, and he nodded; but I don’t think he realised it meant this.’ Her Vicar, the Revd Robert Atwell, said: “Tamsin Omond is our conscientious and hard-working parish administrator. Like many people, she has a passionate concern for the environment. Whilst I do not applaud the manner of her personal demonstration, I do support her concern that our environment be protected.”

A supportive Vicar like that is probably already trying working out ways to help pay her fine. But think, what do you feel strongly enough about to risk, going to prison, a hefty fine - and possibly falling off a very high building? *Charles Royden*

### **Prayers for Sunday and week ahead**

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. As a man like us, Jesus wept for Lazarus his friend. As the eternal God he raised Lazarus from the dead. In his love for us all, Christ gives us the sacraments to lift us up to everlasting life. Through him the angels of heaven offer their prayer of adoration as they rejoice in your presence for ever. May our voices be one with theirs in their triumphant hymn of praise. Amen.

# Easter Services



## St Mark's Church

### **Palm Sunday Family Service**

Sunday March 16 at 9.30am  
With distribution of Palm Crosses

### **Good Friday**

### **Stations of the Cross Service**

Friday March 21 at 9.30am  
Morning Family Worship  
(With Coffee & Hot Cross Buns!)

### **Easter Day**

Sunrise Holy Communion 6.00am  
Holy Communion 8.30am  
Family Communion 9.30am

## Putnoe Heights Church

### **Maundy Thursday**

### **Holy Communion Service**

Thursday 20 March 2008

### **Palm Sunday Family Service**

Sunday March 16 at 11.00am  
With distribution of Palm Crosses

### **Good Friday Service of Meditation**

Friday March 21 at 11.00am  
Morning Family Worship  
(With Coffee & Hot Cross Buns!)

### **Easter Day**

Family Communion 11.00am

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### **Lent Course 2008. Wednesday 12 March**

Bishop Christopher - Prophecy today  
8.00pm until 9.00pm. Refreshments served from  
7.30pm

**St Mark's Coffee Shop** Every Sunday 1.30pm -  
4pm. Don't forget to come along and enjoy great  
teas, where else can you get great teas and  
coffee with a piece of homemade cake, all for £1 !

**Climate Change** Please take time to look at the  
display at the back of the church at St Mark's.  
Feel free to make any comments / suggestions as  
to what we can do as a church.

**Lunch Club at Putnoe Heights** would like to set  
up a list of drivers who could be called upon  
occasionally when regular drivers are unavailable

due to holiday absence etc. If you could help in  
this way, please inform the Putnoe Church Office.

**District Women's Network** Spring Craft Day  
2008 on 3rd May. 9.45am to 4.15pm at Priory  
Methodist Church. Booking Forms from Pam  
Seymour. Tel: 305695, to be returned by 23rd  
April.

**Saturday 15th March at Putnoe Heights -**  
**'Shannon Express'** the internationally renowned  
Potton Barbershop Harmony Club perform at  
7.30pm in aid of the MS Therapy Centre, Barkers  
Lane. Tickets £8 available from the Church  
Office.\*

**Wakey Wakey !** Don't forget that as usual Sam will be conducting a Sunrise Service of Holy Communion to welcome Easter. The service will start Easter morning at 6.00am

**Partnership Children's Good Friday Special.** This fantastic Easter event usually welcomes between 80 and 100 children with their carers between 12.15 and 1.30 at Putnoe. If you think you can help out with welcoming, craft activities, refreshments or furniture moving, please contact Liz or Joan. We are also having an Easter colouring competition with judging at the Good Friday special, 4 classes, under 5's, 6-10yrs, 11-18yrs and adults! Amazing prizes !! please see Liz for entry sheet

**Hazeldene Heights Preschool.** Come & share in the activities with the children in our Preschool at Putnoe Heights. Please talk to Linda Hoar if you can spare a few hours each month or would like to know more about the group. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Linda Hoar 782717

**Overnight stay in Theatreland?** Small studio flat for overnight stays close to Covent Garden. Sleeps two. £80 per night. Phone Bedford 346820

**Bark** It is that time of year again when it is great to start sorting out the garden. So we have ensured a ready supply of bark to furnish your borders. Available from St Mark's, we appreciate a donation of about 50p a bag.

**Footprints Sunday 9th March "Peter's Walk"** Meet for a light lunch at Putnoe after morning service (bring walking gear to church). Drive to Flitwick for 3 mile walk starting at 2.15, exploring Flitwick Moor. Parking at Folly Farm off Maulden Road. Donations invited from walkers and well-wishers for St John's Moggerhanger in memory of Peter Beswick. Details from Sue Allen or Eddie Peck.



**Save Brickhill Drive Post Office.**

Brickhill Parish Council are campaigning to keep Brickhill Drive Post Office open. It has been revealed that the post office are minded to

close it down. Visits by Post Office Inspectors will start soon, they will visit Brickhill, walk around and consider the locality. As part of their campaign, the Parish Council encourages Brickhill residents to sign their petition, put posters up in your window and write letters of support. More details are available now from St Mark's.

**The 1st Putnoe Brownies** invite you to their "TEA IN BEDS" tomorrow evening the 10th March between 6.30 and 7.30. Tea, cakes, tombola and games 50p entrance proceeds to The World Thinking Day. Please come and support this great group you will be well looked after.

**Confirmations.** We will be preparing people for a joint Methodist/ Anglican Confirmation on June 1st. If you are interested in joining the Confirmation classes, (Sundays in May) please see Charlie or Joan.

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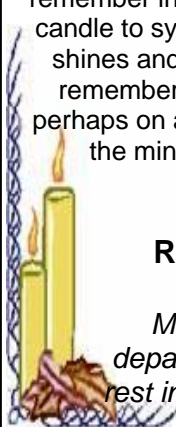
It is at this time of year that we have to pay for our church website registration and hosting, renewal of domain names etc. This cost can be recovered if people regularly use Amazon. Please always log on to Amazon through [www.Thisischurch.com](http://www.Thisischurch.com). Only if you do this do we get usually 5% of the cost donated to [thisischurch.com](http://thisischurch.com). So far this year we have raised £72

**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

**Beatrice Sallows  
Rosina Caroline Bingham**

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



**Wedding**

We publish the banns and pray for Andrew Paul Godfrey and Lisa Victoria Sledge. This is the second time of asking.



**Rest in Peace**

There are no funerals this week