



Church of  
England

# Putnoe Heights and St Mark's Church



Methodist Church

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## A Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Sunday 3 November 2013  
3.00pm

**Address**

The Reverend Eric Royden

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I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth  
in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever  
liveth and believeth in me shall never die  
*John Chapter 11 Verse 25*

## Welcome

### Verse from Scripture

Jesus said, Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest *Matthew Chapter 11:28*

### Opening Prayer

**Almighty God and Father, your Son Jesus Christ was raised from death to life, a sign for us of your power over death. May we have faith to trust in your love for humankind so that we find peace in knowing that our dearly loved family and friends are safe in your loving care.**

### Hymn

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.

*(Please be seated)*

**Psalm 23**  
*(Said together)*

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk  
through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

**Forgiving God, in the face of death we discover  
how many things are still undone,  
how much might have been done otherwise.  
Redeem our failure. Bind up the wounds of past mistakes.  
Transform our guilt to active love  
and by your forgiveness make us whole.  
We pray this in Jesus' name.**

*Minister:*

Almighty God, you love everything you have made  
and judge us with infinite mercy and justice.  
We rejoice in your promises of pardon, joy and peace.  
In your mercy you turn the darkness of death  
into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting  
into the joy of heaven;  
May God's grace be upon each one of us through the Lord  
Jesus, our redeemer, who willingly gave himself up to death,  
so that all might be saved and pass from death to life.

## **Bible Reading**

### **1 Thessalonians Chapter 4 Verses 13-18**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*The reader will say* This is the Word of the Lord  
**All Thanks be to God**

### **John Chapter 11:17-26**

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

*The reader will say* 'This is the Word of the Lord  
**All Thanks be to God**

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## **A Service of Light**

*(You will be invited forward to light a prayer candle should you wish to do so, starting from the rows at the front. Please return to your seats down the side aisles. Additional candles are available at the front of the church)*

Minister:

We remember before God those whom we love and light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

You O Lord are my lamp  
**You turn our darkness into light**

With you O Lord is the well of life  
**In your light shall we see light**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world  
**A light no darkness can quench**

### **Hymn**

Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds, is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne, we pour our ardent prayers:  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows, the sympathising tear.

When for a while we part, this thought shall soothe our pain,  
that we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives, our courage by the way:  
while each in expectation lives, and longs to see the day,

From sorrow, toil and pain, and sin we shall be free,  
and perfect love and friendship reign, through all eternity.

*(Please be seated)*

## Prayers

God our strength and our redeemer: you do not leave us in this life nor abandon us in death. Hear our prayer for those in despair, for those who go about in mourning all the day long, who feel numb and crushed and are filled with the pain of grief, whose strength has given up, whose days are full of darkness and the future empty of hope.

Hear us, risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

Renew in those who mourn your sustaining strength, for we believe that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear us, risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

Lord of all, we give thanks as we remember all who have entered into their rest and reached the promised land where you are seen face to face.

Hear us risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

Thank you for the memory of those you have called to yourself: now may we learn to trust in you, so that casting our care on you, we may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hear us risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us  
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against  
us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed in the Lord Jesus, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom. **Amen**

## Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above;  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation:  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee;

Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

## Blessing

And now to him who is able to keep us from falling,  
and lift us from the dark valley of despair  
to the bright mountain of hope,  
from the midnight of desperation  
to the daybreak of joy;  
to him be power and authority, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

## The Offering

*(There will be a retiring offering which will be  
used in the church ministry towards the bereaved)*

## Why do we release doves ?

The dove is a sacred bird for Christians, a symbol of purity and innocence and most importantly a reassurance of the presence of God. As we watch them fly we are reminded that at significant times God used a dove to communicate his blessing. As we release doves today we pray for that same blessing to be upon us and our loved ones.



- It was a dove which returned with an olive branch to give God's blessing of peace and victory over death to Noah as the waters of the flood subsided. (*Genesis 8*)
- King David in his old age spoke of his wish to escape the pain and trouble and to have 'the wings of a dove' to fly away and be at rest. (*Psalms 55*)
- At the birth of Jesus it was the purity of the doves which allowed them to be used as an offering. (*Luke 2:24*).
- At the baptism of Jesus the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove to show God's presence and blessing. (*Mark 1:10*)
- Jesus himself encouraged his disciples to be innocent or gentle as doves (*Matthew 10:16*)

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**During our service there will be an opportunity to light a candle, why do we do this ?**

### **Lighting a candle is a prayer:**

When we have gone it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered for them.

### **Lighting a candle is a parable:**

burning itself out it gives light to others.  
Christ gave himself for others.  
He calls us to give ourselves.

### **Lighting a candle is a symbol:**

of love and hope, of light and warmth.  
Our world needs them all.

