



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

12th April 2009

Easter Sunday



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

6.00am St Mark's Sunrise Service

9.30am St. Mark's – Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr Mike Cooper
Intercessions - Mrs Alison Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership—Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions –Mrs Claire Peck

19 April

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher— Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions – Mr Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe Heights –Holy Communion

Preacher –Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Ministers

Readings 1 Acts 4: 32 –35.2 1 John 1:1 to 2:2.
3. John 20: 19-31

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week has been given by Jan Cooper in memory of her husband Peter on the occasion of his birthday.

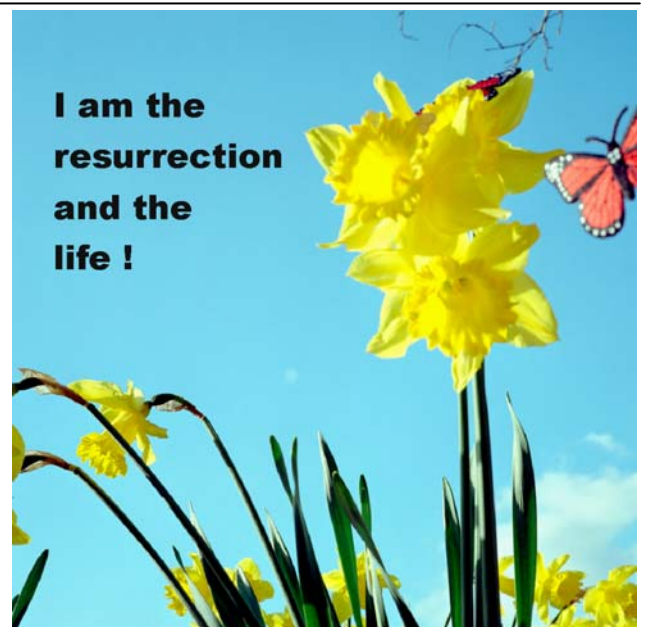
The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Rita and Nigel Platt on the occasion of the marriage of their daughter Avril to Festus Scott.

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 Jennie Cooper 404950(Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

A Prayer for Sunday

Today we rejoice in the salvation of the world.
Christ is risen; let us arise in him! Christ enters new life;
let us live in him! Christ has come forth from the tomb;
Let us shake off the fetters of evil!
The gates of hell are open, the powers of evil are overcome!
In Christ a new creation is coming to birth,
Alleluia! Lord make us new, Alleluia! Amen

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



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 Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's
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.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349
- 1.30pm U3A History Group** St Mark's ☎ David Fowler 824474
- 2pm U3A Drama** St Mark's 1st & 2nd week. Mr Ovenden ☎ 825059
- 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 or 07881730747
- 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 ☎ 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 20 April 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

- 9.30 12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎01908 587299
- 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 Mrs Brown☎771676
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.30pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in

month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 21April Members : Crafts and Hobbies. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 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 Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton 346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 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. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Meeting 21 April Talk about Pension Service Mary Allan Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

- 9.30am** Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 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
- Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 15 April 2009 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 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** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 2pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎ 262823
- 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
- 6-8pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎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 Janice Loxley☎ 347073

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

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Week. Mr Farish ☎824984

8.00pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome.

Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st ,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting 15 April Everyone welcome. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details

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

7.45 for 8pm God talk -[women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

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. (No meeting on 9th April)

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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 Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Mary Rich ☎272470

4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Nadeen Salmon ☎301550

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 Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Pat Foulks ☎346505

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

10am - 12 U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

5pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994

6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Art Society monthly Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 1st May Mary Rich ☎272470

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

9.45am Bedford Stamp Auction at Putnoe Heights Next Auction 30th May. Contact Stuart or Anne 01327 876438

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

Young Embroiders bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. Next Meeting 18th April G Parry 01462 674792

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

4pm B.A.M.A.A. at St Mark's. Chinese soft martial arts. Mr Chris Butcher ☎07886894922

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship & fun. Please see Liz ☎



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 22 June, 9 Nov

St Mark's Leadership Team – 11 May 2009

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 8 June at Linda's, 12 Oct, 8 Feb 2010

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting 20 Apr, 20 Jul

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting -

Putnoe Church Council - 15 Jun, 5 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -5th May 4.30pm

Annual Congregational Meetings 26 April

Churchyard Committee - 29th April 3.30pm

Putnoe Heights Mission Group

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting 18 Jun, 17 Sep, 19 Nov,

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –27th April 2009

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

Easter Worship

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: By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard and keep us. Amen.

The candle is lit as the Minister says
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
Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
All: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Collect Prayer *Before we read we pray*

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty power of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in Him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen *Common Worship/Methodist Worship*

First Bible Reading – Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached-- how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen--by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Reader: This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15: 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 – **Thanks be to God**)



New every
morning is
God's
love

Gospel Reading - Mark 16: 1- 8 (When announced **All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.
(Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ— **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

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

Methodist President's message of hope for Easter

In his Easter message the Revd Stephen Poxon, President of the Methodist Conference, speaks of the emotions of Easter and a hope that never dies.

"Life is full of thrills.....some come unexpectedly whilst others we go looking for, perhaps on the latest ride at the theme park or fun fair....the thrill of being thrown around, often uncontrollably, stomach wrenching and cries of laughter or fear! Yet sadly these are also the emotions for many of us at the moment in our daily living and it isn't quite the thrill we were looking for! We are caught in a recession that is beginning to bite and almost none of us are immune. It evokes feelings of fear and uncertainty, worry and concern within us. We continue to be aware of the unfolding events in Afghanistan, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka with continuing natural disasters around the world and all of this against the backdrop of the recent G20 meeting here. So what has Easter to say to the world and our nations? What is the good news we are called to offer?

"The emotions of that first Easter morning are exactly the same as many of us are experiencing now. The women and disciples came to the tomb feeling empty, a sense of desolation, all their hopes gone....and they find the stone rolled away, the body gone, the tomb empty. This is surely how many people are feeling today. Through the loss of a loved one, worry over a parent with Alzheimer's; concern over finances or employment...a deep sense of loss, of emptiness. Yet is the tomb empty? There is a message: 'he is not here, he has risen' and the women are filled with wonder and excitement – their emptiness is replaced by hope.....

"A woman from Brazil shared with me long ago that 'the last thing to die is hope' ...and as I have travelled this year I have discovered, no matter how dark a situation, wherever there has been hope people have been alive to change and new life. Church people have shown me projects that have come about because they never stopped hoping and I witnessed exactly this at the opening of the new church in Weymouth a couple of weeks ago. 7 years after the original church was burnt down, after just finishing its refurbishment, there was a real sense of loss and emptiness - they never let their hope die and it was a tremendous privilege to share in celebrating their new life.

"As the disciples and women approached the garden that early Easter morning I'm certain they were frightened. This was intensified as they heard the message that Jesus had risen and was alive. A mixture of excitement and fear, what could it all mean?

"We live among a people who are frightened. Fear of the recession, fear of terrorism, fear of growing old, fear of speaking out for justice, fear of...

"As Jesus meets and greets people that first Easter his first words again and again are : 'don't be afraid' or 'Peace be with you' for it is only when He breaks through our fear can we see and receive the love He offers us....and then there is only joy. It's this mixture of emotions I felt whilst watching Wales play England at the Millennium Stadium during my district visit to Wales...wanting Wales to win but the game so close and the fear building up within me and most in the stadium...and as the final whistle blew the eruption of joy...In some ways the fear stopped me enjoying the game to the full and this is perhaps where many of us are in our living – the fears and worries of everyday life are stopping us enjoying fully being alive. The message of Easter is that Christ comes to break through our fear that we might know the joy of

life...of being alive and in relationships with others and enjoying all that God provides.

“Easter eggs will abound once again this festive season and I still don’t know the answer as to whether it was the chicken or the egg which came first. Whilst in Wales I preached at a small village chapel in Carew and here is one of the most historic Celtic crosses in our islands. In the Celtic design where is the beginning and the end? We are sometimes guilty of celebrating Easter Sunday as the end, the culmination of Lent and Holy Week. ‘Christ is risen. Hallelujah!’ And what happens next? The stories in the gospels tell us that those who encountered the living Christ couldn’t keep it to themselves and couldn’t wait to tell theirs. So we celebrate that Easter is not only an ending but a beginning.

“Life for us all is a journey of endings and beginnings. Our task is to help lead people from their endings into new beginnings at whatever age and stage of life they are.

“So the emotions of the first Easter are still very real in our society today. The challenge for us is to know how we can offer the hope, joy and new life that Jesus offers us all. One simple way is to believe and live these emotions in our own life that others may see the risen Christ living in us.”

(You can listen to Stephen’s message on the Methodist Web Radio page: www.methodist.org.uk)

Meditation

Today we light the Paschal Candle for Easter 2009, 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. It will then be lit at services of baptism, and holy Communion, to represent the presence of the risen Christ with his people. After the solemn weeks with purple colours of Lent we will now wear the white of Easter and the brightness of the candle symbolises the joy of the resurrection. The sight of a living creature emerging from an egg has long been cherished as a graphic example of the wonderful new life which is proclaimed at Easter. The enclosed shell of an egg came to remind people of the sealed tomb from which the risen Christ emerged victorious over death.

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

Christ the Lord is risen today 193, Thine be the glory 212, Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour 616, The head that once was crowned with thorns 209

Prayers for Sunday and week ahead

Kindle about us, O Lord, the glory of heaven. May the love of your Son protect us. May the fire of your love burn brightly within us. May our hearts be without malice and without fear. Kindle within us the bright flame of love to neighbour, love to friend and love to all, for your holy name’s sake. Amen. Celtic 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.

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

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

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

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

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

House Group April 2009 Wendy Waters will be holding a house group at 13 Farnham Way, Putnoe at 7.45 pm on Mondays 20th, 27th, April and 11th and 18th May. We will use a 'York Course' entitled "Faith, Hope and Love". The course comprises of a CD which provides thought provoking input from well-known Christians such as Bishop Tom Wright and Anne Atkins, and a booklet which forms the basis of informal exploration and discussion. There is space for a few more people, so if you are interested in being part of the group or for more details please contact Wendy Waters on 401834.

Together in Bedfordshire Forum. We are preparing for our annual Churches to be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 14 May 2009. This will be held at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Flitwick and the speaker this year is the Revd Dr David Cornick. If you can go please tell the ministers.

'Gathering on the Green' a community event for young people on Thursday 16 April from 11—4pm on Waveney Green. Free activities - Bouncy Castle, Rave Bus, Climbing Tower, Hair & Nail Art, Face painting, Indian Drumming etc. Everyone Welcome.

Footprints Easter Monday Walk 13 April. Join us for a day out in the Turvey area. Meet at 10.30am in the layby on the A428 at Station Road. Bring a packed lunch. Total distance 7 miles, expected to finish early afternoon. Sue (407264)

North Bedfordshire Circuits Most of you will be aware that our Bedford North Circuit has been exploring the possibility of merging with our two neighbouring circuits – Bedford South & Ampthill Circuit, and Biggleswade Circuit. During March each of the three Circuit Meetings voted on the principle of merging. The voting by each circuit was as follows: Bedford South & Ampthill - 42 in favour, and 6 against Bedford North - 33 in favour and 1 against. Biggleswade – 24 in favour, no votes against, and 4 abstentions. This means that all three circuits have now voted in favour of the process to merge into one new single circuit within northern Bedfordshire. The work now continues, as we consider in more detail the structures and staffing of the new circuit. It is intended to consult widely with the churches during this phase. The immediate step will be the appointment of a new Superintendent Minister (for September 2010), and that subsequently the new circuit will come into being in September 2011. Please remember this is your prayers. Martin Hounsfield

Bedford's Arthritis Research 40th Anniversary
A spring fayre will be held, as part of our special anniversary, on Saturday 18th April 10am-12noon at Biddenham Village Hall, Nodder's Way. Sales will include cakes and preserves, gifts, plants, cards,

toys, books, paintings, Norfolk Lavender Farm products, bric-a-brac etc. Light refreshments. A genuine Street Organ will be displayed and demonstrated. Admission 20p (children free). Marion Goddard (Hon. Secretary Bedford Branch ARC) Tel. 344617.

Action for Children Sunday afternoon 26th April. Join us for tea and cakes from 2-4pm in the Wren Room. This will include news and information about Action for Children, as well as the opening of collection boxes for their worthy charitable work with children in need. All Welcome. Come to meet your friends.

Ouse Valley Mothers Union open meeting. Come and listen to D.C. Enid Giles, Bedfordshire Police H.Q. at St. Peter's Room, Sharnbrook Thursday 23rd April 7.15 for 7.30pm. Non members £2 Light refreshments. Contact Caroline Evens 782000

Car Boot Sale Easter Monday Cakes and tray bakes greatly appreciated by the kitchen. Any bric-a-brac can be donated to church stall, please bring to St Mark's Sunday afternoon, church will be open.

The Methodist Church Easter Offering envelopes are provided for you this year by Women's Network. This enables funding for grants for Partner Churches overseas as well as other projects in Britain. Please give your generous support and return your envelope on Easter Day. Margaret Standley



Hike for the Homeless

Doreen Denny from Putnoe Heights Church and Joan Eatwell from St Mark's are representing our churches on the sponsored walk for the King's Arms Project on 9 May. If anyone from either Church would be prepared to sponsor them we would be very grateful. They are hoping to complete the 20 miles but that might depend on what the weather is like on the day!! So sponsor them for turning up and see how far they get Doreen's telephone number is 405840 and Joan's is 771156. There are sponsor forms in each church office.

The Brickhill Community Safety Forum.

Everyone who lives or works in Brickhill is invited to Sir William Harpur House, Clyde Crescent on 7.30pm Thursday 23rd April 2009. This is your chance to have your say to all the agencies that are working in Brickhill. The Community Safety Forum is your Forum and gives you the chance to express your opinions and ideas about the present and future of the area. We look forward to seeing you.

Art Encounters - Thursday 7th May. ("Art tours in London with a spiritual perspective") Art Encounters was started by Bishop Christopher and Joan Crossley in 2008 and they have offered to conduct a visit to the National Gallery for members of the Partnership. There are still a few places left and if you are interested in joining us, please ring John or Sally Gunning. (305925)

Spring Breakfast Sharnbrook Methodist Church Saturday 25th April. Start your day with a hearty, full English breakfast £7 or a delightful continental breakfast £4. Served between 8.45 and 10am. To reserve your place please contact Margaret Love 84 High Street Tel 782594. Proceeds to CHARIS, mother and baby care in Bedford and Matthew Rusike Children's Home in Zimbabwe.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please note that the Annual Congregational Meetings for St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Churches will take place on Sunday 26 April. The meetings will take place after the Sunday morning services. Nominations forms for Church Council are available from the church offices and we encourage nominations,

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.

**Edith Margaret Jermy
Max Tanfield
Herbert Ernest Taylor
Reginald Weymes**

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



St Mark's Church Welcomes Kempston Musical Society

Saturday 25 April 2009 at 7.30pm

Programme

Magnificat - John Rutter
The Hundredth Psalm - Ralph Vaughan Williams

Soloist - Miranda Doggett
Choral Suite from The Armed Man Karl Jenkins
Five mystical songs Ralph Vaughan Williams
Soloist - Mark Wisson

Music Director - Janet Welch
Accompanist - Derrick Robinson

Organist - Brian Fox

*Tickets £7 in aid of the
St Mark's Church organ fund
Available from the church offices.*

Easter

The Greatest of All Feasts

Easter is the greatest of all Christian feasts, and the happy season of Eastertide lasts 50 days from Easter Day until the Feast of Pentecost.

St Gregory of Nazianzus said that Easter was 'like the sun among the stars' of the other festivals. It is the heart of the sacred calendar, around which all of the other festivals have meaning and purpose.

Today is the summit of the Christian year, the fact that Christ is risen shows that God will never leave us, bringing good out of conflict, suffering and death. Easter tells us that just as Christ is risen, so too we can expect to be raised with him to eternal life. As we go into Easter Week we consider that death was only the beginning, Christ is with us forever.

Woodland Friends — Copies of the latest Friends Newsletter for the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust are now available from the churches, or can be downloaded from www.woodlandburialtrust.com

Forthcoming Funerals

There are no funeral in the coming week

