



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

13 March 2011

1st Sunday in Lent



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

St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mr Warwick Holden

11.00 am Putnoe -Morning Worship

Preacher - Mrs Wendy Waters
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

20 March – Sunday in Lent

9.30 am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher – Rev Charles Royden
Leadership –Mr Mick Ovenden
Intercessions – Mrs Alison Holden

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions –Mrs Claire Peck

Readings 1. Genesis 12: 1-4a
2..Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
3. John 3: 1-17

Midweek Worship Holy Communion at St Mark's
Chapel every Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir William
Harpur House on first Monday of every month at 10.00am

Thank You

The Flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Rita and Nigel Platt and family, to give thanks for the christening of Tariq and Curtis on 6th March, and also in memory of Justin on his birthday.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Margaret on the happy occasion of her eldest son—Philip Downing Standley's 50th birthday.

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

Prayer for This Week

Gracious Father,
your blessed Son Jesus Christ
came from heaven to be the true bread
which gives life to the world.
Evermore give us this bread,
that he may live in us, and we in him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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)

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

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
and may appear in other local media sources.

Partnership News is also archived on our
church website www.ThisIsChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & 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 Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091
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 - Avril Williams 360605
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.15 –3.45 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher 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 Mrs Berry ☎211955
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 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 Emma Gorden ☎07593266091
- 2pm U3A Music Appreciation** - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623
- 3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.
- 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 ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571
- 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
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—21 March 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 ☎07790296016
- 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** for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp** - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552
- 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
- 2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation** fortnightly. Contact Mrs Reed ☎216623
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** No Meeting on March 15 Members afternoon—Bible Texts. For more details contact 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-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎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 Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 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 22 March. McTimoney Chiropractor. For more 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.
- 9.00am 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 U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 16 March 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
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha

Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden
☎219731

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 26 January.

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 Janice Loxley ☎347073

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 March 16 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

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. 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 group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

10.30-11.30 U3A Tai Chi St. Mark's

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau Putnoe Heights.

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 St. Mark's ☎267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

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

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

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 Lou Watkins

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry 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. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

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 Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

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 & 1.15 - 3.15pm 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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

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

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. 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

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

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –

Annual General Meeting 10 April 2011

St Mark's Leadership Team

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 June

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .26 May

St Mark's Forum Meeting - 9 March, 10 May, 13 July

Putnoe Church Council - 13 June –7.30pm

Pastoral Group Meeting - 14th June

Churchyard Committee - 19th May –11.15am

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting - 15 March at Clapham

Deanery Meeting - .

Woodland Burial Trustees – 15th May 12.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 4th April, 1.30pm

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

1st Sunday in Lent

Opening Sentence from Scripture — Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Collect Prayer (Before we read we pray)

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen *Common Worship & Methodist Worship*



Gethsemane by Michael Freeman

First Bible Reading — Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

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

Second Reading - Romans 5: 12-19

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

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

Gospel Reading - Matthew 4: 1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord—Thanks be to God (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

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

- 1 Lead us, heavenly Father lead us, 400
- 2 What a Friend we have in Jesus, 746
- 3 Father hear the prayer we offer, 132
- 4 O Jesus, I have promised, 501

Commentary

Lent is traditionally a time of self examination in preparation for the most significant Christian festival, Easter, when we celebrate Jesus' overcoming the power of death and rising again so we may have new life in him and through him. So it is in the knowledge of trust in the knowledge that Jesus went through the same self examination, the same agony of being tempted by the devil, but came out the other side free from sin. The difference of course between Jesus and ourselves is that we are not without sin, we will all have succumbed to temptation, and we have all fallen short of Jesus' perfect example of complete resistance to the devil's clever and subversive methods. The word 'test' may be a better understood and be a more accurate translation than 'temptation'. Temptation implies a purely negative experience. Whereas we should remember that, after being baptised in the Holy Spirit, Jesus was 'led by the (same) Spirit into the wilderness' (Chap 4; 1) in preparation for the task ahead of him. So Jesus' wilderness experience was a time of both challenge and character building. So if we enter into the Lenten wilderness bearing these two aspects in mind we may find it not so much as an endurance as an enlightenment.

Within the Matthew account of 'The Temptations' we read that in his response to the devil, Jesus draws on his knowledge of Scripture to rebuff all three of the devil's offers, which if taken up will mar his relationship with God and destroy the ministry he had come to earth to fulfill. All three of the quotes Jesus uses come from the book of Deuteronomy, which relates to Israel's' experience of testing in the desert: Matt 4: 4 from Deut: 8:3; Matt 4:7 from Deut 6:16 and Matt 4:10 from Deut 6:13.

But the cunning devil also uses Scripture to advance his cause, in verse 6 he quotes Psalm 91; 11 -12: *'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'*

This quotation was quite accurate and no doubt if taken up by Jesus would have proved reliable but even a correct quotation from Scripture can be misapplied. So these examples of good use and misuse of Scripture act as both a lesson and a warning to us on the application of Scripture, in both our own rebuttal of personal 'testing' and as we explain our faith to others. However when struggling against 'testing' the use of Jesus' own words in Matt 4:10 'Away from me Satan'; or perhaps the King James version from Luke 4:8 'Get thee behind me, Satan'; have been found to be very effective. Just as Jesus was tested as he drew closer to God we need to be alert that the same can happen to us as we try to go deeper into God. We know this was certainly the case for the early followers of Jesus as in the first letter of Peter Chapter 5 verse 8, the letter writer warns the early Christians to:

'Be self controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.'

That same 'prowling around' exists as much today in many disguises, be it for some the over dependence on material wealth; the attitude that we can go it alone without reliance on God; the abuse of position or power. To resist such testing we are fortunate to be able to draw on both Old and New Testament Scripture such as the passage set for today from Paul's letter 'To all in Rome who are loved by God' (Romans 1:7). In chapter 5: 12 - 19 Paul poetically teaches us that Christ's giving of himself on the cross has established a reign of life rather than death. He contrasts the condemnation of the sin of Adam with a that of God's grace given through Jesus' resistance to sin and his dying for us, so that we may 'receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through one man, Jesus Christ' (Romans 5:17). *Wendy Waters*

Meditation

As Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit let us be led this Lenten tide into our own wilderness. Not to a barren, lifeless wilderness but one where in peace and solitude we can sense the presence of the Spirit stirring us into new life. Just as in the wilderness, with eyes open, we can spot small signs of life, let us open our eyes to stirrings of new inner life. A life lived in the presence of Jesus; a life lived in the knowledge that through the power of the Holy Spirit; walking in the steps of Jesus; we can be cleansed, refreshed and renewed. Thus refreshed we can journey on with a new spring in our step until such time as we are called to share in life everlasting. *Wendy Waters*

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Protect us Lord from the silent subversive schemes of evil; guard us from our own inflated opinions of ourselves; lead us along your paths of humility, obedience, trust and love.

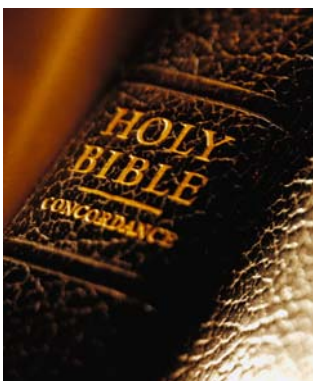
Search me , O God and know my heart. Sift me and know my thoughts. See if there is anything out of place in my life. Lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139: 23, 24

Jesus, may we journey with you, firm in the faith, loyal to your teaching, obedient to your Father's will, encompassed by the Spirit along the way that leads to life.

May each thing I do be without regret, may each minute I spend be used for the best. May each thought I have be without waste, may each moment I'm in be in God's time. Amen

Partnership Lent Course

The Lent course this year will be held at Putnoe Heights and look at the essential of Christian belief as expressed in the Apostles Creed. I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Refreshments will be served from 7.30pm with each session starting at 8.00pm and lasting one hour. Since the series will look at the foundation of Christian belief it would be particularly helpful for anybody who is considering confirmation. Please speak with one of the ministers if you would like to consider this.



I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Thursday 17 March by Charles Royden

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
Thursday 31 March by Sam Cappleman

I believe in the Holy Spirit
Thursday 7 April by Jane Mason

Christian Basics. There will be a series of three Lent talks at Putnoe Heights Church thinking about the basics of the Christian faith as expressed in the Apostles Creed. I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Refreshments will be served from 7.30pm with each session starting at 8.00pm and lasting one hour. Since the series will look at the foundation of Christian belief it would be particularly helpful for anybody who is considering confirmation. Please speak with one of the ministers if you would like to consider this.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Thursday 17 March by Rev Charles Royden

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

Thursday 31 March by Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

I believe in the Holy Spirit

Thursday 7 April by Deacon Jane Mason

Relate – Moving Forward. A one day workshop.



In this workshop we can help you come to terms with divorce or separation and start to rebuild your life and face the future with confidence. The workshop will be run by a Relate qualified trainer and is designed to help participants

- ◆ Deal with endings
- ◆ Understand the effects of loss
- ◆ How to cope with change
- ◆ Identify support systems
- ◆ Encourage more self confidence

The workshop takes place on Saturday 26 March at St Mark's Church Community Centre 10.00am—4.30pm and costs £35 per place.

Holy Week – The Bishop of Bedford will be holding meditations at St Paul's Church Bedford on three consecutive nights in April - 18/19/20
Monday 18 at 7.30pm - Sacrificial love as generosity

Tuesday 19 - Sacrificial love as selflessness

Wednesday 20 - Sacrificial love as faithfulness

The meditations will include a simple communion service - all are welcome to attend.

House Group at the home of Wendy Waters will be held on Mondays for 6 weeks beginning at

7.45pm on 7 March. We will use the Diocesan Lent Course 'Living God's Love'. If you would like to come please phone Wendy Waters 401834.

Putnoe Heights Church are looking for volunteers to help decorate the quiet room . If you are able to help please contact either Sam Ware on 01234 304058 or Jean Kirk on 01234317699

" Guitar Rags and Gods Riches " A new CD, a collection of Christian songs and Ragtime music, written and played by Rev Laurie Burn, (son of Pam and Bob). Price £8, all proceeds in aid of IcFEM, a sustainability project in Kenya, and the building fund of Totterdown Baptist Church Bristol. To purchase or obtain information Tel 854858

Unwanted desk available at Putnoe Heights to take away. Contact church office on 365630. Linda Hoar 782717

Church Chairs. The new church chairs have arrived at St Mark's thank you to those people who have assisted us by purchasing a chair. Thank you also to all of those who came and helped unload the van of the chairs and unpack them.

St Mark's Messy Church is held from 3.45 to 5.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in helping please speak to Jean Bank or Wendy Waters This month it is 16 March.

St. Mark's Craft Stall will have Easter novelties for sale after morning service. All profit goes to St.Mark's Christmas Fair.

Bedford Arts Society

[Www.bedfordartsociety.co.uk](http://www.bedfordartsociety.co.uk)

There will be an exhibition and sale of paintings at Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street. Open to the public
Wednesday 30 March 10 - 4pm

Thursday 31 March 10 - 8pm

Friday 1 April 10 - 4pm

Daytime parking is available in the Borough Car Park in Prebend Street, exit code can be obtained from reception. After 5pm park in front of Borough Hall

Spring Breakfast

Start your day with

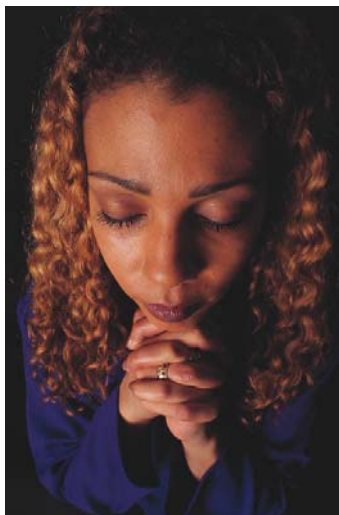
- ◆ A hearty full English breakfast £7
- ◆ A delightful continental breakfast £4

At Sharnbrook Methodist Church, Park Lane Sharnbrook Saturday 2 April

To reserve your place contact Eileen Smith (782241) or Mike Bonney (781254)

Say One For Me

For many years our church website www.thischurch.com has featured an online prayer request form. You just click on the link 'let us pray for you' on the homepage. Many people use this to request prayers for many different issues ranging from illness to wanting a new girlfriend. Everyone who sends in a prayer request receives a personal confidential reply.



Now the Church of England is also operating a prayer scheme and bishops were out among shoppers and passers-by collecting their prayers to mark Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent 2011. For the next 40 days, people across the country have the opportunity to share with God their hopes and concerns, anonymously, in the form of a prayer posted at www.sayoneforme.org, a web-based prayer service.

To promote the website, the bishops collected prayers, on specially designed cards, that were prayed at church services later in the day. They also handed out 'business cards' containing the web address www.sayoneforme.org.

"Lent is a time to turn to God to tell Him about your hopes, needs and concerns," says the Right Revd David Walker, the Bishop of Dudley. "Everyone posting a prayer at sayoneforme.org will know that

others are praying their prayers with them and on their behalf."

After 24 hours more than 70 prayers had already been posted on the site and its supporting Facebook page has been equally busy.

All the prayers posted online will be offered to God by various parish churches, prayer groups, and three religious communities: St Mary's Abbey, West Malling; St Peter's Convent, Woking; The Sisters of Bethany, Southsea. They will also be prayed at the retreat centre Launde Abbey, Leicester and placed on the altar at a number of cathedrals and at Westminster Abbey during services.

Having researched the content of almost 1,000 prayers from last year's Say One for Me initiative, Dr Tania ap Sion, Director of the St Mary's Centre, North Wales says, "These prayers clearly brought hope to a number of people. Sometimes the same person visited the website more than once - on the first occasion to ask for prayer and on the second occasion to give thanks for an answer to prayer."



You will find the link above on the homepage for www.thischurch.com. Please click on it to access Amazon.com and just about anything you need for presents this year, with free delivery. You can also sign up to Easyfunding. You will receive special offers and promo codes to buy everything you ever need online at discount prices! Remember, never click on Amazon direct, always click on Amazon via the link at thischurch.com, then we obtain 5%

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.

Myles David Chester Parker

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



Forthcoming Funerals

The funeral of Mollie Cutler will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Friday 18 March at 12.30

The funeral of Doris Hilda Wilson will take place at Putnoe Heights Church at 2.30pm on Monday 14 March

