



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

13 March 2005

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both  
**Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church**



Church of  
England

### Church Services Today

#### 8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

#### 9.30am St Mark's Church—Morning Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Barbara Routley

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

#### 11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship

Preacher - The Reverend Barbara Routley

Leadership Team – Mrs Betty Wyatt

Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

**20 March**

#### Palm Sunday Holy Communion

#### 8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

#### 9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion

Preacher – The Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day

Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard

#### 11.00am Putnoe Heights- Holy Communion

Preacher - The Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team – Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions – Mr Alan Bayliss

### Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given Ann and John Hitt in memory of their parents.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Joan Stafford in memory of her husband Jim.

### Prayer for Sunday

Almighty God,  
your Son came into the world  
to free us 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**

### Contact Details

#### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

#### The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

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#### The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

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Partnership News is now available each week on the  
Partnership Website - [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.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 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 - 1.00pm Monday & Friday**

**9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday**

**Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630** [putnoe@thisischurch.com](mailto:putnoe@thisischurch.com)

**Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630**

**Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188**

**Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428**

[treasurerph@thisischurch.com](mailto:treasurerph@thisischurch.com)

**Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186**

**Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058**

### St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5pm)

**Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613** [office@thisischurch.com](mailto:office@thisischurch.com)

**Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613**

[wendy@thisischurch.com](mailto:wendy@thisischurch.com)

**Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day—295592**

**Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592** [treasurer@Thisischurch.com](mailto:treasurer@Thisischurch.com)

**Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605**

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# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30 - 12.00 pm Pre-school** (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).

**10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

**10.00am Supple Strength** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Louise Woodcock 270302

**12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox** at Putnoe Heights. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from.

**4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 392698

**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 400987

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Contact Penny Fulham406045

**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419

**7.15 m Guides** -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

**7.15pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

**7.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs C Cannon 404319

**7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month. Next 21 March Moorfields & Sight Concern, St. Mark's Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

**7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.

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

## Tuesday

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

**9.30am Jo Jingles** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866

**10.00am Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230

**1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

**12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World** at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.

**1.15pm Library Walk W.I.** at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Next meeting 19 April. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

**1.30pm Body Control Pilates** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Stephanie Smith 357787

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 15 March Mrs. A. Broomhall Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 15 March 2005 -Rev. Neil Bramble-Chapman. Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

**6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 783129

**6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Emma Holloway 293792

**7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit** at St. Mark's. Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.

**7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club** meets at St Mark's. Contact Carol Houghton 346718

**7.30pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746

**7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Next meeting 15 March 'Evacuees in WW2' Mr. Abbot.. Meets fortnightly. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

**8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

## Wednesday

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

**9.30am Bedford U3A** at Putnoe Heights meets bi-monthly. Next meeting 23 March. Contact Jenny Coggins 266379

**10.00 am Day Care Centre** St Mark's for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

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

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

**12 - 1pm Total Body Toning** at Putnoe Heights Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

**Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Height meets fortnightly. Next meeting 16 March 2005 Contact Putnoe Heights 365630

**1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** at St. Mark's. Contact Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

**4.15pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

**6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449

**6.00 pm Brownies** at St Mark's. Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731

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

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 16 March. Contact Sylvia Woods 365095

**7pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 16 March. Contact Pam Holley 771964

**7.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes at St Mark's. Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890

**7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

### Thursday

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

**9.45am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

**10.30am - 12.00am Fledglings** at St Mark's **2.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic** at St. Mark's Contact 267444

**12pm Storybox** at St Mark's. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities, songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

**1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

**1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.** Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

**2.30 Bedford Arts Society** at St. Mark's. Contact Celia Maddison 782901

**2pm U3A Indoor Games** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Radmila Dancer 404811

**4.00 Storybox Plus** at Putnoe Heights. A drama group for 4-9year olds. Meets 4 5-pm,drinks from 3.30pm

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.**

Contact Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies** at Putnoe Heights . Contact Helga Nash 218521

**7.00pm Club 2000** at Putnoe Height. Next meeting 24 February. Contact Pat Stidolph 345247

**6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St. Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

**7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club** at St Mark's Contact Mr P Housden 376597

**7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild** St Mark's- 3rd

Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

**7.45pm. Housegroup**-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

**8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle** meets at St Mark's 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

### Friday

**9.30am U3A Exercise** at Putnoe Heights.

Contact Carole Maunder 301325

**10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

**6pm Self Defence** at Putnoe Contact Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

**7. 30pm Bibleway** Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 376841

**6.30pm -8.30 pm Dog Training Classes** at St. Mark's. Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

### Saturday

**9.30am Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517

**10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train** at St Mark's -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 01234 782414

**2.30pm Calligraphy Group** at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting 26 March Contact Kathleen Sage 771525

**7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge** at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

### Sunday

**1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob. 07891095746

**6.45pm TNT (The Nearly Teens)** meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

## News, Views and Information

### Church Calendar

**St Mark's Church Council** 15

June, 12 October

**Circuit Men's Fellowship Lunch** on the 9 February

**St Mark's Leadership Team**

4 May -Home of Rev Dr Joan Crossley

**Deanery Synod**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** -

25 April 2005 at 7.30pm

**St Mark's Church Management Meeting**

23 May, 11 July, 12 September, 2 November. All meetings to start 7.00pm

**Putnoe Church Council**

13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -27 April at 2.pm.

**Church yard Committee** 25 April at 10 pm.

**Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.** Calendar dates appear also on our church website [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com).



## Bible Notes - Fifth Sunday of Lent

### Verse of Scripture Romans Chapter 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.

### A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

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 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.'

(Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

### Second 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**)

### Gospel 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**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen

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

1. Rejoice the Lord is King 575 (Tune Gopsal)
2. 279 The journey of life 67 Glory to God, On Partnership News
3. O breath of life 488 (Tune Spiritus Vitae)
4. I know not why God's wondrous grace 279 (Tune I know whom)
5. All hail the power of Jesus name 13 (Tune Miles Lane)

## Commentary

Mary and Martha send Jesus word of Lazarus' illness, and clearly they do so because they want Jesus to act to heal Lazarus, whom he loves, and believe that Jesus is capable of doing so. Jesus must have known how desperate Mary and Martha would be, nevertheless he waits and does not go to heal Lazarus. Instead he waits two days. Jesus loves them but he knows that when he finally arrives in Bethany, there will be no ambiguity about Lazarus' death, Out of fear for his safety, the disciples plead with Jesus not to go. Jesus knows that he has work to do and so he cannot ignore this duty. It is an inspiration for us that the disciples accompanied Jesus into danger, they were not lacking in courage or commitment.

Jesus says that Lazarus is sleeping (*kekoimetai*) the word means asleep, but is also a euphemism for death. Jewish people believed that the soul remained in the vicinity of the body for three days, hoping to rejoin the body. On the fourth day, the soul would finally face reality and depart. The fact that Lazarus has been in the tomb four days means that there can be no possibility of his soul rejoining his body. Four days means that it is hopeless.

Jesus says, '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. These verses form the heart of this Gospel lesson. While we call this story the healing (or resurrection) of Lazarus, it is in fact the story of Jesus' revelation that he is the resurrection and the life. This is one of several "I am" (*ego eimi*) statements by Jesus in this Gospel—statements that reveal Jesus' true identity. Jesus is the bread of life (6:35) and the light of the world (9:5). His statement that he is the resurrection and the life is the high point of these "I am" statements. "I am," of course, is God's name-- the name revealed to Moses at the burning bush (Exod 3:14).

When Jesus asks Martha if she believes, she replies with a threefold statement of faith. Jesus is (1) the Messiah (2) the Son of God and (3) the one coming into the world. This is the fifth and most complete confession of faith in this Gospel (see 1:49; 4:42; 6:69; 9:35-38).

Mary's greeting to Jesus is much like Martha's, full of grief and reproach. When Jesus sees her weeping, he is greatly disturbed in spirit (*embrimaomai*) and deeply moved (*tarasso*). This is a difficult passage to understand. The first verb, *embrimaomai*, suggests anger. Why would Jesus have been angry? Perhaps Jesus is angry at Martha and Mary's lack of faith. Perhaps he is angry that the Jews—outsiders—are intruding on this very private and personal situation. Perhaps he was angry because he found himself face to face with the realm of Satan which, in this instance, was represented by death." Perhaps Jesus shares the sadness of his friends and their neighbours"

We should note that this Gospel has said little about Jesus' emotions until now. In this lesson, however, he loves Lazarus, Martha and Mary. He is disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He weeps. Emotion is not neat and tidy. Here Jesus is dealing with a dear friend, Mary, in the throes of grief. Her weeping is not gentle and controlled but would be unrestrained wailing and shrieking almost hysterically, for it was the Jewish point of view that the more unrestrained the weeping was the more honour it paid to the dead. The natural human response in the face of such terrible grief is a welling up of emotions—grief, fear, anger, and frustration—all mixed together. Mary's grief clearly hooks something deep and vulnerable in Jesus.

Jesus, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.'

The grave is a cave with a stone lying against it, one of the many parallels between this story and that of Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus cries out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' "

It would be easy to misunderstand this miracle as a simple favour by Jesus to his dear friends—and to see Jesus as a mere wonder-worker—but this sign serves greater purposes. It is "for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (v. 4). It authenticates Jesus as "the resurrection and the life" as well as confirming the promise that "those who believe in me, though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (vv. 25-26).

The verses just after this reading 45-53, make it explicit that the Jewish leaders were extremely angry with Jesus. The raising of Lazarus was a miracle too far. They feared that the result of a miracle such as this would cause people to believe in Jesus and invoke the wrath of Rome and the loss of their positions. The healing/resurrection of Lazarus, then, is the precipitating event that leads to Jesus' crucifixion. The events that follow this story are the plotting of the Sanhedrin, the anointing by Mary, the plot against Lazarus, and the triumphal entry, soon Jesus will be dead.

*Charles Royden (material used from lectionary.org)*

## Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God and heavenly Father, open our eyes to see you at work in our world: grant us wisdom in using our gifts, grace to enliven our churches, and courage to transform our communities. By your Holy Spirit, equip us for the challenge ahead, excite us to follow your vision and empower us in witness and service. To you be the glory through Jesus our Saviour and mighty Redeemer. *Vision for Action Prayer of the St Albans Diocese*

# News, Views and Information

## **Putnoe Junior Church**

As many of you already know Sam Ware will be resigning from her role as Junior Church co-coordinator at Easter to concentrate on the new baby. She will however be continuing in a welcomed support role when family life allows. I'm sure you will want to join us in thanking Sam for all the hard and dedicated work she has done for the young members of our church over the last 5 years and to wish here well with the new baby.

After Easter due to Sam leaving and the larger numbers regularly attending Junior Church we will be reorganising the groups slightly Watch this space!!

We very much appreciate the help given by members of the congregation on a Sunday and a new rota for after Easter will be on the notice board next week.  
Thanks Liz

**Vocation.** The Bishop of St Albans has appointed six vocations officers to encourage and nourish vocation across the diocese. They will work with Canon Michael Sansom, Director of Ordinands and the Revd Becky Totterdell, Assistant Director of Ordinands and Bishop's Officer for Women in Ministry. They are a mixed team of Readers, ordained and lay people. The six include our own Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Vocations Sunday on April 17th is an opportunity for churches and congregations to focus attention on vocation, both in the broader sense of seeking how best to use our gifts and skills and in the narrower sense of giving time to think about God's call to public ministry in the church. If you think you have a vocation, lay or ordained, or wish to explore the use of your gifts, please speak with Joan.

**Second hand book sale** Saturday 16th April at Putnoe Heights 10.00am -12 o'clock in aid of Missions. Further details later.

**St Andrew's Church Centre, Bedford**, 16th April 7.30pm, Fairtrade Fashion Show. Tickets £1 from Ann Francis (01234-211764) or church office (01234-216881) or pay on the door.

**St. Andrews Church**, Bedford, 2nd April, nChant in concert. 7.30pm. Programme to include; Hildegard of Bingen, Lord of the Rings, Madonna, Shadow and Ashes - A Gothic Requiem, "Red Book" of Montserrat - 13th Century Spanish Pilgrim Songs. Tickets £6, Those at school £3, available from St. Andrews Church, Tel 01234 216881. nChant is a young women's choir (ages 12 - 25) singing medieval and alternative music for the spiritual journey.

**Confirmation?** If you would be interested in being confirmed. Please speak to one of the ministers.

**Partnership Singers** Please could we prepare for Easter Services (on 27 March), rehearsing on 18 March 7pm at St Mark's, Thursday 24 March at Putnoe.

## **Wednesday Bereavement Drop in Group.**

Next meeting is on 6 April when Mr. Alan Cox will speak on "London Curiosities" and on May 4 Lynne Davis will speak about the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

**Fun Run and Teddy Bear's Picnic!** 22 May at Mowsbury Park, our 5km Fun Run followed by a BBQ, Bring a Teddy to the Teddy Bear's Picnic! Time to get in training!

**Maundy Thursday.** The eucharist with the blessing of oils takes place on Maundy Thursday, March 24th, at the Cathedral and Abbey church of St Alban at 11.00am. It is a service at which the Bishop calls together all clergy, Readers and lay ministers who hold his licence in the Diocese and also those who are retired. But it is also a service at which anyone is welcome to be present and it is hoped that many people from congregations around the Diocese will wish to come. **At 7.30pm** we will have our own service at Putnoe Heights Church.

**Can we have your Tesco Vouchers please.** St. Mark's Church Preschool will be collecting Tesco vouchers for computers for schools from 7 March until 15 May. Please ask family and friends to collect for us. Thank you. Helen Harpin.

**Vision for Action.** The St Albans Diocesan Synod will soon be discussing major proposals for the way forward for the Diocese. These proposals called 'Vision for Action' are now available for you to consider by viewing them on the Diocesan website. [www.stalbans.anglican.org](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org)

**The Good Friday Witness** 12 noon 25th March 2005, St.Paul's Square. All welcome.

**NCH -On the box quiz 2005.** Dear supporters , do you like a challenge ? I have copies of an entertainment quiz priced at £1 each (a donation to NCH). It is great fun and if you send in your completed form you could win the first prize of £25 .Please support this worthwhile cause. Grace Foster.

**Christian Teachers** Jane Crawford & Jo Ann Gaunt Christian schools workers in the Bedford area would love to meet with other Christian teachers, to share support, ideas & encouragement. Meet Sunday 13 March from 3 - 5 pm at Bromham Baptist Church, Village Road, Bromham. Contact 01234 326082.

**Footprints** - the next ramble will take place on Sunday 13 March, meeting at 2pm. Park at the village hall in Marston just past the old turning to Lower Shelton. This is an extremely easy walk, suitable for prams, and Footprints would welcome any new people to join us. Thank you. Stephen Clare.

**Volunteers** are urgently needed to cover 9am - 11am or 11am - 1pm at Putnoe Heights Church Office once a fortnight. Please contact Barry at the Church Office.

**T.T.T.(The Tiddler Trail ) at Putnoe.** Newcomers at our Church may have wondered why there is always a collector at the door for your(5p's in a film pot scheme) donation to our Mission Emergency Fund. Out of the £1,500 sent recently to the Tsunami Appeal Fund by our Church, £500 was immediately available from this source. We will be pleased to accept any surplus small denomination coins other than 5p. ie. bagged copper most welcome. Our grateful thanks to all that support this worthwhile fund.

**Recording of Services** - Putnoe's services are recorded each week. Tapes are available from the Office after the Sunday Service.

**The Rt Revd Lord Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool** from 1975 to 1997, and former England cricket captain, died of cancer on Saturday night aged 76years. The Archbishop of Canterbury described him as "one of the greatest figures of the 20th-century Church of England". The present Bishop of Liverpool, the Rt Revd James Jones, said: "He will go down in history as one of the few diocesan bishops of the 20th century who exercised influence in the life of the nation." The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Revd Patrick Kelly, said: "His partnership with Archbishop

### 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.

**Ella Sharpe  
Michael Clooney**

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

### A Hymn for Sunday

The journey of life may be easy may be hard,  
there'll be dangers on the way;  
with Christ at my side I'll do battle as I ride  
'gainst the foe that would lead me astray.

*Will you ride, ride, ride with the King of kings,  
will you follow my leader true;  
will you shout hosanna to the lowly Son of God,  
who died for me and you?*

My burden is light and a song is in my heart,  
as I tavel on life's way;  
for Christ is my Lord and he's given me his word,  
that by my side he'll stay.

When doubts arise and when tears are in my eyes,  
when all seems lost to me,  
with Christ as my guide I can smile whate'er betide,  
for he my strength will be.

I'll follow my leader wherever he may go,  
for Jesus is my friend;  
he'll lead me on to the place where he has gone,  
when I come to my journey's end.

Derek Worlock took great courage, and was affirmed by the visit of Pope John Paul II to Liverpool's two cathedrals in 1982."

**Day of Disabled People 2005** on Friday 1st April 10am -3.30pm - Workshops, exhibitions and displays. Free 'have-a-go' workshops include: Arts, Music and Health and Beauty. An opportunity to join in with local organisations to raise awareness about disability. For more information contact Jayne on 01234 219615 or Ann on 07803 621 563

**Thank you** to Judith Stanton and her supporters for the £80 donation raised at their February Whist Drive.

**Easter Cards** are available this morning, please do take them and use them to invite friends to church. There is a delivery scheme for Putnoe Heights Church, please take cards and distribute them to roads indicated.

**The funeral of Eileen Janet Smith** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on 14th March 2005

**The funeral of Ruth Bichard Alexandre** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on 18th March 2005 at 1.30pm

**The funeral of David John Rose** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 16 March at 4.00pm