



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

15 March 2009

Third 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

9.30am St. Mark's – Holy Communion

Preacher - **Reverend Eric Royden**
Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions - Mrs Pat Leusby

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion

Preacher - **Reverend Eric Royden**
Leadership - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions —Ministers

March 22nd- Mothering Sunday

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership – Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions – Mrs Morag Stewart
11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Jenny Emsley
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Readings 1 Exodus 2:1-10 .
2. Corinthians 1:3-7 3. Luke 2: 33-35

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by June Cook and Mary Stokes in loving memory of their parents, George and Doris Curness.

The flowers at St Marks Church this week have been given by Milly Rollinson in memory of her parents.

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

Holy Father,
keep us in your truth
Holy Son,
protect us under your cross
Holy Spirit,
make us temples and
dwelling places for your glory
Grant us your peace
all the days of our lives, Lord. Amen.
Maronite Church

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
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For Data Protection Purposes

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

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

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 Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349
youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper 306751
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm 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 ☎ 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A Playreading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.00pm Story box** We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349
- 1.30pm 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
- 4.15pm Kumoni 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 Lena Holland ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 16 March Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

- 9.30 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
- 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. Mrs C Allen ☎363878
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 17 March Members 'Recommended Recipes' 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.
- 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
- 7.30pmChartered Management Institute** St Marks 3rd week. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Meeting on 24 March—Cancelled The next meeting 7 April 'Decorate an Easter egg'. Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

- 9.30am Childminding Support Group** Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949
- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966
- 10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.
- Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 18 March 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** 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. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073

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

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st ,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next Meeting 18 March Everyone welcome. Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594

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.

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎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 Helga Nash ☎218521

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

7.30pm 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

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

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

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

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

; Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

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. Next meeting tonight 15 March at Putnoe at 6.30pm for card making. Please see Liz ☎302349 .



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 - 18 March

Putnoe Church Council - 15 Jun, 5 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -5th May 4.30pm

Annual Congregational Meetings 26 April

Churchyard Committee - 29th April 3pm

Putnoe Heights Mission Group – Wed. 25th March 7.30pm 14 Flint Way

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 2 April

Deanery Meeting 18 Jun, 17 Sep, 19 Nov,

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees –4th April at 4pm in Keysoe

Mission Group Meeting - 25 March - 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way.

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –27th April 2009

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

Third Sunday in Lent

Opening Verse -Psalm 19:14

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer

Collect Prayer -

Before we read we pray

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may

find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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. *Common Worship*



First Bible Reading – Exodus 20: 1-17

1. "You shall have no other gods before me.
 2. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.
 3. "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.
 4. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
 5. "Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.
 6. "You shall not murder.
 7. "You shall not commit adultery.
 8. "You shall not steal.
 9. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.
- "You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour
(Reader: This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness

of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.
(Reader: This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - John 2: 13-22

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Commentary

The traditional image of Jesus is the stained glass window of Him, pictured as the meek and mild person whilst the gospel passage for today shows Him full of anger. Anger is thought to be wrong, but there is a case for righteous anger as we read into the incident described.

Jesus had gone to Jerusalem to observe the Passover which fell about the middle of April. According to Jewish law, every male Jew living within twenty miles of the city had to attend, but many others travelled long distances to be present to celebrate this major feast which commemorated the rescuing of the Jews by God from the suffering in Egypt, for the Jews never forgot their ancestral home or faith. It was the dream of every Jew to attend one such feast in their life.

Every Jew over nineteen years of age had to pay a temple tax, which had to be in Jewish coinage, but the currency generally used was Roman, which was viewed as unclean. This meant that there were moneychangers. If they had conducted their business honestly they would have been giving a service, but they overcharged.

In addition to the tax they were obliged to take a sacrifice of a dove or a lamb, and this had to be one in perfect condition. The Temple authorities appointed Inspectors to examine the animals, for which a fee had to be paid. It was common for the Inspectors to declare the offering unworthy and the alternative was to sell them one of their own, which in essence meant a form of blackmail. It was this that moved Jesus to anger. He took some cords and made whip which he used on the men making money by false means. Jesus was angered because He felt sympathy for the people worshipping and being exploited. He saw God's house being abused and being turned into a market place rather than a house of prayer. He drove out the sheep and the cattle, scattered the moneychangers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. Then He told those selling doves to get them out.

The Temple had a series of courts from the inner Holy place where only priests could enter, then the court for Jewish men, next the court for women, and the outer court which was for Gentiles, which was where the buying and selling was being carried on. A Gentile was limited to this one area and one might attend to meditate or pray, but the place was in an uproar. Jesus was anxious that no one should be prevented from seeking God.

The disciples were embarrassed by the actions of Jesus! They had not been with Him very long; they did not know Him very well. They had been attracted by the amazing things He said and the things He did. They believed with all their hearts He was the expected Messiah;

This practice had been going on for decades and, without any appeal to authority, taking on Himself this action of driving out money-changers, pouring out their money, driving out the animals, and even driving out the people with a whip! They were probably also fearful of what the authorities would do about this flagrant challenge to them. They knew these self-righteous Pharisees would not let Jesus get away with

this. But as they watched Him do this, there came flashing into their minds a verse from the 69th Psalm. 'The zeal of thy house has consumed me, has burned me up, has seized hold of me and devoured me and made me to act'. They began to understand that God does not compromise with evil.

The reaction of the Jews was natural, they wanted to know what right Jesus had to act as He did. They asked for a sign to justify His actions and He replied, 'destroy this Temple and in three days I will raise it up'.

The Jews mocked this for the Temple had taken 46 years with 18,000 men to build, but Jesus was saying He was the temple, There had been three Temples built there as somewhere for God to live and if you wanted to meet with God you went there. He was saying He had the right to destroy the Temple because HE was the Temple of God and through Him we meet with God. When He died God ripped the veil of the Temple from the top to the bottom.

We have to ask is there anything in our Church life which would cause a stranger to turn away, a lack of welcome, an air of exclusiveness, a coldness, or as in many Churches, trying to make it into a closed club. What we have here is also a dramatic statement about the importance of worship for us. Religion must never be seen as a convenience. It is a tragedy if we only worship God when it is convenient. God is after a seeking heart.

He is more interested in communion than in ceremony. I have seen Churches where more concern is shown in ritual and dressing up than sincere praise and worship. Nor should we think that only one's own particular denomination is the true one, as some really do, and consider others as not as worthy as themselves..

What God wants is for us to fellowship with Him, for us to touch Him through prayer, to commune with Him in worship, to have fellowship with Him and serve Him with all of our hearts. Having church is not going through the motions. It is coming into a divine encounter with the living God, one which changes our lives. Through true worship and service, our lives touch the lives of others. True worship and service are themselves living testimonies to the power of God.

Throughout this Gospel of John we see plainly how anyone can come to Christ, no matter what their background, no matter how far gone wrong, - anyone who realizes there is something wrong in their life, anyone who wants to be free can come to Jesus. (Eric Royden)

Meditation

"The line between good and evil," the Russian novelist and humanitarian Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn remarked, "is not drawn between nations or parties, but through every human heart." We can understand this truth as saying that every one of us has a heart partly corrupted so that it awaits renewal. Executing that renewal is our Lenten project. Similarly, every one has in part a heart palpitating with generosity. Experiencing the growth of that vibrant sector is a source of Easter rejoicing. Lent is an annual retreat where we walk closely with Jesus, especially in the way of his cross. We take pains to care for others, to pray, and to meditate for righteousness. We make every effort to turn away from our sins and be faithful to Jesus' gospel.

Hymns (*Please distribute Mission Praise and Holy Communion*)

1. 600 Sing to God new songs of worship
2. Here is love vast as the ocean. On Partnership News
3. 395 Judge eternal
4. 428 Lord for the years

Prayers for Sunday and week ahead

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Common Worship Shorter Collects*

Holy Spirit, Fire of Pentecost, let us partake of your sacred flame. Take possession of our hearts and cast your fire into our souls. Kindle within us the flame of love and consume our sins. Welcome us into the burning light of your presence that we may dwell there for ever. Amen. *Richard Challoner, 1691-1781*

Christ, why do you allow wars and massacres on earth? By what mysterious judgement do you allow innocent people to be cruelly slaughtered? I cannot know. I can only find assurance in the promise that your people will find peace in heaven, where no one makes war. As gold is purified by fire, so you purify souls by these bodily tribulations, making them ready to be received above the stars in your heavenly home. (Alcuin of York c735-804)

St Marks and Putnoe Heights Lent Course 2009

Title: The Parables of Jesus

Why did Jesus tell parables? What do they mean? How should we understand the parables of Jesus? Tuesday 17 March 2009. Coffee served at 7.30 for an 8.00pm start. Leader: Revd Charles Royden

50 Plus -Are you interested in a new programme of sports coaching aimed at adults 50 years plus. The sessions include badminton, golf, line dancing, squash, swimming and yoga. Please take a booklet from the table in the foyer

Children's Good Friday Storybox/Storybox Plus

Will take place at Putnoe on 10 April 12.15 – 1.30. The Easter Story, Easter Crafts and light refreshments. £1 per child.

1st Putnoe Brownies will be holding a bring & buy cake stall following Mothering Sunday service next week. They also invite you on Monday 23 March at 6.30 to their 'Buzzing in Beds' fund raising event. Please support our local Brownies.

For Sale—Electronic Keyboard CASIO CA.-100 Tonebank Keyboard. £75.00 ONO. 25% to Church Funds. Contact D Wren 01234 400279. 22 Rhineland Way, Brickhill Bedford.

Greetings cards for Mothering Sunday and Easter are now available on the card stall at the rear of the church and on the brochure table in the foyer. Special thanks to Milly for looking after this for us.

Saturday 28 March Church of the Transfiguration, Bedford Road Kempston. Bring and sing with Kempston Musical Society, Faure Requiem. Rehearsal 4.30pm, Tea 6.00pm, Performance 7.30pm. Singers £5 including tea, Audience £5 for concert. All welcome, further information 01234 854858

House Group April 2009 Wendy Waters is proposing, subject to interest, to hold a house group at 13 Farnham Way, Putnoe on 4 Monday evenings in April and 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. The dates would be 20, 27 April and 11 and 18 May starting at 7.45. If you are interested in being part of the group or for more details please contact Wendy Waters on 401834 by 22 March.

Congratulations to Alexander Whiting he won the cup for solo singing 7 years and under in the Bedfordshire Music Festival on Friday 6th March.

Alexander has also passed his 7+ exams and is going to Bedford Modern School in September

Hike for the Homeless. We have lots of walkers in our churches, please consider if you can walk to help a really important local charity which provides a shelter for homeless people. There is a Charity Walk on Saturday 9th May 2009 from Priory Country Park for The King's Arms Project, which runs a homeless shelter in Bedford. The walk is a 20 mile circular walk in three easy stages, so if you want you can just do one, or two of the three stages. For more details and online registration visit: www.hikeforthehomeless.org.uk or call 01234 306501 You will surely be able to get sponsorship from people in our churches if you decided to have a go and we publish your efforts in partnership news.

The Youth and Children's meeting at Putnoe Heights has been cancelled on the 23rd March and will now be held on 27th April.

BEH Women's Network Spring Craft Day on Saturday 4 April 9.45—4.15pm at Priory Methodist Church. For details of workshops and booking form please contact Pam Seymour 305695 or Eileen Davis 215057. Closing date for bookings 23 March.

We are preparing for our annual Churches Together in Bedfordshire Forum 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 would like to go please tell the ministers.

St Mark's Organ Fund. The organ fund at St Mark's has now gone over the £3,500 mark, which is great news. Special thanks to our organists who make donations. If you are having a fundraising event please consider making a donation to this fund.



Please consider using Amazon.com for your shopping needs. Free delivery on orders over £5

Please always log on to Amazon through www.ThisChurch.com. Only if you do this do we get usually 5% of the cost donated to thischurch.com. Please remember that if you go and look at items first without going through our link - we will not get the commission!

Hymn for Sunday

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout Heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And Heav'n's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Let me all Thy love accepting,
Love Thee, ever all my days;
Let me seek Thy kingdom only
And my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory,
Nothing in the world I see.
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,
Thou Thyself hast set me free.

In Thy truth Thou dost direct me
By Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
And Thy grace my need is meeting,
As I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and power on me,
Without measure, full and boundless,
Drawing out my heart to Thee.

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 Men 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.*



Are you on Telecare?

We are extremely grateful to our Telecare Team who give people a telephone call from the church to make sure all is OK. This is a great way for us to keep in touch and find out if there is anything which the church can do to help you in any way. Telephone calls are always made from

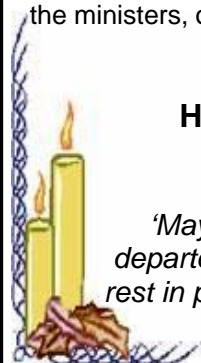
St Mark's Church office and are valued greatly by the Ministers as it help us to know if there is something which we need to know. If you are not already on the list please do consider joining. Just tell Sam or Charlie of or Charlie.

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.

Alice Hart
Hugh (William) Furnell
Jill Nash

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



We publish the banns

and pray for the marriage of Avril Platt and Festus Scott of Bromham Parish and on the electoral roll of this Parish. *This is for the 2nd time of asking*

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Stanley Blunt takes place at Bedford Crematorium 11.30 am, 17 March

The funeral of George Rose will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 27 March