



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

17 April 2011
Palm Sunday



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - The Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart

Intercessions – Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - The Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar

Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

24 April – Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service 6.00am at St Mark's Chapel

9.30 am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher – The Reverend Charles Royden

Leadership – Mrs Jean Bank

Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00 am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - The Reverend Charles Royden

Leadership – Mrs Sam Ware

Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

Readings 1.Acts 10: 34 - 43 2.Colossians 3: 1-4.

3. John 20: 1-18

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 Alan and Diane Bayliss in celebration of their wedding anniversary and with loving memories of their parents.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Milly Rollinson in memory of her parents Hilda and Raymond.

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.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is Good
His love endures for ever

Prayer for This Week

Heavenly Father, You gave your Son, Jesus Christ to show us the Way of justice, truth and peace. Help us hold his example before our eyes, in the way that leads to a better world on earth and eternal life in the Heaven. **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

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The Reverend Charles Royden

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 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. Linda Hoare 782717

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 - Laura Farthing 210892

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 Gordon ☎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—18 April 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.** April 19 'Victorian Dress' Mrs. Gill. 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 April 19 Easter Event. 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 - 27 April 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 April 20 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. Meet again on 28 April. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

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. Meet again on 28 April. 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

7-9pm Tae Kwon Do St Mark's Contact Adrian Felice www.bedfotrdtkd.com or bedfordtkd@googlemail.com.

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council –

St Mark's Leadership Team

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 June

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .26 May

St Mark's Forum Meeting - 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 -

Deanery Meeting - .

Woodland Burial Trustees – 15th May 12.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –

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

Palm Sunday

Opening Sentence from Scripture .- Matthew 21

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Collect Prayer

(Before we read we pray)

True and humble King, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen.



Common Worship Shorter Collect

First Bible Reading — Isaiah 50: 4-9

The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

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

Second Reading - Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Give thanks to the LORD , for he is good; his love endures forever. Let Israel say: "His love endures forever." Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O LORD , save us; O LORD , grant us success. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD .From the house of the LORD we bless you. The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the LORD , for he is good; his love endures forever *(This is the Word of the Lord — Thanks be to God)*

Gospel Reading - Matthew 21: 1-11

(When the Gospel is announced: All: Glory to God our Saviour)

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was

stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." (This is the gospel of Christ - **All : Praise to Christ our Lord.**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ: you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation; give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King to the Glory of God the Father. **Amen**

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

1. All glory laud and honour, 9
2. Make Way, Make Way, 457
3. We cry Hosanna Lord, 725
4. Ride on, ride on in Majesty, 580

Meditation

The Roman historian Josephus, tells us that each year over 1 million people went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover at the time of Christ. That's a lot of people - especially when you think that the population of Jerusalem today is only about 650,000 and in Jesus' time it would be more like 65,000. The place would be heaving, and into all this excitement and fervour Jesus rides slowly into Jerusalem on a donkey. He's just one in a million Jews heading into the city. Yet out of this ordinary act for a Jew, extraordinary things were about to happen, because Jesus was no ordinary Jew. The crowds shout Hosanna 'Save (us)', and waved the fronds of palms, the sign of victory, the sign very familiar to the Roman army. And suddenly Jesus is more than just one in a million. As he rides slowly into Jerusalem He's surrounded by large crowds in front and behind Him, and although He is peacefully riding a placid donkey, it's like an earthquake hits the town. Jerusalem is literally to be shaken to its foundations. There's going to be a spiritual showdown, a confrontation, and all of the physical universe will be shaken to the core. Jesus' Galilean ministry is at an end, and shortly the journey to Jerusalem will be complete. The Messiah, the servant King of Isaiah, rides into town. Jesus, a man of supreme holiness, the perfect Israelite, the one who has come to set all people free has come to fulfil His calling. Sometimes we feel that we're just one person in a million others. We're just an ordinary person living an ordinary life, how can we possibly change the world, or even our small piece of it, or make a difference with our lives? With God, there are no ordinary people, there is no ordinary life, because Jesus was no ordinary Jew and we are no ordinary people. We may feel like we have no influence on the world around us but that's not the case. As we have compassion on those around us, as we speak our ordinary words, as we challenge the things which are not in line with God's will, just as when Jesus rode into Jerusalem, extraordinary things will happen. Now it may be that what we say and what we do won't be as earth shattering as the events of Holy Week were. But it could well be that in doing the ordinary, like taking a bus into town or a donkey into Jerusalem, we suddenly become one in a million for someone else, speaking out God's word and doing His will and shaking the world like an earthquake in our own way.

Commentary

The reading from Isaiah is taken from a section called the third servant song where Israel in exile is rejecting the prophet's message. The people are "weary" of Isaiah's constant preaching and droning on. But he is undeterred, God has given him the word and he will deliver it, even at the cost of personal suffering. In the same way, Jesus' passion was the outcome of His obedient delivery of the message of the kingdom, despite His people's rejection. The passion story in the gospel reading starts with a big parade, with lots of pomp and circumstance, everybody has turned out for the occasion. The disciples were very impressed, and even the Pharisees and the Sadducees realised that they had underestimated this simple Galilean teacher. Seemingly riding on this crest of public approval Jesus went to the temple, the very centre of the Jewish faith, and began to teach and preach. From Sunday to Thursday Jesus was unstoppable. His enemies tried to trick him several times -- but to no avail; each time He turned the tables on them and exposed their treachery. But on the Thursday it all changed. He was betrayed and arrested, and on Friday He was hung on a cross and killed. Today the palms - tomorrow the passion. We all know the taste of Palm Sunday, the sweetness of success and popularity, and we all know too the bitterness of Good Friday, of suffering, failure and rejection. What saves us from an endless round of ups and downs, from events over which we have no control, is our commitment to press forward in obedience to God and trust in God's love which ultimately brings about our Easter mornings. Knowing that the meaning of life is to be found in the knowledge and love of God and obedience to Him, whatever that takes. In our Lent course this year we have been looking at the Trinity, God the Father, creator of

heaven and earth, Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord and the Holy Spirit, God's presence with us today. In the events of Palm Sunday we see this triune God at work, intervening in His creation through His only Son in a way that shakes the foundation of the earth with a power far beyond human comprehension. The time for God's salvation of the world, the cosmos, is drawing near. The Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah is riding into town which, in turn, will set in train a series of events which will eventually lead to His death. Among the gospel writers Matthew alone quotes the passage from Zechariah where we read, 'See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey...' When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, many did not recognise Him as the Messiah they longed for. The crowds asked who it was that had such an impact as He rode into the city. What they were witnessing was not some war lord riding into battle to smash the opposition and take it captive but a radically subverted model of power, exercised in gentleness and compassion which would challenge the systems and structures of the political and religious world, and continue to do so throughout history. They were confused. Jesus proclaimed peace, not war; set people free rather than taking them captive; and restored rather than plundered. It's this subversive, radical power that Christ unleashes on the world through the events of the coming week, and continues through the imperfect, but forgiven and redeemed band of people called the Church. In Matthew the people call Jesus 'the prophet from Nazareth', which He was, but he was not merely one of the long line of Old Testament prophets. Neither was He just preaching social reform, as prophets such as Amos had done to Israel. Jesus was the last emissary from God, bringing with him God's final and decisive word to his people. The word with Matthew uses to describe the turmoil that was happening as Jesus rode into Jerusalem is the word that is used for an earthquake. It is used again at the time of Jesus' death and at His resurrection. All three events pivotal moments of history. We have all seen the devastating power of earthquakes on our television screens recently. The power and energy that is released when two land masses grind into each other as if in some huge geographic collision. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem it was not just the military and religious authorities which were being challenged, the two forces of good and evil were about to come together in a cosmic collision where the power and energy of the God of Creation would be revealed through the events surrounding His Son. From the Passion through Easter and beyond into Pentecost and all time. Just like earthquakes, the aftershocks of that powerful event would continue to be felt for years afterwards, even into eternity. We are all part of that cosmic intervention and part of the events that still continue to shake and shape the world. *Sam Cappleman*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

As we journey this week with Christ and celebrate the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection, let us earnestly pray to God for those following the way of the cross and for all peoples everywhere. Blessed are you, Lord our God, who sent your Son among us to bear the pain and grief of humankind. Receive the prayers we offer this day for all those in need in every place and as we near the holy mountain grant us strength on our journey. Glory to you for ever. **Amen**

O Lord, whose way is perfect, help us always to trust in your goodness, to walk in the way of faith, and to follow in the path of simplicity. Teach us to cast our cares on your providence, that we may possess a quiet mind and a contented spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Holy Father, you have shown us that the brave bearing of the cross is the beginning of wearing your crown: help us by your grace to bear patiently our pains and disappointments, as your beloved Son bore His; and to offer them to you as the pure gift of our faithfulness to our crucified Lord. **Amen**

As on this day we keep the special memory of our Redeemer's entry into the city, so grant O Lord that now and ever, He may triumph in our hearts. Let the King of Glory enter in, and let us lay ourselves and all we are in full and joyful homage before Him, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**
Bishop Moule, 1841-1920

Father God, During Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's Paschal mystery. On this day Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed Him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before Him led to self-giving, suffering and death. Today we greet Him as our king, although we know His crown is thorns and His throne a cross. We follow Him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by the dark road of suffering and death. Unite us with Him in His suffering on the cross; may we share His resurrection and new life. **Amen**

Beds, Essex, Herts Methodist District Women in Britain Network Spring Craft Day on 21st May at Priory Methodist Church 9.45am to 4.30pm. Information and booking forms (to be returned by 7 May) from Pam Seymour tel. 305695.

Maundy Thursday Service 21 April 7.30pm
Our Maundy Thursday Service this year will be in the form of a meal of pate, jacket potatoes and cheese and biscuits (complete with vegetarian options!), to echo the Passover meal, interspersed with traditional readings from the Passover itself. This will then lead into a shortened service of Holy Communion. If you would like to come please let one of the church offices know if you have not already done so in order that we can cater accordingly. If it would be helpful to have a lift to the service please let us know. We look forward to seeing you on Maundy Thursday. are available at each church office.

Messy Church items needed for our Easter session: Thin cardboard tubes as used in 'cling film' or 'kitchen foil'. If you have any between now and 17 April please could you leave them at St Mark's office. Thank you Wendy Waters

Kempston Musical Society Saturday 30th April at Kempston East Methodist Church 7.30pm. Performing Schubert's Mass in G and John Rutter's Feel The Spirit. Do come along and bring a friend. Admission £7.00. For further details tel: Bedford 781010 or e-mail kempstonmusicalsociety@hotmail.com

Chat and Play starts again on Thursday April 28 at 9.45am

Story Box starts again on Thursday April 28 at 12noon. A big thank you to all the volunteers.

St.Mark's Craft Group still has a few Easter novelties left @£1 each. All profits to the church.

Bedford Town Band together with The Vauxhall Male Voice Choir share the concert stage for a very special evening of music and song on Friday 29th April 7.30pm at St. Paul's Church, Bedford. Tickets £8 and £7 (concessions) from Frescoes Coffee House, Mill Street or from the door on concert night.

Churches Together in Bedfordshire Annual Forum. Wednesday 25th May at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Flitwick. Speaker The Rt. Revd Richard Inwood, Bishop of Bedford. Buffet meal from 6.30pm, meeting at 7.30pm.

Guided Spring Walk Putnoe Woods on Saturday

30 April at 2pm. Meet by the information board at the main entrance to the woods. Wear comfortable footwear and dress for the weather. Everyone welcome-free of charge! Also meeting re developing Friends of Putnoe Woods and Mowsbury at The Pheasant Pub Tuesday 19th April 7pm. For more information contact Park Rangers 227363.

A Service of Praise to Celebrate the Life of Charles Wesley on Sunday May 22, 2011 at 6.30pm Putnoe Heights Church. Conducted by Revd Eric Royden

Thank you to the person who has twice left 'gifts' for Isabelle in my drawer in the office. Please make yourself known to me . Thanks Linda Parry.

Easter Offering The theme this year is "Seeds of Life". Envelopes are available in the vestibules at St Marks and Putnoe Heights churches for your use. The money you kindly donate is used in several ways by the World Mission Fund :- for grants for particular requests from Partner Churches. Training and support of Mission Partners as well as for scholarships and leadership training. This work is vital to the on going work of our churches. Please return your filled envelopes on Easter Sunday.



Sunrise Service- There will be a special sunrise service to welcome Easter taken by Rev Dr Sam Cappleman. The service will start at 6.00am at St Mark's Chapel and will be followed by bacon sandwiches.



Please remember to make online purchases through the links on www.thischurch.com
This enables us to receive a percentage of the cost





St Albans Woodland Burial Trust Open Day

Saturday 14 May 2011
2.00pm - 5.00pm

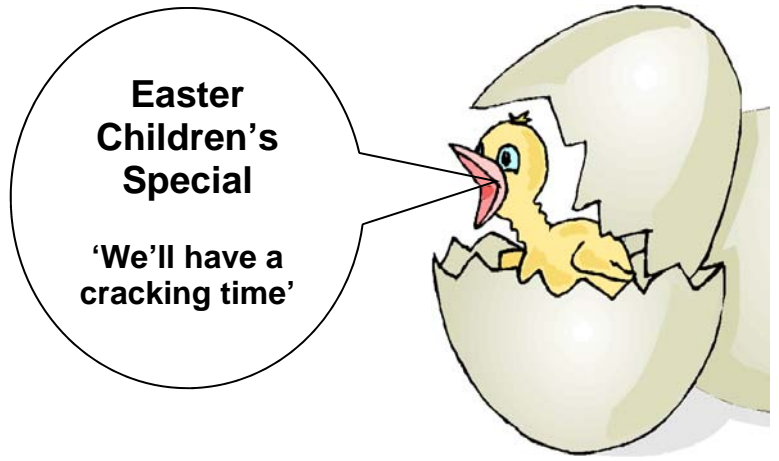
You are invited by the Trustees to a special open day at our woodland, set in 60 acres of beautiful countryside in Keysoe. All the family, including dogs, are welcome to come and refreshments will be provided.

Follow signs to The College
Equestrian Centre, Keysoe.
Directions on our website
www.woodlandburialtrust.com

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust
c/o St Mark's Church Community Centre,
Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY Tel: 01234
342613 office@woodlandburialtrust.com

We provide for environmentally friendly burials or interments of ashes in a beautiful woodland countryside setting. Arrangements also made for reservation of grave space or dedication of trees.

A non-profit making charity No 1118216



A great way for all children to start Easter !

There will be an Easter Children's Special on Good Friday at Putnoe Heights Church with activities including crafts, stories and refreshments. The event is for children aged up to 8 years and will last from 12.15pm to 1.30pm.



Stations of the Cross

Good Friday
22 April

St Mark's Church
9.30am

Putnoe Heights
Church 11.00am

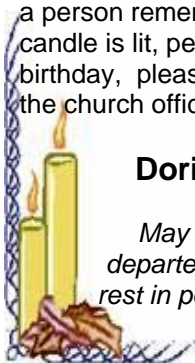
Plaque in the Church of
St Catherine, Bethlehem

This service special is an opportunity to reflect upon events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus and consider the implications for ourselves.

The services will be followed by coffee
and hot cross buns.

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.



Doris Valentine Donaldson

*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 Mr John Crawley will
take place at Bedford Crematorium at
1.45pm on Tuesday 19 April

