



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

22 March 2009

Mothering 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

9.30am St. Mark's – Morning Worship and Baptism of Tommy James Stewart

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

March 29 - Lent 5

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion PCH

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger, Leadership – Mr Mike Cooper, Intercessions – Mrs Delia Shephard

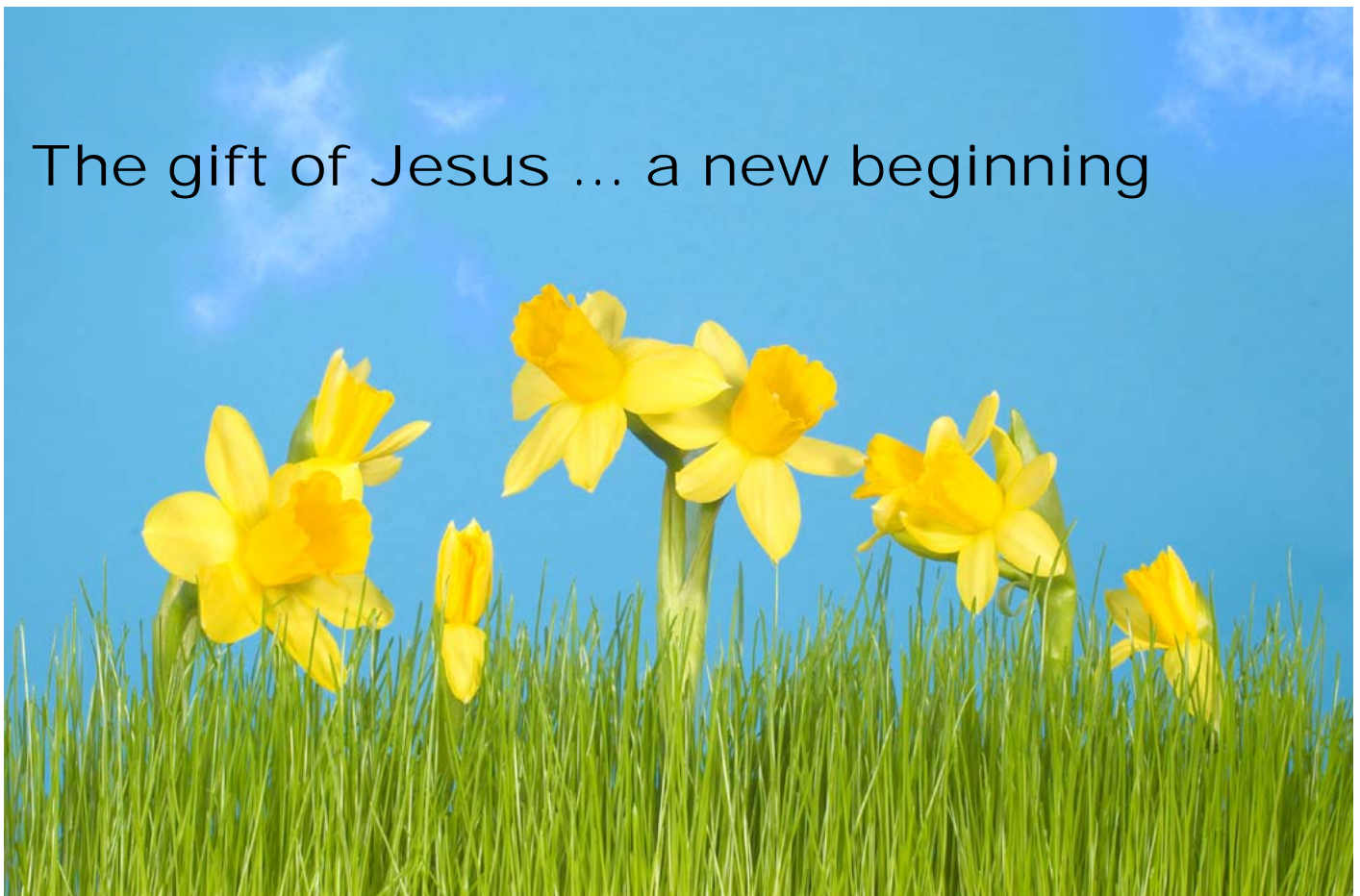
11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion PCH

Preacher –Mr Richard Ledger, Leadership - Mrs Sam Ware, Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

Readings 1 . Jeremiah 31: 31-34 2. Heb 5:5-10 3. John 12: 20-33

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Alan and Margaret Massey in loving remembrance of their mothers, Mabel and Jessie, on this Mothering Sunday.



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 Play reading** 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 30th 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 24 March Mrs L Stafford. Road Victims Trust 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 1 April Everyone welcome. Ring Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312. or Rosemary 405594 for more details

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

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

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

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 -

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.

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –27th April 2009

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



Fourth in Lent—Mothering Sunday

Opening Verse –Psalm 107

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Collect Prayer *Before we read we pray*

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Bible Reading – Exodus 2: 1-10

Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter

went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water"
(Reader: This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1: 3-7

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed

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

Gospel Reading - Luke 2: 33-35

The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

(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

Meditation

In the fourteenth century Julian of Norwich, the first woman to write in modern English, experienced and understood the motherhood of God in her visions. Mothering Sunday is a good day to share

her vision and recognise that although we are distinguished by our gender, God is not. Instead God is both mother and father to us .

‘As truly as God is Father, so just as truly is he our mother.’
Julian of Norwich.

Commentary

Motherhood was not easy for Mary. She was young, inexperienced and unmarried. Her pregnancy was viewed with suspicion. Her baby was born far from home in difficult and dangerous surroundings. When she took her son to the temple, only days old, Simeon’s prophecy for his future was both ominous and exciting. Jesus’ childhood gave her cause for concern and in adulthood, it was clear that his life would become increasingly dangerous and he would be marginalised. Mary had to learn to put her own feelings to one side to support him in his mission. Finally, she suffered the worst thing that can happen to a mother, she had to watch her son die a tortured death.

Mothering Sunday

The two passages from the Gospels this morning are taken from the extreme ends of Jesus’ relationship with his mother, Mary. In the excerpt from Luke we meet Joseph and Mary in the temple celebrating the birth of the first born son, bringing him to be circumscribed according to the rites of their people. It should have been a joyful occasion and they have been greeted by Simeon prophesying Jesus’ greatness and heroic future life. Any parent would have been reeling from shock, even after the extraordinary events that had gone before. But it is Simeon’s prophecy about Mary’s suffering as a result of Jesus’ great calling on which we focus now. The first phrase stresses Jesus’ disruptive, transforming quality “this child is set for the rise and fall of many in Israel” and then says , almost incidentally that a sword would pierce Mary’s heart too. Note that the word chosen to describe the sword isn’t a genteel little dagger but *rhomphaia* meaning a huge battle weapon. This is a deadly weapon bringing death rather than injury and the selection of this word suggests Jesus’ death. The final phrase prophesying that Jesus will bring out the truth about people continues the theme that Jesus will be a catalyst for change, an force for change, a challenge for authority and bigotry down the ages.

The second part of the Gospel reading is taken from when Jesus, as a grown man in his thirties is about to die. We see Mary choosing to watch her son’s suffering, rather than leave him. We see that she waits with her women friends all the long hours when Jesus suffers on the Cross. Jesus displays equal loyalty to her, thinking of her plight as a widow and consigned her into the care of his disciple John. In the sermon today I shall be thinking about what that gesture implies for Jesus’ understanding of what family means, but here we shall notice Jesus’ love and compassion for his mother, and note their mutual loyalty and sense of responsibility for the happiness and well-being of the other. We take these feeling for granted and that is why we are so deeply shocked when the bond between parent and child is wrecked by cruelty, violence or deceit.

Hymns (*Please distribute service sheets and Mission Praise*)

Our Father God in heaven (*on service sheet*), To God be the glory 708, How great the debt we owe (*on service sheet*), Now Thank we all our God 486, How great thou art 506

Prayers for Sunday and week ahead

For mothers. Lord Jesus, you know well the blessing an earthly home can bring: Receive our thanks for all the love we have received in our homes, especially from those who have nurtured us from our earliest years. Hear our prayers for mothers everywhere, that they may never lose heart nor ever be taken for granted, but receive from their children the honour and love you showed to your mother, Mary, even as you were suffering on the Cross. Bless and keep them all, for your love's sake. Amen

For those in need Remember, O Lord, all those in need: people with no good food or proper clothes, no home of their own, or no work to do; those who have neither family nor friends and no knowledge of the your love. Supply their needs. Bless those who try to help them and bring us all to trust in you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

For those who live alone God our Father, we ask you to bless all who live alone, those who have lost their partner in marriage, those who have never married, those whose families are grown up and away from home and those who have outlived other members of their families and many of their friends: We remember also those who have been separated from their mothers through bereavement. Be with them to assure them of your love and of their value to you every moment of their lives, and enable them to rejoice in the fellowship of your Church on earth and in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

For ourselves Loving God - we come before you today aware of how you call us to be like you - remembering that you made us in your own image - that you entrusted to us this world and all that is in it- that you gave to us brothers and sisters - mothers and fathers people to love and to enjoy and to work for and pray for. Help us dear God to remember our own sin before you and how you forgive it - help us to remember the Cross of Christ - and why he died upon it. And make us messengers of your reconciling love, ambassadors for your kingdom, people who show forth your grace, and celebrate with your joy. Amen.

Mothering Sunday

The fourth Sunday in Lent is called Mothering Sunday. There are traditions associated with Mothering Sunday in England which date back as long ago as the 16th century. It is told that this was the day when people were encouraged to return to worship in their 'mother church where they had been baptised. People who usually attended the local parish church, would make a longer journey to the 'mother church' or cathedral of the Diocese. Girls in domestic service would bake to show their mothers their new skills in the form of a gift, traditionally a simnel cake. On this day many girls who were in service were allowed time off from domestic chores to visit their mothers and their family.

Today Mothering Sunday is a popular day when Christians choose to use the occasion to think about all things which concern motherhood. We give thanks for the Church as Mother, the Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus, we remember that God cares for us like a mother and last but not least we give thanks for our own mothers.

Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent and it is a time of special for thanksgiving. Sunday is the one day of joy in Lent, when flowers abound in all churches and when people are allowed a time off from the penitential season. It is also known as Mid-Lent Sunday, Refreshment Sunday or Laetare Sunday. The Latin name of Laetare, means rejoice.

On Mothering Sunday the fasting of Lent was suspended. The special food of Mothering Sunday is the Simnel cake made from fruit cake with two layers of almond paste, one on top and one in the middle. On the cake are traditionally 11 balls of marzipan icing to represent the 11 disciples. Judas lost out for his crime of betrayal of Jesus. The term Simnel is believed to have come from the Latin 'simila' which describes a fine wheat flour, this was used to bake the cakes.

St Marks and Putnoe Heights Lent Course 2009

Title: The Miracles Parables of Jesus

Why did Jesus do miracles? Who were they for? How do we interpret them now? Tuesday 24 March 2009. Coffee served at 7.30 for an 8.00pm start. Leader: Mrs Claire Peck

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 today. 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 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.

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

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.

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

Footprints Walk The next walk, at which all are welcome, is on Sunday, 5 April at 2.30pm. Please meet at the parking area for Felmersham Nature Reserve which is on the left about 200yds past Felmersham Bridge. Stout footwear is essential for this 4-mile walk which will probably be muddy in places. For further details please contact Sue & Richard Butler on Bedford 354183

Coffee Morning on Sat 4 April, 10am to noon at the home of Stephen and Pauline Clare, 35 Brecon Way. Cakes, Raffle. Proceeds to Mission Projects. All Welcome. Requests for/offers of transport to this event, contact Sylvia Cohen 343424



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Music at St Andrew's

St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford
The Old Dance School - Saturday 4 April at 8.00pm
with Jack McNeill and Charlie Heys (BBC Young folk
Award Finalists) The Old Dance School is a young
six-piece folk band who are acclaimed for their
uplifting and innovative performances. Tom
Chapman, a percussionist with the group, is from
Bedford. 2.30pm - Workshop -adults free with a
concert ticket; children free if accompanied by an
adult with a concert ticket; students over 16, £3.00
(including evening concert)

6.30pm - Pre-concert dinner, Church Centre
Concert and Dinner Tickets £14 (£13) (available
from the Church Centre Office only)

8.00pm - Concert Tickets £7 (£6 concessions) from:
St Andrew's Church Centre Office, tel: 01234
216881 Classic Music, tel: 01234 357221
Central Box Office tel: 01234 269519

Friends for Life— an ecumenical project set up to
provide friendship to some of the many people living
in care homes who have few or no visitors. The pilot
scheme in North Bedfordshire is now expanding into
the wider Bedford area. We are recruiting more
volunteers who can give time on a regular basis.
There are places available on the next training day
28 March. Please contact Joanne Barrow if you are
interested and for more information on 213038.

Easter Novelties made by the craft group on sale
at St. Mark's after the morning service today. 80p
and £1. In aid of church funds.

Rotas. The rotas for the next quarter are ready at
both churches. The rota at St Mark's is in draft form
awaiting your alterations.

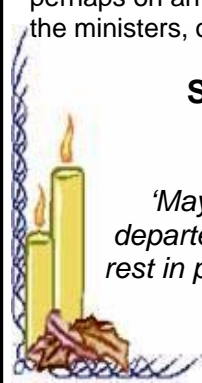
Easter Cards are now available in the churches,
please do take and distribute freely

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.

**Stanley William Blunt
Doris Edwards**

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



St Mark's Church Welcomes

Kempston Musical Society
Saturday 25 April 2009 at 7.30pm

Programme

Magnificat - John Rutter
The Hundredth Psalm - Ralph Vaughan Williams
Soloist - Miranda Doggett
Choral Suite from the Armed 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.*

Annual Congregational Meeting

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

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. *3rd*

Felice Plava and Laura Paula Maria Gibney of this
parish and on the electoral roll of Elstow Abbey *1st*

Forthcoming Funerals

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

**The funeral of Betty Maud
Johnson** will take place at Bedford
Crematorium at 11.30am on
Thursday 26th March

