



# Partnership News

24 March 2013

Putnoe Heights & St Mark's Church  
Palm Sunday



## 8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

### Today 24 March - Palm Sunday

#### 9.30 St Marks – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership - Mrs Jean Bank

Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing

#### 11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership – Mr Gordon Evans

Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

### Sunday 31 March - Easter Day

#### 9.30 St Marks – Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden

Leadership – Mrs Morag Stewart

Intercessions – Mrs Wendy Waters

#### 11.00 am Putnoe – Holy Communion PCH

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden

Leadership – Mrs Jean Kirk

Intercessions – Mrs Sue Allen

**Readings** 1 Acts 10: 34-43 2.1 Corinthians 15: 19-26  
3 John 20: 1-18

**Midweek 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 St Mark's Church this week have been given by Judith and Cliff Stanton to celebrate their Golden Wedding

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have been given by Dorothy Billingham in loving memory of her husband Ridley, and by Jenny Blakely in loving memory of her Mum, Phyl Bland, and friend Ettie Cobleby.

*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*

## Prayer for Sunday

Blessed Lord God, be to us at all times our unending joy, our eternal bliss and our enduring comfort. Be to us light in the darkness, strength in temptation and refreshment in the desert. Grant that being penitent for our sins we may never be separated from you and longing for your face we may behold you in heaven; for your own name's sake. Amen. *Margery Kempe (c.1373-c.1433)*

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

Tel: 266952 nsm@thisischurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a Vice  
President for Hewlett Packard)

### Deacon Jane Mills

c/o Putnoe Heights Church Centre 365630

jane@thisischurch.com

### The Reverend Charles Royden

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisischurch.com

### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator

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.*

### Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Avril Williams 01234 342613

### 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. Jean Kirk 317699

**Treasurer** Mr John Hitt 404186 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

**Gift Aid Administrator** Mr Lawrence Wyatt 350188

**Youth Team Leader** Carolyn Morris youth@thisischurch.com

### St. Mark's Church Centre

**Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5.00pm**

**Tel/fax & Answering Service** 342613 office@thisischurch.com

**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613

**Leadership Team** - Morag Stewart 360103

**Treasurer** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

treasurer@thisischurch.com

**Gift Aid Administrator** Jim Williams 360605

**Partnership News** is sent out by email every Saturday in a colour edition. If you would like to receive a copy please send an email entitled 'Partnership News' to vicar@thisischurch.com. 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.ThisChurch.com

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.15 –3.45 pm Mon and Wed/ 9.15-12.15pm Tues/ Thurs/Fri. Hazeldene Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com)  
Head teacher Mrs Laura Leggett 326685  
**8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
**9.-3.45pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's  
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634**  
(See website for more details)  
**.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 (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Calligraphy** at St Mark's 2nd week (see contact details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Relaxation & Meditation** at St Mark's 1st & 3rd week starting 1st October (see contact details below)  
**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 Carolyn Morris [youth@thischurch.com](mailto:youth@thischurch.com) 365630  
**1.30-2.45pm Chat & Make** For babies and toddlers 0-5. Crafts, toys,songs,story and refreshments £1. More details email– [chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chatandplay@hotmail.co.uk) .  
**2pm U3A Music Appreciation** (see contact details below)  
**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  
**6.15pm-8.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher 07891879571  
**6.30pm Boot Camp** Putnoe Heights – Laura Amor 341152 / 07976259081  
**7.00pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson 353518  
**7.00pm 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– 15 April Judith Stanton. 823313  
**7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567

## Tuesday

**9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston 07790206016  
**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart 365507  
**9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Skinner 07989080389  
**10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley 350704  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** (see contact details below)  
**1pm –2.30pm Drop in Wiggles and Jiggles** 0-5 years, Putnoe Children's Centre. Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552  
**1.15pm U3A Cinema Grp.** St Mark's (contacts details below)  
**1—3pm U3A Choir.** St Mark's (contacts details below)  
**2.00pm U3A Book Group 1** St Mark's (3rd Wk) (see contact details below)

**2.00pm U3A Book Group 2** St Mark's (2nd Wk) (see contact details)  
**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins 356895  
**2pm U3A Photography Group 3** St. Mark's (1st Wk) (contact details below).  
**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.  
**4.00pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468  
**6.15pm Pilates** St Mark's Church Jane Butcher 0789187957  
**7pm—8.30pm Daisy Birthing** Putnoe Heights Susie 07980447390  
**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker 07900 232648  
**6.30pm MT Karate** (all ages) Karen King 07941264885  
**7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory 328455  
**7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** (Meets fortnightly). Next meeting '2 April Easter Thoughts Details Janet King 313946  
**8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers Workshop** St. Mark's 3rd Tuesday in month. Next meeting 26 March Shirley Sadler 01767 651767

## Wednesday

**9am -1pm Machine Knitting** group at Putnoe Heights, fortnightly Changing to Fridays from 5 April (Same time an place.. Contact Marion Sutton 217647  
**9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787 or 07973174430.  
**9.30am Discover & Do** (Childminders) St. Mark's. Clare Simmons 328380 or 07788824666  
**10am-2pm Open House** at St Mark's for those with learning disabilities., their friends, family , carers and supporters 342613.  
**10am U3A Gardening Group 3** St Marks. (contact below)  
**10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.  
**10am U3A Card Making,** St Marks (see contact details below)  
**10am U3A Diet and Nutrition-** Putnoe (contact below)  
**11.15am U3A Keep Fit**  
**12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe fortnightly. Next meeting 27 March at Putnoe Heights Office 365630  
**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights (Fortnightly)  
**1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes 261811  
**2.00-4.00pm U3A Craft** St Marks.(see contact details below)  
**2.00pm Fifty Plus Keep Fit** Mrs Webster 856966  
**2pm U3A Gilbert and Sullivan**  
**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster 856966  
**3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's (3rd Wk). for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. Next meeting 20th March Wendy Waters 401834  
**4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698  
**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's. Mrs C Warden 219731  
**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. Sylvia Woods 365095

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** Putnoe monthly Mrs O Holt 266004

**7.00pm Line Dancing** Putnoe Mike Del-Boyer 348378

**8.00pm Badminton Club** Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott 214867

**8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be 3 April Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Rosemary 405594 or Graham 406359 for more details.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's 1st week in the month. Jean Ross 771870

### 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 term time group for Mums & toddlers.0-5 Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

**110-11.30am Gentle Yoga** For more details contact Helen Nicholson Tel.03003004305

**12pm Storybox .** St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Jaana Swaby 363283

**1.30 - 3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Thursdays** St. Mark's 267444

**1pm—2.30pm Drop in (small hall) Next Steps** 9-24months Putnoe Children's Centre.Please call Trudy Hamilton (centre assistant) for more information 340552.

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

**2pm U3A Current Affairs** - Putnoe Heights

**2-4pm U3A Indoor Games.** St.Mark's (contact below)

**2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society** St Mark's Mary Rich 272470

**5.00pm Weightwatchers.** St. Mark's. Clare Martin 07805408811.

**6.15pm Brownies.** Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins .

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Nina Ovenden 825059

**7pm U3A Folk & Poetry** St Marks (2nd and 4th week) (see contact details below)

**7.15pm Putnoe Art Group** Bob Wardale 406094

**7.00pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's 3rd week in month. Carol Plant 01832710504

**7.30pm Gentle Birthing** St Mark's. Pat Wood 07946 847231 (as from 4th April)

**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 825574 or Shirley 01767 651767

**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 Pat Cass 294220

**8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group** St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month Kay Logan 01234 309105.

### Friday

**10am -12.00 U3A Photography** St Marks.(4th week) (see contact details below)

**10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French** St. Marks (see contact details below)

**2.00-4.00 pm U3A Whist** St Marks. (contact details below)

**2pm U3A Italian**-Putnoe Heights (contact details below)

**2pm U3A Gardening** - Putnoe Heights

4.50pm-8.15pm Stars School of Dance Esther Richardson 295862 or 07917582468

**6.00-7.00pm Zumba at St Mark's.** Contact Denise Worker (07900 232648

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

**7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club.**St Marks(2nd week) 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

**6.45pm 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

**10am—5.30pm Bedford Stamp Fayre.** 1st Sunday Feb/ Apr/Jun/Aug /Oct/Dec. Contact P Harris 01623 621143

**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.

**7-9pm Tae Kwon Do** St Mark's Adrian Felice www.bedfordtkd.com 07964356355

### Messy Church Dates

Weds 20 March; Weds 17 April; Weds 17 May;  
Weds 19 June; Weds 18 Sept; Weds 16 Oct;  
Weds 20 Nov, Weds

**U3A** For information on the U3A groups meeting at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church please contact Yvonne Francis ☎405119

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** – 10 April, 11 June

**St Mark's Leadership Team** -

**Annual Congregational Meetings** 28 April 2013

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** - 3 June

**Putnoe Heights Management Meeting**

**Putnoe Church Council** - 10 June, 24 Oct

**Pastoral Group Meeting** -

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Brickhill Parish Council Meetings** -

**Commemoration Service** Sunday 3 November 6.30pm

**Circuit meeting** -

**Deanery Meeting** -

**Woodland Burial Trustees**— AGM —Sunday 9 June

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Meeting** –

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

# Palm Sunday

## Introductory Sentence - Matthew 21:9

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

## Collect Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



## First Reading — Isaiah Chapter 50:4-9a

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? (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 - Luke 19: 28-40

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'" Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They replied, "The Lord needs it." They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." (This is the word of the Lord— **Thanks be to God**)

**Post Communion Prayer** Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Hymns** *(Please distribute Mission Praise and Palm Sunday service sheets)*

1. All glory laud and honour, MP 9
2. We cry Hosanna Lord, MP 725
3. Make way, make way, MP 457
4. Crown Him with many crowns, MP 109
5. Ride on, ride on in majesty, MP 580

## **Commentary**

Luke surrounds the wonderful pageant of Jesus' mounted descent from the Mount of Olives and ascent to Jerusalem with pain. It is hard to trivialise the scene with shallow triumphalism. Jesus' statement of intent was clear for all to see if they had eyes to see it. The crowd, for Luke, is no longer a populist throng, but disciples who are beginning to understand why this baby was born and why he must die. They cry out - and should they be silenced the stones around would cry out in their stead.

The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem marked the real beginning of the way of the cross for him. Although his life had been edging that way for some time, Palm Sunday was the beginning of the final count-down to the events of Easter. His manner of entry was carefully chosen. Perhaps He was making a statement about being one of the people, ordinary, yet very different. Riding on a donkey, not a horse. Different enough to make a calculated entry into the city, an entry designed to announce his arrival to the world. This mode of entry chosen by Jesus perhaps foreshadowed his act at the Last Supper, of washing the disciples' feet, the act which showed the servant nature of this particular leader. It demonstrated the great gospel paradox that strength is made perfect in weakness.

What must Jesus have thought when He saw the crowds and their actions when He rode into Jerusalem. The Jews in the crowd would have also been familiar with the writings from Kings (2 Ki 13 v 9) where the Israelites had laid their cloaks on the steps for Jehu after he had been crowned as King by Elisha. The Jews in the crowd that welcomed Jesus would know what they were doing. And 200 years before Jesus rode into Jerusalem, Judas Maccabaeus, when had overcome the pagan armies oppressing Israel, had been greeted by crowds waving palm branches as he rode into the city. The Jews in the crowd knew what they were doing. They even sang royal chants, 'Hosanna to the Son of David'. David has made Jerusalem his capital over 1000 years earlier. Everything that the crowd did gave the message to the authorities loud and clear. Here is another king riding into Jerusalem, another all-conquering king, like Judas Maccabaeus or Jehu, would sort out those who oppressed Israel, this time once and for all. Jesus was coming into the city, His city, not to be enthroned as David, or in great glory as Judas Maccabaeus, but to be killed.

He knew it, perhaps the disciples feared it, but the crowds appeared to be oblivious to what was about to happen. Many in the crowd would be deeply disappointed and disillusioned over the next few days – things would not turn out as they expected. They wanted God to act in a way they wanted. They wanted to be in control and God's not like that - for them or for us. Cosmic powers were at work and for the next few days they would be observers and spectators, not the main actors on the stage, or even the directors making things happen. The people wanted a prophet and a prophet came – but they did not recognise Him. The people wanted a Messiah and a Messiah came – but they did not recognise Him. The people wanted to be rescued from evil powers and oppression – and Jesus did just that but they did not recognise it.

The crowd were disappointed, but only superficially. Once they understood the fullness of Christ unfolding over the days, weeks, months and years ahead they would realise that their prayers had been royally answered. Ironically, their praise was indeed justified, but not for the reasons they expected. By way of His entry into Jerusalem, Jesus lays down a challenge to the authorities, and the authorities have to respond. The people who lined the streets of Jerusalem to cheer for Jesus on Sunday were silent by Friday. They expected a triumphant king but found instead a powerless prisoner. The exuberance and celebration of the entry is followed by the pain of Jesus' unjust trial, the cries for crucifixion and His death on the cross. The authorities had acted. A Palm to Passion tragedy? Or would God intervene to bring about a happy ending? He did, through the resurrection and ascension. An ending that was the beginning of new life. An

ending that saw Lordship and Kingship in servant hood, His strength made perfect in weakness, and an ending that saw our weakness made perfect in His strength. An ending that revealed why the baby was born and why He had to die for each one of us. An ending which revealed why we worship the Servant King. It's not a tragedy. For God hears our cries of 'Hosanna' (Save us!) yet forgives our metaphorical shouts of 'crucify' each time we turn away from Him and go our own way. We cry Hosanna today, what are the words on our lips when the Good Friday's come in our lives? *Sam Cappleman*

### **Meditation**

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem looks like a real celebration. The people who know - the disciples, not the crowds, as in the other gospels - praise God for the miracles they have seen. They have seen the deeds of liberation which Jesus announced in his home synagogue. Their acclamation includes, as in the other gospels, the allusion to our reading from the Psalms this morning, Ps 118 v 26, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'. But Luke adds: 'the king'. We are not to forget the kings! Previous kings, especially Archelaus had not brought peace. Here is the real king who would bring real peace. 'Peace in heaven and glory in the highest' (Lk 19 v 38). We are transported back to the time of Jesus' birth and the hillside where the shepherds heard the cry, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among people of his favour' (Lk 2 v 14). The kings of the earth had brought no peace. The people of Jerusalem refused the way of peace. Jesus offered the way to peace. Peace hailed as heavenly is also peace made for earth. By recalling this scene Luke is recovering for us the cries for liberation among God's favoured people, Israel, and all who belong to her.

### **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

#### **The Lent Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, lamenting our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Jesus, poor, unknown and despised, have mercy on us, and let us not be ashamed to follow you. Jesus, accused, and wrongfully condemned, teach us to bear insults patiently, and let us not seek our own glory. Jesus, crowned with thorns and hailed in derision; buffeted, overwhelmed with injuries, griefs and humiliations; Jesus hanging on the accursed tree, bowing the head, giving up the ghost, have mercy upon us, and conform our whole lives to you spirit. **Amen**

*Adapted from John Wesley*

Teach us, O God, so to use this season of Lent that we may be drawn closer to our Lord, and in fellowship with Him may learn to hate sin, to overcome temptation, and to grow in holiness that our lives may be strengthened for your service and used for your glory. We ask this in Christ's name. **Amen**

Holy Father, you have shown us that the brave bearing of your 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 a pure gift of our faithfulness to our crucified Lord. **Amen**

God our saviour, who's Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die, let these palms be for us signs of His victory; and grant that we who bear them in His name may ever hail Him as our King, and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**

May the cross of the Son of God, who is mightier than all the powers of evil, abide with you in your going out and your coming in; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**St. Mark's Craft Stall** Last few Easter novelties will be on sale today at £1 each, after the morning service. All profits to the church

### **Children's Easter Arrangements 2013**

At Putnoe Heights Church Friday 29 March Children's & Youth Good Friday Special Putnoe Heights Church. 12.15pm to 1.30pm £1.00 Donation per child Easter Story, Crafts & Light Refreshments

**St Mark's Church Council** This will now take place on Wednesday 10 April at 7.30pm in the Chapel.

**Church Annual Congregational Meeting** will take place after church services on Sunday 28 April. 10.30am St Mark's and 12 noon Putnoe All are invited to attend.

**Partnership Passover Remembrance Meal with Holy Communion.** Maundy Thursday 28 March 7.30pm at Putnoe Heights. A worship service which combines the festival of Passover with a two course meal and Holy Communion. A collection will be taken to cover catering costs. Please add your name to the list (in welcome area at either church) if you would like to come..

**Easter Offering 2013** Envelopes will be in the foyer on Palm Sunday for your use. Please give generously and return your envelope with enclosed contribution on Easter Sunday. With the enlarged circuit there are 2 venues for the Dedication Services to be held in May, and the theme will be Beyond the Harbour Wall.

**Easter Cards** with an Easter Message and invitation to our services are now available for you to take and deliver in your road or to people who may be interested. for our services.

**St Mark's Preschool** are saving Sainsbury tokens. If anyone has unwanted tokens they would be delighted to have them. There is a box out during Pre-school hours or you can give them to Janet Day or hand them in at the office. Thank you very much.

**First Boot Sale of the Year—Monday 1 April** Any unwanted bric-a-brac, books, tools, jewellery, coins etc greatly appreciated. Tray bakes for the refreshments will also be very welcome. Many thanks

**Hilda Hicks** 90th birthday celebration 9th March 2013. Hilda and daughter Linda would like to thank everyone who attended the above event. Thanks especially for the gifts, cards, love and just being there. You all made it a very happy and memorable occasion.

**Friends for Life** are holding a Charity Quiz Night at the White Horse, Newnham Avenue on Wednesday, 3rd April. The cost is £5 per person and will include a buffet and prizes. If you would like to join us with a team of up to 6 people or donate a raffle prize please Contact us via the website; [www.friendsforlifebedford.org.uk](http://www.friendsforlifebedford.org.uk) or ring Joanne Barrow on 01234 213038.

**Telecare.** From time to time people go into hospital, or are not able to come to church because they are poorly and we don't get to know about it. Please help us keep in touch by registering for Telecare. One of our pastoral team will call every fortnight to just make sure all is well. This is an important part of pastoral care and it is especially important if you are one of our 'senior' church members. We can then ensure that you get a visit if you want one and copies of Partnership News etc.



We have a few items left of **Jennie Cooper's** hand work, they will be on display at Putnoe Heights On Sunday 24th March. If you would like to see them any other time please contact Jenny Snelson Bedford 344417.

**Spring Fayre—Arthritis Research UK**—a Spring Fayre will be held on Saturday 6th April from 10am to 12 noon at Biddenham Village Hall, Nodder's Way. Sales will include cakes and preserves, gifts, local honey, cards, books, toys, paintings, new and nearly-new clothes, bric-a-brac etc. There will be a tombola and competition and children's activities. You can sit and chat with friends over light refreshments. Admission is 50p (accompanied children free) so do come along and bring friends to support this very worthwhile cause. **MARIAN GODDARD—Hon. Secretary—Bedford Branch Arthritis Research UK** Tel. 01234 344617

**Putnoe Heights Church** will be holding a Table top sale on Saturday 20th April 10am to 12.30. light refreshments. for further details please email [youth@thisischurch.com](mailto:youth@thisischurch.com) or speak to Carolyn Morris or Jenny Snelson

**Footprints Walk** The next walk is on Sunday April 7th. It will start at 2.30 (note the later start time) from the Town Square Car Park in Olney. Parking in Olney can be difficult so please arrive in good time. The walk will take about 1 1/2 hours and includes water meadows which could be muddy so please wear appropriate footwear. Leaders:- Sylvia 343424, Martin & Sue 954102

**Methodist Women in Britain.** District Craft Day on Saturday 18th May at Priory Methodist Church, Bedford from 9.45am to 4.30pm. There are 13 different workshops and everyone is welcome to attend. Hot and cold drinks are provided but please bring your own lunch. The cost is £4 per half day session and please book early as places are limited. Closing date for bookings is 9th May. Booking form and details of workshops are available from Pam Seymour 01234 305695 email-[pams@tgis.co.uk](mailto:pams@tgis.co.uk) or Ruth Watkins 01296 485087

### Stay Safe and Say No To Callers

There has been a recent spate of 'cold calling' in the Borough, particularly around Brickhill. Affected consumers have claimed that 'builders' were pressurising them into agreeing to have building work carried out on their home. It has also been alleged that the completed works have been of poor quality. Agreeing to pay for any service on the basis of a door step visit is extremely risky and you are strongly advised not to do this. You can use traders on the Trading Standards Approved list. If you think you may have been the victim of doorstep crime or would like further advice, please contact Environmental Health & Trading Standards on the Citizens Advice consumer helpline 08454 04 05 06.

**Visit To St Albans Cathedral** Charlie will be installed as an Honorary canon of St Albans Cathedral on Saturday 27 April at 4.00pm. You are all invited and welcomed to the service. However we do need to tell the cathedral how many people might be expected. If you would like to come please telephone either church office or send an email.

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## Easter Services

### Palm Sunday Family Service

Sunday 24 March at 11.00am

### Palm Sunday Family Service

Sunday 24 March at 9.30am

### Good Friday Service

Friday 29 March at 11.00am

Stations of the Cross, (with coffee & hot cross buns!)

### Good Friday Service

Friday 29 March at 9.30am

Stations of the Cross, (with coffee & hot cross buns!)

### Good Friday Children's Storybox

12.15pm - 1.30pm for all children

Crafts, stories, Easter activities and refreshments

### Good Friday Children's Storybox

12.15pm - 1.30pm for all children - at Putnoe Heights

Crafts, stories, Easter activities and refreshments

### Easter Day

Sunrise Holy Communion 6.00am (at St Mark's Church)

8.30am Holy Communion

Family Communion 11.00am

### Easter Day

Sunrise Holy Communion 6.00am

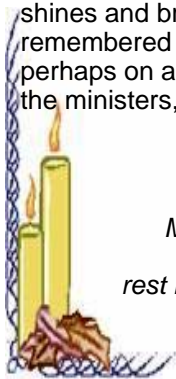
Family Communion 9.30am

### 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.

### Eileen Tarr

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



### Forthcoming Funerals

Please remember these families and friends in your prayers.



There are no funerals this week