



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

29 March 2009

5th Sunday of Lent



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's –

Holy Communion with PCH

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

11.00am Putnoe Heights –

Holy Communion with PCH

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

Palm Sunday - April 5

9.30am St Mark's - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership – Mr Mike Cooper
Intercessions – Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00am Putnoe Heights –Family Worship

Preacher –Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership -
Intercessions -

Readings 1 .Isaiah 50: 4-9a 2.Psalm 118: 1-2,
19-29 3. Mark 11: 1-11

Thank You

The Flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by John and Janet Day to celebrate their Ruby Wedding.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Jenny Blakey in memory of her Mum, Phyl Bland and dear friend, Ettie Cobley.

Also by Dorothy Billingham in memory of her husband Ridley.

A Prayer for Sunday

Lord of light - Shine on us
Lord of peace - dwell in us
Lord of might - succour us
Lord of love - enfold us
Lord of wisdom - enlighten us
Then, Lord, let us go out
as your witnesses,
in obedience to your command;
to share the good news
of your mighty love for us
in the gift of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861
vicar@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349
youth@thisischurch.com

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

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

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mr Kellie ☎ 721063
- 10.30am U3A 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 31 March Dr. Jane Preston 'The Franciscan Association'. 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.
- 6.30pm Creative CARD making. Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton 346718
- 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
- 7.30pm Chartered Management Institute** St Marks 3rd week. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Meeting 7 April 'Decorate an Easter egg'. Details from Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

- 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 1 April 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. . Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Line Dancing– Putnoe Heights—Mike Del-Boyer 348378

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎ Loxley 347073

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

8.00pm 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

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation at PH. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994

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

9.45am Bedford Stamp Auction at Putnoe Heights Next Auction 30th May. Contact Stuart or Anne 01327 876438

11.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights.

Next Meeting 18th April 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

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 ☎



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 3.30pm

Putnoe Heights Mission Group

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 2 April

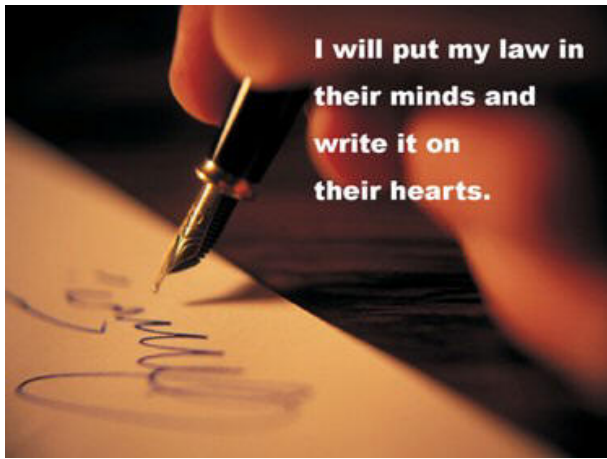
Deanery Meeting 18 Jun, 17 Sep, 19 Nov,

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.



Fifth Sunday in Lent

Opening Verse –Psalm 51:10

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me

Collect Prayer *Before we read we pray*

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Bible Reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, " declares the LORD.

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

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

Second Reading - Hebrews 5:5-10

So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek

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

Gospel Reading - John 12:20-33 **All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

(Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ– **All: Praise to Christ our Lord**)

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

Commentary

Jeremiah's prophesy in the Old Testament reading is fulfilled with the coming of Jesus. With Jesus there in person people can see and understand what God is like and with God's Spirit poured into their hearts after Pentecost the new and intimate relationship with God becomes a reality for all.

After Jesus had cleansed the temple Greeks came seeking him and it is as if he catches sight of the future when all nations will come and all people of all nations will give Glory to God and worship him. What a glorious vision! But at the same time, Jesus recognises that his own finger is on the button that will make it possible. He is only too aware of what it involves - the agony he must suffer, and his humanity shrinks from it. He battles, he really does, with the instinct we all have to preserve ourselves and avoid pain. Being God's Son didn't mean it was all an easy ride for him!

But love triumphs and Jesus surrenders everything to the will and glory of God. He chose to go through hell, giving up everything including his life, so that we could be set free to live. This is how William Barclay sums it all up:

"It was Jesus' claim that, when he was lifted up, He would draw all men unto Him. There are some who take this to refer to the Ascension, and who think that it means that when Jesus was exalted in His risen power, He would draw all men unto Him. But that is far from the truth. Jesus was referring to His Cross—and the people knew it. And once again – inevitably – they were moved to incredulous astonishment. How could anyone possibly connect the Son of Man and a Cross? Was not the Son of Man the invincible leader at the head of the irresistible armies of heaven? What had the Son of Man and a cross to do with each other? Was not the Kingdom of the Son of Man to last for ever? "His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." (*Daniel 7: 14*).

Was it not said of the prince of the golden age: My servant David shall be their prince for ever?" (*Ezekiel 37: 25*) Had Isaiah not said of the ruler of the new world: "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end"? (*Isaiah 9: 7*). Did the Psalmist not sing of this endless kingdom? "Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations" (*Psalm 89: 4*)

The Jews connected the Son of Man with an everlasting kingdom, and here was He, who claimed to be the Son of Man, talking about being lifted up upon a Cross. Who was this Son of Man, whose Kingdom was to end before it had begun? But the whole lesson of history is that Jesus was right. It was on the magnet of the Cross that Jesus pinned His hopes. And Jesus was right because love will live long after might and power and force is dead. *Richard Ledger*

Meditation HE WAS A GAMBLER TOO.....

And, sitting down, they watched Him there,
The soldiers did;
There, while they played with dice,
He made his sacrifice,
And died upon the Cross to rid
God's world of sin.
He was a gambler too, my Christ,
He took His life and threw
It for a world redeemed.
And ere His agony was done,
Before the westering sun went down,
Crowning that day with its crimson crown,
He knew that He had won.
G.A. Studdert Kennedy



Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion, Prayer for Christian Healing and Mission Praise*)

1. Praise to the Holiest in the Height 563
2. From Heaven you came 162
3. We sing the praise of him who died 738
4. May the mind of Christ my Saviour 463

Prayers for Sunday and week ahead

My dearest Lord,
be thou a bright flame before me,
be thou a guiding star above me,
be thou a smooth path beneath me,
be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
today and for evermore. *St Columba (521—597)*

Grant, most gracious God, that we may love and seek you always and everywhere, above all things, and for your sake, in the life present and at length find you and forever hold you fast in the life to come. Grant this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thomas Bradwardine (1290—1349)

Almighty God, and most merciful Father, who has given us a new commandment that we should love one another, give us also the grace that we may fulfil it. Make us gentle, courteous and forbearing. Direct our lives so that we may look each to the good of the other in word and deed. And hallow all our friendships by the blessing of your Spirit, for his sake who loved us and gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bishop Westcott (1825—1901)

O Lord, who for our sake did endure the bitterness of death and despise the shame and in your cross and passion did draw all men unto yourself: kindle in our hearts the vision of your love and shed abroad the light of your victory in the darkness of the world; who now lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit and are loved, worshipped and adored, world without end. Amen.

Frederick B. Macnutt (1873—1949)

Churches challenge G20 leaders on real leadership

Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Church leaders have challenged the G20 heads of government, meeting in London next week, to show real leadership and ensure that solutions to the current economic crisis lead to action on global warming. They want the G20 nations to grasp the opportunity for investment in new technology, which will save energy and reduce carbon output. In particular, they are urging the richer nations to agree generous support for developing countries, so they can afford the initiatives they need to take. The three Churches have already urged the European Union to adopt stronger measures on global warming. Some European leaders have resisted any further burden on industries at this time and have argued that the priority should be on restoring growth. The Church leaders say, in a globalised world, if growth is to be 'green', countries must make binding commitments. One key area could be emission targets for new cars, as a condition of manufacturers obtaining state support.

In a joint statement, they add: "The health of any economy cannot be measured solely on economic indicators such as growth, debt and employment. Climate change has the potential to disadvantage millions in the developed world and in developing nations. The G20 leaders must not allow the economic crisis to divert us from tackling this challenge. This is precisely the right time to be making concrete commitments on low-carbon growth."

Senior representatives of the Churches attended an ecumenical service at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, immediately before the summit on Saturday 28 March and joined the march from Victoria Embankment to the rally at Hyde Park.

A G20 prayer resource has been made available on the Diocesan website and can be downloaded from our own church website

The following is set for consideration today March, Rise Up, The Church Worldwide

Thought What does the financial crisis tell us about the values at the core of our global systems and structures? As the Church we have the blueprint for a world based on its creator's values: on mercy, justice and humility. Do we not have a responsibility to raise a voice and reach out a hand so that our world better reflects his model?

Pray For God's people worldwide: that they might persuasively speak out, clearly demonstrate, and earnestly pray for a world more pleasing to its creator.

Bible "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8 NIV).

How can we as God's people help create a world based on these values?

St Marks and Putnoe Heights Lent Course 2009

Title: The Passion of Jesus

Tuesday 31 March 2009. Coffee served at 7.30 for an 8.00pm start. Leader: Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

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.

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.

House Group April 2009 Wendy Waters will be holding a house group at 13 Farnham Way, Putnoe at 7.45 pm on Mondays 20th, 27th, April and 11th and 18th 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. There is space for a few more people, so if you are interested in being part of the group or for more details please contact Wendy Waters on 401834.

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 will 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 can 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.

'Gathering on the Green' a community event for young people on Thursday 16 April from 11—4pm on Waveney Green. Free activities - Bouncy Castle, Rave Bus, Climbing Tower, Hair & Nail Art, Face painting, Indian Drumming etc. Everyone Welcome.

Footprints Walk The next walk, at which all are welcome, is on Sunday, 5th 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

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.

An evening with Carlo Curley, the world famous American concert organist, entitled "Pulling Out The Stops" will take place on Saturday 12th September 2009, at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Felmersham. Entry is by ticket only £12 (no concessions) with allocated seating. Light refreshments will be available during the interval, and in addition there will be the chance to purchase a tape or CD of one of Carlo's performances.

There will be a video screen to enable the audience to catch a glimpse of Carlo's "flying" hands and feet. For further details of booking, seating plan and map, please visit www.felmersham.net/carlo.htm To book allocated seating (with payment by cheque): Ken or Lorraine Shrimpton 01234 781381 (with payment by credit card): Central Box Office, Bedford 01234 269519

Churches Together In Bedfordshire Annual Forum. Thursday 14 May 7.30pm at The Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pope Close, Flitwick. Speaker Revd Dr David Cornick, General Secretary of Churches Together in England.

Wesley Owen Bookshop is suffering from the economic downturn and will be closed Mondays. They are looking for volunteers to help run the shop. Details from the church office at St Mark's

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

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,

The Methodist Church Easter Offering envelopes
are provided for you this year by Women's Network.
This enables funding for grants for Partner Churches
overseas as well as other projects in Britain. Please
give your generous support and return your
envelope on Easter Day. Margaret Standley



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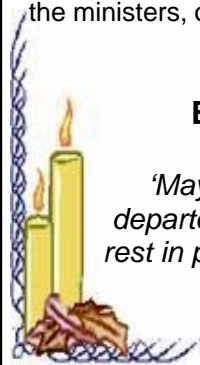
You can now also buy gift vouchers !

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.

George Rose
Betty Maud Johnson

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



We publish the banns for

Felice Plava and Laura Paula Maria Gibney of this
parish and on the electoral roll of Elstow Abbey
2nd time of asking

Forthcoming Funerals



The funeral of Sylvia Daniels will take
place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday
3rd April at 2.30p.m.

The funeral of Edith Margaret Jermy
will take place at Bedford Crematorium
on Thursday 7 April at 1.45pm

The funeral of Mr Max Tanfield will take place at
St Mark's Church on Thursday 7 April at 1.45pm