



Methodist
Church

Partnership New

2 March 2008

4th of Lent - Mothering Sunday



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday
on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights Church. On the 2nd & 4th Sunday at St Mark's

9.30am St Mark's –Family Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions– Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe - Family Worship with the Baptism of Verity Faith Robinson
Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions -Ministers

9th March

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship
Preacher - Richard Wycherley
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions –Mr Richard Ledger

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship
Preacher – Richard Wycherley
Leadership Team –Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

Bible Readings.

1.Ezekial 37: 1-14 2. Romans 8:6-11
3.John 11:1-45

Thank You

The flowers in the church at St Mark's this week have been given by Brian Sallows in memory of his mother Beatrice.

The flowers at Putnoe have been given by Alan and Margaret Massey in loving memory of their mothers, Mabel and Jessie.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

Be to us, O Lord Jesus Christ,
the table set for all,
the inextinguishable light of the saints,
the sun shining in our midst
and the joy and grace of your people;
now and for ever.
Amen.

Symeon the New Theologian, 949-1022

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 Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)
30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

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 9am—5pm Monday to Friday
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Spelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr Alan Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604
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 Wedy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs L Parry 216724 Mob 07922053740
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr 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 Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school

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.

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C 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

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

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 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 ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

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 each month. Next meeting 17 March Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

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 on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 4th March 'Memories of schooldays' Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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 of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting March 11th -Quiz. Easter Bonnet Competition. .Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

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 5 March 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

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

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎400584

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

6.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095

7.00pm Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month.

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. Next meeting 5 March 2008
Graham ☎406359 or Danny ☎401668.

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

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the
quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424
*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the
information table.*

9.40am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-
school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play weekly at St.Mark's. A group for
Mums & toddlers. £1.75 for first child. More details from St.
Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30pm-3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic. St. Mark's ☎267444

12pm Storybox weekly at 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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson☎
325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph
☎01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's
Mr C Hill ☎772922

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights
Nina Ovenden☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th
week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc.at Putnoe bi
monthly Mrs.E. marriot 303834

7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club St Mark's Mr P
Housden ☎376597

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's
3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week
each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th
week Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next
meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

**9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography
Group** St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning
Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

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 –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm
Improvers** St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

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

7pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.

Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January.
Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

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

1.30pm 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

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us
for fellowship, fun, games & outings .Next meeting 10
February Liz ☎302349

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 17th June ,
18 November

St Mark's Leadership Team – 7th April,13 May

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – May 12th

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee –
21st April

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings ., 14th
April and 14th July.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 11th March .
5 May, 11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at 12
noon

Putnoe Church Council - 16 June,6 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee - 11 June

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –Weds 26th
March, 7.30 at 14 Flint Way

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting - 12 June, 18 September,13
November

Circuit Meeting - 10 March , 12 June

Woodland Burial Trustees - Sunday 6th April 2008
in the Wren Room at 3.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–

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

4th Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday

Opening Verse - Isaiah 66.13

As a mother comforts a child so will I comfort you,
says the Lord.

Collect Prayer for the Day

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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



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." (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort. (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Third 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— **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Service sheets, also baptism at Putnoe)

1. Morning has broken **635**

2. Give thanks with a grateful heart **On Partnership News**

3. Lord of all hopefulness **552**

4. Be thou my vision **378**

5. O for a thousand tongues **744**

Commentary

The Old Testament reading today isn't just about Moses' mother. It is about mothering- the qualities that make up maternal love. And from the story of Moses we can see that he wasn't given just one mother but blessed with the love of three motherly women: his birth mother, his extraordinarily brave and resourceful sister and the warm-hearted Egyptian princess. These three women literally saved his life and put him on the path to becoming the saviour of his people. The story is a heart-warming one. Moses's birth mother showed great courage and wisdom in allowing her son to be given away and put into danger in the shallows of the Nile. Moses's sister, Miriam, was quick, alert, ready of wit and passionately concerned for her little brother's survival. The character of the princess is interesting and it is sad that we know so little about her. Did she already have a husband and children? Was she childless? We do not know anything about her except that she felt compassion for the crying baby in the bulrushes and gave him a home and an education.

I feel very strongly that we should not assign special place to people that happen to have given birth! Many of the best mothers I know have never had children of their own, but they do have that special desire to nurture and protect which is the best kind of maternal feeling. The story of Moses and his three mothers reminds us on Mothering Sunday that the day is not just a celebration of mums (although we all had one)! The day is a chance to reflect on maternal feelings and how, at their very best, they can tell us about how God loves us. Isaiah the prophet wrote

"As a mother comforts a child so will I comfort you, says the Lord." (Isaiah 66.13)

This view of God as being tenderly aware of our needs is a good counter-balance to the portrait of God as angry and stern, as is, in some places, described by the prophets. *Joan Crossley*

Meditation

I can remember when our children were small feeling terribly sorry for the parents of other babies. "How sad", we used to think, that their children are so plain, unattractive and unintelligent compared to ours. My husband and I knew for sure that ours were the most lovely, clever and gorgeous children ever born! And we are still quite sure of that fact. We speak of our God as "loving father" and address him every week as "our Father". Why then do we persist in thinking that God looks at us only to shake his head and criticize us? What if, what if, God looks at us with the same delight and joy that we look at our own beloved ones? What if, when God contemplates our lives, he doesn't feel carping and depressed? What if God thinks we are wonderful, marvellously made in his image? We know that when God made the world he looked at it and saw that it was very good. We also know that in Jesus God became fully human and knows our weaknesses and failings. What if he loves us with the perfect tolerance and forgiveness that we would wish to show as parents? If we don't believe in a God who is far better and more loving than the best human being, than our estimation of His grace and love is limited indeed.

Joan Crossley

Prayers for Sunday and week ahead

Prayer to St Paul. "So you, Lord God, are the great mother. The both of you are mothers. Even if you are fathers, you are also mothers. For you have brought it about that those who are born to death should be reborn to life – you by your own act, you by his power." St Anselm

Dear Lord, as I open my eyes on another day, please accompany me on my way. Please grant me understanding and encourage me to do your will, so that when evening falls again you may grant me rest and quietness. Amen

Hymn 2 Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks, because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks, because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich,
because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich,
because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks, because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks, because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich,
because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich,
because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks. (*Finish*)

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.



Simnel cake is a light fruit cake, similar to a Christmas cake, covered in marzipan, and eaten at Easter. A layer of marzipan or almond paste is also baked into the middle of the cake. On the top of the cake, around the edge, are eleven marzipan balls to represent the true apostles of Jesus; Judas is omitted. In some variations Christ is also represented, by a ball placed at the centre. The cake is made from these ingredients: white flour, sugar, butter, eggs, fragrant spices, dried fruits, zest and candied peel. Simnel is probably derived from the Latin word *simila*, meaning fine, wheaten flour with which the cakes were made.

Thank You

Our special thanks to all of those who have assisted in preparing our churches and our worship this morning. We are grateful to those who have given their time to make ready the floral tributes to be presented this Mothering Sunday.

Kempston Musical Society are hosting a bring and sing performance of Olivet to Calvary on Saturday 8th March at Kempston East Methodist Church. All singers are invited to join, some copies are available. Rehearsal 4.30pm, tea 6pm, performance 7.30pm. Total cost £5. For more details ring 01234 854858.

St Mark's Church Preschool are collecting Tesco and Sainsbury vouchers again. Please hand in to the office.

Why knit for Charity? The projects supported by Feed The Children are mostly in Africa, but we have also provided emergency aid in places like Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Africa is a huge continent, and the communities we support enjoy variable weather with cold as well as hot seasons. In areas with little cloud, the heat of the day is intense, but at night the temperatures can drop by several degrees. This is when undernourished or ill babies and small children are most vulnerable; they can easily die from hypothermia overnight. Mother Teresa Group meets alternative Tuesdays 2.30 - 4.15pm. Our next meeting is 11th March. We knit jumpers and squares for blankets; wool and needles provided. Join us for tea, biscuits and a chat.

Climate Change Please take time to look at the display at the back of the church at St Mark's. Feel free to make any comments / suggestions as to what we can do as a church.

St Mark's Organ Fund. We have been advised that the organ requires replacement and so an organ fund has been established. It currently stands at £460. This is increased on a regular basis by adding organists fees which are donated back to the church by many of our organists. We are very grateful to them.

Lunch Club at Putnoe Heights would like to set up a list of drivers who could be called upon occasionally when regular drivers are unavailable due to holiday absence etc. If you could help in this way, please inform the Putnoe Church Office.

Easter Cards are available today at St Mark's, please do use them to invite friends to church

A Huge thank you to Judith Stanton and the supporters of her Whist Drive, for their recent donation of £130. We are so grateful for their support throughout the year.

Putnoe Heights Church Easter Cards are now available for delivery. Please pick up from welcome area and sign against roads taken.

Lent 2008

Our Lent Course started with an introduction to the history of Israel, prophecy and a look at Amos. Some of the notes for the first session can now be found on our website.

Wednesday 5 March

Sam Cappleman

Daniel, Zechariah, Haggai & Malachi, A view from exile and the end of the beginning

Wednesday 12 March

Bishop Christopher-Prophecy today

St Mark's Coffee Shop

Sunday 1.30pm - 4pm

Don't forget to come along and enjoy great teas, where else can you get great teas and coffee with a piece of homemade cake, all for £1 ! Thank You!

Telecare

Telecare volunteers serve the church in helping us care for each other. They telephone church folks on a regular basis just to check up how things are going and share a friendly message.



Occasionally they are able to alert the ministers to somebody who is poorly or who is going to hospital. The Ministers are very grateful for this support which helps them to know that there is a pastoral safety net. Those who register for Telecare are encouraged to know that the ministry of caring for one another is considered to be at the heart of what it means to be a church. If you have not already done so please register by telling one of the ministers - *Thank you*

Service of Holy Communion at Sir William Harpur House on the first Monday of every month at 10.00am, led by Charles Royden. Everybody is invited to attend, not just residents. Next Service March 3rd.

Storybox at St. Mark's really need volunteers to help with catering and assistance with setting up and clearing away. If we can get enough people it would only mean once every 4-6 weeks on a Thursday from 11-1.15pm. Emma would also like a few more storytellers. If you can help please contact Emma Strangwick 211070) or talk to Linda Parry or Janet Day

Can you face paint ? We are looking for help at the Partnership Children's Good Friday event. Please see or ring Liz. 302349

Partnership Children's Good Friday Special. This fantastic Easter event usually welcomes between 80 and 100 children with their carers between 12.15 and 1.30 at Putnoe. If you think you can help out with welcoming, craft activities, refreshments or furniture moving, please contact Liz or Joan. We are also having an Easter colouring competition with judging at the Good Friday special, 4 classes, under 5's, 6-10yrs, 11-18yrs and adults! Amazing prizes !! please see Liz for entry sheet

Hazeldene Heights Preschool. Come & share in the activities with the children in our Preschool at Putnoe Heights. Please talk to Linda Hoar if you can spare a few hours each month or would like to know more about the group. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Linda Hoar 782717

Overnight stay in Theatreland? Small studio flat for overnight stays close to Covent Garden. Sleeps two. £80 per night. Phone Bedford 346820

Bark It is that time of year again when it is great to start sorting out the garden. So we have ensured a ready supply of bark to furnish your borders. Available from St Mark's, we appreciate a donation of about 50p a bag.

Daffodil Day Monday 3rd March at Central Hall Westminster. 1.40pm for a 2pm start. There will be a coach leaving from Kempston or Ampthill, cost £10. To book please contact Corinne Thomas on 1525 403936.

Footprints Sunday 9th March

"Peter's Walk" Meet for a light lunch at Putnoe Heights after morning service (bring walking gear to church). Drive to Flitwick for 3 mile walk starting at 2.15, exploring Flitwick Moor. Parking at Folly Farm off Maulden Road. Donations invited from walkers and well-wishers for St John's Moggerhanger in memory of Peter Beswick. Further details from Sue Allen or Eddie Peck.

Women's World Day of Prayer - Friday 7th March 2008 2pm in The Miracle Church. Speaker Revd Jacqueline Owens from Oakley Methodist Church. 7.30pm Priory Methodist Church. Speaker: Revd Monica Robinson. Asst Curate. St Andrews Church. All Welcome

Diocesan Quota. We have received thanks from the St Albans Diocese for the payment £38,595 as our Diocesan Quota. This money is used to pay for Anglican Ministry costs. Thank you to members of both churches for their generosity in helping us to meet this financial obligation. We are especially grateful to those who have recently increased standing order and direct debits to help us to meet our rising costs. *Ian Farthing*



Wedding

We publish the banns and pray for Andrew Paul Godfrey and Lisa Victoria Sledge. This is the first time of asking.

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

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



Rest in Peace

The funeral of Rosina Caroline Bingham will take place on Wednesday 5th March at 11.30 am at Bedford Crematorium. *(Crossley)*

The funeral of Beatrice Sallows will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 3 March at 3.15pm *(Royden)*