



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

3rd April 2011

Mothering Sunday



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

St Mark's - Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership – Mrs Margaret Appleton
Intercessions – Mr Ian Farthing

11.00 am Putnoe - Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership - Mr Gordon Evans
Intercessions - YPF

10 April –5th Sunday in Lent

9.30 am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Rev Charles Royden
Leadership –Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions – Mr Richard Ledger

11.00 am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Rev Charles Royden
Leadership –Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions –Mrs Claire Peck

Readings 1. Isaiah 43: 1-7
2..Colossians 3: 12-17
3. John 3: 13-17

Midweek Worship Holy Communion at St Mark's
Chapel every Wednesday at 10.00am and at Sir William
Harpur House on first Monday of every month at 10.00am

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week
have been given by John and Sally Gunning in
celebration of their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been
given by John and Janet Day in loving memory of
their mums, Joan and Marie.

Baptism

Today on Mothering Sunday we especially
welcome the families of Annabel Ada Old (St
Mark's) and Chloe Allen (Putnoe Heights)

Prayer for This Week

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

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

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

Deacon Jane Mason

12 Hartop Close, Bedford MK41 8HE
348091 Mobile 07807 146535
jane@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden

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For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in
Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website
and may appear in other local media sources.

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm, Friday 9am - 1pm
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Geoff Gypps 365630 mob 07947 902846
Leadership Team Mrs Samantha Ware 304058
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator John Hitt 404186
Youth Worker Emma Gordon email - 07593266091
youth@thisischurch.com

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

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

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.15 –3.45 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school.** See website for more details www.ThisChurch.com
Head teacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685
- 8.30-5.30pm Pre-school** Mon-Fri St Mark's
- 9.30-3.15pm Top Marks** Mon-Fri St Mark's
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 9.45am - Body Control Pilates** –Putnoe Heights
Stephanie Smith ☎ 357787 or 07973174430
- 10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group.** St Mark's Mrs Berry ☎211955
- 10.30am U3A Play reading** St Mark's J Birks ☎219607
- 12.15pm Story box** Putnoe Heights We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12.15 and 1.15 for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Contact Emma Gordon ☎07593266091
- 2pm U3A Music Appreciation** - Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting Contact Linda Reed ☎ 216623
- 3.30pm Storybox Plus** Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year olds. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then until 5pm stories, drama, singing & craft activities.
- 4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham ☎843747 or 07881730747
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎01767699399 or 07720713738.
- 6.15 Pilates** at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859
- 7.15pm Fit for Life Yoga** - Putnoe Heights Contact Jane Butcher ☎07891879571
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** St Mark's 1st week Pat Nicholson ☎353518
- 7.30pm Cancer Care Society.** St Mark's. 1st Week. Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020
- 7.15pm Guides.** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting—18 April Judith Stanton. ☎823313
- 7.30pm House group** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.
- 8pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

- 9.30am Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Renu Elston ☎07790296016
- 9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Pat McCart ☎365507
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World** St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223
- 10am Autism Beds Adult Support Group.** St Mark's. Sally Cripsley ☎350704
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit Putnoe Heights** for the less mobile. Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 1.15pm Toddlers Playtime/Sing & Stomp** - Putnoe Heights for toddlers and their carers. Run by Putnoe Childre's Centre Trudy Hamilton ☎340552
- 1.30pm U3A Cinema Group.** St Mark's 4th Week in month . Mrs Beaumont ☎261461

- 2.00pm U3A Book Group.** St Mark's 3rd Week Mrs Forrest ☎344043
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2.00pm U3A Music Appreciation** fortnightly. Contact Mrs Reed ☎216623
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Contact John Farish ☎ 824984
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** No Meeting on April 5 Rev. Sam Cappleman For more details contact Betty Wyatt ☎350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Fortnightly . Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225
- 2.15pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.
- 3.45pm-6.15pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Richardson ☎295862 or 07917582468.
- 6.30pm Creative Card making.** Putnoe Heights Church. Carol Houghton ☎346718
- 6.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights Veronica Lafferty ☎781466 or 07788750360
- 7pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455
- 7pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885
- 7.30pm Hearts in Beds. Cardiac Support Group** 1st Tuesday in the month at St Mark's. Brian Ibberson ☎403497
- 7pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Sacha Ojo ☎07590597891 or www.tabernacleoftruth.co.uk
- 7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 5 April Age Concern. For more details call Janet King 313946
- 8.15pm - 10.15pm Bedford Advanced Dancers** St. Mark's 1st Tuesday in month. Shirley Sadler ☎01767 651767

Wednesday

- 9.30am Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787 or 07973174430.
- 9.00am Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.
- 10.00am Holy Communion.** St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am U3A Card Making,** St Mark's Church. 4th week in the month. Janet Fitch 838689
- 12.30pm Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next - 13 April Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630
- 1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .
- 1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811
- 1.45 Scots Society Whist** Putnoe monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr ☎268147
- 2-5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179
- 1.30-4.30pm U3A Craft St Mark's** 1st & 3rd week. Pat Holland ☎262823
- 2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966
- 3.45.- 5.30pm Messy Church.** St Mark's for children of lower school age and their carers. Bible-based story, crafts, singing and a meal. 3rd Wednesday in the month.. Wendy Waters 401834
- 4.15pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha

Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden
☎219731

6.00pm Shooting Stars. Youth Group for 9-13yrs at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 26 January.

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138 or 07910835994.

6-8pm Karate. St Mark's Karen King ☎079412 64885

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. Vanessa Aykac 268098 or 07917385987

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley ☎347073

7.00pm Line Dancing Putnoe Heights Mike Del-Boyer ☎348378

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

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club meet at St Mark's 1st,3rd & 5th Wednesday in month. Next meeting will be April 6 2011 Everyone welcome. All dances called, only £1 including refreshments. Ring Graham 406359 or Rosemary 405594 for more details.

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

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights. Valerie Capon ☎356306 .

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

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. Jo Garner 400071 or 07719670624

11am-12noon Citizens Advice Bureau Putnoe Heights.

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

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293

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

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

2-4pm U3A Indoor Games St Mark's Contact Radmila Dancer ☎404811

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Art Society at St Mark's. Malcolm Smith ☎400741

4 - 7.00pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer. ☎349179

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Lou Watkins

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd week in month. Pauline Lynham ☎01525 714517

8 –10pm Bedford Folk dancers (formerly Barn dancers) Meet weekly at Putnoe Heights . Different guest callers each week. All welcome, cost £2 Including refreshments. More details Ron Law 825574.

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

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Ladies Group St Mark's 1st and 3rd week in month. Julia Nicholson ☎353642

Friday

9.30-12.30pm U3A Photography (Group 1) St Marks 4th week in month Val Scrivener ☎346397

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

10am - 12 & 1.15 - 3.15pm U3A Beginners French St Mark's Joyce Fields ☎353086

12.15pm U3A Photography (Group 2). St Mark's 4th week in month. Sue Butler ☎354183

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

5-8pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Richardson ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

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

7.45 - 10.45pm Bedford Astrology Club. St. Mark's. Carol Brown ☎01438 233385

Saturday

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

Young Embroiderers bi monthly Putnoe Heights Terry Fletcher ☎357198

2.15pm Society of Recorder Players at Putnoe Heights. G Parry ☎01462 674792

7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

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



Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –

Annual General Meeting 10 April 2011

St Mark's Leadership Team

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 6 June

Putnoe Heights Management Meeting - .26 May

St Mark's Forum Meeting - 10 May, 13 July

Putnoe Church Council - 13 June –7.30pm

Pastoral Group Meeting - 14th June

Churchyard Committee - 19th May –11.15am

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Circuit meeting -

Deanery Meeting - .

Woodland Burial Trustees – 15th May 12.30pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth – 4th April, 1.30pm

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday

Opening Sentence from Scripture — Psalm 107

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

Collect Prayer for Mothering Sunday

(Before we read we pray)

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth: strengthen us each day, that in joy and sorrow we may know your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** *(Methodist Worship)*



First Bible Reading — Isaiah 43: 1-7

But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honoured in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Colossians 3: 12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (This is the Word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - John 3: 14-21

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (This is the Word of the Lord —**Thanks be to God**)

Hymns *(Please distribute Service sheets, baptism booklets and Hymns and Psalms)*

1. For the Beauty of the Earth — 333
2. Give me joy in my heart — 492
3. Love Divine — 267 *(Tune; Blaenwern)*
4. Father in Heaven — on Partnership News *(Tune - Bunessan)*
5. Now thank we all our God — 566 *(Tune - Nun Danket)*

Commentary

Isaiah 43 verses 1-7 are a message of reassurance to God's people. There is no mention of any thing they had done wrong—but God is in charge. He had created them and made them part of his family: He was active in delivering them from danger. The gospel reading takes this further and tells us that God loved the world—everyone without exception—with such an immense love that he gave His only Son, Jesus, to give us new life. God takes the initiative—not to condemn or judge—but to bring us into a close relationship with himself. And if we are in such a relationship we are called, so the Colossians reading says, to make Christ present in the world by showing qualities “that reduce or eliminate friction; ready sympathy, a generous spirit, a humble disposition, willingness to make concessions, patience, forbearance.” (C.F.D.Moule, 1968) Forgiven by God, we should forgive; loved by God, we should love. Just imagine the impact in families and in our world if we did actually do that—or at least tried to !

Richard Ledger

Meditation

A Fault in the Design?

When God was creating mothers, he was deep in his sixth day of overtime. An angel appeared and said, 'You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one.' And God answered, 'Look at the requirement on this order and you'll understand why. She has to be completely washable but not plastic. Have 180 movable parts, each one replaceable. Run on black coffee and leftovers. Have a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair. And have six pairs of hands.'

The angel shook her head, 'Six pairs of hands? That's not possible even for you, O God.' 'It's not the hands that are causing me problems,' replied the LORD. 'It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers are supposed to have.' 'Are the three pairs of eyes supposed to be on the standard model?' asked the angel. The Lord nodded gravely. 'One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, "What are you kids doing in there?" - even though she already knows. Another pair in the back of her head that sees what she's not supposed to see but what she has to know about. And of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he does something really silly and reflect, "I understand and I love you," even though she doesn't utter a word.'

'Lord,' said the angel gently, 'get some rest. Tomorrow....try again.' 'I can't,' said the Lord. 'I'm so close to creating something so similar to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick, can feed a family of six on three hundred grams of mince, and get a nine year old to stay under a shower for an incredible two minutes.'

The angel circled the model of the mother very slowly and sighed, 'It's much too soft dear God.' 'Soft, yes, but tough too,' said the Lord excitedly. 'You cannot imagine what the mother can do or endure.' 'Can it think?' asked the angel. 'Not only think,' said the Creator, 'it can also reason and compromise.' Finally the angel bent over and ran her fingers across the cheek. 'There's a leak,' she said suddenly. 'I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model. You can't ignore the stress factor.'

The Lord moved in for a closer look and gently lifted the drop of moisture to his finger where it glistened and sparkled in the light. 'It's not a leak,' God said. 'It's a tear.' The angel looked puzzled, 'A tear? What's that for?' 'It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, compassion, pain, loneliness, and pride.' 'You are a genius,' said the angel rapturously. The Lord looked somber and said, 'I didn't put it there.'

From the book 'Gatherings' by Bronwen Wild. The reading "And God created Mothers" by Erma Bombeck is on p18.

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

I thank you, O God, for the pleasures you have given me through my senses; for the glory of thunder, for the mystery of music, the singing of birds and the laughter of children. I thank you for the sweetness of flowers and the scent of hay. Truly, O Lord, the earth is full of your riches!

After Edward King, nineteenth century.

In thy journeys to and fro, God direct thee;
In thy happiness and pleasure, God bless thee;
In care, anxiety or trouble, God sustain thee;
In peril and in danger, God protect thee.

Timothy Olufosoye, Nigeria

Father of all, the child born for us is the Saviour of the world. May he who has made us your children welcome us into your kingdom, where he is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. Amen
Canadian Book of Alternative Services, p 276

O God, as truly as you are our father, so just as truly you are our mother. We thank you, God our Father, for your strength and goodness. We thank you, God our Mother, for the closeness of your caring. O God, we thank you for the great love you have for each one of us. Amen
Mother Julian of Norwich (c. 1342-1415)

Thank you, Lord, for our mothers. We remember today their loving care, and their ceaseless love for us. May we show them by our gifts, our words and our actions that we love them and care about them.

Father we thank you for the family of the church. Thank you for those who are true mothers within our Christian family. May they know your blessing and strength as they care for others.

God of intimacy, you surround us with friends and family to cherish and to challenge. May we so give and receive caring in the details of our lives that we also remain faithful to your greater demands, through Jesus Christ. Amen *All Desires Known.*

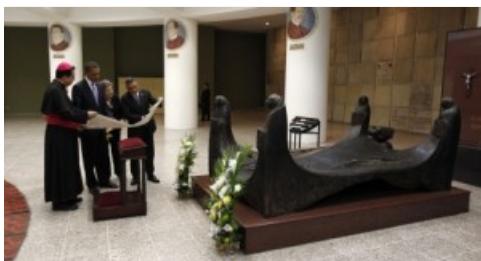
Hymn for Mothering Sunday

Father in heaven,
Thank you for mothers,
Loving and caring
All the day long;
Thank you for fathers
Working to feed us,
Mothers and fathers
Loving and strong.

Thank you for Mary,
'Blest among women';
She whom you chose
To mother your Son;
Pattern of goodness,
Trust and obedience,
Help us to love you
As she has done.

Guardian of truth.
The church is our Mother;
Telling for Jesus,
Agent of grace,
Filled with his spirit,
Making us brothers.
Joining his people
In every place.

Parents and children
Praise God together.
Praise for our homes
And all that he gives;
May we serve others
As serving Jesus,
Make every home
The place where he lives.



Archbishop Oscar Romero

On President Obama's recent trip to Latin America, he visited the tomb of Archbishop Oscar Romero in San Salvador. Romero is a national hero of El Salvador,

and his life is celebrated throughout the country. On March 23, 1980, Archbishop Romero made the following appeal to the men of the armed forces:

"Brothers, you came from our own people. You are killing your own brothers. Any human order to kill must be subordinate to the law of God, which says, 'Thou shalt not kill'. No soldier is obliged to obey an order contrary to the law of God. No one has to obey an immoral law. It is high time you obeyed your consciences rather than sinful orders. The church cannot remain silent before such an abomination. ...In the name of God, in the name of this suffering people whose cry rises to heaven more loudly each day, I implore you, I beg you, I order you: stop the repression"

The day following this speech, Archbishop Romero was murdered, he was shot while celebrating Holy Communion in the hospital which had been his home since his enthronement in 1977.

He demanded peace, a peace that could only be found in human rights and assurances of basic dignities. He informed the world about all the people who had been tortured, slaughtered, and of those who had "disappeared" in his country, El Salvador. He told the truth, but like many great leaders who have fought for truth, Romero was assassinated. A single bullet transformed him into a martyr. His life was taken, but his voice could not be silenced. Romero became a beacon of hope in a country ravaged by poverty, injustice, and sorrow. As with many Central American countries, El Salvador was a national security state, a country where the military is accountable to no one and the people are defenseless against tyranny and oppression. There was no peace. In the face of this injustice, Romero took it upon himself to use the Church as a light of hope and to challenge the oppressors."

Christian Basics. There will be a series of three Lent talks at Putnoe Heights Church thinking about the basics of the Christian faith as expressed in the Apostles Creed. I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Refreshments will be served from 7.30pm with each session starting at 8.00pm and lasting one hour. Since the series will look at the foundation of Christian belief it would be particularly helpful for anybody who is considering confirmation. Please speak with one of the ministers if you would like to consider this.

I believe in the Holy Spirit

Thursday 7 April by Deacon Jane Mason

St Mark's says a big thank you to Liz Jackson who is retiring from Preschool after 22 years with our little ones. She will be greatly missed.

Footprints Walking Group. Sunday 10 April. 2.30pm start. Meet at the war memorial in the centre of Olney for 3 mile circular walk along the water meadows to Clifton Reynes. leaders - Margaret and Eddy.

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

Spring Fayre - Arthritis Research UK A spring fayre will be held, as part of the Charity's 75th Anniversary, on Saturday 16th April from 10am to 12noon at Biddenham Village Hall, Nodder's Way. Sales will include cakes and preserves, gifts, plants, cards, books, paintings, toiletries, bric-a-brac, etc. There will be a tombola and competition. You can sit and chat with friends over light refreshments. A genuine street organ will be displayed and demonstrated by it's owner. Admission is 50p (accompanied children free) so do come along and bring friends to mark this special year. Marion Goddard tel. 01234 344617.

Kempston Musical Society are performing Faure's Requiem on Saturday 9 April 7.30pm at Priory Methodist Church Newnham Avenue Bedford. In aid of Cancer Research UK. Admission £5.00 on the door.

Maundy Thursday Service April 21 7.30pm Our Maundy Thursday Service at Putnoe this year will incorporate a simple meal in the context of a Holy Communion Service to echo the Passover. We will not be selling tickets but it would be useful to have some idea of numbers so that the catering team can plan accordingly. If you would like to come to this service please could you

let the office know at either Putnoe or St Mark's

Switching to digital TV - If you are aged 75 or over the Help Scheme is here to assist you switch to digital TV by providing equipment and practical support. Call free on 0800 40 85 900 or go to helpscheme.co.uk

St. Mark's Card/Bookstall. The selection of cards available at present is limited due to the closure of the Living Oasis shop in St. Loyes (formerly Wesley Owen). Alternative sources are being explored and a new selection will be made available as soon as possible.

Church Annual Congregational Meetings

These will be held on April 10 after church services once everybody has had their coffee . Everybody is welcome to attend

St Mark's Church 10.30am

Putnoe Heights Church 12 Noon

Nomination forms for Church Councils are available at each church office.

King's Arms Hike for the Homeless Saturday 14th May 2011. We are organising a charity walk. You can do the whole 17.5 miles or just one of the stages. For more details & online registration visit:www.hikeforthehomeless.org.uk or call 01234 350900. Working in Bedford since 1989 we provide a range of services for the homeless including an 18-bed Nightshelter, a 14-bed hostel, Onward Floating Support, a Rough Sleepers Outreach Service and a weekly drop-in meal. We support approx 350 homeless and disadvantaged people each year and our vision is to '*see lives transform*'

Stage One 4.5 Miles Priory Country Park, Bedford to Barford Bridge. The route passes Danish Camp (2.75 miles), an ideal short stage for families with young children (5.5 miles there & back cycle & pushchair friendly)

Stage Two 6.5 Miles Barford Bridge to Wilden Village Hall. Lunch stop at Wilden with free tea coffee & cold drinks available.

Stage Three 6.5 Miles Wilden Village Hall to Priory Country Park. The last lap back to Bedford through Renhold and across Castle Mill Lock.

Lena and Alan Cooper would like to thank you all for the cards, flowers and messages they received from Putnoe Heights and St Mark's on celebrating there 60th wedding anniversary.

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



St Albans Woodland Burial Trust Open Day

Saturday 14 May 2011
2.00pm - 5.00pm

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

Follow signs to The College Equestrian Centre, Keysoe.

Directions on our website
www.woodlandburialtrust.com

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

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

A non-profit making charity No 1118216

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.

Easter Children's Special

'We'll have a cracking time'



A great way for all children to start Easter !

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



Stations of the Cross

**Good Friday
22 April**

**St Mark's Church
9.30am**

**Putnoe Heights
Church 11.00am**

Plaque in the Church of St Catherine, Bethlehem

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

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

Forthcoming Funerals

There are no funerals this week

