



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

5th April 2009

Palm Sunday



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

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

9.30am St. Mark's –Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Linda Parry
Intercessions - Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership—Mrs Jean Kirk
Intercessions –Dr Tim Wilkes

Easter Sunday - April

6.00am St Mark's Sunrise Service

9.30am St Mark's - Family Holy Communion

Preacher— Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr Mike Cooper
Intercessions – Mrs Alison Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights –Family Holy Communion

Preacher –Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Readings 1 Acts 10: 34-43.2.1 Cor 15: 1-11
3. Mark 16: 1-8

Thank You

The Flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Mick and Wendy Ovenden to celebrate the 100th birthday of Florence Ovenden.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Valerie Parker in memory of her husband Bill, and by Veta Hudson-Rae to celebrate the birthday of her husband Alvin, children Christopher and Johanne, and grandson Joshua.

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 Jennie Cooper 404950(Putnoe Heights) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

A Prayer for Sunday

Give us love, O God, in our thinking and our speaking; love in all our doings and love in the hidden places of our souls; help us to love our neighbours; show us how to love those we find hard to bear and those who find it hard to bear with us; reveal your love in our joys and our sorrows; in our life and in our death; now and for ever. Amen

William Temple, 1881-1944

Partnership Easter Services This week

Maundy Thursday Service

Holy Communion at 7.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church

Good Friday Service Stations of the Cross — Followed by Hot Cross Buns

9.30am at St Mark's Church 11.00am at Putnoe Heights Church

Good Friday Storybox

12 noon for all children 3-8 years

Crafts, stories, Easter activities and refreshments

Easter Day

Sunrise Holy Communion 6.00am at St Mark's Church

Family Holy Communion 9.30am at St Mark's Church 11.00am at Putnoe Heights Church



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 ☎ 357787 or 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 Putnoe Heights** 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 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 ☎ 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 Denise Green ☎244970
- 7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's 3rd & 5th week . Next meeting 20 April 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
- 11.15am U3A Keep Fit** Sally Banks ☎ 870357
- 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. Morag Tomkins ☎356895
- 2pm U3A Photography** (Group 3) St Mark's 1st Week. Janet King ☎313946
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship.** Next meeting 7 April 'Journey to Jerusalem' Rev. Martin Hounsfield. 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
- 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 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 ☎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 Sewing & Chat.** Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966
- Luncheon Club.** Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 15 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** Putnoe 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 Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice Loxley☎ 347073

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

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 15 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. (No meeting on 9th April)

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Denise Green ☎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 Caroline Morgan ☎07786508351

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

7.15pm Putnoe Art Group Bob Wardale ☎406094

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

5pm 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 Putnoe Heights. Racheall Monton 297138 or 07910835994

6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Art Society monthly Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 1st May Mary Rich ☎272470

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

Saturday

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

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

Young Embroiders bi monthly Putnoe Heights 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. 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 -

Deanery Meeting 18 Jun, 17 Sep, 19 Nov,

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees –

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth –27th April 2009

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



Palm Sunday

Opening Verse –Matthew 21:9

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

Collect Prayer *Before we read we pray*

True and humble King, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading – Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

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

Second Reading - Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let Israel say: "His love endures forever." Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

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

Gospel Reading - Mark 11: 1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted. "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest!" Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ: you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation; give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King to the Glory of God the Father. Amen

Commentary

Jesus' passion was the outcome of His obedient delivery of the message of the kingdom, despite His people's rejection. The passion story in the gospel reading starts with Jesus riding into Jerusalem amid the crowds, everybody, it seemed, has turned up for the occasion of the Passover and many were there waving the palm fronds as Jesus rode in. The disciples were very impressed, and even the Pharisees and the Sadducees were beginning to realise that perhaps they had underestimated this simple Galilean teacher as word of His teaching and miracles reached them. And just as Solomon had ridden into Jerusalem as a King and gone to the Temple he had build, so Jesus rides in and goes to the Temple, the very centre of the Jewish faith, and began to teach and preach. It was an up and down ride. As Jesus rode into town people sang His praises. Many looked on in admiration as He turned over the tables of the money changers in the Temple. But it all changed. A few short days later He was betrayed and arrested, and on Friday He was hung on a cross and killed. Today the palms - tomorrow the passion. The Romans wanted Him out of the way because He represented a political threat and undermined the concept as Caesar being King and a god. The Jews wanted Him out of the way because of the disruption He was causing in religious circles and His claim to be the Messiah. Both parties disliked Him because He criticised their duplicity and errant ways. But both were most afraid of the power that He seemed to wield, however gently. Power over the growing crowds of followers who seemed to hang on His every word and deed. Power over sickness as He healed the many sick and infirm who came to Him. Power over creation itself, as he calmed the wind and the waves. Whilst they may have not recognised Him as the Messiah, they could clearly see that Jesus was no ordinary person and things had to be stopped before they got seriously out of hand.

In our Lent course this year we have been looking at the teaching, parable, miracles and passion of Jesus. All are inextricably linked to the Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. Jesus lived out what He taught, challenged the Jews and the Jewish authorities with many parables, especially the parable of the vineyard. He confirmed that he was the Messiah through the miracles He performed and His acknowledgement of the role God had given Him, all of which led Him to enter Jerusalem when He did in the manner in which He did. Jesus Himself was the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecy which focused on the coming Messiah. His entry into Jerusalem echoes one of the Psalms which was used at every Passover, Psalm 118, where loud Hosannas are cried. Matthew quotes the passage from Zechariah, 'See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey...' But when Jesus rode into Jerusalem living and acting out these ancient prophecies, many did not recognise Him as the Messiah they longed for. He was no ordinary person that was for sure. The crowds asked who it was that had such an impact as He rode into the city. What they were witnessing was not some war lord riding into battle to smash the opposition and take it captive but a radically subverted model of power, exercised in gentleness and compassion which would challenge the systems and structures of the political and religious world, and continue to do so throughout history. They were confused. Jesus proclaimed peace, not war; set people free rather than taking them captive; and restored rather than plundered. It's this subversive, radical power that Christ unleashes on the world through the events of the coming week, and continues through the imperfect, but forgiven and redeemed band of people called the Church. Jesus was the last emissary from God, bringing with him God's final and decisive word to his people and we are called to be His disciples. As He was led out to crucifixion His followers must have wondered what was happening. Kings and Messiahs don't get crucified; they conquer and rule, smashing the powers of sin and darkness on the way. And in His own way, Jesus did just that. It would take some time before the world would come to realise that the humiliated artisan from Nazareth who was crucified truly had changed lives, nations and world history. As we look to Easter it's important that we too sing His praises and wave our palm fronds of adoration. It's important that we marvel at His words, His parables and His teaching. It's important that we open ourselves to the miracle of the resurrection in our own lives and the power of His Spirit to lead and guide us day by day. We know that sometimes we'll let Christ down; we'll deny and disown Him, as did the disciples. We'll do the things we don't want to do which are counter to God's ways. The events of Easter week are a microcosm of our own lives, our up and our downs, the times of great happiness and the times of deepest sadness and despair, the things we can be proud of and the things for which we are deeply sorry and ashamed. As the time of Lent comes to a close and Easter comes upon us we are visibly reminded that whatever might happen, God is in control. Through the sacrifice of the cross and the glory of resurrection, God shows His

love for the world and all His creation by reconciling all things to Himself, He demonstrates His ultimate victorious power over all the forces that oppose His will, and He invites us to share in the risen life of His Son. *Sam Cappelman*

Meditation

Historians tell us that each year over many thousands people went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover at the time of Christ, swelling the population by as much as 10 or 20 times the normal. The place would be heaving, and into all this excitement and fervour Jesus rides slowly into Jerusalem on a donkey. And amid all these thronging people Jesus rides into town and Jerusalem is literally to be shaken to its foundations. There's going to be a spiritual showdown with the Jewish authorities and a political showdown with the Romans. Jesus' Galilean ministry is at an end, and shortly the journey to Jerusalem will be complete. The Messiah, the servant King of Isaiah, rides into town. Jesus, a man of supreme holiness, the perfect Israelite, the one who has come to set all people free has come to fulfil His calling. He knows His time has come. But Jesus died when He did, not because of the Romans and their insistence on crucifixion for a person who they thought was claiming to be the King of the Jews. He died not because the Jewish authorities charged Him with blasphemy and condemned Him to death. He died because God had decided that it was time for His Messiah Son to be revealed. Ultimately it didn't matter what any earthly authorities thought they had the power and mandate to do, because God was, and is, and always will be, in loving control over His creation and it was He who made the decision.

Hymns (*Please distribute Palm Sunday Services and Mission Praise*)

All glory laud and honour, 9; Make Way, Make Way, 457; We cry Hosanna Lord, 725; Ride on, ride on in Majesty, 580; Crown Him with many Crowns, 109

Prayers for Sunday and week ahead

Heavenly Father, You gave your Son, Jesus Christ to show us the Way of justice, truth and peace. Help us hold his example before our eyes, in the way that leads to a better world on earth and eternal life in the Heaven. Amen

As we journey this week with Christ and celebrate the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection, let us earnestly pray to God for those following the way of the cross and for all peoples everywhere. Blessed are you, Lord our God, who sent your Son among us to bear the pain and grief of humankind. Receive the prayers we offer this day for all those in need in every place and as we near the holy mountain grant us strength on our journey. Glory to you for ever. Amen

O Lord, whose way is perfect, help us always to trust in your goodness, to walk in the way of faith, and to follow in the path of simplicity. Teach us to cast our cares on your providence, that we may possess a quiet mind and a contented spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Holy Father, you have shown us that the brave bearing of the cross is the beginning of wearing your crown: help us by your grace to bear patiently our pains and disappointments, as your beloved Son bore His; and to offer them to you as the pure gift of our faithfulness to our crucified Lord. Amen

As on this day we keep the special memory of our Redeemer's entry into the city, so grant O Lord than now and ever, He may triumph in our hearts. Let the King of Glory enter in, and let us lay ourselves and all we are in full and joyful homage before Him, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen Bishop Moule, 1841-1920

Father God, During Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's Paschal mystery. On this day Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed Him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before Him led to self-giving, suffering and death. Today we greet Him as our king, although we know His crown is thorns and His throne a cross. We follow Him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by the dark road of suffering and death. Unite us with Him in His suffering on the cross; may we share His resurrection and new life. Amen

May Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

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.

Priory Methodist Church

As part of their 40th Anniversary celebrations, a 'Festival of Crosses' will be held at Priory, 7-10th April daily from 10-4, displaying crosses in a variety of forms. Donations for MRDF Cameroon Project.

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.

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 go please tell the ministers.

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

Footprints Easter Monday Walk 13 April.

Join us for a day out in the Turvey area. Meet at 10.30am in the layby on the A428 at Station Road. Bring a packed lunch. Total distance 7 miles, expected to finish early afternoon. Sue (407264)

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.

The Marriage of Avril Platt and Festus Scott is taking place on Easter Saturday 11 April At 2pm. All Church members are welcome.— Rita Platt

North Bedfordshire Circuits Most of you will be aware that our Bedford North Circuit has been exploring the possibility of merging with our two neighbouring circuits – Bedford South & Ampthill Circuit, and Biggleswade Circuit. During March each of the three Circuit Meetings voted on the principle of merging. The voting by each circuit was as follows: Bedford South & Ampthill - 42 in favour, and 6 against Bedford North - 33 in favour and 1 against. Biggleswade – 24 in favour, no votes against, and 4 abstentions. This means that all three circuits have now voted in favour of the process to merge into one new single circuit within northern Bedfordshire. The work now continues, as we consider in more detail the structures and staffing of the new circuit. It is intended to consult widely with the churches during this phase. The immediate step will be the appointment of a new Superintendent Minister (for September 2010), and that subsequently the new circuit will come into being in September 2011. Please remember this is your prayers. Martin Hounsfield

Bedford's Arthritis Research 40th Anniversary

A spring fayre will be held, as part of our special anniversary, on Saturday 18th April 10am-12noon at Biddenham Village Hall, Nodder's Way. Sales will include cakes and preserves, gifts, plants, cards, toys, books, paintings, Norfolk Lavender Farm products, bric-a-brac etc. Light refreshments. A genuine Street Organ will be displayed and demonstrated. Admission 20p (children free). Marion Goddard (Hon. Secretary Bedford Branch ARC) Tel. 344617.

Hike for the Homeless



Doreen Denny from Putnoe Heights Church and Joan Eatwell from St Mark's are representing our churches on the sponsored walk for the King's Arms Project on 9 May. If anyone from either Church would be prepared to sponsor them we would be very grateful. They are hoping to complete the 20 miles but that might depend on what the weather is like on the day!! So sponsor them for turning up and see how far they get Doreen's telephone number is 405840 and Joan's is 771156. There are sponsor forms in each church office.

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Good Friday Service in town. Stewards needed at the open air, from 11.30am to about 1pm. If you are able to help please contact either Mr or Mrs Dell, from St Johns Church, Tel: 309850

The Brickhill Community Safety Forum. Everyone who lives or works in Brickhill is invited to Sir William Harpur House, Clyde Crescent on 7.30pm Thursday 23rd April 2009. This is your chance to have your say to all the agencies that are working in Brickhill. The Community Safety Forum is your Forum and gives you the chance to express your opinions and ideas about the present and future of the area. We look forward to seeing you.

Car Boot Sale Easter Monday

Cakes and tray bakes greatly appreciated by the kitchen. Any bric-a-brac can be donated to church stall, please bring to St Mark's late in the week or the very best time will be Sunday afternoon, the church will be left open.

The Easter Message from Churches Together can be downloaded from our church website

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 Man 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,

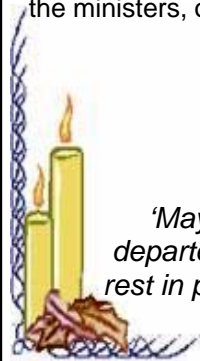
The Methodist Church Easter Offering envelopes are provided for you this year by Women's Network. This enables funding for grants for Partner Churches overseas as well as other projects in Britain. Please give your generous support and return your envelope on Easter Day. Margaret Standley

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.

**Sylvia Daniels
George Rose
James Stephenson**

*'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
3rd time of asking

Forthcoming Funerals



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

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

The funeral of Mr Reginald Wymes will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday 8 April at Putnoe at 10.30am