



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

8 April 2007  
Easter 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 Chapel.

### 9.30am St Mark's - Easter Communion

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mrs Delia Shephard  
Intercessions – Mr Warwick Holden

### 11.00am Putnoe - Easter Communion

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt  
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

*Sam and Joan are taking services in the Circuit this morning, but send Easter greetings*

## Second of Easter - April 8th

### 9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher – Mr John Stubbs  
Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing  
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

### 11.00am - Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr John Stubbs  
Leadership Team - Mr AalN Cooper  
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Reading 1: Acts 10:34-43

Reading 2: 1 Cor 15: 19-26

Reading 3: John 13; 1– 17, 31b-35

## Thank You

Our grateful thanks to all of those who have helped prepare our churches for the Easter services. Especially for the beautiful flowers.

## Prayer for Easter Sunday

Christ is risen,  
the world below lies desolate

Christ is risen  
The spirits of evil are fallen

Christ is risen  
The angles of God are rejoicing

Christ is risen  
The tombs of the dead are empty

Christ is risen indeed from the dead  
The first of the sleepers  
Glory and power are his forever and ever.  
*Hippolytus of Rome c190-c236*



## 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](http://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 Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

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

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school**

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

**8.30-5.30pm 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

**12.00-1.00pm Story box** Putnoe Heights church 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

**2.30-4.30pm Bedford Arts Society** at Putnoe Heights

Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

**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. Miriam Adcock ☎01908 565044

**4.15-6.00pm Kumon Maths** Putnoe Heights.

Ms Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎364710

**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott ☎768419

**7.15 m Guides.** St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

**7.15pm Yoga.** Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

**7.30pm Creative Needles.** Putnoe Heights.

Jacky Hayward ☎307648.

**7.30pm Whist Drive.** St Mark's each month next 16 April Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

**8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at 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

**10.00am Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman ☎822230

**1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime.** Putnoe Heights.

Andrea ☎210177 or Majella ☎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 only) Mrs Burman ☎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 17 April A slide show by Mr. Darley No meeting on 10 April Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** St Mark's Meets fortnightly. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs

Maureen Watling ☎262225

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** St Mark's Meets fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

**3.45-5.30pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 0582468.

**6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** Putnoe Heights.

Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

**7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group** at St Mark's, ( 1st Tuesday ) Contact Kate Parsons 351150

**7-8pm Keep Fit.** St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎214107.

**7-9pm MT Karate** [all ages] Putnoe Heights.

Karen King ☎07941 264885

**7- 10pm Card Makers Club** meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Carol Houghton ☎346718

**7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church.** Putnoe Heights.

Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

**7.30-10.30pm Chartered Management Institute** St Mks

**7.45pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 10 April A Quiz Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

## Wednesday

**9.00am Paint Tots** at St Mark's Jacqui Harrahan ☎824475

**9.30am Childminding Support Group.** Putnoe Heights.

Mrs S Longman ☎313949

**9.30am - Body Control Pilates.** Putnoe Heights.

Stephanie Smith ☎357787.

**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 18 April 2007 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

**1.00-3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .

**1.30-4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired.** St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit.** Putnoe Heights

Mrs Webster ☎856966

**4.15-6pm Kumon Maths.** Putnoe Heights

Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

**6.00 pm Brownies.** St Mark's.

Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

**6.15-7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation** Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

**6.30-7.30pm Karate.** St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge.** St. Mark's

Brian Sallows ☎407725

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

**7.00pm Yoga** St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

**7.00pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly. Putnoe Heights. Janice ☎Loxley 347073

**7.45pm Badminton Club.** Putnoe Heights

All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

**8.00-10.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club** St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. More details Graham 406359 or Danny 401668.

**8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club** St Mark's (1st week) 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.*

**9.30am-12.30 Jo Jingles.** St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

**9.45am Yoga** Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

**9.45am-11.30am Chat and Play** St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.50 for first child + 50p for each extra child over 2 years. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

**12pm Storybox.** St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Biblebased story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

**1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime.** Putnoe Andrea ☎210177 or Magella ☎325293.

**2.30pm Bedford Arts Soc** St Mark's Malcolm Smith ☎400741

**2- 4.30pm Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer ☎345991

**5.30-7.30pm 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 & Mrs Pike ☎823795

**7.00pm Club 2000** Putnoe Heights

Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

**7.30pm-11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club** St Mark's

Mr P Housden ☎376597

**7.30-9.30pm Embroiderers' Guild** St Mark's

3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby ☎344442

**7.30-9.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights Bible Studies every 2 Thursday- Pastor Tarr ☎360188

**7.45pm Housegroup** meets fortnightly

Betty Wyatt ☎350188

**8.00-10pm Bedford Writers Circle.** St Mark's 1st

Thursday each month. Mr Broadhouse ☎740271

**8.00-10.00pm Magpies Women's Group** St Mark's (2nd & 4th weeks) Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

**8.00pm Brickhill Wives** St Mark's (1st and 3rd weeks)

Mrs Woods ☎404702

### Friday

**9.30am & 12.30pm U3A Photography Group** (4th week)

Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

**1.30-2pm Stars School of Dance** Putnoe Heights  
Contact Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

**2.00pm U3A Gardening Group** Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

**6.30-9.00pm Line Dancing.** St Mark's

A night of fun Christine Rushton ☎782360

**7-10pm Bedford Arts Society** fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

**7.30pm Youth Club for age 10-15.** St Mark's Church.

Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey ☎349179

### Saturday

**9.00- 12.00pm Stars School of Dance.** Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

**10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain** St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Randle ☎01234 782414

**7.15-10.30pm Duplicate Bridge.** St Mark's

Ann or Peter ☎212066

### Sunday

**Church and Sunday School with crèche for under 3's**

**9.30 - 10.30 at St. Mark's**

**11-12 at Putnoe Heights.**

**1 - 3pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** Putnoe Heights

Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

**6-7.30pm T.N.T.** Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Liz ☎302349.

**6 -7.30pm T.X.T** Putnoe. for 13 + fortnightly, join us for fellowship, debate & discussion. Liz ☎302349

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council – 12 June**

**Circuit Meeting -**

**St Mark's Leadership Team – 9 May 07 at the**

Vicarage, 26 June Linda's

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –30 April at**  
Alan Cooper's

**St Mark's Church Management Meeting - 24**  
April, 20 June.

**Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 14 May,**  
16 July

**Putnoe Church Council - 11 June**

**Pastoral Group Meeting – 8 May 07**

**Churchyard Committee - 6 June 07**

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting**

Wednesday 13 June, 14 Flint Way.

**Partnership Council -**

**Brickhill Parish Council**

The meeting of 5 April has now been moved to 18  
April, 7 June, 5 July

**Deanery Meeting -**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth– 23 April at**  
1.00pm

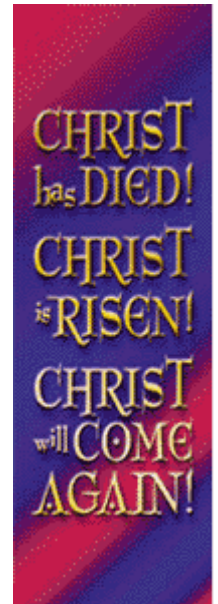
**Calendar dates appear on our church website**  
**www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's**  
**Church Office of the dates of your meetings.**



### Telecare

It is extremely helpful to the Ministers to be able to have feed back, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down, please do so.

## Easter Sunday Liturgy



Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

*The Easter Paschal candle is lit, saying*

Minister: Jesus Christ yesterday and today the beginning and the end Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him and all ages; to him be glory and power through every age and for ever.

**Amen.**

May the light of Christ, rising in glory banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The light of Christ

All: **Thanks be to God**

### Opening Prayer

Risen Lord Jesus, as Mary Magdalene met you in the garden on the morning of your resurrection, so may we meet you today and every day: speak to us as you spoke to her; reveal yourself as the living Lord; renew our hope and kindle our joy; and send us to share the good news with others. Amen.

### Collect Prayer for the Day

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: full your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way of life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Common Worship Shorter Collect

### First Bible Reading - Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### Second Bible Reading— 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who

put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### **Gospel reading - John 20:1-18**

(When the reading is announced '**Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' "

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

(This is the Gospel of Christ -- **Praise to Christ our Lord.**)

### **Hymns** (Please distribute Holy Communion Books and Hymns and Psalms)

1. Christ the Lord is risen today 193 Easter Hymn
2. Amazing Grace 215
3. If Christ had not been raised from death
4. Thine be the glory 212

### **Commentary**

Debate continues about the resurrection of Jesus. Did Jesus literally come back from the dead? Is the resurrection only a myth, or worse, a hoax? Did Jesus arise physically in his earthly body or did he rise as a spirit? While polemics may go on forever, they cannot eclipse the fundamental belief of Christians, God raised Jesus and he appeared to his disciples. We believe this, however it happened. The "physics" involved in the resurrection are immaterial. What is important for us is that the seemingly catastrophic passion and death of Jesus ended on a happy note. Out of despair came hope, out of darkness came light, out of defeat came glory, out of death came life.

Psychologists note that people can bear almost anything as long as there is some meaning attached to it. We can put up with any "what" as long as we have a "why." Psychologists also observe that people can get through their problems and sufferings much more easily and productively if they believe there is light at the end of the tunnel. And this is precisely the good news that Easter gives us today. The dramatic lesson about Easter is not only that Jesus was raised from the dead, but that the resurrection of Jesus is our resurrection. A divine revelation is given that no matter what we suffer, no matter how badly we have it, no matter what tragedies we face-even death itself- we will be raised up as well. There is always light for us at the end of

the tunnel. This light is often difficult to see, even imagine, especially when we are in the grip of an affliction or depression. When there seems to be no end to our struggles, when every road we take comes to a dead end, when suffering continues unabated, our inclination is not to believe in the light, but to curse the darkness. But it is expressly then, Easter promises, in the darkest night of the soul, that our resurrection is closest at hand. It may take courage but Easter beckons us to raise our eyes in hope and wait with trust for our redemption. No matter what we endure, God will raise us up. This is the glory of Christianity, the absolute promise of deliverance. Wisdom tells us there is a silver lining in every cloud, a reason for every problem we face, and an important lesson we learn in every suffering we endure. We are told "God never closes a door without opening up another." This isn't wishful thinking but a fact well-supported by experience. Some of the most important steps in our growth have taken place through suffering, which at the time perhaps seemed meaningless. There is never a Good Friday, however, without its Easter. Easter affirms that we will never be abandoned, that nothing is ever hopeless. Our strength, therefore, in facing our afflictions is not rigid stoicism or anger at life, or "why me?", or resignation to fate, but a patient, peaceful, confident Easter belief that it will be OK. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

**Meditation** The Paschal Candle

Today we light the Paschal Candle, it takes its name from the Hebrew word 'Pesach' meaning Passover. Passover was that time when the Israelites celebrated their exodus from slavery in Egypt. It was the feast celebrated by Jesus with the disciples (Maundy Thursday) on the night before he died. The Paschal Candle is then lit for every service in our church during the full 50 days of Eastertide. After the solemn weeks with purple colours of Lent we wear the white of Easter and the brightness of the candle symbolises the joy of the resurrection.

**Post Communion Prayer**

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

God our Father, we come today to worship you and confess that devotion to you is often far from our minds. This morning may we refocus our attention upon our love for you and how we show that love. Help us Lord to be more willing to pour out our lives as fragrant offerings of love. We lay our lives before you and ask that we might know that love which does not count the cost.

Lord God, as we wait upon you now, as we listen for your voice in the silence of hearts and as we offer our prayers to you we think of those people in our lives who have loved us with a generous love we think of those who like Mary have not counted the cost of what they have given us; of those who given all of themselves to us as Christ gave himself for the world; and we thank you for them - and ask you to bless them and for you to make us like them. As we go into this week, O God, help us to have a focus, a purpose that is beyond that of just getting by; beyond that of just trying to make it through another week; show us we pray what you would have us do; reveal to us our own personal and unique ministry—and help us to do it.

In fact,  
Christ has been raised  
from the dead,  
the first fruits of those  
who have died.  
1 Corinthians 15:20

Bless O God those in our midst and those around the world whom we name in our hearts before you at this time; we especially ask for those who are poor in the basic needs of daily living; and for those who are poor in love; hear too the prayers we ask for those who need healing or hope in their lives, those who need justice, and those who require mercy.

**The Easter Blessing**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen



**Help Please!** The sleeving collection is going well—Keep up the good work. Marion Prior

**Gardeners Ahoy — more help needed.** We need to renovate the wide border round the car park, as the bark laid 4yrs ago has done its job, and turned into wonderful soil, which is easy to dig. We need to dig the soil over, remove weeds and roots, (especially convolvulus) and re-cover with bark. A start has been made. But if anyone else can do a bit to help it look right for Easter, that would be wonderful. B.Y.O. fork or spade. We have one barrow in the new courtyard, but its quicker with two! Liase with me if you need further information (01234 303254) Marion.

**Line Dancing at St Mark's.** Lessons begin 20 April. Further information contact Christine Rushton 01234 782360.

**Churches Together Annual Forum 2007.** To be held at St Nichols Church Hall, Barton. We would like our churches to be represented, can you go?

**Woodland Burial.** Reluctantly we have had to cancel the consecration date of the St Albans Woodland Burial Ground on 23 April. Sadly the date has not provided us with sufficient time to register the land. A new date is being arranged for May. Apologies for any inconvenience.

**Bark,** This is an excellent time to think about putting bark on your borders. The introduction of bark helps by retaining water, preventing weeds and breaking down poor soil. The Gardens at St Mark's have been using this for the past 10 years to good effect. St Mark's has just received a new delivery and we are able to supply the bark at a ridiculously cheap rate of 50p per bag—please supply the bag and yourself. Bags can be any size, provided that they can be lifted without mechanical effort.

**Easter Offering 2007 - "Crossing divides"**  
Easter Offering envelopes are now available and issued by Women's Network! The proceeds are used for grants to Partner Churches Overseas, World Church in Britain Programme, Experience Exchange Programme (run jointly with USPG) and other projects. Please give your generous support and return your envelope on Easter Day. The offering Dedication Service will be held at Priory Church on Sunday 6th May at 6.30pm. All welcome.

**Bedford Deanery Synod** is seeking a part time co-ordinator to develop a scheme to enhance the pastoral care provided for residential and nursing homes. To work for an initial period not exceeding one year. Are you:-a good communicator, computer literate? Do you relish a challenge and enjoy working

with a diverse range of people? Hours: flexible; between 10 and 21 hours per week. Remuneration: negotiable. If you think this post is for you, please send your CV and covering letter to Stanley Pullinger, 111 Wendover Drive, Bedford MK41 9QX (Tel: 01234 342365) arrive no later than 16th April

**St Mark's Boot Sale** – Easter Monday. Articles for the Church Stall will be greatly appreciated. Please deliver them to St Mark's Church at any time. They can be left in the porch or foyer. Also tray bakes for refreshments

#### **Nomination for Church Councils**

Are you interested in becoming a member of Putnoe Heights or St Mark's Church Council, or do you know somebody who would be interested? If so here is a good opportunity to serve your church for the benefit of its members and the local community. If you are interested you will need a proposer and seconder. If you wish to propose somebody else you will need their consent and a proposer and seconder. Please complete a nomination form (obtainable from the church office) and then hand it the church office by the latest for Sunday 29 April.

The annual congregational meetings will this year be held on 6 May 2007 after the Sunday morning service. We hope that people will feel that it is more convenient to simply remain behind after the service.

**Thank You Storybox.** The Storybox easter special on Good Friday was a great success. Thank you to everybody that helped in anyway to make it such an enjoyable Easter occasion.

**Concert** by Bedford Town Concert Band (directed by Kevin Nicholls) on Sunday 22 April at 3pm at Putnoe Heights.

**Spring Fayre** at Biddenham Village Hall, Nodders Way on Saturday 14 April from 10 to 12 noon. Various stalls and refreshments. In aid of Arthritis Research Campaign. Admission 20p.

**Partnership Family Quiz Night** Saturday 19 May at Putnoe. More details to follow. Liz

**Chat and Play** a mums & toddlers group has got off to great start. It operates from 9.45—11.30am on Thursday at St. Mark's Church. £1.50 for first child + 50p for any others over 2. More details from St. Mark's 342613 or Emma Strangwick 211070.

**Betty Munkman** . All her friends at Putnoe will be sad to hear that Betty died suddenly this week, while staying with her son, Douglas. The funeral will take place at Putnoe at 1pm on April 10th, followed by cremation.

## Easter message from the President of the Methodist Conference The Revd Graham Carter,

“Easter is about celebrating life – but not a self-centred, ‘let me be fulfilled at all costs’ kind of life. It’s about the life that does not depend upon wealth or power or status, but the kind of life that comes from the experience of the cross, that is, the experience of self-giving love that goes on giving, whatever the cost.

“During my presidential year I have experienced the immense generosity of poor people in various parts of the world. It has been embarrassing to receive gifts from people who are the poorest I have ever met. I have experienced God’s grace in acts of pure generosity and come away with my understanding of life deepened.

“Some time ago, when I was working with BBC Radio Merseyside, I had the opportunity of an interview with Jon Sobrino, one time colleague of Archbishop Oscar Romero who was assassinated in El Salvador while saying mass. He told me that those of us in the wealthy part of the world should not be paternalistic in our giving to charity, but learn that we had as much to receive from the poor as we had to give to them. This is what he said the poor have to give us: The poor don’t take life for granted – they know the value of simply being alive. The poor have a real sense of community and belonging to each other – they know their need to depend on each other. Community is more important than individualism. The poor show creativity at all levels – surviving is, in itself, an act of creativity. The poor know how to celebrate – celebration is not the same as entertainment or amusement.

Celebration means people are happy when they are with one another, they celebrate life in each other. The poor have tremendous generosity and commitment, even to the extent of giving up their lives. “This sounds like real life to me and is a reminder of how attachment to riches can prevent us from experiencing life as it is meant to be lived. It would be wrong to use this as an argument for keeping the poor in poverty, but for me there is something in this that echoes the Easter story. Resurrection life is not in spite of the cross, but because of it. It is only through self-giving love that we can experience real living.

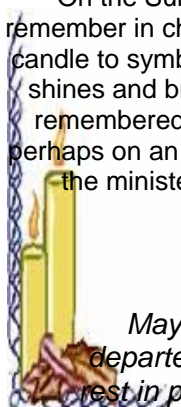
“Easter is about celebrating life, but let’s be sure what kind of life we are celebrating and really go for it!”

### 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.

**James Molyneaux**

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



## Easter Hymn

If Christ had not been raised from death  
our faith would be in vain,  
our preaching but a waste of breath,  
our sin and guilt remain.

But now the Lord is risen indeed;  
he rules in earth and heaven:  
his Gospel meets a world of need -  
in Christ we are forgiven.

If Christ still lay within the tomb  
then death would be the end,  
and we should face our final doom  
with neither guide nor friend.  
But now the Saviour is raised up,  
so when a Christian dies  
we mourn, yet look to God in hope -  
in Christ the saints arise!

If Christ had not been truly raised  
his church would live a lie;  
his name should never more be praised,  
his words deserve to die.  
But now our great Redeemer lives;  
through him we are restored;  
his word endures, his church revives  
in Christ, our risen Lord.



### Rest in Peace

**The funeral of Mr Donald Shore** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 16 April at 12 noon. This will be followed by burial at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground, Keysoe.  
*Royden*

**The funeral of Mrs Shona Denham** will take place at St Mark’s Church on Thursday 19 April at 2.30pm. This will be followed by burial at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground, Keysoe. *Royden*

**The funeral of Mrs Betty Munkman** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Tuesday April 10th at 1.00pm *Crossley*

**The Funeral of PC Mark Nicholson** will take place at St Mark’s Church on Wednesday April 11 at 1.45pm *Royden*

**The funeral of Barbara Marie Gayle** will take place at St Mark’s Church on Thursday 12 April at 10.30am *Royden*