



Putnoe Heights Church Bedford



Putnoe Heights Church is The Church of England
and the Methodist Church in Partnership

Family Service 12 October 2003

Welcome

We welcome to our service today especially the family and friends of Luke James Banghar who has been brought for baptism.

A Verse from Scripture

O Give thanks to the Lord for he is good for his loving memory is forever.....he satisfies the thirsty: and fills the hungry with good things. Ps 107 (v. 1 & 19)

(please join with words in bold type)

Come close to God and he will come close to you.
The Lord our God is worthy to receive
glory and honour and power
for he has created and redeemed us.

**Heavenly Father, in our worship
help us to sing your praises,
confess our sins,
hear your word
and bring our prayers to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn

O God our help in ages past, No 498

PAYER OF ADORATION

Minister: Let us praise God

All: Holy God
to you alone belong glory, honour and praise.
We join with the hosts of heaven as we worship.
You alone are worthy of adoration from every mouth,
and every tongue shall sing your praise.
You create the earth by your power;
you save the human race in your mercy,
and renew it through your grace.
To you, loving God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be all glory, honour and praise
now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Minister: Let us confess our sins

All: Loving God,
we have sinned against you
in what we have thought, said and done.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry
and turn away from what is wrong.
Forgive us for the sake of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence

Minister: Christ Jesus came in to the world to save sinners.
This is his gracious word:
'Your sins are forgiven.'

All: Amen. Thanks be to God

THE OFFERING

After the offering is collected it is brought forward.

The people stand as it is presented and say

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Gift Aid Thank you to those people who have made their offering to the church by standing order. If you are a tax payer please use envelopes or a standing order, so that we can claim the tax back. Envelopes are available each Sunday.

HYMN

Jehovah Jireh, my provider 354

THE BAPTISM

We bring *these children* whom God has entrusted to us and claim for *them* all that Christ has won for us. Christ loves *them* and is ready to receive *them* with the arms of his mercy and to give *them* the blessing of eternal life. Children are brought to be baptized with water as a sign of the new life in Christ and to be made members of God's family the Church.

THE WATER IS BLESSED

Almighty God whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the River Jordan: we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse and revive us. Bless this water that your *servants* who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Send your Holy Spirit upon *them* to bring *them* to new birth in the family of your Church, and raise *them* with Christ to full and eternal life. For all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever. Amen

THE PROMISES OF THE CHURCH

Congregation, please stand

Members of the Body of Christ, who are now in his name to receive *these children*, will you so maintain the common life of worship and service that *they* and all children in this church may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?

With God's help, we will

Congregation say

Heavenly Father, in your love you have called us to know you, led us to trust you, and bound our life with yours. Surround *these children* with your love; protect *them* from evil; fill *them* with your Holy Spirit and receive *them* into the family of your church; that *they* may walk with us in the way of Christ and grow in the knowledge of your love. Amen.

THE PROMISES OF PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

On occasions of baptisms of more than one child, parents and godparents of the children will be invited to gather around the font individually as directed. Please bring with you your service sheets.

The minister says to the parents and godparents

Those who bring children to be baptized must affirm their allegiance to Christ and their rejection of all that is evil. It is your duty to bring up this child to fight against evil and to follow Christ. Therefore I ask these questions which you must answer for yourselves and for this child.

Minister	Do you turn to Christ?
Parents and godparents	I turn to Christ
	Do you repent of your sins?
	I repent of my sins
	Do you renounce evil?
	I renounce evil

The Minister says to the parents:

Do you then present your child to be baptized?

Parents please respond

We do

The Minister takes the child to be baptised and says:

(Name) I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.
I sign with the cross, the sign of Christ.
Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

The minister will invite the congregation to say:

Fight valiantly under the banner of Christ against sin, the world and the devil,
and continue his faithful soldier and servant to the end of your life.

THE GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

The parents and children who have been baptised gather together and a lighted candle is given to each child. The minister says,

Receive this light...this is to show that you have passed
from darkness to light.

The congregation will be invited to respond:

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

THE WELCOME

Representing the whole Church we all welcome the newly baptized children.

Minister: God has received you by baptism into his Church.

All say: **We welcome you into the Lord's family.**

We are members together of the Body of Christ:

We are children of the same heavenly Father:

We are inheritors together of the Kingdom of God.

We welcome you.

THE COLLECT PRAYER

& BIBLE READINGS

You may follow the bible readings on the Bible Notes



Lord God, you came as a neighbour to humankind in Jesus. Give us eyes to see you in other people, and make us instruments of your care to all, that everyone may become true neighbours in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Isaiah 35:4-7, James 2:1-10, 14-17 & Mark 7:24-37

At the end of each reading the following words are used

Reader This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

HYMN

I want to walk with Jesus Christ 302

THE SERMON

The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman

CREED

Minister: Do you believe in God?
**I believe in God the Father
who made me and all the world.**

Minister: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
who came to this earth to be my Saviour.
he died for my sins on the cross,
rose again from the dead,
ascended to the Father in heaven
and will come again in his glory
as the judge of all people**

Minister: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
whom God gives to all who trust in Christ.
He makes me more like Jesus,
guides and strengthens me in my daily life,
and helps me to serve God
in the family of the Church**

HYMN

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult 359

PRAYERS

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN
O Jesus I have promised 351

THE BLESSING

May the love of the Lord Jesus
draw us to himself;
May the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen us in his service;
May the joy of the Lord Jesus
fill our souls.

Minister: May the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
be amongst you and remain with you always.
Amen.

*Thank you to all those who have helped prepare our
churches or helped us in our worship this morning*