



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

4 July 2004

14th in Ordinary

The Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both
Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Service

Preacher –The Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Service

Preacher - The Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions - Mr Edward Peck

15 in Ordinary — July 11

8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St. Mark's Church –Morning Worship

Preacher - The Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions –Mrs Alison Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights—Family Service

Preacher – Barbara Wheeler from NCH

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss

Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Jenny and Clive Emsley to celebrate the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Jenny's parents, Mima and Trevor Noble.

We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. Contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights).

Prayer for Sunday

O eternal and glorious Trinity, deeper than the deepest sea and the abyss of love for whom I thirst and long; let me for ever desire your light, for ever seek your face and for ever wrap myself in the robe of your majesty and Godhead; world without end. Amen

Catherine of Siena, 1347-1380

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

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

Partnership News is now available each week on the Partnership Website - www.ThisisChurch.com
Any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will therefore automatically be posted on our website.

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 - 1.00pm Monday & Friday

9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy @thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Hymns are printed under CCL Lic No. 1501

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Pre-school (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).
10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!
4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs. Jill Williams 357020
7.15 m Guides -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month. Next 19 July Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
9.30am - 11.30pm Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866
10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230
1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828
12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting - 6 July Revd. K.Murphy Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 6th July, Revd K Murphy Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709
2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.
3.30 - 4.30pm Putnoe Heights Church Essential Stretch Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607
7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
7.30 - 9.30pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Pastor Tarr 348438 or 07773354129
7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly . Next meeting July 6 Bring and Share members eve Contact Mrs C Davies 219130
8.00pm Tuesday Housegroup Next meeting 6 July at 16 Swindale , Contact Alison 403551 or Brian 305347.
8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

10.00 am Childminding Support Group at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
10.00 am Day Care Centre Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
10.00 am Holy Communion at St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
10am Sewing & Chat Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966
12 - 1pm Putnoe Height Church Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
Luncheon Club at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 7 July Mima & Trevor Nobles Diamond wedding celebration. Contact St. Mark's 342613
1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555
6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr James 07711 687449
6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731
7.00pm St. Mark's Church Bunyan Bridge. Contact Brian Sallows 407725
7-10pm Putnoe Guild - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609
7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing Junior classes St. Mark's. Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights in the side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** Contact 267444
10.00am - 11.30am Yoga at Putnoe Heights Contact 244970

12 - 1.00 pm Storybox at St Mark's Church.

Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities, songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group. Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

2.30 Bedford Arts Society at St. Mark's. Contact Celia Maddison 782901

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Mrs S Lewis 300198

7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000 Putnoe 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

6.15 - 7.30pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at St Mark's Contact Mr Hatton 824988

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's- 3rd Thursday month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

7.45pm. Housegroup-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

6 -7.00 pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7. 30 - 9.30pm Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 376841

7.30pm Music Group St. Mark's Church/monthly

6.30pm -8.30 pm Dog Training Classes at St. Mark's Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

Saturday

10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St Mark's -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 304865

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Peace Project Saturday School at Putnoe Heights. For details contact Mrs.E.Tarr 309881

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Pastor Tarr 348438 Mob. 07773354129

News, Views and Information

The Calendar

Putnoe Centre Management 26 July

St Mark's Church Council

October 13 2004, February 1 2005

Churchyards Committee

Next meeting Monday 6 September, 10am

St Mark's Centre Management Meeting

Wednesday 23 June, Monday 26 July, Wednesday

29 September, Wednesday 10 November

St Mark's Leadership Team

Wednesday 8 September

Putnoe Church Council

11 October 2004, 7 February 2005

13 June 2005, 10 October 2005

Pastoral Group Wednesday 15 September at 2.30pm

Calendar dates now appear on our church website www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise us if you have a date to be added to the church calendar.

St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre Working Party

I am running short of the cellophane wrapping which comes on shop bought cards. If you could collect any from friends as well as your own, keep it flat and put it in my drawer at church or hand it over when you see me, I'd be very grateful. It is used for packaging hand made cards for church and other charities. I can remove sticky labels. M

Open Garden Today at 23 Orwell Close 2.30pm - 5.00pm (Home of Marion and Wendy. In aid of retirement Centre extension fund. Admission £2 includes refreshments. Plants and cards for sale. Sheltered viewing if wet, then refreshments indoors.

Summer Holy Communion

Please note the 8.30am Holy Communion will be alternate in July and August. The first occasion will be July 18 when we will meet at Putnoe Heights Church.

18 July at Putnoe Heights Church

25 July at St. Mark's Church

1 August at Putnoe Heights Church

8 August at St. Mark's Church

15 August at Putnoe Heights Church

22 August at St. Mark's Church

29 August at Putnoe Heights Church

5 September Normal practice resumes

Putnoe Ramblers Sunday 11 July, 2.30pm. Park in Kimbolton High Street to meet outside the "New Sun Inn" for 4½ mile circular walk with visit to Kimbolton Church to see the "Tiffany Window". Finish with a pot of tea in the "New Sun". Easy "town trail" option for a gentle stroll.



Bible Notes Ordinary 14

Opening Verse of Scripture

Matthew 11:28

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Servant Lord, grant us both the opportunity and the will to serve you day by day. May all that we do and how we bear each other's burdens be our offerings of love and service to the glory of your name. Amen.

First Bible Reading Isaiah Chapter 66:10-14

"Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice greatly with her, all you who mourn over her. For you will nurse and be satisfied at her comforting breasts; you will drink deeply and delight in her overflowing abundance." For this is what the LORD says: "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem." When you see this, your heart will rejoice and you will flourish like grass; the hand of the LORD will be made known to his servants, but his fury will be shown to his foes. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - All: **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading Galatians Chapter 6:7-16

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand! Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. Not even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - All: **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.'

*The harvest is **plentiful**,
but the laborers are **few**;
therefore ask the **Lord**
of the harvest to send out
laborers into his harvest.*
Luke 10:2



"He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me." The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - All: **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns

1. All Praise to our redeeming Lord. (St Lucius)
2. Give me joy
3. Immortal Invisible. (St Denio)
4. For the beauty of the earth (England's Lane)
5. Glorious things (Austria)

Commentary Farmers always seem to moan about the weather, whatever the weather! Timing the right procedures to coincide with the appropriate weather is the difference between crop failure and success, between starvation and plenty. When Jesus used the metaphor of His missionaries as being like harvesters, he was conveying to His hearers the importance and absolute urgency of their task. If the Kingdom was to be advanced, if the message of salvation was to be spread, the missionaries had to work hard and fast, with the desperate speed of farmers gathering the crops before rain. The blood of the eager disciples must have chilled to hear themselves described as being like lambs in the midst of wolves. This simile speaks of dangers to the body and the soul and of their helplessness to defend themselves from it. And so the disciples are both powerful and important because of the imperative nature of their call, but at the same time weak and vulnerable. Jesus was pointing up the great truth that both their power and their safety was not of themselves, did not depend on them, but on the love and power of God, the Holy Spirit. We also need the reminder that everything we have comes from God and that only He can guard us from the dangers, spiritual and moral which surround us. Joan Crossley

Meditation

Corrie ten Boom was arrested by the Gestapo in February 1944 and sent to Ravensbruck Concentration Camp. Years later, while speaking in Church, she saw the former SS guard who had tortured and humiliated her sister. After the service he came up to her "smiling broadly and with outstretched hand "Thank you for the message" he said. "Jesus has washed my sins away". Corrie was stunned into silence. She had preached forgiveness, but could she show it, feel it towards the person who had caused such harm to her sister? For a long moment, she paused, then prayed silently. "Lord Jesus, forgive me and help me to forgive him." As she took his hand, Corrie felt an amazing current passing from herself to the former Gestapo guard and love filled her heart. So she concluded. "I discovered that when God tells us to love our enemies he gives, along with the commandment, the love itself." (Corrie ten Boom)

Prayers.

Father, may everything we do begin with your inspiration and continue with your saving help. Let our work always find its origin in you and through you reach completion. Amen

O Lord, save us from self-centredness in our prayers and help us to remember to pray for others. May we be so lovingly absorbed with those for whom we pray that we may feel their needs as keenly as our own, and intercede for them sensitively, with understanding and imagination. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen (after John Calvin 1509-64)

Whether I fly with angels, fall with dust,/ Thy hands made both and I am there: / Thy power and love, my love and trust / Make one place everywhere. (George Herbert 1593-1633)

The following is an extract taken from the sermon by the Bishop of St Albans at the Installation of the Dean of St Albans Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban: 2 July 2004

Love, because you can only venture on the journey home if love is your guiding principle - that is, a vulnerability and risky openness to whatever the journey brings - and faith, because we believe that **all** human beings have value, dignity and worth. That is not a provable set of propositions; they are self-authenticating for the humanist and they are authenticated by God for the Christian.

One of Jeffrey's phrases which is full of insight is about evangelism, about the mission of the Church. He calls it 'bringing people home to God.' Perhaps now you can see why I quoted that piece about the purpose of drama, *nostos*, a journey home. But you may also see why I have talked of emotional truthfulness, intelligence and a burning imagination - and have also talked at the beginning of this sermon of 'call and consequence'.

Jeffrey's answer to the call to come to St Albans as Dean rested on a word. My rôle in the process, the third in the combination of Prime Minister and Crown also rested on a word, 'yes' or 'no'. Jeffrey John's courage in saying his 'yes' should never, ever, be underestimated - knowing what the reactions in the Church and media might be. It was a decision very, very few of us ever have to make, so we can only imperfectly imagine the process.

I have been aware during the process and since that the reactions to the appointment would be very mixed. There are very, very many who are absolutely thrilled; and there are some of my fellow Christians who have been (and remain) deeply upset, angry and dismayed. As I said in my recent address at Diocesan Synod, and on other occasions. what we have to do is listen deeply and patiently to each other, so that understanding on all sides may grow.

The letters have poured in from all sides, from those rejoicing and from those who are hurt - and both 'sides', let me say as strongly and forcefully as I can, believe that they are acting out of the highest Christian motives and for the most serious of Christian reasons which means that as Christians, we are in this together. And,

let me repeat, what we have to commit ourselves to doing is to learn from, understand, respect and love each other, as brothers and sisters in Christ - and that will take patience and time, grace and truthfulness; but above all, it will take love and faith, rooted in and growing out of Christ.

So, here we are now, in this Abbey - a place which is 'home' to thousands upon thousands, a place which is enormously welcoming and accepting, which takes Alban's 'yes' to the Amphibaluses of this world with great and loving seriousness. The 'journey home' is lived and experienced within these hallowed walls - and it is part of the calling of a dean, not only to be himself 'at home' here and to ensure that others may feel the same, but also to take the truths represented in this place and in Christ, Himself, into the marketplace of the world. And in our world, what is looked for, above all, are individual people who take call and consequence seriously, who struggle with the beauty and the demands of God - and who do so with a kind of wounded but faithful integrity. And what is looked for in the Church is that collectively we may also be seen to be struggling with the beauty and the demands of God - and doing so, collectively, with wounded and faithful integrity.

All sermons require a biblical text. Here is mine, on this great and courageous and hope-filled day: Ephesians 1:17-19:

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

Jeffrey John - that is my prayer for you as Dean; it is my prayer for this lovely Abbey; it is my prayer for our diocese - and for all who live within its boundaries. It is my prayer for our world. It all hangs on a word: and that word is Christ's 'yes' to us from his Cross and in his Resurrection.

The full text of this sermon can be found on the St Albans Diocesan website.

<http://www.stalbans.anglican.org>

News, Views and Information

Pam and Bob Burn would like to thank everyone who helped to make their Golden Anniversary such a happy occasion. Through the generosity of their friends and neighbours they were able to donate £310 to Putnoe Heights Development Fund.

NCH : 11July is NCH Sunday at Putnoe Heights Church. Barbara Wheeler (Asst. Director of Children's Services, Eastern Region) is coming to speak on the work undertaken by NCH. Envelopes will be available at both churches. I also have boxes for the home if any one would like one. Grace Foster (NCH coordinator North Beds. Circuit)

I am delighted to announce that the reward Company NECTAR has recently made NCH their exclusive Charity Partner. This means that you can now donate Nectar points to NCH by simply calling Nectars rewards hotline on 08704 100250 or by visiting their website www.nectar.com Grace Foster NCH Co-ordinator

Job Vacancy. With NCH. £68,000 plus car. If you are interested in children's work and share the ethos of NCH. They are seeking a talented and committed individual who shares their values and vision. Email information pack can be obtained from HSW@JMRC.co.uk or download an information pack from the NCH website. Closing date Friday 23 July

Mission News. Church Council has approved sending £200 from the Relief Fund to Oxfam's Sudan Appeal, and £180 to Kisizi Hospital for an additional Sponsored bed. Sylvia Cohen 343424.

The local fundraising group of Cancer Research UK urgently need a small amount of storage space to keep the goods which have been generously donated to sell on their stalls. Please contact either Howard Lawrence 267837 or Jenny Blakey 351065

A Yorkshire Vicar who caused controversy by asking for "paper money only" in the collection at a wedding defended his decision this week. The Revd Mark Sowerby, Vicar of St Wilfrid's, Harrogate, admitted to being "fed up" with counting coppers after weddings in an area that could contribute more to help the upkeep of the Grade-I listed building. He said, however, that he might reconsider how he conveys his message. His instruction to wedding guests had been printed in the order of service — and not stuck to the collection plate, as had been widely reported. "At a typical wedding here of, say, 120 people, we were literally receiving between £5 and £15 in small change. The parish is a mixed area, but it is one of the most affluent in the diocese of Ripon & Leeds."

Mr Sowerby said that he did not see weddings in terms of paying bills. "I stick by the principle of what happened, but obviously did not intend to cause upset. Anything less than the cost of a pint does not seem a worthy contribution." The bride at the wedding where Mr Sowerby made the request last month was reported as saying: "It was my big day, cost a lot of money, took a lot organising, and the Vicar ruined it."

Faith Meeting Faith, a new publication aiming to counter fears about relating to other religions, and pave the way forward in Inter Faith relations, will be launched at the Methodist Conference next week. The 72-page booklet reflects on the questions Christians are asking, such as 'is Britain ceasing to be a Christian country?' and 'can Christians pray and worship together with people of other faiths?' Thirty questions are considered and explored, before suggestions are made for the best 'ways forward'. Organising visits to the places of worship of people of other faiths, taking action to improve the human rights of people of every background, and even reading an English translation of the Qur'an, are some of the proposed ways forward. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, recommended the handbook by saying: "An impressive feature of *Faith Meeting Faith* is the sensitivity and intelligence with which the diversity of views among Christians about key issues is acknowledged. All Christians should find that their views and concerns are taken seriously here; equally, all should find that they are challenged to think afresh." *Faith Meeting Faith* is written for Christians by Christians in order to help us discover the right ways forward for inter faith relations."

Congratulations To Vanesaa Bass and Philip Coyle married yesterday at Putnoe Heights Church.

Partnership News on the website. We have from this week placed Partnership News on the church website. It will be easily accessible from the home page in Adobe format. Adobe is a free programme which can also be downloaded from the website.

Sad News. members of Putnoe Heights Church will be saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Jeanette (Netty) Wadly. She was a regular worshipper at Putnoe Heights Church for many years, until old age prevented her from coming. She lived an incredibly long life and was a very lovely person, so there is much to be thankful for as we remember her. The service will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 9 July at 1.45pm

Nova Property Services Ltd.

57 Murdock Road, Manton Lane Industrial Estate, Bedford. MK41 7PL

Tel 01234 217702 Fax 01234 767827

www.Novapropertyservices.co.uk Email: office@Novapropertyservices.co.uk

Dave Allen is pleased to announce the opening of his new company Nova Property Services Ltd. We cover every aspect of building requirements from minor building repairs and property maintenance, to complete refurbishment of residential and commercial property. We will meet the individual needs of all our customers, large or small. We will be pleased to visit and provide a written quotation to meet all your building requirements. Contact us for a competitive and individual quotation, with all work fully guaranteed.

Plumbing * Carpentry * Flooring * Tiling * Roofing * Plastering
Painting and decorating * Electrical repairs and installations *
Garden landscaping and maintenance * General building work



TIP! Pergolas make an easy and much cheaper alternative to a conservatory. They can also be a transformation for your property. There are many reasons of building a pergola in your garden. In its simplest form it provides a focal point to the garden or an effective soft screen from the neighbours. A pergola gives shelter for a walkway or it can frame a view to another feature within the garden. A pergola can make a lovely place for alfresco dining when accompanied by a patio and some garden furniture. They also provide a cool place to sit and enjoy summer days and evenings when covered by the magnificent climbers like Vitis Coignetiae. Call Nova if you would like us to erect a pergola in time to enjoy the summer.

If you would like any gardening work call Dave Allen at Nova for a free quotation

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.

**Freda Nancy West
Arthur Dew**

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

Thanks to Nova Property Services for sponsoring the last two editions of Partnership News. If you would like to advertise your company using Partnership News please contact St Mark's Church office for our advertising rates.

The following funerals have been arranged

The funeral of Mr Stanley Cuthbert will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 19th July at 12.15pm

The funeral of Mrs Mary Byrne will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 6 July at 11.30am

The funeral of Mrs Jeanette Wadley will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 9 July at 1.45pm