

The Partnership

14 March 2004

Third Sunday in Lent

Methodist
Church

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 – Morning Worship

Preacher – Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Iris Perry

Intercessions – Mr Brian Leeson

11.00am Putnoe Heights Church - Morning

Worship

Preacher – Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions - Mr Peter Bailey

Sunday 21 March Mothering Sunday

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church – Holy Communion

Preacher – Rev Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions – Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00am Putnoe Heights Church -Holy Communion

Preacher – Rev Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen

Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Putnoe Ramblers meet today.

See Page 7 for details

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Ann & John Hitt to mark the 101st birthday of Ann's mother, Jeanette Wadley.

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

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves
to help ourselves.
Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly
in our souls, that we may be defended from all
adversities which may happen to the body and from
all evil thoughts which may assault the soul.
Methodist Worship

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 Sam_Cappleman@hotmail.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)

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

Time for God Volunteer Kasia Pieczyk

St Mark's Flat - 315455

Partnership Website - www.ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com

*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.*

Putnoe Heights Church Centre (Open 9am - 1.00pm)

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy@thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mr Stephen Clare 308299

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 - 5.pm)

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy@thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mr Jim Williams 360605

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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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 at St. Mark's Church G.O.L.D. (*Growing to Overcome Learning Difficulties*).

Day Care Centre - Mrs. Karen Bywater 269515

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 17 March 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

12.30 -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 - March 16 'Wesley on Horseback' Mr. C.Parry. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 6 April Members Afternoon 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. 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 16 March Holiday Slides Bob Burn. Contact Mrs C Davies 219130

8.00pm Tuesday Housegroup will resume after Easter. Meeting is 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 G.O.L.D. (*Growing to Overcome Learning Difficulties*) meets at Putnoe Heights Church. Day Care Centre. Contact Mrs Karen Bywater 269515

10.00 am Holy Communion at St. Mark's Chapel. This is 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 Boding Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

Luncheon Club at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 17 March 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.

12.30 -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 at St. Mark's - G.O.L.D.

(Growing to Overcome Learning Difficulties). Day Care Centre - Contact Mrs. Karen Bywater 269515

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

Sunday

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

News, Views and Information

Forthcoming meetings. Please check!

Partnership Council 8 June

Putnoe Centre Management

26 Apr, 7 Jun, 26 Jul,

St Mark's Centre Management

Church Council at St Mark's

Wednesday 16 June in the Chapel

Churchyards Committee

Next meeting

Putnoe Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday 5 May. Putnoe Heights Church

St Mark's Leadership Team

28th April at Jim Williams, Thursday 27 May,

Tuesday 7 September

Annual Congregational Meetings Sunday 9 May

3.00pm at St Mark's and 4.00pm at Putnoe

Putnoe Church Council

Monday 14 June

Future Event The Fun Run June 13th at 2.30pm

St Mark's More details to follow

Pastoral Group The following dates have been proposed for our next meetings

Wednesday 17 March 11.30am Video Training at St Mark's

Tuesday 20 April 2.30pm Pastoral Group Meeting at St Mark's Would team members please advise Mary

Stubbs is you are not able to make these meetings.

Margaret and Claire Peck are diving into Robinson Pool towards the end of March to put their strokes to good use. They are taking part in the Butlins Swimathon in order to help raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Relief and the Swimathon Foundation. If you would like to sponsor them please telephone Margaret (267567) or Claire (358063). Thank you Margaret and Claire

Spring Craft Day Saturday 27 March at Southdown Methodist Church, Harpenden. Details of workshops and booking forms from Pam Seymour. Tel 305695. Please book early, no later than 1 March .

Help Needed for Good Friday Storybox.

A special Good Friday event from 12.30 -1.45. There will be a story, music & Easter activities. Offers of help with party lunch to Margaret Peck please ! Offers of help to Joan Crossley, Liz Spavins & Sam Ware (Junior Church).

British Red Cross Open Gardens. There are more gardens open this year in this area. For details *Continued page 7*



Bible Notes, Lent 3 (Year C, Purple)

Opening Verse of Scripture

Ps 51 v 17 The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart He will not despise.

Collect Payer for the Day - Before we read we pray

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Bible Reading Isaiah Chapter 55:1-9

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples. Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendour." Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading I Corinthians Chapter 10:1-13

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did--and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did--and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading Luke Chapter 13:1-9

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you

repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them--do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'" (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Morning Worship)

- 1, Come down o love divine 281
- 2 I danced in the morning See Partnership News
3. For the beauty of the Earth 333
4. Now the green blade riseth 204
5. God is love, his the care 220

Commentary

You can just imagine the relish with which some people told Jesus the horrible story about the Galileans who were slaughtered by Pilate. Bad news travels very fast, and I expect they got a ghoulish pleasure from retelling the shocking details, while wringing their hands over the ritual defilement of the Temple. The story tellers were probably expecting Jesus to shake His head and say that it served the Galileans right, that God was punishing them for some transgression of the Law. But Jesus wouldn't play along. He refused to give a trite explanation of why these poor men had died such particularly gruesome and shocking deaths. (Humans always long to be able to account for a disaster by blaming the person to whom it happens!). Jesus wouldn't score such an easy point, but instead argued that the real lesson from to be drawn from their deaths is that it is essential to repent before a similar fate befalls His hearers. As always Jesus surprised, disappointed and even shocked His hearers. Instead of gaining a comfortable, complacent feeling that they were safe, that they were saved, Jesus reminded them that they too were vulnerable to the dangers of the world and that the only safety to be gained was through repentance and being "right" with God. Jesus' insistence that all of us are sinners isn't always easy to listen to: perhaps we feel that we are doing our best. Repentance is a two speed process: the once-for-all event which marks a change in hearts and a determination to live in the Way of Christ, and a slower, daily determination to correct our course, until it lies with His. The need for repentance has never been more important, is Jesus' message for them and for us. *Joan Crossley*

Meditation

'If I had eight hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend six sharpening my axe.' *Abraham Lincoln*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

In the name of God who takes the risk of creation. Of Jesus who journeyed to Calvary and beyond, and the Spirit who kindles our hope and strength, let us go in peace and be witnesses of the Living Faith. Amen

Gracious Father, fill your whole Church with truth and peace; where it is corrupt, purge it; where it is in error, direct it; where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; and where it is divided and torn asunder, heal and bind its wounds; through Christ our Lord. Amen *William Laud, 1573-1645*

Blessed be God for the grandeur and power of crashing waters and the fearsome downwardfall of the cliffs; for the swoop and swing of white birds riding the waves, exultant; for the wind hurtling over moorland miles to break battering round the house, with clawing hands eager to invade and chill; for the silent blanketed folds after snowfall; for trees etched in silver against pewter skies, for winter sunshine brittle as thin ice. *Sister Catherine OHP*

A prayer for the victims of the Madrid bombings

God of all consolation and comfort, bring to us at this time of trial a knowledge of your presence in the face of fear, darkness and death. We ask for your comfort to be with those who grieve, that they might find the courage to bear their pain of their most bitter loss. We pray for all victims still in hospital and for those who care for them.

We bring you our grief and ask for courage to bear it. We bring you our thank for all you give us, in those we love. We bring you our prayers for peace. God our creator and our end, give us the courage to welcome that unimaginable moment awaiting us all; give us trust and confidence; and at the last give us peace.

News from the Wider Church

Women's Ordination. The first women who were ordained priest in the Church of England celebrated their tenth anniversary in Bristol Cathedral this week. The latest figures show 1262 full-time stipendiary women priests in dioceses, 715 non-stipendiary ministers (NSM), 208 ordained local ministers (OLM), and 212 chaplains. Yet, although women priests make up a fifth of the total number of clergy in the Church of England, comparatively few are yet in senior appointments. The Bristol celebrations come amid fierce debate about women bishops and fresh calls for the rescinding of the Act of Synod, which allowed Provincial Episcopal Visitors ("flying bishops") to oversee parishes that could not in conscience accept women priests.

Our own Partnership Churches have unanimously supported a motion in support of the move to rescind. The Group for Rescinding the Act of Synod (GRAS) has declared the Act to be an undermining of women's ministry, and described it in a recent campaign advertisement as "legitimising discrimination against women that would be unlawful and subject to criminal prosecution in other institutions and workplaces". Forward in Faith (FiF) has intensified its stance that the Act is the only device that enables the Church of England to hold together. The organisation says that having women bishops would make the Act unworkable, and has reiterated its determination to establish a "free province", if women were appointed to the episcopate.

We've had the 10 commandments for more than 3000 years - a new phone text competition for under-40s asks: isn't it about time for an 11th? The Methodist Church this week overturns the traditional impression that it wants nothing to do with pubs as it takes to bars across Britain to promote a phone text competition for under-40s. In a campaign to discover what under-40s think are the pressing spiritual issues of the day, 250,000 drinks mats featuring six designs are being distributed by specialist marketers Thirsty's to 250 city and town bars frequented by students and under-40s.

There are six separate drinks mat designs, which include suggestions for a possible new 11th commandment: 'Stop war'; 'Reduce emissions'; 'Eat more donuts'; 'Remove all packaging'; 'Never give out your password'; 'Do not disturb'

Competition organisers, the Methodist Church together with website shipoffools.com hope that under-40s might spend a few minutes thinking and maybe discussing what they would like to be the 11th commandment. More than 500 people have already sent in their entries. The competition is being seen as the beginning of a dialogue between the Church and adults in their 20s and 30s. Like other churches, Methodism has recognized lower numbers of this age group attending traditional church services. This is the first of a series of initiatives designed to help Methodist leaders to understand better the culture of under-40s and what they think about God. The drinks mats and postcards were designed by the Methodist Church Communication Office. The postcards were distributed nationally to 260 multiplex cinemas, 850 café bars and almost 370 universities and colleges. To enter the competition, participants need to text ELEVEN plus the suggested 11th Commandment to 84880 (for example send 'ELEVEN Thou shalt not text and drive'). The best five commandments received by the closing date of 31 March 2004 will win a camera phone. Later in the year the organisers hope to publish a book with the best competition entries. This will allow the Church to share what people say with a wider audience. Why not have a go!

News, Views and Information

please refer to the booklet which can be found on the notice board. If you wish to help with these events contact Jo Whitney 361060.

St Mark's Storybox. I am starting to think about the rota for next term. If anyone who is not yet a volunteer & would like to help, would like to drop me a note, & if anyone has any dates that they know they will not be available, please let me know. Joan

Coffee Time Cards New stocks of Mother's Day cards and Easter cards are on sale from today. Usual reasonable prices. Commissions still taken.

Mima Noble would like to thank everyone for the cards and flowers and good wishes. She has had her operation and is feeling very much better.

Cake Stall at St. Mark's 14 March. Alex Royden, Hannah Farthing and Kate Crossley will be running a cake stall in aid of agricultural equipment for Africa.

Bedford Town Concert Band & Progress Brass Friday 26 March, 8.00pm "BRASS GOES POP" Tickets £5 Concessions £3 from Roger Nichols 357268 or available at the door.

MHA I have available from Sutton's catalogues for Spring and Summer plants and seeds. If interested please contact me. 20% of the value of each order is passed to The Methodist Homes. This is a great way to raise funds for this worthwhile charity and to make your garden beautiful. Thank you Grace Foster 215053

Supper & Spring Lecture. "Hitch-Hiking around the Universe" Saturday 27th March 7pm at Sharnbrook Methodist Church. Tickets £7—available from Eileen Smith 82241.

Putnoe Ramblers today 14th March at 2.30pm Meet at the end of The Ridgeway, Flitwick, which can be found opposite the Wheatsheaf Public House approaching Flitwick from Ampthill. This will be a gentle stroll around Flitwick Moor lasting about one and a half hours.

It could be muddy so come prepared! Further details from Margaret and Eddy Peck 267567

Please also note that details of the Ramblers week-end away in September are now available in the welcome area

Saturday 3rd April 2004 All day walk incorporating a short train ride (Bedford to Ridgmont £2.70) and 8½ mile walk from Ridgmont station to Millbrook. Lunch 12.30—1.00pm at "The Swan" Cranfield. Meet 10.10am St John's station for 10.17 train. Free car parking behind 'Kid's World' and St. John's

station. Any queries contact Margaret or Alan 327219.

From The Carter Family Janet, Philip, Andrews and Paul would like to extend their sincere thanks for all the sympathy and kindness received following Peter's sudden death. Thanks to everyone who attended the funeral service and for the many cards, letters and flowers received. They have been a source of strength to us all.

Partnership Singers. A reminder to all members past and present that rehearsals for Easter Services continue on Friday 19 March at 7.00pm

Thank You. To all of those who worked hard to support the Scottish Evening. A total of £525 was raised which just shows how much fun can be had raising money for a good cause. The funds will be placed towards our new disabilities centre appeal.

The Cost of Crime. Somebody collecting a child from pre-school at 12 noon had a window smashed in their car and a handbag stolen. The car was parked in Calder Rise. Our own CCTV system recorded the incident and footage has been supplied to the Police. Please be vigilant and do not leave valuables on display.

You will be interested to know that Morwenna Richardson's big brother Kenelm, is coxing for Cambridge in the Boat Race. Congratulations and good luck.

Congratulations to Barry Snelson who will take over from Wendy Rider as Centre Manager of Putnoe Heights Church Centre. We extend to Barry our best wishes for the future as he takes over this important role in the life of our church. Barry will commence his duties in the week following Easter.

The Hot Spot. Anybody Centre users wishing to take advantage of our new wireless access point at St Mark's Church Community Centre may do. It will allow anybody using wireless devices to access the internet inside the building. Groups or individuals wishing to have advice on using the system should speak with Charles Royden. Our new office suite also provides full internet access facilities to users. If you would like to make use of the new facilities please speak with Wendy Rider.

Garden of Remembrance. The Churchyards Committee are seeking the introduction of columbaria into the Garden to enable the interment of many more caskets in vaults in a constructed wall. The Diocese are currently refusing permission and we have asked for a meeting with the Chancellor.

Partnership Lent Course 2004

7.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church

Great Hymn Writers

This year our Lent Course will be looking at the lives and theology of four great hymn writers.

Our Ministers will speak about a separate hymn writer each week in Lent. This would be an excellent event to bring along a friend or somebody who does not come to church.

15 March Keeble Sam Cappleman

22 March Pratt Green Charles Royden

29 March Wesley Neil Bramble Chapman

Information about our Worship

Welcome to our churches, it is always our pleasure to welcome visitors.

Refreshments Please do feel welcome to stay behind after church for coffee which will be served in the church

Sunday School takes place during morning service a Crèche is available at the back of the church, please feel able to walk in and out during the service.

Parents Please remember that colouring boards and crayons are available for children during the service.

Hard of hearing? Please note that a hearing aid loop is fitted at our churches. Please switch to the 'T' setting.

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

**Kathleen Dawes
Ken Bland**

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

Hymn For Sunday

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance said he.*

I danced for the Scribe and the Pharisee
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.

I danced for the fishermen for James and John,
they came with me and the dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,
and they left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black,
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me.
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Michael John Puttock and Penelope of the parish of St Andrew's Bedford on the electoral roll of this parish. This is for the 2nd time of asking (7,14,21)

The following funerals have been arranged

The funeral of James William Davenport will take place at at 12.15pm on Thursday 18 March at Bedford Crematorium.

The funeral of Margaret Allman Hayward will take place at 1.45pm on Monday 15 March at Bedford Crematorium.