



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

18 July 2004
16 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 Putnoe Heights only

9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion

Preacher Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day

Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Bailey

Intercessions - Mr Peter Bailey

17 in Ordinary — July 25

8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at St Mark's only

9.30am St. Mark's Church – Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions – Mr Chris Izzard

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen

Intercessions - Ministers

Thank You

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Linda Parry in memory of her parents.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have been given by Barbara Bachmanis in memory of her husband Eric.

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

Create within me, O Father, a love for your holy word. Let me be increasingly anxious to obey the commandments that I find therein. Teach me the true and inner meaning of the scripture. Open my eyes that within its sacred pages I may find new strength and joy. By its precepts may I find guidance for my soul, and grant me grace to hear afresh the divine voice that speaks through familiar words; for your truth and your name's sake. Amen

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 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

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 313181

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

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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 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 - 10 August Summer Meeting Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 27th July. Mr I. Cruse - The House of Lords 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- 9.00pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746
7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly . Next meeting July 20 Coffee Evening 7pm 34 Severn Way 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 21 July Summer Outing 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 Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob. 07891095746

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.

Bechar in urgent cash crisis. Bechar the charity which runs Prebend Day Centre caring for street people, is in dire straits following a withdrawal of funding by the European Social Fund. They predict a shortfall of £62,000 by the end of March 2005. Bechar are requesting individuals to set up standing orders to allow staff to be kept on and prevent closure. Contact Rev Derek Fitch for details.

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

NCH House to House Collection will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill! Last year we raised over £750 for this well respected National Children's Charity. If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out envelopes and collect them in the Brickhill area or would just like some more information then please contact me. Thanks. Mike Elliott Tel: 342507

Mima and Trevor Noble thank all their friends at Putnoe and St Mark's for the good wishes, flowers and cards received on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding. It is much appreciated.



Bible Notes Ordinary 16

Opening Verse of Scripture

"Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness." Psalm 29:2

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Grant us Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those things which last for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

Methodist Worship

First Bible Reading Genesis 18: 1-10a

The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way--now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say." So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of fine flour and knead it and bake some bread." Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said. Then the LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

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

Second Reading Colossians 1: 15-28

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness-- the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - All: **Thanks be to God**)



**He is the image
of the invisible God,
the firstborn
of all creation.**

Colossians 1.15

Gospel Reading Luke 10: 38-42

(After the Gospel is announced **All: Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ - **All: Praise to Christ our Lord Amen**)



"Jesus Visits Mary and Martha."
Luke 10:38-42

Post Communion Prayer

God of life and love, whose risen Son called Mary Magdalene by name and sent her to tell of his resurrection to his apostles: in your mercy, help us, who have been united with him in this eucharist, to proclaim the good news that he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

This picture is available from the church office for children to take home and colour

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Holy Communion booklets)

1. Begin my tongue H&P 2
2. Father God I wonder how MP 128
3. And now O Father 593 H&P;
4. Fill thou my life O lord my God 792 H&P

Commentary Genesis 18:1-10a

This passage from the Old Testament tells the story of a Divine Visitation, but also recalls the promise to Sarah that she will bear a child. Here three beings approach Abraham and in Christian terms, these beings have been identified as the Three persons of the Trinity, although this doctrine would not have been in the mind of the author.

Abraham, a nomad had pitched his tent under the terebinths (small trees) of Mamre, near Hebron, a place which later became a sanctuary and place of pilgrimage. At midday, the time of rest, Abraham is sitting at the door of his tent when these strangers appear. He offers them hospitality, (an obvious link with today's Gospel) which goes far beyond the original offer of bread and water. Abraham and Sarah divide the work according to custom, where Sarah bakes bread and Abraham slaughters a calf. The meal becomes a feast of celebration, celebrating God's presence. The idea of God needing to eat does not fit well with our modern minds, but in the Old Testament God is often spoken of in anthropomorphic terms. (Referring to something non-human in human terms) In this instance it serves to highlight God's accessibility and reality whilst also emphasising the importance of hospitality.

The episode speaks to us of welcome, hospitality, of God's presence in the ordinariness of life and of surprise. Indeed Sarah is so surprised that she has to laugh when she is told she will bear a child, despite being past childbearing age. We can also see in this passage that in welcoming strangers to our table, to our fellowship, to our church, to our homes, we may in fact be offering hospitality as if to God. **Neil Bramble-Chapman**

Meditation upon the post communion prayer

Mary Magdalene could be thought of as the patron saint of the Much Maligned. For centuries, she has been depicted as the scarlet woman, the "tart with a heart" who abandoned a life of prostitution to follow Jesus. In Jesus Christ Superstar she sings of Jesus: "I've had so many men before in very many ways: he's just one more." In the film The Last Temptation of Christ she is introduced to us in her bed, and it is to her that Jesus's mind wanders during the crucifixion. Such imagery has proved undeniably powerful, but has no scriptural basis.

St Luke mentions "some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities", among them, "Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out" (Luke 8.2). Elsewhere in the Gospels, an unnamed woman washes Jesus's feet with her tears and wipes them with her hair —

a scandalous but loving and generous act. It has traditionally been assumed that she is Mary Magdalene. She is thus confirmed as a woman who loved Jesus dearly and as someone who knew the power of sensuality and her own sexuality.

Thankfully, our post communion prayer ignores the unfounded tradition. Instead, it recognises that even if we know nothing else about Mary, we know this: it was she who first saw the risen Lord, and it was to Mary that Jesus gave the apostolic commission: "Go to my disciples . . . and tell them" (John 20.17).

The prayer reminds us that she was called by name. In John's account of the resurrection, Jesus does indeed call her by her name. When she mistakes him for the gardener, he turns to her and says, "Mary". It is one of those moments that never fails to make the hairs on my neck stand up, because it is the saying of her name that causes her to see who he really is. The scales of grief fall from her eyes. It is Jesus, her Lord, alive before her when she expected to find him dead.

More importantly, it is the saying of her name that opens her eyes to the resurrection and its meaning. It takes us back right to the creation in Genesis where, in order to bring something into life, God names it. And it takes us on to the baptism service, in which the candidate is brought into the resurrection life by being named. Jesus said, "Mary", and she became alive. More than this, the word "called" in this prayer reminds us that Jesus not only said her name aloud, but he also called her to a task, a vocation — to go and tell his disciples about the resurrection. Being part of the resurrection meant sharing the good news, telling others that Jesus was risen from the dead.

The prayer ends by weaving her calling into our own calling. It is a post-communion prayer, and, as such, sends us out from the church and back to the world. We who have been brought near to Jesus Christ in the eucharist are called into the new life of the resurrection.

We, who have been united with his body and blood, are called to open our eyes to who he is — even when we encounter him in unexpected places. And we, who, like Mary, have reached out and touched him, are called with her to depart and proclaim the good news.

The Revd Georgina Byrne is Vicar of St Kenelm's, Romsley, in the Halas Team, in the diocese of Worcester.

Prayers.

God of time and eternity:

We bless you for our hope in Christ Jesus and for his life in our lives.

In the week that is ahead our relationships to family, possessions, work, and moods will demand our attention. Free us to love you with all our hearts and to love the world into what it is to become by your mercy and justice:

Let our love be genuine.

Let our affections be tempered with holiness.

Let our desires be shaped by the vision
of a new heaven and a new earth.

Let our actions reflect the balance of love for your reign in all things.

Let our perceptions and feelings be ordered by the hope we have in Christ.

Eternal God, in Christ you make yourself our guest. Amid all our cares and concerns make us attentive to your voice and alert to your presence, that we may prize your word above all else. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

News, Views and Information

Wanted Babies cot. If anyone has a cot for sale, please contact Janet Day– 01234 295592

Vi Williams has moved to a Nursing Home in Torquay Devon near to her daughter Pam, we wish her well in her new home.

We say goodbye today to Marjorie Singleton who will be greatly missed at Putnoe Heights Church. Our very best wishes go with her for future happiness.

St Mark's Church Pre-school raised £480 by having a "Pedal Push" in aid of Child Line on 2nd July. Thanks to all who contributed to the event.

Methodist Church celebrates trade unionist heritage at Tolpuddle festival.

The Methodist Church, which has recently voiced support for the Gangmasters Bill and renewed links with the TUC, will this weekend link together a peer of the realm and five thousand Trade Unionists at the Tolpuddle Festival. Tolpuddle, a tiny village in Dorset, will come alive as coachloads of Trade Unionists from all around the country converge there for the annual commemoration of the Tolpuddle Martyrs. Five of the six 1834 Martyrs who risked the wrath of landowners to form the 'Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers', calling for better wages and conditions, were prominent village Methodists. Mr John Ellis, Connexional Secretary for Business and Economic Affairs, who will offer a dedication to the Parade of Banners as it progresses down the main street, said: "The Martyrs were above all men of faith, and their trade unionism grew out of their faith. John Wesley and his circuit-riding preachers had left behind them transformed communities, who had found new dignity and independence."

He continued: "The magistrates and farmers, desperate to suppress the Tolpuddle workers, arrested them on trumped up charges of forming 'illegal societies'. The men were soon deported to Australia, but the British Trade Union movement traces its origins back to them."

The weekend will conclude with an ecumenical service in the Methodist Chapel, with its entrance arch erected by the TUC to commemorate the martyrs. The preacher will be the new Labour member of the House of Lords, The Rev Dr Lord Griffiths, former President of the Conference and minister of Wesley's Chapel. His theme will be "We raise the watchword Liberty".

What happened at General Synod of the Church of England last week ? The prospect of trials for heresy receded at the weekend, when the one House voted down a scheme to hold the clergy to account for doctrinal, ritual and ceremonial errors.

In an eventful meeting in York, the Church of England's General Synod affiliated itself to the Trade Justice Movement, pledged to tackle drug abuse, lamented the incidence of domestic violence, and challenged the Government on the size of gaol populations.

One issue was thrust upon Synod, when Fathers 4 Justice carried out its threat to target cathedrals and disrupted the Sunday eucharist at York Minster. A verger was badly bruised and a glass door cracked as a group of men muscled their way into the service. They left after Dr Williams allowed them an opportunity to state their grievance.

Synod debates were calmer, though there was anger among some of the laity when the clergy narrowly defeated a scheme to set up new disciplinary tribunals for doctrinal, ritual and ceremonial cases. The Archbishop of Canterbury was among those who voted to phase out pay differentials between bishops and clergy, though this motion was defeated. Dr Williams urged Christians to campaign for restorative rather than retributive justice. He said that politicians of persuasions agreed that the present sentencing policy was scandalous in the way that it failed culprits and victims alike. Similar calls for church action came in debates about trade justice, domestic violence, and drug abuse.

Synod approved a system whereby couples need show only one of a much wider set of "demonstrable connections" than at present to be allowed to marry in a church. Synod debated the weekday lectionary; and new resources for festivals and feasts. It also took note of new penitential rites.

In a short debate, members added their weight to a campaign to ensure that Christmas stamps always have a Christian theme. The Synod agreed to cut its membership by more than 100; looked approvingly at electronic voting; and agreed budgets for 2005. So all that money was obviously well spent.

A Hymn for Sunday

**Father God I wonder how I managed to exist
Without the knowledge of your parenthood
and your loving care.**

**But now I am your child;
I am adopted in your family**

**And I can never be alone,
'cause Father God you're there beside me**

**I will sing your praises,
I will sing your praises
I will sing your praises,
for evermore.**

**I will sing your praises,
I will sing your praises,
I will sing your praises,
for evermore.**

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.

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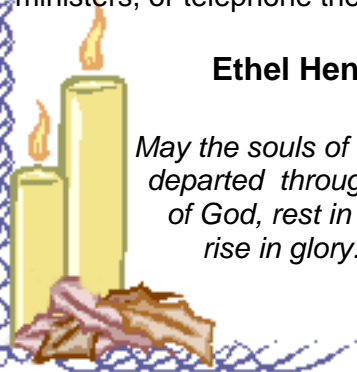
Call Dave Allen at Nova for a free quotation

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.

Ethel Hennesey

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



We publish the banns of marriage and pray for the marriage of

Christopher Neil Twidale of this parish but on the electoral role of Souldrop Parish Church and Emma Jane Morgan of the parish of St Peter's Rushden but on the electoral roll of Souldrop Parish Church. This is for the first time of asking.

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 Irene Ellen Francis will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12.15pm on Wednesday 21 July

The painting on Page 4 is a sixth century encaustic icon of Christ from the Monastery of St Catherine at the foot of Mount Sinai.