



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

10 July 2005  
15 in Ordinary

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



Church of  
England

## Church Services Today

### 8.30 Service of Holy Communion

St. Mark's

**9.30am St Mark's Church** - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Neil-Bramble Chapman

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day

Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

**11.00am Putnoe Heights** - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Neil-Bramble Chapman

Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash

Intercessions - Ministers

### 17 July 16 in Ordinary

### 8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Putnoe Heights

**9.30am St Mark's Church** - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr John Ayers

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

**11.00am Putnoe Heights** - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr John Ayers

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

**We express our condolences  
to all of those affected by the  
London bombings.**

'We may well ask where God is at times like these. We can see Him in the power of the human spirit etched on the faces of the emergency services and the general public who have given their all to help others today'.

*Christopher Bishop of St Albans*

### Prayer for Sunday

Eternal God,  
giver of love and peace,  
you call your children  
to live together as one family.  
Give us grace to learn your ways  
and to do your will,  
That we may bring justice  
and peace to all people,  
in the name of Jesus Christ. 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

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#### The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.

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Partnership News is now available each week on the  
Partnership Website - [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

#### For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in  
Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

#### Partnership 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** [putnoe@thisischurch.com](mailto:putnoe@thisischurch.com)

**Centre Manager** Mr Barry Snelson 365630

**Leadership Team** - Mrs Sue Allen 407264

**Treasurer** Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

[treasurerph@thisischurch.com](mailto: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** [office@thisischurch.com](mailto:office@thisischurch.com)

**Centre Manager** Miss Wendy Rider 342613

**Leadership Team** - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

**Treasurer** - Mr John Day 295592 [treasurer@thisischurch.com](mailto: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).

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

**10.00am Supple Strength** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Louise Woodcock 270302

**12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box** at Putnoe Heights. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from.

**4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 400987

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Contact Penny Fulham 406045

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

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

**7.15pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

**7.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs C Cannon 404319

**7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month the next one 18 July Moorfields & Sight Concern Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

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

**8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

## Tuesday

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

**9.30am Jo Jingles** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866

**10.00am Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230

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

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

**1.30pm Body Control Pilates** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Stephanie Smith 357787

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 12 July. Wendy Rider "A Day at the Palace". Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188.

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 19 July Bible Study Acts 2, 43-47 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. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

**6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 783129

**6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Emma Holloway 293792

**7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit** at St. Mark's. Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.

**7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club** meets fortnightly at St Mark's. Contact Carol Houghton 346718

**7.30pm 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 19 July. Members evening. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

**8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

## Wednesday

**9.30am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949

**9.30am Bedford U3A** at Putnoe Heights meets bi-monthly. Next meeting . Contact Jenny Coggins 266379

**9.00 a.m. Clubhouse** at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Contact Karen Bywater 315460.

**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

**Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Height meets fortnightly. Next meeting 7 September Contact Putnoe Heights 365630

**1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** at St. Mark's. Contact Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

**4.15pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

**6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449

**6.00 pm Brownies** at St Mark's. Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731

**7.00pm Bunyan Bridge** at St. Mark's Contact Brian Sallows 407725

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting . Contact Sylvia Woods 365095

**7pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Contact Pam Holley 771964

**7.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes at St Mark's. Contact 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 quiet room. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*

**9.45am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

**10.30am - 12.00am Fledglings** at St Mark's  
**2.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic** at St. Mark's Contact 267444

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

**1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

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

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

**2pm U3A Indoor Games** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Radmila Dancer 404811

**4.00 Story box Plus** at Putnoe Heights. A drama group for 4-9year olds. Meets 4-5pm, drinks from 3.30pm

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

**6.15pm Brownies** at Putnoe Heights . Contact Helga Nash 218521

**7.00pm Club 2000** at Putnoe Height. Contact Pat Stidolph 345247

**6.15pm 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 P Housden 376597

**7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild** St Mark's– 3rd Thursday of the 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 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

## Friday

**9.30am U3A Exercise** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Carole Maunder 301325

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

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

**7. 30pm Bibleway** Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 376841

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

## Saturday

**9.30am Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517

**10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train** at St Mark's –dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 01234 782414

**2.30pm Calligraphy Group** at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting. Contact Philip Jones 350295

**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 Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob. 07891095746

**6.00pm TNT (The Nearly Teens)** meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

# Church Calendar

## Church Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council** 12 October  
**Circuit Meeting** 14 September  
**St Mark's Leadership Team** – 4 October  
**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** July 21  
**St Mark's Church Management Meeting**  
11 July, 12 September, 2 November. All meetings to start 7.00pm  
**Putnoe Heights Management**  
**Putnoe Church Council** 10 Oct 2005

**Pastoral Group Meeting** – 19 September 2.00pm  
**Churchyard Committee** -  
**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting** .  
**Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.** Calendar dates appear also on our church website [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com).  
**Brickhill Parish Council dates** (Held at St Mark's)  
Allotments Committee 7.30pm  
Council Meeting 14 July  
Planning meeting  
Bedford Deanery meeting 15 September  
**Partnership Council** 20 September

# Bible Notes

## Ordinary 15 Year A (Green)

### Verse of Scripture Romans 8:14

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

### A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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



Eternal God, giver of love and peace, you call your children to live together as one family. Give us grace to learn your ways and to do your will, that we may bring justice and peace to all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. *Collect for NCH Sunday*

### First Reading – Isaiah 55: 10 - 13

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed."

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

### Second Reading - Romans 8: 1 - 11

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### Third Reading – Matthew 13: 1 - 9 , 18 - 23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun

came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear."

"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

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

### **Commentary on Romans 8:1-11**

This passage from Paul is at the heart of his understanding of the transformation of the individual by the "Christ-Event", the Life, Ministry, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It starts with the triumphant declaration that "there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." What wonderful words of victory and reassurance. In Jesus Christ there is a position of safety and victory, in which the individual is set free from the guilty verdict that has hung over them. This is the position that we too stand in now, that we are set free from the law of sin and death. Sin and death, negativity and eternal separation from God no longer apply to us, because of what Christ has done for us.

But in this new status we have through the Christ-Event, we are called to no longer live our lives according to the sinful nature, but according to the Spirit. For Paul the contrast is stark, "The mind of the sinful man is death...is hostile to God...cannot please God." On the other hand, "the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;" vs 7-8. The difference is that those who live by the sinful nature focus on what we desire, as opposed to living by the Spirit and seeking to do the will of God.

That is great in theory, but in practice we know that matters can be rather different. Last week's epistle from Romans 7 all too vividly reminds us of this dichotomy, between theory and practice. "For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do— this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me." Paul expresses a dilemma that we all face many times in our lives. We have the desire and intention to do the right thing and follow the right path, yet we end up doing the wrong thing and going astray.

I pray that each of us as we struggle to be faithful followers of Christ, may know the strength of the Holy Spirit within us to guide us and lead us when we are perplexed. *Neil Bramble-Chapman*

### **Meditation The NCH Covenant**

Every child has the right to live, to be safe and to be loved. Every young person has the right to be housed, to have enough money to live in dignity and to have enough support for the future. Every young person has the right to justice, to realise their potential and to be given the space to become independent. In an often cruel and imperfect world, we uphold the work of NCH with children and young people in danger, in need and at risk. We support the growth of this work and the pursuit of all these rights for the young, the discounted and the vulnerable. We make this covenant with NCH for the sake of all God's children. Amen

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Morning Worship)**

1. Begin my tongue 2, 2. He's got the whole world 25, 3. As man and woman we were made 364, 4. Love divine 267, 5. May the mind 739

### **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

Remember the work of NCH in your prayers at church, your housegroups, fellowships and in your private devotions Give thanks for the family of God, to whom all belong and no-one is excluded.

Pray for children who are growing up lacking in love, self confidence, at risk from neglect and abuse.

Pray for staff and volunteers in NCH projects, for their understanding, patience, professionalism and commitment to parents and children. Pray for parents under pressure, feeling isolated, anxious about the future and unable to cope with daily life. Give thanks for the difference that NCH makes to the lives of vulnerable children and their families.

Lord Jesus, you showed us how to put the child at the centre when they were pushed to one side to be seen but not heard. You were encouraging, positive, gentle generous with your time patient in your listening and loving in your response. Let us put the child at the centre and give them safe space and boundaries to grow and develop a sense of themselves of others and the world. Let us give them courage when they need it freedom to play, laugh and cry and above all, let us give them the same endless love that you offer each one of us.

Help us to find the child in ourselves and put them at the centre of who we are so that we rediscover the trust, honesty and vulnerability in our relationship with you and so come closer to seeing and bringing about your kingdom. Amen

Creator God and parent to all, we pray for children each one a gift of new life and hope, full of potential and expectation waiting to be realised and helped along the way. We pray for those who have a difficult start in life and struggle to overcome poverty, ill-health, problems at home, lack of opportunities and lack of love.

We pray for parents especially for those who feel powerless to influence circumstances beyond their control. When anxiety, responsibility, anger and fear mean there are days when it all seems too much to bear. Amen

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## **Worship Material for NCH Sunday 10 July**

The second Sunday in July is designated by the Methodist Church as a Special Sunday to celebrate the founding of the first children's home by Rev Thomas Bowman Stephenson in 1869. It is an opportunity to remember, give thanks and pray for the continuing work of NCH and recognise the support given to their children's charity by Methodists all over the UK.



**the children's charity**

### **Prayer of adoration**

Loving God,

For all the children you have created, we give you thanks and praise

For the young people that they grow into, we give you thanks and praise

For all they can teach us, reveal to us, we give you thanks and praise

For their potential and the opportunities which can be theirs, we give you thanks and praise

Help us to give them the time and love that Jesus showed them, to listen to them, respect them appreciate and develop their gifts, to build your Kingdom of love and justice, for all your people in Jesus' name. Amen

### **Prayer of confession**

Forgiving God, we come to you disturbed, challenged and sorry about what is wrong in our lives and your world. We come to you to admit our failure to take responsibility for our selfishness and thoughtlessness, as well as for what we allow to happen without registering a murmur of unease or complaint.

Remind us once more of the strength of your love for all your children which forgives us and renews us.

Give us confidence to learn and grow together, to take our place in the world. Fulfil your purpose in us, your children, and grant us your grace to do your will now and forever. Amen

**Storybox plus** has grown since it all began in January. We now have 11 children in our group. As our activities become more adventurous we could use some extra pairs of hands. If anyone would like to come and join us on a once a month/rota basis we would really like to hear from you, especially in June and July. We are taking a break in August then start again in September. For further details please call Liz Spavins on Tel: 01234 302349

**Brickhill Parish Council** Meets this Thursday 14 July at St Mark's Church 7.45pm

**Volunteers wanted** to host a Mission coffee morning on a Saturday from 10 –12, anytime from August onwards. Help from Mission Group on the day. Sylvia Cohen 343424

**Volunteers wanted** There will be a skip at Bridge Cottage Great Barford on 28,29 &30 July from 9 -12 pm. If anyone can come and help fill it, please contact Alan Cooper 365302

**Footprints** 10 July at 2.30pm (please note this is one week earlier than on programme) Meet at Cranfield Church for a circular walk based on "The Clay Way". Please bring a picnic tea if you would like. Further details from Ruth & Alan Bunker 213951

**Local Preaching** I would like to thank everybody for their good wishes and congratulations, the letters I have received and the generous gift which marked my completion of fifty years as a Local Preacher. I have been quite overwhelmed, John Stubbs.

**Auction of Promises September 17 at St Mark's Church.** Thank you to those who have offered fantastic promises, in aid of the Building Development to replace the Portakabin and provide accommodation for Autism Bedfordshire. Please contact Chris Izzard who is organising this event. Telephone 212164.

**Junior Church Activity Day "Fishing For Souls"** on Wednesday 10 August at Putnoe Heights Church 9.30am - 3.30pm. Drama, singing, games and costume making in preparation to perform a Bible based story on the 4 September at our fun filled Family Service. For further details call the church office 365630 or Liz Spavins 302349

**Hard Men** Members of the Men's Fellowship will recall an excellent lecture given recently by Professor Clive Emsley (a member at Putnoe Heights) under the title 'Plucky Chaps and Hard Men'. His book "Hard Men and Violence in England since 1950" is now available from Putnoe library. Trevor Noble

**Holidays.** There will be no Junior Church or Storybox Plus during August. Junior Church will meet again on Sept 11th ,Storybox on 8th September. Storybox at Putnoe heights will continue on Mondays as usual, older children and those families from St. Mark's are most welcome to join us but please bring a picnic lunch, drinks will be provided. Can you also let me know about the Thurleigh trip (14th or 21st August) as soon as possible. Thanks Liz Spavins.

**The Church's ministry among Young Jewish People** wish to appoint an Administrator for Shoresh tours to Israel. Full time role includes planning, and organising group tours. Details and application form can be obtained from:- Nigel Guard 30c Clarence Road, St Albans, AL1 4JJ. Tel: 01727 833114 E-mail: nigelg@cmj.org.uk

**Many thanks** to all who supported the Cream Tea at 62 Church Lane on Sunday 3rd July. £162 was raised for Mission funds. Sylvia Cohen

**The Excelsior Singers**, a choir which sings regularly on radio and TV in Barbados in a programme rather like the BBC's Songs of Praise is coming to the Church of St Michael and All Angels Barford Avenue, Bedford, on Thursday 4th August and giving a concert starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £2.50 can be purchased in advance or at the door.

**Church Council** There will be an short extra ordinary meeting of St Mark's church council after church (This Sunday) Sunday 10th July.

**St Mark's Lunch Club** (now being held at Putnoe Heights Church) A few seats are available for the afternoon coach trip to Castle Ashby with Lunch Club members on 20th July and tea at Wilstead Methodist Church. Cost £6. Contact St Mark's Church. Tel: 342613 or Margaret Standley 305352.

**Calling blood donors**, please keep appointments to give blood and consider becoming a donors as stocks are affected by the recent bombings. The next blood donor session in Bedford is at the Harpur Suite on Tuesday 26 July. If people cannot attend that one please check the website [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk) or phone the donor helpline on 08457711711.

**Gift Aid** One way of increasing the income for our churches is for people who pay tax to use Gift Aid. St Mark's Leadership Team heard this week that the efforts of our Gift Aid Secretary Jim Williams have just resulted in a cheque for £3,100 for St Mark's Church. This represents only six months claim— Thanks to Jim and all who gave using Gift Aid.

## London Bombing (taken from our church website [www.thisischurch.com](http://www.thisischurch.com))

We express our condolences to those affected by the most dreadful events in London. At times like this we are aware of evil at work in our midst which would seek to kill and destroy. We share with all religious people of different faiths who utterly condemn those responsible. The Archbishop of Canterbury has said "We in the faith communities will have to continue to stand and work together for the well being of our nation and for our shared understanding of the life that God calls us to. I hope that we shall all keep that vision alive at this deeply sad and testing time."

The Bishop of London said: "This is a grave day for London. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the injured and the bereaved and also with the emergency services who have responded so rapidly. London's clergy have been working alongside the emergency services since early this morning and churches close to affected areas have been opened for shelter, aid and prayer."

We pray for those who have lost loved ones, we extend our compassion towards those who have been injured. We stand alongside all those who seek to purge our society of those who pursue evil ways to advance their cause. We pray for strength to be given to the emergency services who strive to provide care and practical support. May the strong love of God triumph over hatred and bitterness and bring peace to us in our time of trouble.

### In the face of terrorism

For those who are injured, maimed, traumatised and dying: We pray God's peace;  
For the rescue workers – police and fire officers, paramedics, and hospital staff: We pray God's strength;  
For the fellow-travellers stooping to comfort, soothe and tend the wounds: We pray God's compassion;  
For those who are dispirited, angry, despairing, and grieving: We pray God's comfort;  
For the leaders who are called to speak for and to nation or communities: We pray God's wisdom;  
For those who turn to violence to achieve their ends: We pray God's forgiveness;  
For our sisters and brothers of all faiths and of none: We pray God's blessing;  
For ourselves – numbed, fearful, morbidly fascinated or guiltily relieved: We pray God's light in our lives.

As we hold before God those who suffer, we give thanks for every sign of the resilience of the human spirit and the determination not to be cowed by the cowards. We pray that all people may learn to live in peace and with mutual respect. May we not cease in our striving for justice and for an end to poverty, preventable disease and the destruction of the environment. May our eyes be fixed on Jesus, who bears and takes away the sin of the world, and in whom nothing can separate us from the love of God. Amen.

Jonathan Kerry 7th July 2005

### 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.

**Derek Hill  
Bill Woolmer  
Doris Freemantle  
John Williams  
Vida Stellan  
David William Flint**

**Those who died in the London bombing**

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

The Rev'd Jay MacLeod, Parish Priest of Queens Park, Bedford and Interfaith Adviser to the Bishop and Diocese of St Albans, commented: "Like everyone else, my Muslim friends assume the bombings are the work of al-Qaeda, and they are full of sorrow and despair at the injuries and the loss of life. Muslims to whom I have spoken are also full of anger that such atrocities can be carried out in the name of God."



### Publication of the banns of Marriage.

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Richard Wright and Helen Parry. This is the second time of asking.

### Forthcoming Funerals

to be conducted by our ministers  
There are no funerals this week