



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

10 September 2006
Ordinary 23

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 Holy Communion at both Churches
9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Richard Wycherley
Leadership - Mr Mike Cooper
Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Richard Wycherley
Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

17 September Ordinary 24

8.30 Holy Communion at both Churches
9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr Ian Farthing
Intercessions - Mrs M Appleton
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion
Preacher - Revd. Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Reading 1 : Proverbs 1: 20 - 33
Reading 2 : James 3: 1 - 12
Reading 3 : Mark 8: 27 - 38

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Gerry And Sue Allen, who celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary today (10 September)

The flowers in the church at St. Marks have been given by Joan Eatwell celebrating the birth of her first great grandson Ewan Scott.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights).

A Prayer for Sunday

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

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 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 Youth and Children's Worker

Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@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 News is also archived on our church 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. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am - 12 noon Monday & Friday

9am - 5pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school Mrs Janet Smith 326685

8.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634

(See website for more details)

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

Mini-Strikers Sport for Children at Putnoe aged 2-4 years. Contact Andy Carey 01908 313751 or 07766 142754, or www.ministrikers.co.uk

12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349

2.30 - 4.30pm Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights contact Malcolm Smith on 01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

4pm Monday Club at St. Marks for 3—8 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments , between 4 & 5 Bible story, craft activities & songs. Lots of fun. Contact Liz 302349

4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044

4.15 - 6.00pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. 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. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next 18 September 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. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828

9.30am -12.30 & 4 - 9pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg 351223

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

2 - 5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 12 Sept. Mrs.M.Walsh.For more details

contact Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 19 September with the Women's Fellowship. contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. For details of next meeting contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

3.45 - 5.30pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.

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

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

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

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr on 360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Dog and Puppy Training at Putnoe Heights. Contact Lynn Southwell 07974 743240

7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting Sept 19 Talk on Citizens Advise Bureau—Phillippa Harris. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

8.30pm St Mark's Church Qi Gong. Contact Mrs D Steele 356384

Wednesday

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

9.30am - Body Control Pilates at Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787.

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

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights - For details of next meeting Contact Audrey Hancock 365915.

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. For details of next meeting 20 September contact Putnoe 365630

1 - 3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights . Mrs Webster 856966

4.15pm - 6pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting . Sylvia Woods 365095
7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073
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. 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.*
9.30am Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips 01582 485333
9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970
1.30pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's 267444
12pm Story box St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 302349
1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe. Geraldine Skeel 406828
1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group. Debbie Coppenhall 356828.
2pm - Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer 345991
4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-11 year old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun And it's free! Liz Spavins 302349
5.30 - 7.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.
6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.
6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Helga Nash 218521
6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr & Mrs Pike 823795
7pm Street Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Curtis Ritchie 349255 or 07984 525147
7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992
7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at St Mark's Mr P Housden 376597
7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild at St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby 344442
7.30 - 9.30 Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Bible Studies every 2 Thursday- Pastor Tarr 360188
8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle at St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

9.00 am Clubhouse at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater 315460.
1.30 - 2pm Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

2pm U3A Gardening Group at Putnoe Heights Contact Eve Whitehead 356875
7 - 10pm Bedford Arts Society meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Contact Malcolm Smith 01234 400741
7.30pm Youth Club for age 13-18 at St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

Saturday

9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468
10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain at St Mark's - dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414
2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe. Meets monthly next meeting. Philip Jones 350295
7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Sunday

Junior Church with crèche for under 3's
9.30 - 10.30 at St. Mark's
11-12 at Putnoe Heights.
1 - 4pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515
5 - 7pm Bethesda Church . Contact Pastor Denis Baka 07944 749357
6-7.30pm T.N.T. for 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. At Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349.
6—7.30pm T.X.T for 13 + fortnightly , join us for fellowship , debate & discussion at Putnoe. Ring

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council , 11 October
Circuit Meeting - 28 September 7.30 Priory
St Mark's Leadership Team – 12 September
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 26 September
St Mark's Church Management Meeting - 12.30pm 11 October, 6 December
Putnoe Heights Church Management - 18 Sept
Putnoe Church Council 9 October
Pastoral Group Meeting – 26 September 11am.
Churchyard Committee - 29 November 11am.
Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting – Wednesday 18 October at 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way. .
Partnership Council - 19 September
Brickhill Parish Council - 14 Sept, 12 Oct, 30 Nov
Deanery Meeting , 14 September, 16 November
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth - 4 September 7.30

Calendar dates appear on our church website www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Ordinary 23

Verse of Scripture James 1:22

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

Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

O God, you bear your people ever on your heart and mind. Watch over us in your protecting love, that, strengthened by your grace and led by your Spirit, we may not miss your way for us but enter into your glory, made ready for all in Christ our Lord. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

First Bible Reading - Isaiah Chapter 35:4-7

Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

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

Second Reading - Second Reading James 2:1-10, 14-17

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favouritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong? If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

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

Third Reading - Gospel Reading Mark 7:24-37

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a



deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

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

Post Communion Prayer

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymns (Please distribute)

50 Be still for the Presence of the Lord

109 Crown Him with many crowns

170 Give thanks with a grateful heart

226 Healing God, Almighty Father

405 Lord, the light of your love is shining

Commentary

Jesus wanted people to be less public about some of the things which he did, the secret of who he was needed to be kept until the right moment. Unfortunately, as we see almost daily in our newspapers, news has a way of leaking out. Jesus could not stop excitement spreading about him and what he did. In our story today the man is deaf and can hardly speak. When Jesus heals him, Mark records the use of a graphic phrase "Ephphatha!" which suggests that his tongue had been tied up in knots and was suddenly untied. From silence to speech, just like that! Jesus takes him away privately, but it cannot be kept secret. Perhaps Jesus wanted more time to travel and speak with people, but when he performed miracles like this, there was no way of stopping the news spreading or the crowds seeking him out. He would soon have such notoriety that the authorities would have to act against him. With a miracle such as this, it was not surprising that onlookers had in mind the prophecy of Isaiah 35:5-6,

‘Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.’

This is for us a foretaste of what God’s healing is really all about, it is more than just the ageing body being patched up, it is a sign of God’s love breaking in to our painful and death—laden world. It was and still is, a signpost to the great Healing that will occur when the secret is out and Jesus is finally revealed to the whole world. Then all of the world will praise. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

There is a really beautiful phrase in the reading from Mark today, it says simply ‘

He has done everything well.’

We live in an age of pop stars and notoriety, everybody want to be famous. Young people especially face incredible challenges in our society, because they are led to focus their aspirations on the rich and famous and encouraged to believe that they can be the next pop idol or football star. The old values of working hard and earning a living have been shifted towards personal gratification and the aspirations and fashions of a consumer society.

It is easy to be critical of this, but in a sense every single one of wants to leave this world with some achievements to our name. We might find the cure for a terrible disease, but we feel that we should leave behind us an impression. If our lives are to be significant and remembered then we must do something significant with them. However the truth is that whilst the prevailing culture tells us that our achievements should be to earn lots of money and have a glamorous lifestyle, we know that this is not something which causes happiness or provides lasting significance. Few people draw admiration when they die and are fondly remembered because

of the size of their yacht.

We should cast our attention upon Jesus and the type of life which he lived and the example which he gives to us. He was a carpenter, a workman who probably built houses and extensions and mended things. Anybody who knows the pains of being a builder will know how difficult it would have been for him to build the reputation 'He has done everything well.' ! Jesus did not belong to the rich and famous, he was just an ordinary man who lived his life with the same issues which we deal with, paying bills, caring for relatives and getting on with the ups and downs which life throws at us.

This is what life is really all about, not jet setting or appearing in Hello magazine. As Christian people we must try to provide examples of authentic living by setting examples which are wholesome and yet attractive. We must seek to lay before our children and grandchildren alternatives to the models which society presents. This is not in any way to discredit the ideals, dreams and vision of young people who want to achieve great things. However somebody needs to reaffirm the value of living ordinary lives in which we care for our families, our children and grandchildren. It is to stress that really gifted people do not have to appear on the television, they get up in the morning and do their jobs to the best of their ability, offer a helping hand to those in need and take time to spread a little happiness. The role models in society today seem to go change their marital partners like motor cars. As Christians we have to affirm that successful people are strong people who have the courage to work at their marriages and give time to their loved ones. Each one of us can make a real contribution to our families and wider society if we control our temper, show our appreciation to others, spread peace as we go about our business and pray to become more joyful. This is real achievement and the way to lasting success. Perhaps then people will say about us 'he has done everything well.'

Charles Royden

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

We pray for all children growing up in a world which daily seems to be getting more confusing, challenging and with little sense of direction. God our Father, be near to our children growing up in the peril and confusion of these times. Guard them from the forces of evil at work in our society, and lead them in the paths of goodness and truth; enable us as parents, grandparents, family members or as friends to give them at all times the security of our love and the help of our example and our prayers. Amen *Edward Peck*

O Lord my God, I adore you as my first beginning and I long for you as my last end. Conduct me, therefore, O gracious Lord, by your wisdom. Restrain me with your justice, comfort me with your mercy, and defend me with your power; and of your love, enlighten my understanding, enflame my will and purify my soul; for Jesu's sake. Amen *Richard Challoner, 1691-1781*

Open my eyes that they may see The deepest needs of people. Move my hands that they may feed the hungry; Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing; Teach me generosity that welcomes strangers; Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked; Give me the care that strengthens the sick; Make me the share in the quest to set the prisoner free. In sharing our anxieties and our love, Our poverty and our prosperity, We partake of your divine presence. Amen *Canaan Banana, Zimbabwe*

Lord Jesus, you made a deaf man hear. When we refuse to hear your voice, Open our ears to your words of love. Lord Jesus, you made a dumb man speak. When we do not know what to say, Open our mouths to praise you and speak your words of love. Lord Jesus, you made a blind man see. When we cannot see the signs of your presence in the world around us, Open our eyes and show us your works of love. Amen *Judy Bainbridge*

News and Information

Barn Dance 4 November 6pm at Putnoe. Suitable for all ages. Tickets £3 each or £10 for a 'family' of 4 Sausage & Mash with veggie option. Bring your own drinks. Raffle .Book early. Tickets from Putnoe Office or see Liz

Storybox starts again at Putnoe on 11 Sept. The newly renamed Monday Club begins at St Marks on 11 Sept. If you would like to join any of our teams please contact Liz.

Junior Church begins back today. We hope to plan an outing, for all children & young in the partnership with their families possibly to Wicksteed Park? following a Sunday Service please see Liz or Sam Ware if interested.

Fairtrade Display at 22 Mallard Hill, Bedford on Friday 22 September 7-9.30pm, Saturday 23, 2-5 pm and Sunday 24, 10am - 1pm. Entrance 50p including refreshments. There will be a wide range of Fairly Traded products including stationery, gifts, food, clothing and jewellery.

Members of the Envelope Scheme at Putnoe Heights Church are invited to collect their pack of envelopes for the year beginning 3 September 2006 from the table in the welcome area. We are grateful to all who use the scheme to make a regular contribution to the ongoing work of the church. If you are not already a member of the scheme and would like to have a set of envelopes, please speak to John Hitt after morning worship, or telephone him on Bedford 404186. We are particularly grateful to all the taxpayers who have completed Gift Aid declarations. This has enabled the church to recover more than £8100 in relation to income received in the tax year 2005/06.

Mediterranean Evening— St Mark's Church on 23 September. This promises to be a really good evening with Vittorio. Tickets available shortly. Adults £6.50, children under 12 £4. Tickets now available from Ian Farthing, Janet Day or St Mark's Church office. Do not delay in buying your ticket as they are selling out fast. Raffle prizes would be appreciated.

Coffee Morning Saturday 16 September from 10—12 at 16 Chillingham Green the home of Eddie & June McKenzie. Cakes, raffle etc Proceeds to the Mission Group African Projects.

Footprints Rambling Group invite you to join them on Sunday, 10th September for a 4-mile circular walk around Stevington. Please meet at 2.30pm in

car park of the Royal George.

The entrance to the car park is in Court Lane, but as parking space is limited, car-sharing wherever possible would help. Parts of the walk could be muddy if the weather has been wet. Further details from Sue and Richard Butler on Bedford 354183.

Methodist Homes for the Aged.

Proposed North Brickhill Care Home Presentation to Brickhill Parish Council Thursday 14 September at St Mark's Community Centre, Calder Rise, at 7.45pm. Public Exhibition from 12 to 14 September also at St. Mark's. Phone St Mark's church office for more details.

Piano lessons: I have a few vacancies for new pupils for the coming year. Beginners and all ages welcome! Please contact me if you are interested. Adrian Quarry 409612.

Sunday morning coffee/tea at Putnoe Heights. A big thank you to Claire Peck who has offered to take over the role of co-ordinating the rota of helpers and organising supplies. Also to Jenny Snelson who has joined the team of helpers. More helpers are still needed. The greater the number the lesser the work. For further details contact Claire Peck .

Safeguarding. Janet Day will be responsible for ensuring that all people at St Mark's who are involved in any way with children or vulnerable adults have CRB clearance. Please contact Janet immediately if you do not have yours up to date.

Storybox plus would like to thank everyone who came to help us on Thursday for our Jonah Man Jazz activity day, last Thursday. The day was most successful and enjoyed by everyone who took part. We would like to invite everyone to our performance of Jonah Man Jazz after the service on Sunday 10th September. Liz & Carolyn.

Donations to Barnados. Many thanks for the donations following Kathie's funeral on 19 July. £1594 was raised. Glen Longden.

Prayer walk. 30 September. Contact Paul Field on paulfield1@ntlworld.com or Ken Cherry on kingdom.harvest@ntlworld.com.

Massive Christian Book Sale. Fri 6 October (4.00 - 7.30pm) Sat 7 October (9.30am - 4.00pm) Russell Park Christian Centre, Denmark Street, Bedford.MK40 3TJ

Prayers for Peace. On 11 September at 1pm in the Quiet Room at Putnoe we will be offering prayers for World Peace and Inter-faith understanding. A time of quiet and contemplation.

Bedford Festival of Music, Speech & Dance 3-10 March 2007. If any of our young people from the Partnership would like to enter the Bible Reading, to continue the success of this year, could they please see Liz as we need to register shortly.

TNT for 9-12's & TXT for 13+ will launch at Putnoe on 17 September from 6-7.30pm. Please come along for this planning meeting. If you would like to join or help with these two new exciting groups. See Joan or Liz for more details.

Putnoe Office We are delighted to say that from Monday 2 October the office will be open from 9 - 5 Monday to Friday. A big thank you to all volunteers, new and established for making this possible. Joan

Triathlon. Dave Allan will be taking part in a triathlon on 1 October, in Bedford Park. He will be swimming 400m, a 25k cycle and a 5k run. If you would like to sponsor him please contact the office at Putnoe.

Putnoe Harvest Lunch Sunday 1 October at 1pm Tickets now available from Putnoe Office or Leadership team. Adults £5, £2.50 child under 10. Soft drinks included, bring your own wine.

Tesco Sports Vouchers are being collected by St Mark's Preschool. Vouchers can be handed into the Office. Thank you Helen.

Sue Allen's Team 'The Chemical Sisters' thank all their sponsors in the Barford Bypass Challenge. When all sponsor money is collected we shall have be able to donate £750 to St.John's Moggerhanger

The Peck family wish to thank everybody who sponsored them for the recent Bedford Bypass Challenge and are pleased to say that £241.80 including gift aid for St John's Hospice and National Children's Home.

AGM of Friends, Volunteer & Associates of BECHAR (Bedford Concern for Homeless & Rootless) takes place on 28 September at 8pm at Prebend Day Centre. Please reply by 21.9.06 by form or e-mail admin@prebendcentre.org.uk

Nova Property Services

17 Stratford Way, Lower Shelton
Tel: 01234 766056 Fax: 01234 767827
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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.

**Baby Freya Lily Russell
Richard Howard White**

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



Rest in Peace



The funeral of Cecil Joseph Clarke will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 12th September at 10.45am *Crossley*

The funeral of Brenda Veronica Bowker will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12.15pm on Friday 15th September . *Crossley*

The funeral of Edith Chalk will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 14 September at 10.00am