

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

12 September 2004

24 in Ordinary— Mission Sunday

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church—Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day

Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe Heights –Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mrs Betty Wyatt

Intercessions - Mr Peter Bailey

25th in Ordinary - 19 September

8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St. Mark's Church – Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Iris Perry

Intercessions – Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions - Ministers

Thank You

The flowers in church at St Mark's this week have been given by John and Caroline Tatman in celebration of their Ruby Wedding.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Madge Walsh in memory of her husband, on the 50th anniversary of their wedding.

Prayer for Sunday

Almighty God, you called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love with our words and deeds, that all who hear and perceive may be reconciled to you; through Him who died for us and rose again and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Adapted from ASB

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

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 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. Please bring a picnic lunch during the summer,, 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 20 September St. Mark's 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 - 14 Sept. AGM –Revd Dr Joan Crossley Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 14th September 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** - Next meeting 21 Sept. Old Time Music Hall - Melodians Meets fortnightly . Contact Mrs C Davies 219130.
- 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 22 September 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 -27 Sept, 15 Nov

St Mark's Church Council

October 13 2004, Feb 1 2005

Churchyards Committee

Next meeting on Monday 17 Jan at 10am

St Mark's Centre Management Meeting

Wednesday 29 Sept

Wednesday 10 Nov

St Mark's Leadership Team

Next meeting on 17 Nov, 12 Jan

Deanery Synod

18 Nov,, 10 Feb

Partnership Council 18 Jan

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team

22 Nov

Putnoe Church Council

11 Octr 2004, 7 Feb 2005

13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting

Monday 20 September at 10am (Change of date)

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.

Tickets for the Harvest Barn Dance are now on sale at St Mark's and Putnoe Height Church Office. The £6 ticket includes a Ploughmans Lunch as well as music and dancing to our live band. Children under 12 £4.

Magnet Magazine If you are subscriber at St Mark's Church, will you please collect the current edition from the Church foyer.

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch Sunday 3 Oct.

Tickets are now available in the church office £4

adults,£2 children under 10. Soft drinks provided

bring your own wine.

St.Mark's Storybox There will be a short meeting for

Storybox volunteers on 16 Sept. at 11am. Joan

Putnoe Ramblers meet on Sunday 12th September

at Wimpole Hall for a walk of approx. 2 hours. Meet

for a 2.30p.m. start in the first overflow car park on

the left of the main drive. Strong shoes or boots

advisable. Further information from Bob Burn

261072.

Peter and Valerie Littleford ask you to pray for the new Elstow Team Ministry which is comprised of the churches of Elstow Abbey, St Mary's Cardington and St Michael and All Angels, Bedford. The Team Rector, the Revd Jeremy Crocker, is to be installed on Tuesday 14th September. Peter remains NSM Priest-in-charge with special responsibility for St Michael's.



Bible Notes

Verse of Scripture Psalm 96 v 3

Proclaim the glory of the Lord among the nations, His marvellous deeds to all peoples: great is the Lord and worthy of praise.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Collect for 24th in Ordinary Time

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Reading – Exodus 32: 7-14

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.' "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation." But Moses sought the favour of the LORD his God. "O LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.' " Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading– 1 Timothy 1: 12 –17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Gospel Reading – Luke 15: 1-10

¹Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends



and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship)

8 All earth was dark, 151 For I'm building a people of power, 178 Go forth and tell, 359 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult, 784 Ye servants of God

Commentary

Chapter 15 of Luke contains three different stories about finding lost things, lost sheep, lost coins and a lost (prodigal) son. It also tells us about the celebrations that take place when these lost things are found. As it does, it picks up one of the great themes of Luke, the joy of blessings showered on God's faithful people as a result of repentance and finding new life. But the passage in Luke is not just about getting people to repent and finding new life; it's also about valuing people as people, even when they're lost. One of the ways Jesus shows those around Him that He values people is that He enters into close relations with them, even if they are people that the established religious order would never reach out to, the tax collectors and sinners, people of low repute. Jesus meets them on their terms. He is not prepared to write them off, as his critics did, or to say, as they would have: I will value you and welcome only if you repent. Jesus seeks out the lost, evens the lost who don't know they're lost, and values them as they are. He seeks out those who society may have written off as losers, no-hopers, wasters, and gives them life and hope. Jesus seeks out the large and the small to redeem and value. In our own lives, He seeks out those areas which we may have written off; areas that we prefer to hide and not speak about, habits we have we wish we didn't, areas of our lives we hope no one sees. He seeks them out because He wants to redeem those too and give us hope in the 'no go' areas of our lives.

God also wants to use us to seek out the lost and the hopeless and give them His hope and His direction. Part of our mission activity is exactly that, seeking out situations that seem hopeless and giving hope; through our prayers, time, effort, resources and money whether at home or abroad. God calls out to the lost people and places in our lives and in our world and values them for who and what they are, and who and what they can become. As He does, so should we.

And once the lost are found, we should rejoice and celebrate. Because in being found, in turning around and repenting, in discovering true value, all creation comes that little but closer to being restored to the way God intended it to be. And as we celebrate and rejoice, Heaven does too. Sam Cappleman.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Lord, you have consecrated the world by sending your Son into the midst of it and by making all things new in Him. We ask you to give us and all your people the courage and power we need to share fully in His mission to the world and to further His kingdom in the lives of all people to the honour and glory of His name. **Amen**

O God, you have called men and women from every land to be a holy nation, a royal priesthood, the church of your dear Son: unite us in mutual love and care across the barriers of race and culture, and strengthen us in our common task of being Christ and showing Christ to the world He came to save. **Amen**

Draw your Church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving Him in His mission to the world, and together witnessing to His love on every continent and island. **Amen.**

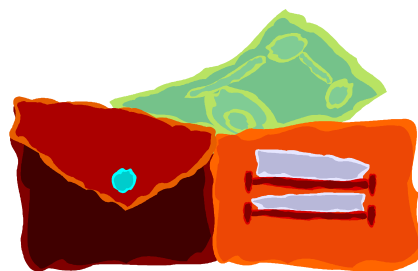
God the Sender, send you; God the Sent, go with us; God the Strengthener of those who go, empower you, that you may go to do His will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Mission Sunday

Mission Sunday is a time to look back at the Mission activities of the churches over the past year and to give thanks to God for His generosity to us and in turn thank all those who have been involved in supporting mission in our churches over the last year through their unselfish giving of money, time and effort. Through all of these efforts we have given over £6500 to Mission from the Partnership.

Recipient	Amount
Starr Appeal	£716.15
Mozambique	£716.00
Bishop of St Alban's Special Appeal	£600.00
Bedford Methodist Missions	£600.00
Kisiizi	£540.00
Mission Emergency Fund	£400.00
MMS/CMS	£236.00
Christian Family Care	£150.00
Sue Ryder	£150.00
Church Distress Fund	£150.00
Roly Bain	£120.00
Methodist Homes for the Aged	£100.00
Children's Society	£62.20
NCH Action for Children	£62.20
Methodist Ministers Housing	£50.00
Bedford YMCA	£40.00
Macmillan Cancer Relief	£40.00
Methodist Fund for World Mission	£39.67
Bible Society	£30.00
Arthritis Research Council	£30.00
Sight Concern	£30.00
LEPRA	£30.00
Other Mission Giving to multiple organisations	£2723.92

To this needs to be added activities and giving such as Christian Aid and the many other unseen mission projects we are quietly involved in as individuals and groups. To all those involved, and to all those who gave so generously, either to specific projects or through the weekly offerings or standing orders, thank you.



Looking forward, we will continue with our regular mission activities at each church. Please let one of the ministers know if you would like to be involved in a more practical way in our mission activities. As mentioned in last week's Partnership News we will also be taking on a specific overseas mission project between now and the beginning of December. 'Faith in Action', a mission organisation which Putnoe have supported for many years, have a need to deepen the wells they have previously dug for water in Malawi due to the lowering of the local water table. They need to increase the depth of each of their 52 wells by 20 metres at a cost of £45 per well, a total of £2340. The main cost involved in the well deepening project is the cost of the longer PVC pipes required

as the existing pumps can be reused. Whilst some money has been raised for this activity we would like to commit to raise this £2340, the total cost of the project. More details of this project and the broader work of 'Faith in Action' are given in their Newsheet No. 61 of which copies are available at both churches.

Details of how individuals and groups can contribute and 'share' in this project are given in the letters to be found at the back of the church and we look forward to work together to make a significant and positive change to those in Malawi who are struggling because of their lack of water.

It's a challenging project and no one underestimates the effort required to raise nearly £2500 in addition to our regular mission giving. But as a church, surely it's a challenge we're up to. To those in Malawi who we seek to support we are 'rich beyond compare'. 'Faith in Action' was started as a response of some people to the challenge in James 2 to put our faith into action (James 2 v 14 – 17) and make a difference. We have the opportunity to rise to the challenge and make a real difference for those people in Malawi who need support to deepen their wells.

On this Mission Sunday we look back at the past year with gratefulness and look forward to the challenge ahead with excitement and anticipation. Our God is a generous God and we are called to be stewards of His Kingdom here on earth. And as we do so, we become part of God's ultimate mission, the restoration of His creation, whether in Bedford or Malawi, Europe or Africa, a restoration which includes the whole earth and everyone on it. Now that's a mission challenge!

MacMillan Coffee Morning Friday 24 Sept. Friends at St Mark's & Putnoe Heights are invited to join the World's Biggest Coffee Morning taking place at 15 Harrington Drive, the home of Peter & Valerie Littleford, from 10 to 1 pm. Do come along if only for part of the time.

Bereavement Support Drop In started well last week, with lots of friends, old and new, enjoying tea and a chat. From next month we will have an entertainment on the first Wednesday in the month. Wednesday 6 October, well known local singer Linda Bowen will perform for us 2.30—3.15. Wednesday 3 November, Jo Moore from Bedford Tourist Information will speak on Historic Bedford & her fascinating 'Bedford at War Project @ 2.30—3pm. All drop in sessions are open to everyone.

Brian & Pauline Leeson would like to make their friends at both churches aware that they have felt the need for a change & a fresh challenge, and are now worshipping at Oakley Methodist Church. We are sorry if we have been unable to speak to all our friends, but we very much intend to keep in touch with as many as possible.

Advent Course. Our course will take the theme of 'Pilgrimage,' with four talks on 24 November, 1, 8 and 15 December at Putnoe Heights Church. The evenings will begin with refreshments at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Each evening will finish at 9.00pm. We are delighted that the first two of our talks this year will be given by Professor Paul Crossley. Other speakers will be The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley and the detective novelist Kate Charles.

Methodist Homes for the Aged comes to Brickhill. At the Brickhill Parish Council meeting this week residents were advised that Methodist Homes for the Aged are to open a residential home in Brickhill. It will form a part of the new development of 500 houses to be built off Tyne Crescent. The land has been given by Bedfordia to the Ibbott Trust who will fund the project.

Fun Run Final Total. We heard this week that the final money has been collected. A total of £1400 has been given to the Building Development Fund for the Autism Centre at St Mark's. The winning balloon reached the Isle of Wight and belonged to Helen Morse. Thanks to the organisers Joan Crossley, Dave Allen and all who took part or helped with this event. Another Fun Run has been planned for the 22 May 2005, start training now!

Car Boot Sale. Thank to everybody who helped with the car boot sale on Bank Holiday Monday and throughout the year. This dedicated team give of their precious bank holidays to work for the church and we are very grateful. Over £1300 was raised for church funds from the last event.

Pet Service 7 November. St Mark's Church will be holding a pet service on 7 November to which you are encouraged to bring your pet(s). The service will thank God for all creation and especially give thanks to God for all creatures great and small.

Your Favourite Church. The Daily Telegraph is compiling 100 favourite churches for Sunday worship. Please take time to complete a nomination form for St Mark's or Putnoe Heights by visiting the Telegraph website at www.telegraph.co.uk/churches. Please also encourage others. Computer access is available at St Mark's for those who wish to use it to register a vote.

A Garden of Remembrance working party has been arranged for Saturday 25 September 9.30am onwards to help tidy everything before the Winter. We have jobs for all kinds of strengths! Please bring your own tools eg trowels, kneelers, secateurs, buckets. Coffee makers also needed. All help gratefully appreciated.

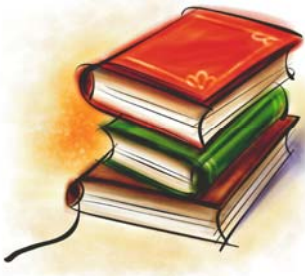
St Mark's Church Pre-school would like help collecting Persil Stars from washing powder boxes to be able to get free art and craft materials. Thank you Helen Harpin Pre-school Co-ordinator

St Mark's Church Music Group. The music group at St Mark's have asked the Leadership Team to seek the views of the congregation on how they might best contribute to the worship of the church. If you have any views on how the Music Group might serve the church, and on the overall style and presentation of music in the church, please let the Leadership Team know now. Either write down your views on the form below or speak with a member of the Leadership Team.

Please continue on a separate piece of paper if necessary and return to Leadership Team

Massive Book Sale

Sunday 26 September 2004 2.00pm



We are pleased to offer for sale the entire closing stock of Harmony Bookshop, Bedford. There will be a huge sale to the public on Sunday 26 September at 2.00pm. In the meantime the contents of the bookshop are being transferred and displayed for sale at **Half Price** in the chapel at St Mark's Church. The chapel is open every day from 9.00am.

Help Needed

Answering a desperate need, the Leadership Team at St Mark's have agreed to try and sell the entire stock of Harmony Books from church premises. The proceeds of the sale will be divided between Harmony Books and St Mark's Church with the Autism Building Development Fund being the beneficiary. Please help us!



We would value the following help

On Thursday 16 September (this coming Thursday) we will be filling boxes with books and moving them to St Mark's. The chapel is already starting to fill with books which are for sale at half price.

Help move books. If you are reasonably fit please volunteer to come and help fill boxes at Harmony Bookshop, or to unload them at St Mark's.

Donate bookcases. We need offers of bookcases to help display the books, do you have any to give or lend? Please bring to St Mark's Church at any time.

Boxes, crates to carry books. We need to move thousands of books so help providing boxes or crates would be appreciated. Book ends are also useful.

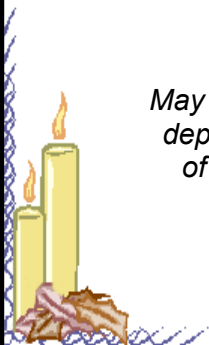
Flowers We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. Contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights).

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.

**Doris Cook
Alan Ernest Brown
Hazel Warrington
John Kelly**

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 and pray for the marriage of Simon Jones and Deborah Hammond of the parish of St Andrew's Church, Bedford and on the electoral roll of this parish
Third time of asking

The following funerals have been arranged

The funeral of Winifred Catherine Walker will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12.15pm on 13 September.

The funeral of Alice Dora Brand will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 20 September at 11.30am