

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

13 February 2005
First Sunday of Lent

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 Services of Holy Communion

held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - Miss Kate White

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions - Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights—Morning Worship

Preacher - Miss Kate White

Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen

Intercessions – Mrs Claire Peck

20 February

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church—Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions - Mrs Pat Leusby

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team – Mr Alan Bayliss

Intercessions – Mrs Sylvia Cohen

Joan Crossley is preaching at All Saints Kempston this morning week, last week Sam was taking the service at Park Road Methodist - don't we get around!

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Pat Rust, in memory of her husband, Frederick.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by May Dingwall in memory of her dear friend Jean Wallis

We are extremely grateful when donations are made for 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

Prayer for Sunday

O God, forasmuch as without you
we are not able to please you ;
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may in all things
direct and rule our hearts;
through 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 Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Mobile -07740 865167 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

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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 304058

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 - Mrs Janet Day—295592

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. 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 C Mathew 400987
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
- 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
- 7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
- 7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month. Next 21 February 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 15 February 'The Archer Unit ' Mr. D Snowball Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 15 February 2005 -Mr R Woodford 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.
- 7.00 - 10pm Cardmakers Club** at St Mark's Contact Carol Houghton 346718
- 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 - 15 February Autism-Julie Hoare Meets fortnightly. Contact Sheila Cracknell 217009
- 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** St.Mark's 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 Total Body Toning** at Putnoe Heights Church Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Height meets fortnightly. Next on 16 February 2005 Contact Putnoe Heights 365630
- 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 Fledglings** at 2.00pm - 3.00pm **Clinic** at St. Mark's 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

4.00 Storybox Plus. A drama group for 4-9year

olds. Meets Putnoe 4 5-pm,- drinks from 3.30pm

Rehearsals for next month start on Thursday 10th

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 P Housden 376597

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 01234

782414

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

January 2005	February 2005	March 2005	April 2005
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The Church Calendar

St Mark's Church Council 15 June, 12 October
Circuit Men's Fellowship Lunch on the 9 February

St Mark's Leadership Team

4 May -Home of Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Deanery Synod

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

31 January, 25 April 2005 at 7.30pm

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

23 May, 11 July, 12 September, 2 November. All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Church Council

7 Feb 2005, 13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting -27 April at 2.pm.

Church yard Committee 25 April at 10 pm.

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

Extension to Garden of Remembrance. The application for expansion to the Garden of Remembrance at St Mark's Church will be heard by the Borough Council on Wednesday 16 February.

See Round. Copies of the St Albans Diocesan Magazine See Round are available this morning for all church members free of charge. This month there is a special feature on the new Clubhouse project at St Mark's Church funded by the European Social Fund. The magazine is now in a new format with colour glossy photographs.

Putnoe Heights Chapel. The new chapel at Putnoe is now completed and being used for small gatherings such as Thursday prayers. Please do take a look at the chapel and feel able to use it for quiet prayer.

Waste Paper. Church Council at Putnoe agreed that the waste paper bins should be removed since they were making little money and attracted rubbish.

Grateful Thanks to the family and friends of Wilma Taylor. Their generous donations in memory of Wilma have raised £680 for the extension at St Mark's for Autism Bedfordshire.



Bible Notes

Verse of Scripture Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.



**One does not live
by bread alone,
but by every word
that comes from
the mouth of God.**

Matthew 4.4

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading - Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

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

Second Reading - Romans 5: 12-19

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading - Matthew 4: 1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is

also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, who hast renewed us with the living bread from heaven, and dost thereby nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: incline our hearts always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and give us grace to live by every word that proceedeth out of thy mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns

1. All my hope on God is founded (Tune ii Michael) 63
2. All I once held dear On Partnership News Mission Praise
3. Fight the good fight (Tune Duke Street) 710
4. I need thee every hour 524
5. Onward Christian soldiers 718

Commentary

The Temptations of Jesus were real temptations, he was properly tested but did not sin. For them to be real temptations, there must have been the possibility that Jesus would have chosen the wrong path, so there was danger and risk involved. The Book of Hebrews in the Bible tells us that in Jesus we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15). Christ is subject to every human experience that we are; hunger, pain, grief, and anger, otherwise, the Incarnation is incomplete and his ministry is defective.

In a symbolic way the baptism and temptation of Jesus parallel the experience of Israel, whose baptism in the Red Sea was followed by their temptation in the wilderness (1 Cor 10:1-13). Remember the Israelites too were tempted with hunger, eventually satisfied by God's provision of manna (Exod 16). They were also tempted to false worship, they fell down before a golden calf. Jesus is a new Israel, after his baptism he is led into the wilderness by the Spirit, but Jesus will show a new way of obedience and faithfulness to God.

We are told that it was the Holy Spirit which led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted, why would God's Spirit lead Jesus into temptation? Actually the Spirit does not tempt Jesus, only leads him into the wilderness. The Spirit goes with him Jesus into the wilderness -- reminiscent of the 23rd Psalm, where God goes with us through the valley of the shadow of death. The Spirit accompanies Jesus, the tempting is the devil's business. The verb peirazo can mean tempt or test. To tempt is to entice a person to do what is wrong; to test is to give a person the opportunity to choose what is right. To tempt is to hope for failure; to test is to hope for success. In Matt 4:1 the verb clearly has both meanings. God, through the Spirit, intends to test Jesus; Satan, God's indirect agent, seeks to tempt Jesus.

"Forty days" does not have the same precision that we attach to it. It is like our phrase, "a couple of weeks," which might mean fourteen days -- or twelve -- or sixteen. Its function is to connect Jesus with Moses, who fasted for forty days (Exod 34:28), and the Israelites, who wandered for forty years in the wilderness (Exod 16:35).

The first temptation Following the baptism, a voice from heaven announced, "This is my Son." Now the devil says, "If you are the Son of God" -- introducing doubt -- challenging Jesus to prove the authenticity of his identity. Under different circumstances, Jesus will use his power to feed the hungry (Matt 14:13-21; 15: 32-39). Jesus does not claim that we do not live by bread, but that we do not live by bread alone. We must have bread, but our deeper need is satisfied only by the word of God. Jesus will provide bread, but he will not do so by turning his back on God.

The second temptation is to put God to the test. God has announced Jesus as Son (3:17). Now the devil quotes Psalm 91:11-12, challenging Jesus to take God at God's word. Again, the devil begins by saying, "If you are the Son of God...." The challenge is for Jesus to prove his identity to himself -- and to others -- and to take advantage of his power. As Shakespeare said in **The Merchant of Venice,** (Act I, Scene 3, line 99). "The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose". A lesson for the church is that evil intentions can be supported by quotations from scripture. It places a burden on us to listen with discriminating ears, not just

to hear what is said but also to evaluate the person saying it. Are we listening to an adviser or a tempter - a builder or a destroyer? Does the person have a hidden agenda -- an axe to grind?

The third temptation Again, we are reminded of Moses, who met God on a high mountain. On this high mountain, Jesus confronts the devil. Jesus has come to save the world, and the devil offers him the world. Given Israel's plight under Roman domination, an offer of the whole world is a powerful enticement. The Jews remember with longing the days of David and Solomon. In those days, Israel was a nation to be reckoned with -- small but great. Israeli armies defeated great nations. Now Israel is a shadow of its former self. Roman publicans collect taxes and Roman soldiers enforce the taxation. The emperor's face is on their coins. Jewish greatness is a distant memory. Nothing would draw people to Jesus faster than a credible promise of political and military power. The temptation is to believe that somebody other than God controls the kingdoms of the world. The kingdoms belong to God alone.

Conclusion

However we may choose to interpret the temptations, the choices Jesus had to make are also those which we confront in our own moral and spiritual decisions. It is not too much to say that his temptations are also ours. Jesus quotes Deut 6:13, reminding us that God is the only proper object of worship. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus will tell us that no one can serve two masters (6:24), but first he demonstrates that principle in his own life. We are not tempted to make a golden calf to worship. We would never fall down and worship the devil. Careful examination, however, might raise a question about our priorities. Is the world more important than God to us -- does the world occupy the first-place space in our lives that should be reserved for God? How can we evaluate that? How do we spend our time and money? Are we motivated to help others in need?

We are told that after the temptations the angels attended to Jesus. Remember when faced with temptations and difficulty, that in seeking to follow Christ we too will receive God's blessing. *C Royden*

Meditation A modern parable.

A man fell into a pit and he couldn't get out.

Buddha said: "Your pit is only a state of mind."

A Hindu said: "This pit is for purging you and making you more perfect."

Confucius said: "If you would have listened to me, you would never have fallen into that pit."

A new ager said: "Maybe you should network with some other pit dwellers."

A self-pitying person said: "You haven't seen anything until you've seen my pit."

A reporter said: "Could I have the exclusive story on your pit?"

A Tax Inspector said "Have you paid your taxes on that pit?"

A Local Authority Officer said: "Do you have a permit for that pit?"

A realist said: "That's a pit."

An idealist said: "The world shouldn't have pits."

An optimist said: "Things could be worse."

A pessimist said: "Things will get worse."

Jesus seeing the man took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit, because a pit is an awful place to be - particularly the pit of created by the power of sin and temptation. Jesus is one who has managed to avoid the pit and who seeks to help us out of the pit. Do not dwell in the pit - Do not accept the pit - Rather reach out your hand to the one who has stretched out his hands for you - and who still reaches out for you today. Reach out to Christ - and through Christ - reach out to others around you and let them know that there is a better life to be had - a life that is given freely to all who desire it.

Prayers.

God, whose vision spans all the ages of the earth, help us to see beyond this moment and to embrace the wider perspective of your whole creation. Deliver us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge, and lead us into a way of love and justice that makes room for all peoples. Amen.

Be to us, O Lord, the affection of our hearts, the closest of our companions, our everlasting love, our enduring happiness and the fulfilment of all our desires. Through your Spirit, create in us holy fire and purity of life, that loving you above all things and our neighbours ardently, we may come at last to the glories of your everlasting kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen Thomas a Kempis, 1380-1471

Gracious Father, your blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world. Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

News, Views and Information



Sponsored Swimathon

Grateful thanks to all of those who turned up to support the swimmers last Sunday. We are pleased to report that Steve Young made a full recovery. The event ended in a respectable draw for the two teams.

Partnership Singers Please could we re-convene to prepare for Easter Services (on 27 March), rehearsing on 4 March 7pm at St Mark's, 11 March 7pm at St Mark's-Small Hall, 18 March 7pm at St Mark's, Thursday 24 March at Putnoe.

Wednesday Bereavement Drop in Group.

Next meeting is Wednesday 2 March at St Mark's Church, 2.30pm- 4pm. Mr Michael Dallas will talk about Bedford Arts Society. On 6 April Mr. Alan Cox will speak on "London Curiosities" and on May 4 Lynne Davis will speak about the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

A Performance of Jesus Christ Superstar will be taking place at Putnoe Heights Church on Sunday 20 February 7.30pm. This will be presented by singers and musicians from the First Presbyterian Church from Caldwell, New Jersey, USA. Tickets will be available from the 6th Feb at Putnoe Heights and St Mark's Church Offices. Tickets are free available on a first-come, first-served basis from the church offices and that there will be a retiring collection for the Tsunami Appeal and for Autism Bedfordshire.

Sharnbrook Methodist Church are holding a Spring Lecture 'Living in China' by Michael Potter on Saturday 26 February at 7.30 pm. Tickets £7 (including supper) from Leonard Halstead 781383. Proceeds are for The Zimbabwe Food Aid Project.

TNT -meets from 6-7.45, usually at Putnoe Heights Church. Coming meetings – 20 February, Jesus Christ Superstar; 6 March, Visit to Priory Youth Group; 20 March, Easter Crafts. Ring Joan, 344536 for information

Fun Run and Teddy Bear's Picnic! 22 May at Mowsbury Park, our 5km Fun Run followed by a BBQ, Bring a Teddy to the Teddy Bear's Picnic! Time to get in training!

The Lent Course 2005

Looking to Easter - The Gospel According to Paul
St Marks and Putnoe Heights Lent Course

The apostle Paul was the first and possibly the most influential Christian missionary, writer and theologian there has ever been. Nearly half of the books of the New Testament are attributed to Paul providing some of the great foundation stones for the Christian Church. His legacy as a travelling preacher proclaiming 'not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord!' still impacts us today. But where did Paul come from, what did he really believe and how did that influence his perspective on the cross, and the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ?

This year's Lent Course will look at Paul and how he has influenced what we believe about Jesus and our Christian faith.

Wednesday 23 February

Joan Crossley will deliver the first lent talk, her theme will be Saint Paul on the Road to Damascus - perspectives on life changing crises. Using the art of the famous painter Caravaggio, Joan will be offering a new look at this familiar bible story.

Wednesday 2 March

Paul, what did he really believe; can we make sense of his letters? Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Wednesday 9 March

Paul, where was he going; what lies beyond the cross? Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

The Lent course will be held at Putnoe Heights church and start at 7:30 pm each week and we'll finish at 9:00 pm promptly.

New Computer. St Mark's are pleased to announce that they have received a free computer and £180 from the BT Connections Scheme in recognition of their outstanding contribution to community service.

Rest in Peace. This week we heard the news of the sad death of Vera Hatchard. Vera died peacefully surrounded by her family. Vera has been a long standing member of Putnoe Heights Church for many years and she will be remembered fondly by so many people who knew her during that time. Her funeral will take place at 2.30pm on Friday 18 February.

Maureen & Ron Simmonds would like you to know that after living with us for 20 months, Elliot returned to live with his mummy last Monday. I am sure you will join us in wishing him well for the future and ask you to remember him in your prayers.

Footprints (Putnoe rambles) Four churches walk on Feb 27 at 2.00. Meet at Meppershall Church (OS grid ref 135360) and visit Upper Gravenhurst and Shillington on a pleasant cross-country walk. Boots will be needed, as it will be muddy in places, but not deep mud, and you will enjoy views across Mid-Bedfordshire. Approx 4-5 miles and 2½ hours gentle walking. Further details please contact Keyth or Sara Richardson 330029.

London Marathon April 17th 2005. Kenelm Richardson (Morwenna's brother) will be running the London Marathon to raise money for a children's charity. If anyone wishes to sponsor him, his website which has full details can be found at; <http://www.justgiving.com/kenelm>. For those who are not yet Internet connected his parents Keyth and Sara hope to have ordinary sponsorship forms soon, and can be contacted on 330029

St Mark's Clubhouse The Clubhouse project would be very grateful to receive any of the following: double knitting wool, knitting needles, no smaller size than 3.5 mm. Also any unwanted games such as Ker Plunk, Frustration, memory games, etc. Magazines, old birthday cards. Thanks from the Clubhouse Team 315460

Second Hymn

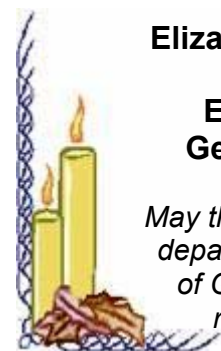
- 1 All I once held dear,
Built my life upon,
All this world reveres,
And wars to own,
All I once thought gain
I have counted loss;
Spent and worthless now,
Compared to this.
*Knowing You, Jesus,
knowing You,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love You, Lord.*
- 2 Now my heart's desire
Is to know You more,
To be found in You
And known as Yours.
To possess by faith
What I could not earn,
All-surpassing gift
Of righteousness.
- 3 Oh, to know the power
Of Your risen life,
And to know You in
Your sufferings.
To become like You
In Your death, my Lord,
So with You to live
And never die.

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.

**Eric Thomas Marshall
Kenneth John McGuire
Armin Kirs
Elizabeth Mary Begbie
Janice Shaw
Ernest Hughes
Geraldine Hughes**

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



Funeral arranged by our clergy

The funeral of Michael Brookman at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 16 February at 1.45pm
The funeral of Marie Isabella McGregor at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 21 February at 12.15pm.
The funeral of Heather Symes at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 21 February at 10.00am
The funeral of Derrick Sidney Joseph Brice at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on 14 February .
The funeral of Vera Hatchard at Putnoe Heights Church on 18 February at 2.30pm

