



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

14 August 2005
20 in Ordinary

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Service of Holy Communion - Putnoe
9.30am St Mark's Church—Holy Communion
Preacher - The Reverend Ross Royden
Leadership - Mr Mike Cooper
Intercessions - Mrs Alison Holden
11.00am Putnoe - Holy Communion
Preacher - The Reverend Ross Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen
Intercessions - Ministers

21 August 21 in Ordinary

8.30 Service of Holy Communion – St Mark's
9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman
Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams
Intercessions - Mrs Pat Leusby
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble– Chapman
Leadership Team – Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions—Dr Tim Wilkes

1 Reading - Isaiah 51: 1-6 , **2 Reading** -Romans 12:
1-8, **3 Reading** - Matthew 16: 13-20

Putnoe Heights Church Council - Please remember
that there is a short meeting after the service today

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Christina and Maurice Halsey in loving memory of their granddaughter, Davine Stuart.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers, perhaps to celebrate 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)

Prayer for Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve.: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the mediation of 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 *Common Worship*

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 -07917 356062 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 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630
Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen 407264
Treasurer Mrs Kathryn 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 - 5pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
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).

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

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

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

3.30 - 5pm Story box Plus at St. Mark's for 4 to 10 years. A preparation group for small drama on the first Sunday of the month. Contact for more details Liz Spavins 302349

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Contact Penny Fulham 406045

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

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

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

7.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next one 15 August St Marks Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

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

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

Tuesday

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

9.30am Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Jayne Phillips 01582 485333

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

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

12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 6 September A.G.M.. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 13 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. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

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

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights. Contact Emma Holloway 293792

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

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

7.30pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746

7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 7pm 16 August coffee evening. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

10.00 am Holy Communion at St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am Sewing & Chat Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966

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

1- 3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights . Resuming 24 August

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

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

6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr James 07711 687449

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

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

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

7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Contact Pam Holley 771964
7.45pm Kick Boxing Junior classes at St Mark's. Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

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

12pm Story box at St Mark's. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities, songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm. Restarts 8 September.

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

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

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

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

4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-10year old. A preparation group for a drama for the first Sunday in the month.. Meets 4-5pm, drinks from 3.30pm Contact Liz Spavins 302349

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Heights . Contact Helga Nash 218521

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

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at

St Mark's Contact Mr P Housden 376597
7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's- 3rd Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525
7.45pm. Housegroup-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact Betty Wyatt 350188
8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday

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

10.00am - 1.00pm Theatre Train at St Mark's - dancing acting, singing. Contact - Kate Randle 01234 782414

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

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob. 07891095746

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

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council
12 October

Circuit Meeting 14 September
Service of welcome of new

Methodist Minister at Oakley 31 August

Bedford Deanery Meeting 15 September

St Mark's Leadership Team - 4 October at Vicarage

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team Sept 26

St Mark's Church Management Meeting
12 September, 2 November. All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management - 19 Sept, 14 Nov, 16 Jan 2005

Putnoe Church Council 10 Oct 2005
Pastoral Group Meeting - 29 September 2.00pm
Churchyard Committee - 7 October at 4.15
Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting .
Partnership Council - 20 September at St. Mark's 7.30pm
Brickhill Parish Council 8 September, 26 September, 13 October
Visit of Bishop Christopher 23 October

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

Bible Notes

Ordinary 20 Year A (Trinity 9 Green)

Verse of Scripture Psalm 67:1

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

God of the nations, to whose table all are invited and in whose kingdom no one is a stranger: hear the cries of the hungry and mercifully extend to all the peoples on earth the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading – Isaiah 56: 1,6-8

This is what the LORD says: "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant-- these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." The Sovereign LORD declares-- he who gathers the exiles of Israel: "I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered." (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.
(This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading – Matthew 15: 10-28

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'" Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit." Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'" Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him.

I will bring them to my
holy mountain,
and make them joyful
in a house of prayer.

Isaiah 56.7



"Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord — **Thanks be to God**)

Commentary

It is an interesting fact that it was the weakest and the outcasts of society who most easily understood who Jesus was. The reading from Matthew's gospel today tells us of a Canaanite woman who came to Jesus. She was a woman and she was also a gentile, which meant that she should not have approached Jesus, it went against the custom of the day, she was not of sufficient social status. This Canaanite woman refused to believe that Jesus was sent only sent for certain people. So it was that her faith enabled her to go close to Jesus and believe that he would help her, against all the odds.

There are many people today who are also considered to be second class citizens. Women are still unable to have equal rights even in our own Church of England ! This story is an encouragement to all who struggle to survive and are looked upon less favourably than others. We learn that Jesus looks beyond the things which we use to make people of less worth. He looks beyond our gender, our race, issues of religious background or politics. Jesus is not interested in the value which society places upon us, he gives us all equal worth. The Christian Gospel is all about liberation and transformation, we must be like Jesus and work for equality and liberty for all.

Jesus upsets the Jewish leaders.

In this part of Matthew we read that Jesus is in dispute with the Pharisees and scribes regarding the observance of the law. The Pharisees and scribes came from Jerusalem to Galilee to tackle Jesus. Jesus was attracting attention and his teaching required consideration and challenge. In itself this speaks of the growing recognition of Jesus' ministry. These important religious experts were a kind of religious police and they ensured proper obedience to God's law. They criticised Jesus for the failure of his disciples to observe ritual cleansing. The rabbis developed the Mishnah (200 B.C. to 135 A.D.) and the Talmud (compiled 250-500 A.D) to help guide people into what it meant to obey the teaching which we can read in the Old Testament. The Pharisees questioned Jesus for allowing his disciples to ignore the ritual handwashing required by their tradition. Jesus responded by challenging not just the rules of the Pharisees, he challenged to very importance of Jewishness itself. Jesus put aside the need to obey laws given by Moses himself. Jesus challenges the basis upon which we should consider what it means to be God's people. Jesus calls for a new way of living, not obedience to a set of rules. There is also a fundamental and important question which is still important for us today, but which was of even more importance to the early Christians disciples, 'does the Christian need to be obedient to the rules for living which were laid out for the Jews in the Old Testament in places like Leviticus?'

Obviously the Pharisees and scribes considered faithful observance of the Jewish law as the way to true holiness. They believed that God was pleased when the dietary laws were obeyed as a part of Jewish religious observance. Dietary laws helped to create the sense of a separate people, so important to Jewish identity. Even today many Jews will keep two distinct parts of the kitchen so that meat and dairy produce are kept separate. They will use separate fridges and in accordance with teaching in the Old Testament, they will not eat certain foods like pork. These rules help Jewish people to maintain their identity as God's people. The Old Testament pronounces certain foods unclean, and eating those foods defiled those who ate them. The issue had nothing to do with hygiene or health, but with holiness -- obedience to the will of God. God had specified what was and was not allowed. Failure to observe these laws constituted rebellion against God. Understand then how radical it was when Jesus says,

"It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Jesus is setting aside parts of the Bible and changing the focus away from obedience of the very things which kept the Jews different. He redirects the focus from that which enters the mouth (food) to that which springs from the heart (thoughts, feelings, and motives).

Make no mistake this was amazing teaching. We are often told that Jesus condemned the Pharisees and their religious traditions. However Jesus does more than that, he rides a coach and horses through the book of Leviticus and says that some scripture is no longer relevant. All of the Kosher laws, still observed by many Jewish people, are wiped out by Jesus in the reading today.

When we realise this we can begin to recognise why the Jewish religious leaders bothered to come out of Jerusalem looking for Jesus to see what he was saying and condemn him. The Pharisees were deeply religious and devoted their lives to obeying God's laws in scripture. We should expect them to be angry at Jesus and we can understand why they would want him dead.

Jesus is not proposing a free for all, he is just far more concerned with how people behave in their personal relationships, than whether they ceremonially wash their hands before dinner to emphasise their

Jewishness. Jesus looks at the heart inside of us and challenges evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony and slander. These things destroy life, families, marriages and we are to seek to be rid of them. No more need we follow the Jewish commandments, but instead of the detailed laws telling us how to behave, we have instead a more difficult task of trying to work out in our daily living the correct way to treat one another and so please God.

The Canaanite Woman

A Canaanite woman then comes to Jesus seeking healing for her daughter who was troubled by a demon. The woman was desperate to find help for her daughter. However, Jews like Jesus normally had nothing to do with gentiles and the fact that this was a woman made matters worse. The woman addresses Jesus both as "Lord" and as "Son of David," words that a Jew might use for the Messiah. Remember, the Jewish people in Jesus' own country are yet to recognise him as Messiah (16:13-20). Matthew is making a point, that the confession of faith came from a Gentile, a foreign woman. It was she who recognised Jesus compared to the disciples lack of vision (14:13-33) and the anger of the Jewish religious leaders .

At first, Jesus didn't answer the woman and his disciples urged him to "send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." Even Jesus seemingly tries to brush her off. "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But this woman is not easily discouraged. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table," she answers. It was a clever answer. Only recently Jesus fed the 5,000 men, in which there were 12 baskets full of crumbs or leftovers.

So Jesus responds, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Here lies the key to the whole story. It is her faith that makes the difference. "Great is your faith" -- compare this to the words we heard addressed to the apostle Peter in last week's Gospel: "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" Peter was a Jew, Jesus' friend, and one of the chosen twelve; yet this Canaanite woman had shown greater faith than Peter. And her faith is rewarded.

There was a real struggle in the early church when the Gospel of Matthew was written. In the writing of the Apostle Paul we read of his campaign for Gentiles to be included in the faith of the early church, without having to become Jews first. Little has changed, we are still trying to exclude people who are different from our own race or religion or sex. How different Jesus was in opening wide the boundaries which divided his followers. God's invitation is an open one, not a restricted guest list. God invites people of all nations to his holy mountain and it is our job to make sure they all know that they are invited. Our last hymn this morning expresses these thoughts in the words-- 'God is love and he enfoldeth all the world in one embrace; with unailing grasp he holdeth every child of every race.' *Charles Royden*

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms)

- 1 God is our strength and refuge 188
- 2 Give thanks with a grateful heart 170
- 3 God is working his purpose out (Tune Benson)
- 4 God moves in a mysterious way 193 (Tune London New)
- 5 God is love let heaven adore him 187 (Tune Abbots Leigh)

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Blessed Lord God, be to me at all times my unending joy, my eternal bliss and my enduring comfort. Be to me light in the darkness, strength in temptation and refreshment in the desert. Grant that, penitent for my sins, I may never be separated from you and, longing for your face, I may behold you in heaven; for your own name's sake. Amen *Margery Kempe, c.1373-c.1433*

Set our hearts on fire with love for you, O Christ, that in its flame we may love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and in this holy fire we may love our neighbours as ourselves; that in the keeping of these holy commandments we may glorify your name, now and for ever. Amen. *Orthodox*

To set the earth ablaze, O God, your Son submitted to death on the cross, and from his cup of suffering you call the church to drink. When we are tempted give us strength to run the race that lies before us, and to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *Methodist Worship Collect 2*



**Auction of Promises
September 17 at St Mark's Church**

Thank you to those who have offered fantastic promises, in aid of the Building Development to replace the Portakabin

and provide accommodation for Autism Bedfordshire. Please contact Chris Izzard who is organising this event. Telephone 212164.

Promises already made

- Tailor made bespoke shirt (own choice of colour and weight of Egyptian cotton) Retail Value £75 Addison & Steel London
- Evening dinner for two [drinks/wines not included] Retail value £75 at St Helena, Elstow
- One week accommodation for up to six people in a holiday cottage in Exmouth (situated very near the sea on dates mutually convenient) Retail Value £260 Mr and Mrs Puttock
- Voucher for men's clothing Retail value £50 Claytons, The Arcade, Bedford.
- Day out in chauffer driven vintage car (for up to 2 passengers) Mr and Mrs Day
- Chauffer driven tour in a vintage 2 seater Morgan car (for one passenger) Mr Waters
- Six hand made cross stitch Christmas cards Mrs Elliott
- Anfield Stadium Tour (Museum and tour centre for up to four people) LFC
- Two ornamental concrete garden plant pots
- Planted Hanging Baskets for Spring & Summer 2006. Retail value £50. C R Wilkinson & Son, Willington
- Various sizes / quantities of plastic flower pots
- Christmas Cake
- A brace of Trout from Grafham (may arrive separately depending on success - Charlie)
- Willington have donated £25.00 worth of spring flowering bulbs or a planted container (of a similar value).

What can you promise ?

Please think if there is anything which you can offer to our auction of promises. And don't forget the date to come along, bid and enjoy yourself !

Face painting for a child's party, Gardening, bake a cake, babysitting, drive somebody to the airport, decorate a room, wash a car, a sail in your boat, typing, paint a picture,

Roots for Web The Partnership is subscribed to receive Sunday resources from rootsontheweb.com. There are also resources for children. Our user name is HBMG and our password is 331944

The Thurleigh trip will take place on Sunday 21 August. Story box will continue at Putnoe on Mondays throughout August, older siblings and all from St Mark's are welcome (apart from tomorrow please bring a picnic lunch, drinks provided) Storybox Plus restarts at Putnoe on Thursday 8 September & starts at St. Mark's on Monday 12 September. Please note that we have increased the age of this group up to 10 years. For further details call *Liz Spavins 302349*

Footprints Sunday 21 August at 2.30. Meet Harrold Odell Country Park for a circular walk. Details from Margaret & Eddy Peck 267567

Monday Evening House Group coffee evening on Monday 15 August will now be at 30 The Ridgeway at 7.30pm & not as previously arranged.

Open The Book is an ecumenical project to tell Bible stories in schools. By next year all the lower schools in Bedford will have encountered Open the Book. A number of teams would welcome an extra member. Please contact Sheila Lawless 359359. sheilalawless@freenet.co.uk

Fishing for Souls Thanks to everybody who helped with the Fishing for Souls Activity day at Putnoe. Liz Spavins

Visit by Bishop Christopher St Mark's Leadership team are arranging a social evening to welcome Bishop Christopher on Sunday 23 October. It will be a night not to be missed and one for your diary.

Methodist Insurance launched a new scheme last year whereby when a member of a Methodist congregation switches their home Insurance to Methodist Insurance they will donate 20% of the first years premium to the church or charity of their choice.

Tuesday Afternoon House Group. You are invited to an "extra" meeting on Tuesday 16 August, 2.30pm at St Mark's to talk about what we will be studying and discussing from September, have a cup of tea, and generally catch up on our news. We would be pleased to welcome anyone who might be interested in joining us. Mary Stubbs

NCH Thank you sincerely to everyone at Putnoe Heights Church who supported the recent collection on behalf of NCH. I was on the 3rd of August able to bank £83. 64. It is only through the support of people like yourselves that NCH are able to meet the many childcare needs that NCH face daily. Thank you once again for your continued support. *Grace Foster.*

Storybox Plus starts at St Marks

Following the growing success of Storybox Plus at Putnoe we are very pleased to announce that we will be starting the group at St Marks. We will begin on Monday 12th September 3.30 start for refreshments and a chill out with a 4.00 start and 5.00 finish. During that hour we will read, study, and rehearse a Bible based story in preparation to perform at the Family Service on the 1st Sunday. We will also spend time making props for the play. Anyone between 4 (at school) and 10 can join us to make friends and have fun. As always the groups success will need volunteers if you can help with any aspect of our activities or have a child that would like to see what we are all about please phone *Liz Spavins* on 302349.

Police Surgery Please note that there will be a Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights. Resuming 24 August

Offertory Envelopes Members of the Envelope Scheme at Putnoe Heights Church are invited to collect their offertory envelopes for the year beginning 4 September from the table in the welcome area. New members of the scheme are always welcome. Please speak to John Hitt (tel. 404186) if you would like further information.



Methodist Podcast

The Methodist Church has launched a monthly podcast – a short radio programme available on the Internet.

The podcasts are available directly from the Methodist Connexional website, or through audio software such as iTunes.

The Methodist Web Radio service launched in October last year with a range of features and

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.

Rose Catherine Williams

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

interviews. It has since included despatches from the Methodist Conference, as well as speeches from the President and Vice President. The Podcast is an extension of that service, allowing people to subscribe to a free monthly show that aims to be informal, informative and entertaining.

Although there are other podcasts by Methodists available, and many more by other Christians around the world, the Methodist Podcast is thought to be the first by such a large British church.

Dave Webster, Electronic Communication Officer for The Methodist Church, says "we add new features like this to the Methodist website whenever we can to broaden communication between the Church and the world at large. A quick glimpse at lists of the most popular podcasts shows that a lot of people are interested in religious subjects. Hopefully the Methodist Podcasts will reach an audience of people unconnected to the Church as well as Methodists. The topics under discussion will reflect that, in that they will hopefully be relevant to anyone interested in what Christianity has to offer. One of the great things about this is that people can hear about British Methodism anywhere across the globe, and we can record interviews anywhere in the world."

Toby Scott, who features in the first Podcast, was inspired to try a podcast after he was interviewed by an American podcaster earlier this year. "We already had all the kit for use in our ISDN radio studio," he says, "and the editing software from when we launched the Web Radio service last year. We're in the process of developing our skills so that it sounds as much like professional radio as possible, but in this experimental phase we hope listeners welcome it as another way to find out about the Church and the Methodist people."

Future podcasts will feature interviews with senior leaders of the Church, as well as other people from around the world: "there's no limit on where we'll look for interesting material for our programmes," says Toby Scott. "We will pick interesting people and topics and fit them into a short show each month." <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.webradio>

The funeral of Edna May Smith will take place at Norse Road Crematorium on Monday 15 August at 2.30pm. *J. Crossley*

The funeral of Edwin Smith will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 18 August at 11.30am *J. Crossley*