



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

15 May 2005

Pentecost Year A - Whit Sunday

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

15 May Pentecost

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion

Preacher - The Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day

Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - The Rev Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss

Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

22 May

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mrs Iris Perry

Intercessions - Mrs Pat Leusby

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Prayer for Sunday

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



Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have
been given by Linda and Edward Parry in
memory of their parents.

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 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 office@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

Hymns are printed under CCL Lic No. 1501

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 for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

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

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

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

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Contact Penny Fulham 406045

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

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

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

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

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next one 16 May Moorfields & Sight Concern Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Next meeting May 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 17 May Rev.d Joan Crossley. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 24 May - Members Afternoon 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 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 - Next meeting May 24 'Life as a Librarian' Meets fortnightly. 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

10.00 am Day Care Centre St Mark's 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 Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Height meets fortnightly. Next meeting 25 May 2005 Contact Putnoe Heights 365630

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

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

6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr James 07711 687449

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday

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

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Heights . Contact Helga Nash 218521

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

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

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at St Mark's Contact Mr P Housden 376597

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's- 3rd Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

7.45pm. Housegroup-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

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

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

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

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

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

Saturday

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

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

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting 26 March Contact Kathleen Sage 771525

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

Sunday

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

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

Church Calendar

Church Diary Dates

Partnership Council 22nd June
St Mark's Church Council 15 June, 12 October
Circuit Men's Fellowship Lunch on the 18th May
St Mark's Leadership Team -Weds 6th July
Deanery Synod
Putnoe Heights Leadership Team July 21
St Mark's Church Management Meeting
 24 May, 11 July, 12 September, 2 November. All meetings to start 7.00pm
Putnoe Heights Management

Putnoe Church Council

13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005
Pastoral Group Meeting - 19 September 2.00pm
Church yard Committee - 27 May -10.00am
Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting Weds. 8th June 7.30 p.m. at 14 Flint Way.

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

Bible Notes—Pentecost (Whit Sunday Year A)



Verse of Scripture Romans Chapter 5:5

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (Alleluia!)

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by that same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading— Acts Chapter 2 v 1 – 21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (This is the word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13

Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. The body is a unit, though it is

made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
(This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading - John 20: 19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."
(This is the Gospel of Christ.- **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promise of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (Please distribute Mission Praise)

1. Come down O love divine 89 (Tune Down Ampney)
 2. Jubilate 394
 3. Thou whose almighty word 699 (Tune Moscow)
 4. O breath of God 488
- (During Communion) Spirit of the living God 613

Meditation

Pentecost originated as a final celebration of the ingathering of the grain harvest, which had begun at Passover. Later Judaism has transformed it into a feast of salvation history celebrating the giving of the Law at Sinai and the establishment of Israel as God's people. All these associations were carried over into the Christian feast that marked the conclusion of the great fifty days. The grain harvest and the Law are replaced by the gift of the Spirit, and the constitution of the old Israel is replaced by the constitution of the new order where all are included.

Commentary Come Holy Spirit

The Jews were commanded to appear before God in the Holy temple in Jerusalem three times a year, Passover, celebrating the deliverance from Egypt; Pentecost, also called The feast of Weeks, celebrating the first fruits of the harvest (Israel was an agricultural economy); and tabernacles, commemorating the wandering in the wilderness and the entry into the promised land. Indeed, Pentecost is the anglicised form of the Greek word for 50th and refers to the 50th day after Passover, now the 50th day after Good Friday. For Luke, writing in Acts the coming of the Spirit, the feast of the Spirit, is about harvest! The feast of the Law has become the feast of the Spirit.

And the passage in Acts tells us that same Holy Spirit is available to all, to empower and equip us for the tasks God has planned for each one of us. As we stand in the world, so God stands with us through the Holy Spirit, to help us make sense of our society and culture, to help us speak out in His name, to guide us in all truth, and to encourage, comfort and help us in our times of need. The inauguration of the new era of the Spirit equips us for the job Christ has appointed of each one of us, namely to take our place in the harvesting process.

But like the first disciples we have a choice. We can decide not to let the Spirit influence our lives or we can open ourselves to the Spirit's promptings. When the Spirit came the more rational disciples could have dismissed what was happening to the people gathered together in the upper room as some kind of mass hysteria and decided not to go out to the crowd. Perhaps some of them could have thought that the outpouring was only for a chosen few, not really to be shared with those outside the upper room. Perhaps others may have thought it was a kind of encouragement for the early believers but that over a short period of time the effects would wear off and that the gifts which seemed to accompany the Holy Spirit's

appearance would die out over time (and certainly not last into the 21st century!). Some may have wanted to ignore what was happening, merely because it was not part of their own spiritual or religious experience up to that time. In fact, perhaps all of the early disciples could have decided that they did not want to be part of the harvesting process for any number of reasons.

But they did, caught up in the Spirit (of the moment) they went out where others could see and hear them. And as they went out, people were drawn to them to find out what was happening, what was going on and the growth of the church was started. For when the Spirit came at Pentecost it was not just a case of what He could do for the believers, but also what He could do through them with others. Others who we see had very different beliefs to their own, or even no faith at all. But through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit He would begin to draw all people to the Father, through the cross and resurrection of the Son, and to empower them for the work he had ordained for them since the beginning of time.

God's church is an order where all are included, drawn to Him, and empowered by Him, even some of the ones we don't expect. The first Pentecost for the disciples graphically demonstrated that fact. Does the Pentecost in our lives demonstrate the same? *Sam Cappleman*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength, now and always. Amen

O consuming fire, O Spirit of love, descend into the depth of my heart and there transform me until I am fire of your fire, love of your love, and Christ himself is formed in me. Amen *Elizabeth of Schonau, d.1184*

Holy Spirit of God, descend on us with the power of a mighty rushing wind, and overturn our prejudices; descend on us as tongues of fire, and set us ablaze with the desire to speak for you; descend on us as a dove, that our hearts may be filled with the message of peace. For you are alive in the hearts of those who accept you as their guide, and you reign with the Creator and the Eternal Word, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

O God, your eye is over all your people, and you have called them to a kingdom not of this world; send forth your Holy Spirit into all the dark places of life, to still the noise of our strife and the tumult of the people; carry faith to the doubting, hope to the fearful, strength to the weak, light to the mourners, and more and more increase the pure in heart who see their God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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*

News, Views and Information

Annual Church Meetings

Thank you to everybody who attended the meetings last week. As a result of the meetings the following people will serve in office

St Mark's Church Leadership Team Avril Williams, Ian Farthing, Janet Day, Mike Cooper, Linda Parry, Delia Shephard. John Day as Treasurer.

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team Lawrence Wyatt, Jennifer Emsley, David Allen, Alan Cooper, Sue Allen, Alan Bayliss, Wendy Nash

Deanery Synod Ian Farthing, Delia Shephard and Tim Wilkes are our Deanery Synod representatives. Please remember that the Leadership Teams are responsible for working alongside the Ministers in the mission of our church. They are delighted to be approached about matters relating to our churches.

Putnoe Heights Card Sales

We have recently sent off a cheque for £50 from the sale of our cards to 'Little Hearts Matter', a charity for children with heart defects. We are now raising money for St. John's Mogerhanger. Thank you for your continuing support. Cards can always be made to order. Please telephone 267567. Margaret and Claire Peck



Age Concern Bedfordshire
Age Concern Bedfordshire is the largest older peoples charity operating in the country. We work with and for all people over the age of 60, their families and friends.

We provide a range of services and support to enable older people to make informed choices in the later years.

The range of services information and advice, benefits assistance, practical assistance around the home (home help, and handy person/gardening) leisure/clubs information and support. These run alongside our trading products specifically designed with the needs of the over 50s in mind.

These include home, motor, travel insurance, motor breakdown services, gas and electricity, aid call emergency alarms and funeral plans.

Our services are delivered in a caring, friendly but professional manner, through our team of dedicated staff and volunteers.

If anyone you know would like to make use of any of our services or indeed wish to join us as a volunteer, please contact our office on tel: 01234 360510

Putnoe Heights Junior Church and Storybox Plus Summer Outing. We hope to go to Thurleigh Farm Centre, leaving from Putnoe Heights Church at 12 noon, on either 3 or 10 July, taking a picnic for "Wacky Woods". Kids £3.75 Adults £3.25 Family £13.50 (2 adults and 2 kids). Please let Liz Spavins know a.s.a.p. which date you would prefer or for more details call Liz on 302349.

Storybox plus We are after your potential junk please-foil milk bottle tops; butter and margarine tubs with lids; kitchen roll inners and wire coat hangers for our next project. Please can you leave them in our collection box, which is under the table in the entrance hall at Putnoe Heights. Thanks Liz."

Bedford Care This local charity celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Bedford Care is run by Christians from many churches in the town and its function is to provide transport, help with shopping, small domestic repairs or other simple tasks for local people. The client rings a duty officer, who works from home, and they arrange for a volunteer to carry out the task in return for a donation. In this way, countless local people receive valuable help and the love of God is shown in practical ways. The charity is financially sound, but its continued existence is seriously threatened for two reasons; the Executive Committee has lost 3 members in recent months, one through death and two through ill health and there is also a shortage of people able to act as duty officers, generally for one day per month. If new committee members and duty officers can not be found, Bedford Care can not continue.

Please consider whether you might be able to help in any way. You can find out more by ringing the Bedford Care number, 215500, or you would be welcome at the Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on 25th May at Holy Cross Church, Barkers Lane.

Junior church The "help" rota is now on the notice board. Please sign up if you would like to join us one Sunday. Our 10+ group will be in the small hall led by Joan, Neil and other "Guest Leaders" and the younger ones will be in the large hall with Liz Spavins, John Barrow and Holly Webber.

Sunflower Competition Remember to bring your planted seed to the Fun Run to see whose flower has grown the best.

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, 4pm. We are in need of prizes to offer our heroic participants. Sponsorship and entry forms are now available in St Mark's church office.

Christian Aid Week 15 - 21 May. Collectors urgently needed! If you can do one or more roads, by yourself or with a friend, Please sign up on the list in the Welcome Area at Putnoe Heights, and collect your envelopes in readiness for delivery on Sunday 15th May. Read all about it in May Seeround. *Beryl Wiggington 266780* **Collectors also needed for St Mark's.** I would be grateful if you could help by delivering and collecting envelopes in your road or a road near you. Many hands make light work. Please sign up on list in Foyer. Thank you Wendy

Putnoe Saturday Morning cleaning—We are desperately short of volunteers for this rota at present. Most teams are down to two persons and if one of those cannot attend, the situation becomes very difficult. It is not a very arduous duty and is usually completed in less than 45 minutes on a Saturday morning once every 6 weeks. We would love to have new members—perhaps some of the hardworking young adults we now have in the congregation might be willing to give up a little time once every six weeks? Full training will be given! If you can help please see Peter or Joy or ring 261736.

Police Station at St Mark's The Bedfordshire Police have now moved into St Mark's and we are delighted that five officers will work from the office. The police will hold surgeries at St Mark's on every Tuesday afternoon and every Thursday evening. This will be a great time to come and pass on information or report incidents. The office at St Mark's will also hold police report forms, so that if you have anything to report the office staff can take details and pass on your report. Please do feel able to contact the police with any information.

Footsteps - Pinchmill Islands walk Sunday 29th May. Meet at Sharnbrook Mill 2.30 p.m. for a 4 mile circular walk. John and Sally Gunning - phone 305925.

Mission Groups News (Putnoe Heights)

£360 has been sent to Faith in Action Orphan Support Scheme, providing goats to give additional income and nutrition to families raising orphans. Please take time to read the letter of acknowledgement on the notice board.

The coffee morning at Eddie and Irene McKenzie's home on 1st May raised £117 for Mission funds. Many thanks to all who supported this event.

Bedford Churches Indoor Cricket League. Last month saw the conclusion of the first ever Bedford Churches Indoor Cricket League which we set up last autumn in a last-ditch attempt to restore the sanity of those flannelled fools who were pining for cricketing action during the long, dark winter months! Indoor cricket, being played in a confined space with only 6 players in each team is much more frenetic than the traditional summer format of the game. Batsmen score 1 run when they hit a side or back wall or the ceiling, provided that they are not subsequently caught, and 2 runs each time they complete a run...Confused?! We certainly were for the first couple of games! Originally, 7 churches decided to join the league although, sadly, St Mary's Wootton had to withdraw due to serious illness suffered by a couple of players' family members. I am delighted to report that Bedford Cricketing Saints, ably led by Mike Cooper and who also included Mark Smith in their team, emerged as champions. As for Bedford Cricketing Warthogs, the other half of our summer team, Neil, Peter Quarry and Graham Cooke were

regular players and they were ably misled but still managed to finish as runners-up!

The final league table was as follows:

	P	W	L	Pts
1. Bedford Cricketing Saints	10	9	11	8
2. Bedford Cricketing Warthogs	10	5	5	10
3. All Saints' Queens Park	10	4	6	8
4. St. Andrew's	10	4	6	8
5. Eynesbury Methodists	10	4	6	8
6. St. John's	10	3	7	6

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this inaugural event so successful. The Saints will doubtless look forward to defending their title in the autumn. Adrian Quarry

Pearl James would like to thank the Reverend Charles Royden, who came to her aid at the I.C.U when she needed him, and for the lovely funeral service in St. Mark's Chapel for her sister Mona Lovell.

Network Spring District Day Monday 6 June at Chesham Methodist Church. The theme "Building Bridges" will be led by Connexional President, Elaine Turner. A coach leaves from Priory Methodist Church at 8.30am, the cost is £10. To book a place please contact Elaine MacKirdy tel: 360271 as soon as possible and no later than 27 May.

Tuesday Club would like to thank everybody who supported their Charity Evening. We have sent £303 to the Primrose Appeal Fund.

Footprints. Weekend in Colchester 16—18 September 2005. There are still two twin rooms available, non-walkers welcome to join us in this pleasant area of 'Constable Country.' Further details from Sue Allen 407264

Church Flowers. 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). **TNT** meets tonight at 6-730pm. We are making T shirts for the Fun Run.

Spring Fair at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 21 May from 10.00am.—2.00 pm Craft stalls, Plants, Books, Raffle, Side shows, Bouncy Castle, Home Produce & Lunches & Snacks. Admission 50p (children Free)

Forthcoming Funerals
to be conducted by our ministers

The funeral of Rosemary Ann Brown will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 17 May at 2.30pm

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.

Alan Nicholls
Mona Margery Lovell

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

