



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

17 April 2005

4 Sunday after Easter

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

17 April

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash

Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

24 April

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions - Mr Chris Izzard

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Psalm 23 — Lectionary Psalm for today

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Prayer for Sunday

Good Shepherd of the sheep,
by whom the lost are sought
and guided into the fold:

feed us and we shall be satisfied;

heal us and we shall be made whole;

and lead us, that we may be with you;

for you are alive and reign,

with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Methodist 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 356062Minister@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 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

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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 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 Storybox 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 18 April—St. Mark's 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.

1.15pm Library Walk W.I. at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Next meeting 19 April. Miss Edna Rowley 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 19 April Miss Vera Pearson "The day War broke out" This is a change from the published programme. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 26 April 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 26 April 'Trek to Nepal' Jeanette Taylor. 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 13 April 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 side chapel. 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 Storybox 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 Storybox Plus at Putnoe Heights. A drama group for 4-9year olds. Meets 4 5-pm,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

6.45pm TNT (The Nearly Teens) meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

Church Calendar

Church Diary Dates

Annual Congregational Meeting 8 May 3.00pm St Mark's 4.00pm Putnoe

Partnership Council 21 June

St Mark's Church Council 15 June, 12 October

Circuit Men's Fellowship Lunch on the

St Mark's Leadership Team

4 May -Home of Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Deanery Synod

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

25 April 2005 at 7.30pm at Sam's

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

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

Putnoe Heights Management 18 April

Putnoe Church Council

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.

Bible Notes

Verse of Scripture Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Good Shepherd of the sheep, by whom the lost are sought and guided into the fold: feed us and we shall be satisfied; heal us and we shall be made whole; and lead us, that we may be with you; for you are alive and reign, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

First Reading - Acts 2: 42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

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

Second Reading - 1 Peter 2: 19-25

For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

Third Reading - John 10: 1-10 When the Gospel is announced All: **Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

(Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ - All: **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen



**He bore our sins in his
body on the cross,
so that, free from sins,
we might live
for righteousness.**

1 Peter 2:24

Hymns Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Holy Communion

1. Begin my tongue 2
2. MP 445 Shine Jesus shine
3. When we break bread together 615
4. Dear Lord and father of mankind 673

Commentary 1 Peter 2:19-25

The following passage is from Isaiah 53,

" Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."

It is from a difficult context for 21st century Christians to relate to: one in which the author is advising slaves to be obedient to masters, and then wives to husbands. It is difficult to imagine the prudence of such advice under even the worst of circumstances. And even out of context, vs. 19-21 rub my modern sensibilities in the wrong way. Without the situational context, it is abstract advice with nothing to grab hold of in order to evaluate it. In the context of slavery, it is much more concrete but remains questionable to us.

Have saints like Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. shown us a better way? They emphasized the willingness to suffer, as does this passage. But don't they also emphasize that one's suffering must somehow expose the evil? The passage from 1 Peter would seem to advise passive nonviolence, as opposed to nonviolent resistance. I find it to be an awkward use of Isaiah 53, one that seems to stumble a bit in walking the fine line of nonviolent resistance to the side of passive nonviolence.

Perhaps what is most important about this passage is taking the first step: an absolute commitment to nonviolence, whether passive or not. When the institutions of slavery and patriarchy finally began to topple over in the 19th century, we seem to have often left behind this step that the community of 1 Peter made most essential. It's the step of suffering patience for the forces of violence to destroy themselves. Isn't the alternative to too quickly dismantle the institutions in ways that do violence to the people who still live in them? Is the patience of God one that takes the longer road of the Cross' transformation of the old into the new, instead of the quicker road of tearing down the old ones and building up new ones, even if there's still folks who live in the old ones? These questions definitely represent the mysteries to me raised by the terrible servitude and suffering that persists in this world.

This also raises questions about how we face and overcome issues in our modern context, such as the campaign to fight against poverty. Nelson Mandela has said that like slavery, poverty is not a natural state of being. It is an injustice and an abuse of humans that any should live in poverty. The campaign seeks to pursue a policy of pressurising Governments to release 3rd world debtors from the shackles of huge loan repayments, to give them a clean start. It is a campaign which is peaceful, so far and one which is highly commendable. But, whatever Western Governments choose to do with these loans, to cancel them is all well and good, but until the 3rd world governments put policies into place to divert loan repayment money to schools, hospitals, welfare and food, then poverty will still be an issue for the people of those nations. While money goes to armaments and into the pockets of so many corrupt leaders, then what we do and what we persuade our government to do, in the end it will make little difference. Nonviolent resistance to these regimes will be costly and we have to support those who engage in this practice. We can do this through prayer and by being a "Voice" on their behalf.

Neil Bramble-Chapman

Meditation

An Episcopalian bishop who served for many years in the upper Midwest tells stories he learned from the Native Americans of the area:

A wise man among the Indians—many Native Americans in the Midwest still prefer to be called Indians—was asked by his grandson about the conflict and discord in the world today. The elder reflected for a moment and then replied, “My child, there are two dogs battling within my heart. One is full of anger, hatred, and rage. The other is full of love, forgiveness, and peace.” The old man paused, and he and his grandson sat for a moment in silence. Finally the boy spoke, “Grandfather, which dog will win the battle in your heart? The one filled with hatred or the one filled with love?” The old man looked at his grandson and replied, “The one I feed will win.”

What's happened to the Old Testament Reading?

Like other Christians in church all around the world each Sunday we use the Bible readings set out in the Revised Common Lectionary. It arranges for us to hear most of chapters 1 and 2 of Acts during the 50 days between Easter and Pentecost.

It is a long standing tradition for the church to substitute a reading from Acts for the Old Testament lesson during the Easter season. This is not done because the Hebrew scripture has become less important or even unimportant to Christians, in fact, the book of Acts is uniquely placed between the gospels about the Jewish Jesus and the letters of Paul, the "apostle to the Gentiles," in part to show the continuing significance of Israel's history for the community of Jesus.

The prologue of Acts (1:5) tells us that the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples for 40 days after his passion and resurrection. They are to re-enact symbolically the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert (Luke 4:1-2,14) before he began his mission in Galilee, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. A replacement for Judas is chosen, bringing the number of the apostles back to 12, another hint of the hoped-for restoration of Israel.

Fittingly, the ascension of Jesus takes place from the Mount of Olives, where Zechariah had predicted that God would come as king and judge over all the earth (Zechariah 14:4-21).

God's dramatic reversal of the confusion of tongues and the scattering of the nations at Babel (Genesis 11:1-9) is witnessed to by the nations represented in the crowd gathered at Jerusalem, in a prophetic sign that "God's deeds of power" will be proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead.

God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, with the blood of the eternal covenant: make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer must mean putting one's very soul upon our hands . Offering it to God.

From the Babylonian Talmud (6th century Persia)

Help me O Lord, to descend into the depths of my being, below my conscious and sub-conscious life until I discover my real self, that which is given me from you, the divine likeness in which I am made and into which I am to grow, the place where your Spirit communes with mine, the spring from which all my life rises. *(George Appleton 1902-93)*



News, Views and Information

Wednesday Bereavement Drop in Group.

On May 4 Lynne Davis will speak about the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau. The meeting starts at 2.30pm. All are welcome to attend these afternoon gatherings.

Book Sale. In aid of Mission Funds at Putnoe Heights church on Saturday 16th April, 10am—12noon. Refreshments. Raffle. Donations of books or raffle prizes gratefully received in church on Friday 15th April from 7-8pm. Contact:- Peck 267567, Gunning 305925 or Cohen 343424.

Saints & Warthogs. Anyone interested in playing cricket? The new season is fast looming and Mike Cooper is the person to see if you would like to join their team. Tel:306751 -mikecoops@tiscali.co.uk.

For sale Unused gift. The Bible, old & new testaments, on tape, (bought from Wesley Owen) for £60 c.2 years ago. Most tapes untouched or only listened to once as I have it on CD. £35 o.n.o. Call Guy 01234 407082

Storybox plus We are after your potential junk please-foil milk bottle tops; butter and margarine tubs with lids; kitchen roll inners. Please leave at Putnoe Church office or give to Elizabeth Spavins.

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.

Footprints meet on Saturday 7th May . Salcey Forest Northants. A pleasant. flat, no stiles, all day walk of approximately 6 miles. Meet 10.30am Grid Ref SP811508 in official car park. Left of B 526 , 2miles north of Stoke Goldington. (sign posted Salcey Forest) Car Park first on the left. Lunch at Forest Café where you can join or leave at the half way stage if desired. Further details contact Alan or Margaret on 327219.

Footprints Weekend in Constable country—September 16-18th. Deposits due by end of April to Sue please. Rooms still available—non walkers welcome.

Easter Offerings —The Easter Offering Dedication Service will be held at Priory Methodist Church on Sunday ,1st May, at 6.30pm. The theme of the Service, planned by Caroline Salmon, is challenging injustice and prejudice by “creating a just community.”

Kempston Musical Society conclude their Centenary Season with a concert entitled 100 years of choral music at Kempston East Methodist Church. On Saturday 30th April at 7.30pm. The programme includes music by Coleridge-Taylor, Haydn, Mendelssohn and Rutter. Tickets available at the door or from members of the society. Further information :- 01234 261072

International Women's Day Wednesday 20th April 10am - 4pm Harpur Suite, Bedford. Exhibitions, performances and refreshments for women. Contact Glenis Orkisz 01234 350459.

Donations of flowers. The new chart is on the foyer notice board, with lots of spaces from now to November. Please sign up if you wish to donate money for flowers on a special date. Talk to Marion so she can put it into her diary and liaise with the flower arrangers and make an appropriate entry into the notices.

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land With the London North West District Methodist Church 3-12 May 2006. A comprehensive 10 day pilgrimage to Jerusalem and Galilee. Cost £999 sharing a twin bedded room. Insurance and some additional costs . Contact Rev Vaughan Tong 01494 433504 Vaughan.tong@ntlworld.com



St Mark's Church Council. Would members of the Church Council please remain behind after church this morning to enable a short consultation to take place. The Leadership Team and Management Committee have been consulted over proposals that St Mark's should make available space in the Centre for use by Bedfordshire Police. These proposals have also been discussed by and attracted the support of Brickhill Parish Council. The Council will be asked to endorse an 18 month agreement for the church to allow Bedfordshire Police use of the flat for officers to book on and off duty, house computer equipment etc. Also to use the Centre for surgeries and police meetings with the public. This is an exciting opportunity for church and community, and we would like the endorsement of Council members.

Thank You

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 (Putnoe). 404950

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

NCH Boxholders. Will you please let Margaret Standley have your box early in April so that the total amount collected can be paid in. (An amazing £600,000, including Gift Aid, has been collected nationally by this method in a year.)

Thank you

Men's Lunch Fellowship. Next meeting 20th April at St Mark's. Talk by Colin Smith [Molecules to Medicines]. Formerly Chemistry Operations Manager for Glaxo. All welcome. Please contact Chris Izzard

We welcome to our worship this morning at Putnoe Heights Church the Reverend Stephen Heap, chaplain at Demontfort University. Stephen is assisting with our LEP review on behalf of the Ecumenical Committee.

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.

**Joseph Victor Baines
Edna McGregor Cheers
John Reginald Tokins
Hilda Izzard**

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

A Hymn for Sunday

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining:
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth You now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.....

Shine, Jesus shine, fill this land with the
Father's glory;
blaze Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace
and mercy;
send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be
light.

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
from the shadows into Your radiance;
by Your blood I may enter Your brightness:
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.....

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
so our faces display Your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.....

Publication of the banns of Marriage

We publish the banns and pray for the marriages of

Duncan Marjoribanks and Nina Jane Reynolds

This is for the first time of asking.

Benjamin Edward Watton and Nicola Ann Harley

This is for the first time of asking

Forthcoming Funerals to be conducted by our ministers

The funeral of Estelle Mary Houghton will take place at Bedford Crematorium on 20th April at 1.45pm. (Joan Crossley)

The funeral of Sheila Peck will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 22 April at 11.30am (Charles Royden)

The funeral of Sydney Douglas Bodsworth will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Monday 25 April. (Charles Royden)