



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

17 July 2005
16 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 Heights

9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr John Ayers

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion with Baptism

Preacher - Mr John Ayres

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

24 July 17 in Ordinary

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

St Mark's

9.30am St Mark's Church

Preacher - Revd C Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliot

11.00am Putnoe Heights

Preacher - Revd C Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt

Intercessions - Mrs Betty Wyatt

1 Reading - 1 Kings 3:5 -12, **2 Reading** - Romans 8:26 - 39

3 Reading - Matthew 13: 31 - 33, 44 - 52

Welcome

A special welcome this morning at Putnoe Heights Church to the friends and family of Paige Ware brought for baptism.

Thank you

The flowers at St. Mark's Church this week have been given by Peter Langley in memory of Angie Holding.



Prayer for Sunday

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast those things which last for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 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 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

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.

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 18 July 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. 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 9 August Strawberry Tea.". Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 19 July Bible Study Acts 2, 43-47 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 19 July. Members 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

1.30 - 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

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 & 2 - 5pm 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 Putnoe Office 365630

Church Calendar

Church Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council 12 October

Circuit Meeting 14 September

St Mark's Leadership Team – 4 October

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team July 21

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

11 July, 12 September, 2 November.

All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management

Putnoe Church Council 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting – 19 September 2.00pm

Churchyard Committee - 7 October

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting .

Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Calendar dates appear also on our church website www.ThisChurch.com.

Brickhill Parish Council dates (Held at St Mark's) Allotments Committee 7.30pm

Planning meeting

Bedford Deanery meeting 15 September

Partnership Council 20 September

Bible Notes

Ordinary 16 Year A (Trinity 8 Green)

Verse of Scripture Psalm 86:11

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; knit my heart to you, that I may fear your name.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Lord God your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – Isaiah 44: 6 - 8

"This is what the LORD says-- Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come-- yes, let him foretell what will come. Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."

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

Second Reading - Romans: 12 - 25

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

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

Third Reading – Matthew 13: 24 - 30, 36 - 43

When the reading is announced 'Glory to Christ our Saviour.'

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' "An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and



'Ancient of Days' by William Blake
God creates the world
and measures time

bring it into my barn. "Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. (This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Commentary

'Better to light a candle than curse the dark'

Somebody wise once pointed out that if we start ejecting from the church everybody who is guilty of sin, then there will be nobody left. We are sinners trying our best to become more like saints. Matthew knew this when he wrote his gospel. The teachings of Jesus which he recorded in his gospel recognised the importance of decent ethical behaviour. In fact Matthew reminds the church that God was concerned about bad desires as well as bad behaviour. So it was bad to think about adultery as well as to engage in it. (Matt 5:28).

However whilst Matthew wanted to encourage the church to higher ethical standards, nevertheless he warns against passing judgement on others. "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged" (7:1). This is the message of the parable today, the Parable of the Weeds. In our churches and homes, in our work places and clubs which we belong to, we will see people who are recognisably more good or bad. In this situation Jesus calls us to be patient and recognise that there will come a time when God will judge. If we fall out with everybody who we consider falls short of the mark we will have no churches left, we will lose friends and our working relationships will fall apart. We must welcome others as Christ welcomes us.

In the parable today Jesus begins by mentioning a weed, called zizanion. This is a kind of darnel, closely resembling wheat except the grains are black. Darnel has to be removed because it is mildly toxic and will ruin the flour, but the black grains were removed by hand after threshing. So in our reading today from Matthew, Jesus indicates that the wheat and the weeds must be left to grow together and the separation of good and bad is not something which we should engage in doing now.

Like most people I have a recurring weed problem in my garden. There is one weed which grows right in the middle of a Viburnum and it comes up every year and attracts aphids. I could get rid of it once and for all but I would surely kill the plant. Likewise I have this year decided to get tough with bindweed, and I sprayed it, whilst it was growing through the Pyracantha. It is a dangerous solution and I know that the cure may be terminal for both.

So it is that Jesus says let the weeds and the wheat grow together. We all find this difficult, there people who behave badly and people who seem like saints and we all share the same bus. In truth, I don't want to have to wait for the harvest before I pass judgement on some people. I feel able to judge some people now and I find it difficult to know why God hasn't zapped them long ago. Closer to home there weeds or imperfections in all of our lives, what do we do about these?

Nothing will be achieved if we become like Mr Angry waging war against weeds in ourselves and others. It is perhaps knowing this that Jesus tells us that we must wait for the harvest. It is God who will judge, not you and I. Yes there is a real battle at work in this world between good and evil and whilst we might be tempted to judge others, Jesus tells us that we must not. Unlike God, we cannot know what is inside a person's heart. We are unable to see where people's lives might take them -- their potential for redemption.

In due course the weeds will be seen for what they are, and for what they have failed to produce. Judgement is a risky business, and the task of judgement is divine, not human. How pleased we should be to be released from the temptation to think that we have to sit in judgement, this is not something entrusted to us. We are spared the potential mistake of attacking what we believe to be weeds and which turn out not to be so.

In the meantime there is much that we can do. Let us all spend much more time nourishing the wheat, encouraging the good things which we see all round us. Our newspapers are chock full of all the bad stuff, we Christians have to get beyond the human appetite for evil and see the much greater good which lies all round us. Darkness is eliminated not by cursing it, but by lighting a candle. Each one of us must take more time to affirm the good we see. When Bing Crosby sang about accentuating the positive and eliminating the negative and spreading joy to the maximum, the sentiment was a very Christian one. Perfection is not a normal part of human nature, but surely when we concentrate on our good points the less favourable ones cease to be prominent. I am told that this is the best way to grow a good lawn, feed the grass and weeds have less and less room to grow. *Charles Royden*

Meditation on the Gospel reading

I am going to be easier on myself and others. I will stop being so demanding of perfection in myself and others. I know that I make mistakes and I have just as many faults as everybody else. I will look right past the ridiculous behaviour of others and see beyond the things I am inclined to criticise. I will seek out things which I can affirm in myself and others and I will try to grow goodness in myself and people around me. I will stop trying to change people and make them more like me and I will find peace of mind in acceptance.

Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.

Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Holy Communion)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 For the beauty of the earth | 333 Hymns and Psalms | (Tune: <i>England's Lane</i>) |
| 2 All I once held dear | | |
| 3 Blest are the pure in heart | 724 Hymns and Psalms | (Tune: <i>Franconia</i>) |
| 4 Amazing grace | 215 Hymns and Psalms | (Tune: <i>Amazing Grace</i>) |

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen (*Collect from Common Worship*)

Just as a grain of wheat must die in the earth in order to bring forth a rich harvest, so your Son died on the cross to bring a rich harvest of love. Just as the harvest of wheat must be ground into flour to make bread, so the suffering of your Son brings us the bread of life. Just as bread gives our bodies strength for our daily work, so the risen body of your Son gives us strength to obey your laws. (*Thomas Munzer 1490-1525*)

O God, the father of the forsaken, the help of the weak, the supplier of the needy; you teach us that love towards the human race is the bond of perfectness, and the imitation of your blessed self. Open and touch our hearts that we may see and do, both for this world and that which is to come, the things that belong to our peace. Strengthen us in the work which we have undertaken; give us wisdom, perseverance, faith, and zeal, and in your own time and according to your pleasure, prosper the issue for the love of your Son Jesus Christ. (*Lord Shaftesbury 1801-85*)



Carolyn Bramble-Chapman will be taking part in the Race For Life Today at 11am in Russell Park. It is for Cancer Uk and Carolyn would appreciate any kind

offers for sponsorship. There will be a board in the foyer on which anybody may enter their name who wishes to offer support for Carolyn in this event which will raise money to help fight cancer.

Volunteers wanted to host a Mission coffee morning on a Saturday from 10 –12, anytime from August onwards. Help from Mission Group on the day. Sylvia Cohen 343424

Volunteers wanted There will be a skip at Bridge Cottage Great Barford on 28,29 &30 July from 9 -12 pm. If anyone can come and help fill it, please contact Alan Cooper 365302

Junior Church Activity Day “Fishing For Souls” on Wednesday 10 August at Putnoe Heights Church 9.30am - 3.30pm. Drama, singing, games and costume making in preparation to perform a Bible based story on the 4 September at our fun filled Family Service. For further details call the church office 365630 or Liz Spavins 302349

Holidays. There will be no Junior Church or Storybox Plus during August. Junior Church will meet again on Sept 11th ,Storybox on 8th September. Storybox at Putnoe heights will continue on Mondays as usual, older children and those families from St. Mark’s are most welcome to join us but please bring a picnic lunch, drinks will be provided. Can you also let me know about the Thurleigh trip (14th or 21st August) as soon as possible. Thanks Liz Spavins.

The Excelsior Singers, a choir which sings regularly on radio and TV in Barbados in a programme rather like the BBC’s Songs of Praise is coming to the Church of St Michael and All Angels Barford Avenue, Bedford, on Thursday 4th August and giving a concert starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £2.50 can be purchased in advance or at the door.

St Mark’s Lunch Club (now being held at Putnoe Heights Church) A few seats are available for the afternoon coach trip to Castle Ashby with Lunch Club members on 20th July and tea at Wilstead Methodist Church. Cost £6. Contact St Mark’s Church.Tel: 342613 or Margaret Standley 305352.

NCH House to House Collection (Brickhill)
NCH, the children’s charity, works with

disadvantaged and disabled children, and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including the Methodist Church. The annual house-to-house collection to support the vital work of the NCH will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark’s Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £770; including gift aid. If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area or would like more information please contact Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)

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.

Saints & Warthogs. Our season is now in full swing and we have won 10 of our 13 matches played so far. Particular team highlights have been, our highest score ever of 235 for 5 wickets in the game v All Saints’ Kings Langley which just eclipsed our previous best of 233 for 4 wickets v St Guthlac’s Market Deeping some two weeks earlier at the end of June. Many of our batsmen have scored freely but particularly noteworthy were: Graham Cooke’s 34 not out v Holy Trinity Oxford, James Lord’s 33 not out v Market Deeping and Peter Quarry’s 33 not out v All Saints’ Kings Langley (which incidentally is his grandparents’ church!). I am delighted that Neil (aka Shane Warne Chapman) is currently our leading wicket-taker with 13 to his name and Tom Ward (3 wickets for 4 runs v St Paul’s St Albans) and David Gilbert (3 wickets for 8 runs v Luke’s Bricket Wood) have also bowled impressively. We have much enjoyed playing some of our away matches in the idyllic surroundings of Old Deer Park in Richmond, Verulanium Park in St Albans and the Warneford Hospital in Oxford. We are now looking forward to our mid-season mini tour to Folkestone on 16–17 July and Neil has kindly agreed to regale you with details of our escapades there at a later date! Adrian Quarry.

Bible Readers - Just occasionally there are times when the Sunday readings are changed. Occasionally this happens when the common lectionary has alternatives. In order to assist readers we are trying for a short time to post the readings for following week on the front of partnership news. Please advise us if this is helpful.

Storybox St Mark's The draft rotas are in the office. All corrections in Joan's drawer asap, please. More volunteers needed.

The Church of England's General Synod voted on Monday to remove legal obstacles that prevent women from becoming bishops. Some traditionalists in the church warned that the move was "premature and dangerous". However the Synod voted by a wide margin in all three Houses to begin the process to allow women to become bishops. The move will probably take at least five years but it does now appear to be inevitable.

From Ada Hill. I do thank all our dear friends from St Mark's and Putnoe Heights, for all the cards, the messages, the help, support and kindness shown us during Derek's stay in hospital and since his death to me. I thank the dear ladies who catered and served food and drinks after the funeral. Thank you all so much

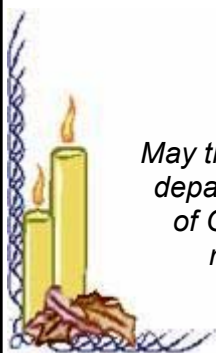
Auction of Promises September 17 at St Mark's Church. Thank you to those who have offered fantastic promises, in aid of the Building Development to replace the Portakabin and provide accommodation for Autism Bedfordshire. Please contact Chris Izzard who is organising this event. Telephone 212164.

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.

Irene Hugill

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



A Hymn Sunday

- 1 All I once held dear,
Built my life upon,
All this world reveres,
And wars to own,
All I once thought gain
I have counted loss;
Spent and worthless now,
Compared to this.
*Knowing You, Jesus,
knowing You,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love You, Lord.*

- 2 Now my heart's desire
Is to know You more,
To be found in You
And known as Yours.
To possess by faith
What I could not earn,
All-surpassing gift
Of righteousness.
Chorus

- 3 Oh, to know the power
Of Your risen life,
And to know You in
Your sufferings.
To become like You
In Your death, my Lord,
So with You to live
And never die.
Chorus

The funeral of Daphne Hilda Simons will take place at Norse Road Cemetery Chapel on Friday 22 July at 2.00pm CR



Publication of the banns of Marriage.

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Richard Wright and Helen Parry. This is the third time of asking.