

Methodist
Church

Partnership News

17 October 2004

29 in Ordinary

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church—Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day

Intercessions – Mrs Alison Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen

Intercessions - Mr Peter Bailey

24 October

8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St. Mark's Church – Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions—Mr Chris Izzard

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss

Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Val Peacock in memory of her husband Trevor. The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Elizabeth Bean, in celebration of Phil's birthday.

We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. Contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

Prayer for Sunday

Take from me, O Lord, all desire for worldly praise and all uncontrolled anger and remorse. Give to me a humble and lowly heart, and a mind tender with kindness and compassion. Grant to me also, good Lord, fullness of faith, firmness of hope and fervency of love, that my one desire may be conformity to your gracious will; through Christ our Lord. Amen Thomas More, 1478-1535

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Mobile -07740 865167 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.

Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

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 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy@thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - 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).
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs. Jill Williams 357020
- 7.15 m Guides** -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
- 7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month. Next 18 October St. Mark's Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
- 7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
- 8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

- 9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
- 9.30am - 11.30pm Jo Jingles** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866
- 10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime** Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828
- 12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World** at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting - 19th October Betty and Lawrence Wyatt—Travels in Turkey. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 19 October Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709
- 2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.
- 3.30 - 4.30pm Putnoe Heights Church** Essential Stretch Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

- 6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129
- 6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607
- 7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's Church.** Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
- 7.30- 9.00pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746
- 7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Next meeting 19 October—Alzheimers - Pat Stock. Meets fortnightly . Contact Mrs C Davies 219130.
- 8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

- 10.00 am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 10.00 am Holy Communion** at St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat** Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966
- 12 - 1pm Putnoe Height Church** Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- Luncheon Club** at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 20 October Contact St. Mark's 342613
- 1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555
- 6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449
- 6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies** at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731
- 7.00pm St. Mark's Church** Bunyan Bridge. Contact Brian Sallows 407725
- 7-10pm Putnoe Guild** - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609
- 7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes St. Mark's. Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
- 7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

- 9.30am Thursday Prayer Group** at Putnoe Heights in the side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
- 10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic** at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** Contact 267444
- 10.00am - 11.30am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Contact 244970
- 12 - 1.00 pm Storybox** at St Mark's Church. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities,

songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.

Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers

Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

2.30 Bedford Arts Society at St. Mark's. Contact

Celia Maddison 782901

6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.

Contact Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Mrs S Lewis 300198

7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000 Putnoe 2nd Thursday of

the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

6.15 - 7.30pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St.

Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at

St Mark's Contact Mr Hatton 824988

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's- 3rd

Thursday month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

7.45pm. Housegroup-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little

Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact

Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St

Mark's Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact

Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church

Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

6 -7.00 pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr

James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7. 30 - 9.30pm Young Peoples meeting Contact

Pastor Tarr 376841

7.30pm Music Group St. Mark's Church/monthly

6.30pm -8.30 pm Dog Training Classes at St.

Mark's Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

Saturday

10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St

Mark's -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle

304865

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's

Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Peace Project Saturday School at Putnoe Heights.

For details contact Mrs.E.Tarr 309881

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe

Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881

News, Views and Information

The Calendar

Putnoe Centre Management -15 Nov

St Mark's Church Council

Feb 1 2005

Churchyards Committee

Next meeting on Monday 17 Jan at 10am

St Mark's Centre Management Meeting

Wednesday 10 Nov

St Mark's Leadership Team

Next meeting on 17 Nov, 12 Jan

Deanery Synod

18 Nov,, 10 Feb

Partnership Council 18 Jan

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team

22 Nov

Putnoe Church Council

11 Oct 2004, 7 Feb 2005

13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting

January 24 at 2.00pm

Calendar dates now appear on our church website

www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise us if you have

a date to be added to the church calenda

Network -District Autumn Craft Day on Saturday

6th November at Priory Methodist Church. £3 per half

day workshop. Please book by 16th October. For

more information and booking forms contact Pam

Seymour, Tel: 305695

Women's World Day of Prayer Bedford Day

Conference will be held on Monday 25 October,

10.00am to 3.00pm at Priory Methodist Church. Cost

£4.00. Bring your own lunch. Names and money

required by Friday 8 October. Please contact Kathie

Longden, Tel: 345760 for further details.

Wine Tasting Evening

An evening tasting wines, being informed, trying

to guess the wines, places of origin etc. Prizes

for the winners.

St Mark's Church

6 November 2004

7.30pm

Tickets £5

All proceeds in aid of

the new building

extension for Autism

Bedfordshire

Tickets on sale from

the St Mark's Office

and Alan Cooper at

Putnoe





Bible Notes

29 Sunday in Ordinary Time

Verse of Scripture Psalm 119:89 Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do also for you. Give us the will to be servants of others as you were the servant of all; for you gave up your life and died for us, but live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever
Amen

First Reading – Genesis 32: 22-31

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.

After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

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

Second Reading– 2 Timothy 3: 14– 4: 5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

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

Gospel Reading –Luke 18: 1-8 Please stand

(The Holy Gospel is taken from Luke 18:1-8—**Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3.16

gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!" " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" (Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (Please distribute Mission and Praise Holy Communion Service booklets)

Mission Praise.

1. **784** Ye Servants of God
2. **445** Lord the light
3. **67** Breathe on my breath of God
4. **624** Take my life (nottingham/mozart)

Commentary on Luke 18:1-8

The widow and the dodgy judge.

If you read this passage carelessly, you might conclude that God is being compared to an unjust judge or even that nagging at God in prayer is a guaranteed way to get results. In fact the parable belongs to the category of "how much more ..." stories. The story of the judge is exaggerated and if well delivered could be quite funny. The tale of how a poor widow (one of the most helpless and dispossessed persons in society) gained her own way with a rich, powerful and high ranking man, may have amused Jesus' audience. The punch line contrasts the self-seeking approach of the judge to the eternal love and care of the Father. God's attention to our needs and prayers is assured and He is always listening to our intercessions. Joan Crossley

Meditation. "In *Lectio Divina* (Holy reading) we offer ourselves to God; and we are people in motion. In ancient times this inner spiritual motion was described as a helix - an ascending spiral. Viewed in only two dimensions it appears as a circular motion back and forth; seen with the added dimension of time it becomes a helix, an ascending spiral by means of which we are drawn ever closer to God. The whole of our spiritual lives were viewed in this way, as a gentle oscillation between spiritual activity and receptivity by means of which God unites us ever closer to Himself. In just the same way the steps or stages of *lectio divina* represent an oscillation back and forth between these spiritual poles. In *lectio divina* we recognize our underlying spiritual rhythm and discover many different ways of experiencing God's presence - many different ways of praying." (Fr Luke Dysinger)

Prayers.

May we sow seeds of justice, may we nurture holy visions. May we harvest gentle wisdom, may patience be our grain. Make we mix in grain and courage, may we kindle the fires of truth. May we share the bread of healing. May god's banquet fill each hand. *Amen*

On leaving this place, may the worship not end, nor the presence of God feel taken away. On leaving this place, may we not forget the holiness of worship. On leaving this place, may we always remember that we go to live among people created by God. On leaving this place, may we carry the music of God within us and proclaim His glory as we go. *Amen*

Bless all of us Marthas, Lord as we prepare the meals and do the laundry and struggle with the shopping. Bless all of us Marys, Lord, as we study late at night, and love the times of worship and treasure silence. Bless the Lazarus within us, Lord, dead to the world, curled up in a private tomb. Call us out, give us life and bless us. *Amen* (Bernard Thorogood)

News, Views and Information

Mission in Malawi.

Our objective of funding wells in Malawi has been well and truly met. We have now raised enough to dig many wells and provide seed and supplies to be grown. The response has been absolutely fantastic. This has been the most generous response from our Partnership Churches to a mission appeal. The appeal will be kept running until the end of November and then we will publish a final total of the funds raised. So there is still, time to make your gift.

It is impossible to tell all the stories of generosity but congratulations must be made to the Putnoe Women's Fellowship who gave a remarkable £800 to the Wells Appeal !

Sally Jeffree founder of Faith in Action (Malawi Wells Appeal) will be talking about her Christian witness on Premier Radio Sunday 1-2 (one Sunday in October, date uncertain). The station is aimed at the London area, but these are the frequencies to try. Medium wave 1035, 1332, 1413 Sky digital 873 ntl 886.

Thank You to everyone who worked hard to make the barn dance such a special night, we now know that over £200 was raised towards the New building extension for Autism Bedfordshire at St Mark's

Church Council News

Putnoe Heights Church Council

The Council met this week and were in good spirits as they reflected on good news coming from different areas of our church life. The work with children through Junior Church, Storybox and Storybox Plus, and also the TNT youthgroup were cause for rejoicing. There was considerable delight that the Mission focus was bringing results especially in the raising of funds for Malawi. The Council also heard of the rapid progress being made to secure planning permission for the Bridge Cottage site, to maximise value from the property kindly and generously left to the church in the will of Alice Pitts. Council were also updated on the progress being made to obtain planning permission for the fitting of new ventilation and heating units for the church. Altogether an evening of good news, which helped offset sitting on kiddie seats in the pre-school as the premises were being so well used

Superstar - The Church Council were also interested to hear of a musical which is being organised by Neil Bramble-Chapman. Neil has been arranging the performance of "Jesus Christ Superstar" which comes to Putnoe in 2005. On 20

February 2005 Putnoe Heights Church will be hosting a production of "Jesus Christ Superstar" which is being performed by the Youth Choir of the First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell New Jersey USA.

Our American friends found our church on the internet and decided that Putnoe would be the ideal venue for their touring party which will be performing across the country and will be with us just for this one show. There will be a total of 44 teenagers, split into pairs, who will require hosting for the night of the 20 February. If you are willing and able to host two teenagers, please let Neil know asap. All hosts will have to be CRB checked, if not already so, to comply with our Partnership Safeguarding Policy.

St Mark's Church Council

The Council meeting at St Mark's last week took longer than usual as a result of many new and exciting developments which needed to be discussed. The Council agreed to seek the extension of the Garden of Remembrance due to the continuing and expanding use of the Garden by the community. The Council agreed to explore a strategic expansion of the pre-school and there was also agreement to seek the replacement of the grass in the children's playground with a new 'safe surface'

The Council were supportive of a tender to be made to Beds County Council for European Social Funding. The funding would allow the church to operate facilities for the learning disabled designed to assist them in obtaining employment. Currently only 10% of learning disabled adults have employment. There was enormous support for the work being done in pastoral care with support for the bereaved a special highlight. The new bereavement support drop-in on Wednesdays was greatly appreciated.

The August accounts had already been audited and were presented. Financially we had a strong year in revenue from the Centre, but we were still not funding all of our ministry cost. Nevertheless we had made ends meet and fundraising was going well for the new extension to accommodate Autism Bedfordshire. There were now three years left to start the work before planning permission expired. The Council approved the use of new altar coverings for sacramental worship. Agreement was made that services on Sunday 26 December would not take place. A communion service may take place at Putnoe Heights—more details later)

Remember our Church Council meetings are always 'open meetings' and everybody is welcome to attend.

Wednesday Drop In (Bereavement Support Group)

We will have an entertainment on the first Wednesday in the month.

Wednesday 3 November

Jo Moore from Bedford Tourist Information will speak on Historic Bedford & her fascinating 'Bedford at War Project @ 2.30—3pm. All drop in sessions are open to everyone.

Advent Course. Our course will take the theme of 'Pilgrimage,' with four talks on 24 November, 1, 8 and 15 December at Putnoe Heights Church. The evenings will begin with refreshments at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Each evening will finish at 9.00pm. We are delighted that the first two of our talks this year will be given by Professor Paul Crossley. Other speakers will be The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley and the detective novelist Kate Charles.

Women Bishops? A few months ago our churches presented a motion to the Bedford Deanery Synod, which was passed. It was in favour of sending a message to General Synod to debate the issue of the appointment of women bishops. This motion was also passed by the October Diocesan Synod. The House of Bishops Working Party on the appointment of women as bishops is due to report in November. Other dioceses have now passed similar motions including Guildford, Southwark, Ripon & Leeds and Worcester. Whilst some of us might find this continuing discrimination somewhat outrageous. It is hoped that such a movement might eventually bring about a change in the Church of England.

Meanwhile some disagree. Forward in Faith (FiF) has drafted a General Synod Measure to show that it would be possible for the Church of England to initiate a new province for traditionalists if the General Synod voted to allow women bishops.

They are also calling for a serious piece of work to be done on why Christ's calling of male apostles should have continued as the unvarying tradition of the Church. "We wanted to get behind the tradition and understand why this should be. What is the significance of the maleness of the apostolic ministry?"

The Methodist Faith and Order Group had been invited as observers of the Fif Committee, but they had declined the invitation.

The chairman of Forward in Faith, the Rt Revd John Broadhurst, states that 441 priests resigned using the Financial Provisions Measure 1993, 31 returning, but that the total loss "approaches 600". "Without the Act of Synod, it would have been nearer 2000." The number of lay people who left because of the ordination of women "must surely run into thousands", he says.

Putnoe Ramblers The ramble on Sunday, 24th October will start at 2pm. Please meet at the Social Club car park of Colworth House, Sharnbrook for a circular walk of about three and a half miles. It may be a bit muddy in places, depending on the weather during the preceding week. For further details, please contact Sue or Richard on Bedford 354183.

Thank You to the congregations of St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Churches for the gifts of tinned goods and fresh produce from this year's harvest festival. You can be assured that all the items will be put to good use and for the benefit of all the patients and families in our care at Garden House Hospice. Trudy Bunday is a member of St Mark's Church and Matron of Garden House.

Pet Service The family service at St Mark's Church on November 7 will be a pet service. You are invited and encouraged to bring along any family pets which you might have.

Printed by request

I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian,
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic,
Nor is it a good luck charm:
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

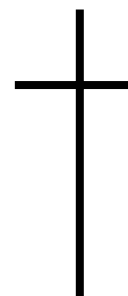
It's not for identification
For all the world to see...
It's simply an understanding,
Between my Saviour and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or key
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me, too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day,
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care.

So I carry the cross in my pocket
Reminding me, no one but me...
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
If only I'll let him be!



Coming Soon Storybox Plus is an After School Club for 4—9 year olds which will be starting in January from 4.00 to 5.00pm on Thursdays. The group will rehearse a short drama and make the props and costumes for a performance at the Family Service at Putnoe. Volunteers will be needed to make refreshments, help with the crèche and support the group. Please ring Joan on 344536.

NSPCC Sale and Coffee Morning at Putnoe Heights Church on Friday 29th October, 10am-12 noon. Admission £1 which includes tea or coffee.

Commemoration Service Our Commemoration service for the faithful departed will take place at St Mark's Church on 14th November at 3.00pm. Our preacher this year will be the Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman. Please accept our invitation to this service if you would find it helpful to remember somebody who has died. Please do also tell anybody who you know who may appreciate a welcome.

Partnership Review

Our Partnership Churches are currently engaged in a review process. This is carried out by the Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee. The initial stage is a self appraisal with our link person appointed by the Committee, who is The Reverend Colin Davey. We would like you to be engaged in this process! The following are the questions which we have to answer. You will need to answer from the perspective of either St Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church. The questions are intended for all LEP reviews and so some of them may appear a little out of date. Please take time to think them through and share them with others. If you have any contributions please return them to Charles Royden

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.

**Ernest Mudd
Ivy Mary Douglas**

May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace and

Questions to consider

1. Where have we come from?

Which Churches or congregations have made us?
How are our churches organised, what is their form of governance and what ministers lay or ordained serve them?

2. What is it like to live in an LEP?

How aware are the congregations that we are a part of an LEP?

How is our LEP's commitment to sharing our resources for ecumenical mission, ministry and witness together being affirmed and strengthened?

What contact do we have with other LEP's

3. What are our joint activities?

When the LEP set up

Now

Planned for the future?

4. What is the composition of our worshipping community?

When the LEP was set up

Now

Our future expectations.

5. How has our pattern of worship developed?

The pattern at the start

What it is now

What developments are planned?

6. How is our LEP financed?

When it was set up

Now

Are any changes envisaged?

7. What impact does our LEP have on the community?

When it was set up

Now

Plans for the future.

8. How does our LEP relate to the County body?

When it was set up

Now

What we would like in the future.

9. Where are we going?

What plans are there for the development of our LEP, including ministry and buildings?

How will the integrity of our constituent denominations be maintained?

What are the greatest joys, and misunderstandings in our developing LEP?

10. For the further progress of the LEP

What are our strengths?

What is hindering our development?

The funeral of Samuel Cato will take place at Bedford Crematorium on 18 October at 3.15pm

The funeral of Liudas Kavaliaskas will take place at Bedford Crematorium on 19 October at 10am