



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

18 February 2007

Sunday next before Lent



Church of  
England

## Partnership Church Services Today

**8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday** on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights Church. On the 2nd & 4th Sunday at St Mark's Chapel.

### 9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard  
Leadership - Mrs Avril Williams  
Intercessions – Mr John Tatman

### 11.00am Putnoe - Holy Communion

Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard  
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley  
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes  
Joan Crossley is preaching at Park Road

**25 February**

### First Sunday of Lent

### 9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership - Mr Ian Farthing  
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

### 11.00am -Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden  
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt  
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck  
Reading 1: Deut 26: 1-11  
Reading 2: Rom 10: 8b - 13  
Reading 3: Luke 4: 1-13

## Thank You

The flowers in St Mark's Church have been given by May Dingwall in memory of her friend Jean Wallace.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

## Prayer for Sunday

In an act of will, O God,  
I place myself I your presence.  
In an act of faith  
I open myself to your light.  
In an act of silence, O Lord,  
I rest in your glory.  
In an act of Love ,O Lord,  
I put myself in your hands.

*Dorothy Kerin, 1889 -1963*

## 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 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 Youth and Children's Worker

Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@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 News is also archived on our church website [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

### 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—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

### St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

- 9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school** Mrs Janet Smith 326685
- 8.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school** Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634  
(See website for more details)
- 9.00 am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater 315460.
- 12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box** Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349
- 2.30 - 4.30pm** Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights contact Malcolm Smith on 01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)
- 4pm Monday Club** at St. Marks for 3—8 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments , between 4 & 5 Bible story, craft activities & songs. Lots of fun. Contact Liz 302349
- 4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044
- 4.15 - 6.00pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 364710
- 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 next 19 February Contact 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. Judi Staughton 341821
- 10.00am Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime** at Putnoe Heights. Geraldine Skeel 406828
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4 - 9pm Slimming World** at St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg 351223
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Mrs C Allen 363878
- 2 - 5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting ; 20 February. Fellowship Meal & Flowers. Mr R Burn Contact Betty Wyatt 350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles

provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. For details of next meeting contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

**3.45 - 5.30pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 0582468.

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

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

**Tuesday - 7pm-9pm MT Karate** [all ages] at Putnoe Heights. Please contact Karen King 07941 264885

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

**7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr on 360188 or 07866775515

**7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 27 February. Concert— Melodians Contact Audrey Wilkins 365068 or Margaret Gentle 309043

## Wednesday

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

**9.30am - Body Control Pilates** at Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith 357787.

**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

**10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation** meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights - For details of next meeting Contact Audrey Hancock 365915.

**Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. For details of next meeting 21 February 2007 contact Putnoe 365630

**1 - 3pm Police Surgery** at Putnoe Heights .

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

**2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights . Mrs Webster 856966

**4.15pm - 6pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

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

**6.15pm - 7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation** at Putnoe Heights. contact Racheall Monton 01234 297138

**6.30 - 7.30 at St Mark's Karate** contact Karen 079412 64885

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

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Contact Sylvia

Woods 365095

**7pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073

**7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. 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.*

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

**9.45am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

**9.45- 11.30 Chat and Play** at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.50 for first child + 50p for each extra child over 2years. **Starts 1 March.** More details from St. Marks 342613 or Emma Stangwick 211070

**1.30pm - 3.00pm Clinic** at St. Mark's 267444

**12pm Story box** St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 302349

**1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime** at Putnoe Geraldine Skeel 406828

**12pm - Putnoe Bridge Club.** Gerald Palmer 345991

**4.00 Story box Plus** at Putnoe Heights for 4-11year old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun And it's free! Liz Spavins 302349

**5.30 - 7.30pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.**

Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies** at Putnoe Helga Nash 218521

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

**7.00pm Club 2000** at Putnoe Sheila Jakeman 261935

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

**7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderers' Guild** at St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby 344442

**7.30 - 9.30 Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Bible Studies every 2 Thursday- Pastor Tarr 360188

**7.45pm Housegroup meets fortnightly** Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

**8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle** at St Mark's 1st Thursday each month. Mr Broadhouse 740271

#### Friday

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

**1.30 - 2pm Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe. Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

**2pm U3A Gardening Group** at Putnoe Heights

Contact Eve Whitehead 356875

**7 - 10pm Bedford Arts Society** meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Contact Malcolm Smith 01234 400741

**7.30pm Youth Club for age 10-15** at St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

#### Saturday

**9.00 - 12.00 Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe.

Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

**10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain** at St Mark's - dancing acting, singing. - Kate Randle 01234 782414

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

#### Sunday

**Junior Church with crèche for under 3's**

**9.30 - 10.30 at St. Mark's**

**11-12 at Putnoe Heights.**

**1 - 3pm Tabernacle of Truth Church** at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515

**6-7.30pm T.N.T.** for 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. At Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349.

**6 -7.30pm T.X.T** for 13 + fortnightly , join us for fellowship , debate & discussion at Putnoe. Ring Liz 302349

## Diary Dates

**St Mark's Church Council - 12 June**

**Circuit Meeting - 14 March**

**St Mark's Leadership Team - 9 May 07 at the Vicarage, 26 June Linda's**

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -**

19 February 2007 at Wendy's house

**St Mark's Church Management Meeting -**

20 February 6.30pm

**Putnoe Heights Centre Management -**

**Putnoe Church Council - 11 June**

**Pastoral Group Meeting - 8 May 07**

**Churchyard Committee -**

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting**

**Partnership Council - 20 February at St Mark's**

**Brickhill Parish Council - 5 April 7 June, 5 July**

**Deanery Meeting -**

**Putnoe Heights Children & Youth- 23 April at 1.00pm**

**Calendar dates appear on our church website [www.ThisIsChurch.com](http://www.ThisIsChurch.com). Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.**

## Sunday before Lent

### Verse of Scripture - Psalm 99

The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name-- he is holy.

### Collect Prayer - *Before we read we pray*

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen *Common Worship*

### First Bible Reading - Exodus 34: 29 –35

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai. When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered the Lord's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.  
(Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

### Second Reading - 2 Corinthians Chapter 3:12 - 4::2

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

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

### Gospel Reading - Luke 9:28-36 (Glory to Christ our Saviour)

Jesus took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfilment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He



Create in me a clean heart,  
O God,  
and put a new and right  
spirit within me.

*Psalm 51:10*

did not know what he was saying.) While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no-one at that time what they had seen. The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not." "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.  
(Reader. This is the Gospel of Christ ) **All: Praise to Christ our Lord)**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Hymns ( Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Communion Booklets)**

1. All praise to our redeeming Lord 753 (tune St Stephen)
2. Amazing grace 215
3. Come sinners to the gospel feast" 460 tune Fulda
4. Alleluia sing to Jesus 592

### **Commentary**

Think back over the past weeks since Christmas. At his baptism, Jesus' glory was seen when he was declared God's Son. At Cana, his Glory was evident in his power to change nature- water into wine. At Nazareth, his preaching revealed his glory. In the calling of the disciples, Jesus' glory was acknowledged by those who left everything to follow him. During the last Sundays of this Epiphany season, we have seen the glory reflected in his teachings. Today, at the Transfiguration, everything comes together: Jesus reflects in his person, the glory of God, and the past is fulfilled with the approval of Moses and Elijah. The whole scene is surrounded by symbolic meaning; an aura of unnatural brightness is linked with mystical appearances in Exodus and Acts, "dazzling white" is a symbol of transcendence, the "cloud" is a symbol of God's presence and the words from it recall Jesus' baptism, and add "listen to him!"

In Jewish tradition, both "Moses and Elijah" (v. 30) were taken into heaven without dying. Many have seen Moses and Elijah as representative of the Old Testament, particularly, the Law and the Prophets. They show that Jesus' agenda is in accord with the Law and the prophets; he is doing God's will.

There was also speculation that they might appear at times when heaven made itself seen. The scene has many of the trappings of a vision of the climax of history. The bodies shine, as will the transfigured spiritual bodies of the resurrected (Dan 12; 1 Cor 15). The expected figures appear. Jesus has just spoken of the coming of the Son of Man and the kingdom of God (Luke 9:26-27). We are being given a foretaste of that event. In effect it is saying: what the hearts and minds of the visionaries have longed for is being realised in Jesus and will come to full completion in him. Heaven and earth meet in him (the space perspective); future and present meet in him (the time perspective), without dissolving the distinction between either. These were very creative ways of making statements about the importance of Jesus in space and time dimensions. This is the Son: listen to him! The transfiguration is a celebration of who Jesus is.

It is worth remembering that only Luke has Jesus going up the mountain "to pray" and it is while he is "praying" that he is transfigured. It is also Luke who describes Jesus praying following his baptism when heaven opened and the Holy Spirit came down and a voice spoke. Jesus at prayer is an emphasis in Luke who shows that Jesus always prays before an important event. It is interesting to contrast this with the disciples who, as in this episode, so fall asleep or as in this case are tired! It is optional to include the extra verses 37-43a in the bible reading today. Surely it must be important for us to remember that Luke

described how as soon as they came down from the mountain they were straight back into the confrontation with evil. Luke the writer demonstrates the movement from the mountain top experience to the needy world. Charles Royden



### **Meditation**

Last year I visited St Peter's in Rome. There are lots of things some other things which are challenging about this place and others which are inspiring, not least the view from the top. One of the most beautiful things is the Pietà c. 1498-99 built from marble 174 x 195 cm (5 3/4 x 6 ft). He was only in his early twenties when Michelangelo was commissioned in 1498 to do a life-size sculpture of the Virgin Mary holding her son in her arms. It was to be unveiled in St. Peter's Basilica for the Jubilee of 1500. In less than two years Michelangelo carved from a single slab of marble, one of the most magnificent sculptures ever created.

In 1972, a 33-year-old Australian geologist attacked Michelangelo's Pietà with a hammer. One of Mary's hands was broken off and extensive damage was done to her face. A team of experts was brought in to restore the sculpture. They did not set to work right away. They spent the first weeks simply studying the statue. They wanted to

be so immersed in the spirit behind the master's work that when they began the restoration process, they would do so with the mind of Michelangelo and not simply with their own.

As we seek to be transformed into disciples of Jesus we wish ours to be a fascinated gaze that cause us to be a reflection of the Master.

### **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

Grant us, O Lord, a resurrection faith - a faith that is radiant in the knowledge of your victory over sin and death - a faith that is confident in your care and your love. Bless now, we pray, with joy those who call out in your name and those who labour as you have directed. Bless too those we hold before you - and work a work of healing and salvation in their lives.

O Lord, we pray, speak in this place, in the calming of our minds and the longing of our hearts, by the words of my lips and in the thoughts we form. Speak, O Lord, for your servants listen. Amen.

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for you are the one who removes the veil from our minds and transfigure us in the wondrous light of your glory. At the dawn of time your word lit up the sun and stars and dispelled the chaos to form the earth. You revealed your glory to your servant, Moses, and, from the cloud, you made a covenant with your people. In the timeless presence of Moses and Elijah you transfigured your Son, Jesus Christ, allowing his terrified followers to witness his glory and hear your voice from the awesome cloud. He was killed by those whose minds were hardened, but, by your mercy, his exodus through the waters of death led to resurrection life and freedom. Now, you have called us to listen to him and live our lives as an open statement of your truth. Through your Holy Spirit, you are transforming us into his image and clothing us with honour and majesty. Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer you thanks and praise at all times through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy and Eternal God, you know our need for you, our need for your love to warm our hearts, for your word to guide us, for your Spirit to sustain us, for your presence to make us whole. Help us to wait upon you now with penitent and believing hearts - help us to hear your word, to see your glory, to feel your touch, and then to follow in the way the Spirit directs us. We ask all these things in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Book Sale** Saturday 24 February from 10– 12 Noon.. Admission 30p ,refreshments & raffle. Please save your books & bring them to the church n Friday 23 between 7 & 8pm. Offers of help Appreciated either or both days. Sylvia Cohen 43424. In aid of Mission Funds.

**Opening of the new church community centre at St Mark's.** The new centre will hopefully be completed this week and work is almost completed on the Garden of Remembrance. Whilst new users will begin using the centre immediately, there will be an official opening on March 9. We are delighted that the new centre will be opened by Mr Mike Bonney. Please tell St Mark's Church office if you would like to be present at the opening of the new centre as we have to cater for numbers.

**Putnoe Heights** - £500 has been sent from Mission Funds to the Faith in Action Churches in Malawi to assist with the relief of the flooding and cholera there which has overwhelmed many villages - Sylvia Cohen 343424

**The Chapel Chairs** Would everybody who has bought a chair please give the wording which they would like on the plaque on their to Charlie, the leadership team or the Office.



**Are you willing?**

This leaflet is now available from church. It encourages us to recognise that it is important for each one of us to have completed a will.

Failure to do so can cause your loved ones untold misery. Be considerate.

The leaflet also encourages us to consider remembering your church. A gift of this kind can transform the ministry of the church.

**Garden of Remembrance.** The new pathways into the Garden are now open. New steps will be built for the entrance at the top of Calder Rise.



**The Lent course** will take place at Putnoe 7.30 for 8 start. Finishes ay 9pm.

**28 February Heaven and Hell**

A Biblical perspective -a minister

**7 March Professor Paul Crossley**

Medieval Images of heaven and hell

**14 March Professor Paul Crossley** Images of

heaven and hell in literature

**21 March Rev Dr Joan Crossley**

Images of heaven and hell in art

**Wine Bluffs for Wine Buffs.** 17 March at Putnoe Heights 7.30. An evening of wine tasting and food. In aid of NSPCC and Church funds. Tickets£12.50 now available from Church Office/Jenny Emsley.360397

**St Mark's Community Centre Extension**

The new centre will be open for groups from Wednesday this week.

**Special Ash Wednesday Service**

The service on Wednesday at 7.30pm this week will be our usual service of Holy Communion incorporating the Biblical tradition of the imposition of ashes. However this year it will have a special meaning for all of us, as it will be a Circuit service, in which we give congratulations to Chris Izzard on his 40 years as a Methodist Local preacher.



You are invited to join him at the Ash Wednesday Service, 21 February, 7.30 at St Mark's.



**Putnoe Heights Church**  
 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend  
 16-17<sup>th</sup> June, 2007  
 Putnoe Heights Church was  
 opened and dedicated in June  
 1957.

A weekend of celebration is being planned to include activities for families and a concert by Kempston Musical Society on Saturday with special services, including a Circuit service followed by a meal on Sunday. We would like to invite past members who have moved away so, if you are in touch with anyone who might be interested, please pass their names and details to Alan Cooper. Throughout the weekend, the church will be open with a display of 50 years of church history. If you have any photographs of weddings, christening or other events that we might borrow please contact Gerry Allen. Please help us to make the weekend a success.

**St Albans to Taize 2007.** Join this year's pilgrimage 21st - 30th July. If you are aged between 15 & 30 and would like to take part come along to a meeting on Saturday 31st March at Christ Church, Goldington Road, Bedford at 7.30pm.

**Concert** by Chapel Choir of Christ's College, Cambridge. Saturday 17 March at 7pm in St. Paul's Church, Bedford. Programme to include Scarlatti's Stabat Mater. Tickets £8 from : Heather Turnham 343477, /Central Box Office, /Classic Music, Lime St ,Bedford..

**St Mark's Coffee Rota.** We would very much welcome volunteers to help make coffee on a Sunday morning. Please see Laura Farthing if you are willing to help.

**Photo's of St Mark's** Do you have any old photographs of the buildings at St Mark's? We are hoping to do a display for the opening of the new building on March 9. Please do let us copy them by delivering them to St Mark's Office for Charlie

**Chat and Play** a mums & toddlers group starts 1 March from 9.45—11.30am at St. Mark's Church. £1.50 for first child + 50p for any others over 2. More details from St.Mark's 342613 or Emma Stangwick 211070.

**Long-standing members** of Putnoe Heights have received news of the death on January 25th of Alan Stafford, minister of Putnoe Heights from 1958 -1965. The funeral took place in Knebworth on 9th February. Our prayers are with his family.

**Women's World Day of Prayer** at Putnoe Heights Church Friday 2nd March at 7.30pm. Service prepared by Christian Women of Paraguay. Speaker - Rev. Sarah Burrow, Assistant Minister, St. Peter's. All Welcome. Also at St. Paul's Church Bedford at 2pm.

**TNT** meets again next Sunday, the 25th, 6.00pm at Putnoe for T shirt painting. Please supply your own T shirt, paints provided. Liz

**Footprints** - Massey's Marvellous Mystery Tour, Sunday 4 March 2007. Start time 2.00pm at Larkway opposite Bedford Park. One way route about 2½ miles. We will have our car at the end for lifts if necessary. Mainly tarmac paths but a little muddy in places. Alan and Margaret Tel 327219.

**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.



**Glenys Hilary Northwood  
 Cecil Jack Woods  
 Alan Stafford**

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

**Rest in Peace**

**There are no funerals this week**

