



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

19 August 2007

20th in Ordinary Time



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 in St Mark's Chapel.

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion

Preacher – Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Ministers

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

The Rev Dr Sam Cappleman is preaching at Clapham Methodist Church this morning

21st in Ordinary - 26th August

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions - Mrs. Pat Leusby

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley
Intercessions - Mr. Eddy Peck

Readings 1: Isaiah 58: 9b-14

2 Hebrews 12: 18-29 3: Luke 13: 10-17

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's this week have been given by Jean & Roger Bank to celebrate their Ruby wedding anniversary. A service of renewal of their wedding vows will take place in the service this morning at St Mark's.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Christina and Maurice Halsey in loving memory of their granddaughter Davine Stuart, and by Hazel Caine in memory of her husband George and son Mark.

Prayer for Sunday

(We especially pray for Jean and Roger Bank)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who gave marriage to be a source of blessing to humankind, we thank you for the joys of family life. May we know your presence and peace in our homes. Fill them with your love, and use us for your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Special Edition Partnership

News. Today we include the First Edition of the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust Friends Newsletter.

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

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

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 Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349

youth@thisischurch.com

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 L Parry 216724

Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

12.00pm Story box We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

2.30pm Bedford Arts Society Putnoe Heights Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock ☎01908 565044

4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. 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 St Mark's 1st week every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

7.30pm Creative Needles. Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward ☎307648.

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's each month next meeting 20 August - Church Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's.

Helen Folbigg ☎351223

10am -Bedord Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights. Andrea ☎210177 or Majella ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. No meetings now until Sept 4th. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's 1st & 3rd week. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 0582468.

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group

St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

7pm Creative Card Making St Mark's 1st & 3rd Week of the month Carol Houghton ☎346718

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

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

7.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.45pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting August 28th Afternoon Tea Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.00am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Harrahan ☎824475

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

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787.

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

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 5 September Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month (starting 19th Sept) ☎400584

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

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

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

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Rachell Monton ☎01234 297138

6.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month (starting 26th Sept) ☎400584

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095

7.00pm Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 5 September Graham ☎406359 or Danny ☎401668.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. 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. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.50 for first child + 50p for each extra child over 2 years. Next meeting 6 September. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30pm-3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic. St. Mark's ☎267444

12pm Storybox. St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Next meeting 6 September. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Andrea ☎210177 or Magella ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr C Hill ☎772922

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club St Mark's Mr P Housden ☎376597

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible Studies every 2 Thursday– Pastor Tarr ☎360188

7.45pm Housegroup meets fortnightly Betty Wyatt ☎350188

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church. Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

10.00 pm Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Randle ☎01234 782414

7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

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

6pm T.X.T Putnoe. for 13 + fortnightly, join us for fellowship, debate & discussion. Liz ☎302349

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 12 November

St Mark's Leadership Team – 14 September

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 17 September

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 4 September 12 noon

Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 20 August

Putnoe Church Council - 8th October

Pastoral Group Meeting –

Churchyard Committee - 5 September 11am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting. 12

September. 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings

Deanery Meeting - 13 September St Paul's

Circuit Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees - 3 September 7pm

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–

Calendar dates appear on our church website www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's

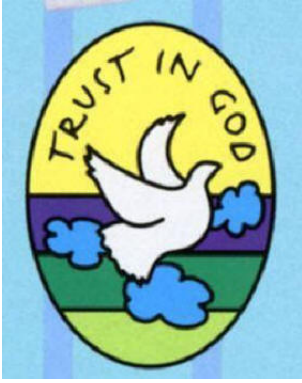
Telecare



Telecare

It is extremely helpful to the Ministers to be able to have feedback, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down on the

Telecare scheme, please do so. Additional members of the Pastoral Team are sharing the task of making telephone calls. Please do not be concerned if a new person calls.



20th in Ordinary

Opening Verse - Romans 8

Continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness

Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read we pray

God of the nations, to whose table all are invited and in whose kingdom no one is a stranger: hear the cries of the hungry and mercifully extend to all the peoples on earth the joy of your salvation; through Jesus

Christ our Lord. Amen

First Bible Reading - Jeremiah 23: 23-29

"Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD , "and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD . "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD . "I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their fathers forgot my name through Baal worship. Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD ."Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD , "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? (This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - Hebrews 11: 29-12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days. By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned] ; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated-- the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (This is the word of the Lord- **Thanks be to God**)

Third Bible Reading – Luke 12: 49-56

(After the Gospel is announced-**Glory to Christ our Saviour**)

"I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against

mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time? (This is the Gospel of Christ - **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gates of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Mission Praise and Holy Communion Booklets)

1. Praise my soul 560
2. O perfect love 517
3. Blessed assurance 59
4. Forth in thy name 159

Commentary

Although the sermon today is based on the passage from Hebrews and Jesus' words in the Gospel of Luke, I do not want us to ignore the prophet Jeremiah. Because the Book of Jeremiah has a steady lament running through it, his name has become a byword for misery and complaint. Is that a fair summation of the prophet? The prophet Jeremiah was active in Jerusalem during the tragic period of the city's destruction by the Babylonians, So it is very much a history of a period of violence insecurity and conflict. Jeremiah prophesied during the reigns of various kings: beginning in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah (626 BCE), and then Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, and during the brief rule of Gedaliah ben Ahikam, whose assassination in ca. 585 BCE marked the end of the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem. Jeremiah famously prophesied disaster. For him the doom which he felt threatened his people was caused by their neglecting of their faith and turning away to false idols and preoccupations. So disgusted was he with his fellow Jews that he suggested that it might be better to surrender to the Babylonians and accept their domination by the Superpower rather than struggle on in spiritual decay. Jeremiah was regarded as a traitor or defeatist and was declared an outlaw during the reign of Zedekiah and placed in detention until the destruction of the city by Nebuchadnezzar. So why should we read the Book of Jeremiah, which appears to be a long list of incomprehensible names interspersed with gloom and doom? Jeremiah bears re-reading because in amongst the darkness is a bright thread of hope in God's fidelity to his people. The prophet continued to believe in God's love even in the midst of war and utter destruction. It takes great courage to hold the faith when everything points against it. Jeremiah knew that God was faithful, even if His people were not, and believed in the ultimate triumph of love. *Joan Crossley*

Meditation

Being judgemental is a very unlovable characteristic. "Judge not that you shall not be judged" is a phrase we all know, but most of us do judge others. Apparently 60% of your view of someone is established within the first ten seconds of seeing them. In an instant your mind sums up someone and either accepts or rejects them as a potential ally, love-object or friend. It is probably a useful human trait, dating back to more violent times when it was vital to be able to sort out who was likely to want to kill you on sight. But we all have to exercise self-restraint on this issue. I have heard really good people scornfully summed up and dismissed because their face, clothes or manners don't fit the acceptable mould. What a dangerous and short-sighted approach to our fellow humans! It would be nice to think that churches were immune to this kind of careless cruelty, but actually they aren't. One of the churches in a neighbouring deanery was worried about attracting "the wrong sort of people" from a new housing estate because "we might not be able to control them". Churches can all too easily become a club for Christians, where everyone is expected to conform and fit in. *Joan Crossley*

Prayer

Creator God, hear our prayer. As we look with dismay on the floods across our country, we ask you to look with compassion on all who are suffering on those whose homes are spoilt, those whose livelihood is threatened. We thank you for acts of courage and of kindness and pray for a blessing on all who rescue and relieve. And when the floods have gone, guide us to learn lessons. Help us to live in harmony with the laws of nature and in reverence for a creation you have made very good. Creator God, hear our prayer. (*Bishop of Gloucester*)

Blessed are you, creator of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. As your dawn renews the face of the earth bringing light and life to all creation, may we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be God forever. (*After Lancelot Andrewes, 1626. Common Worship*)

Let me know you, my knower; let me know you as I am known. You are the energy in my soul: enter it and shape it to yourself, so that you may hold it as your possession, without fault or blemish. This is my hope; this is why I speak as I do. This is the hope that brings me delight; for I delight in the source of my salvation. (*St Augustine 354-430*)

Lord, I bring the poverty of my soul to be transformed by your beauty; the wildness of my passions to be tamed by your love; the stubbornness of my will to be conformed to your commandments and the yearnings of my heart to be renewed by your grace; both now and for ever. Amen *Catherine of Genoa, 1447-1510*

News from the wider church

Methodist Web Blog - New weblog for the President and Vice President

The leaders of the Methodist Church have launched a weblog. Revd Martyn Atkins, President of the Conference, and Vice President Ms Ruby Beech will use the weblog to share their thoughts during their year of office.

Martyn and Ruby began adding blog entries after the Methodist Conference in mid-July. Martyn says, "One of the most important tasks for the President and Vice President is to talk and listen to people. We will do this by speaking to individuals and groups and by travelling widely and our regular columns in the Methodist Recorder, but now we can add the weblog to this list as well."

Ruby adds "John and Charles Wesley travelled thousands of miles on horseback to meet people, and those meetings were often quite noisy and challenging. This weblog will allow us to discuss things with people all over the world, and to share our experiences. There are many weblogs by Methodists - both individuals and groups - and by people from other churches, but this is the first time that the President and Vice President have tried this."

To view the weblog, visit <http://methodist-presandvp.blogspot.com/>

St Albans Diocesan Environment Officer

The Board for Church and Society wishes to appoint an Officer to help parishes and the Diocese engage with environmental issues from a Christian perspective. He or she will work with the Board's Environment Group to encourage caring for our world through: Advice on the theological background to environmental stewardship, Working with deaneries and parishes on environmental issues, Representing the Diocese in national and regional DEO discussions. The post is part-time and voluntary (4-6 hours per week).

Administrative support is available from the Board's office. Enquiries: Simon Best 01438 833306.

Applications to Valerie Geldard at Diocesan Offices by 30th September 2007.

And if you get really bored over the summer

St Albans General Synod Member using 'Facebook' Anthony Archer, St Albans General Synod member was in Church Times recently talking about his newly set-up group for General Synod members on Facebook, the social networking website. Facebook is more often the preserve of the young, but Mr A says: "Networking is a natural desire, and ought to be at the heart of what the Church is doing in a ministry and mission sense." Thirteen General Synod members have joined.

See <http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/content.asp?id=43066>



St Mark's Coffee Shop

**Sundays
2.30pm— 5.00pm**

We are delighted to report that Miss Carla Skyers has been appointed as the new coffee shop manager. Carla will be pleased to welcome you on Sunday afternoons so please do drop into St Mark's for

teas coffee and home made

cakes. This week there are scones, chocolate cake and carrot cake. We will be providing Douwe Egberts filter coffee and speciality teas.

Storybox plus now meets at Putnoe on a Monday afternoon between 3.30 and 5.00. If any children aged between 4 and 9 years old within the Partnership would like to join us as we "Follow the Year" please contact Liz

YPF/Jnr Church—There will be no YPF or Jnr Church at Putnoe during August

Belief Courses A Day Retreat at Turvey Abbey on Saturday 24th November 2007. The suggested fee will be £30.00. For information contact Stephen Heap 01234 216181. Cheques payable to BELIEF. Getting to grips with Matthew's Gospel. Speaker - Dr Jeffrey John at St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road.. 23rd February.2008 Forms available from St Mark's Church Office

British Cardiac Patients Association. Our next meeting at Putnoe Heights Church is on Thursday August 23rd at 7.30pm. We will be entertained with music played on the keyboard by Shaun Milsom. All are welcome to come along and join in with us. Admission is free and we will have refreshments and a raffle.

Two Day Summer Special—'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dream-coat'. We invite all our young adults (under100yrs!)and children (over 5 years) throughout the Partnership, to join us at Putnoe Heights on Tuesday 21 & Wednesday 22 August between 9.30 and 3.30 for two days of fun. We will learn about Joseph and his family relationships through story, discussion, games, crafts and under the direction of Clive Simmonds put together the 20 minute musical performance. More details will follow. Liz We would very much appreciate any adult help for either part of day.

Offertory Envelopes Members of the Envelope

Scheme at Putnoe Heights Church are invited to collect a set of offertory envelopes for the next twelve months from the table in the welcome area. Anyone who would like to join the scheme is asked to contact John Hitt, (tel. 404186) for further information.

NCH House to House Collection 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. Her Majesty the Queen is its patron. 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 £800. If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area, perhaps near to where you live, or you would like some more information then please contact me Mike Elliott 342507.

Mother Teresa Support Group – Would you like to spend a pleasant afternoon in good company, knitting and chatting with a cup of tea and biscuits to sustain you? If so, you would be very welcome to join us at St Mark's on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30pm Wool, needles and patterns provided.

Social Event at St Mark's-The Caribbean evening planned for 13th October has been changed to "An Evening from the Shows." Put the date in your diary! The Caribbean Evening will be arranged at a later date.

TXT is the new youth group for our young teenagers starting in September on alternate Sunday evenings 6.30 - 8.00pm. We shall be doing a little Bible Study followed by some fun activities and prayer. If you could spare the time to be one of our adult helpers please contact Sam Ware on 304058.

Bric-a-brac for the Church Stall at the Boot Sale on Monday 27th August will be very welcome. Books, toys, old tools, bicycles, records, videos, CD's and electrical goods are also popular. The catering team would also be very grateful for tray bakes for the refreshments. Avril Williams.

Methodist Prayer Manual If you wish to order a copy of the publication due this month, please let Vera Pearson know. 270737

Special Thanks To all of those involved in caring for the grounds and gardens at St Mark's. The grass and borders have looked outstanding throughout the summer, thank to our dedicated team of volunteers.



St Albans Woodland Burial Trust Open Day

All are invited to visit the St Albans Woodland Burial Ground on Saturday 25th August from 2 - 7pm.

Directions can be found on the church website or from the church office at St Marks. Drinks and light refreshments will be provided in the woodland. We are pleased to welcome a horse drawn hearse, with a team of horses at 5.00pm. The burial ground is located in 60 acres of woodland and is ideal for walks—so feel free to bring your dogs!

Putnoe Heights 50th Anniversary - For those who missed the exhibition in the church in June and July, an abridged version will be on show at Putnoe Library from August 13-28.

Footprints The next date for a Sunday afternoon walk is September 2nd at 2.30 pm. There is no pre-planned walk arranged but please contact Barry Snelson in the Putnoe Office (Tel 365630) if you would be interested in a local walk arranged at short notice..

Plastic wrappings wanted. Marion Prior at St Mark’s does an excellent job making and selling birthday cards and cards for just about every other special occasion. She takes special bespoke orders and they are cards of a very superior quality to that obtainable in the shops. Marion would very much appreciate people collecting cellophane of cards and wrappers which she can recycle—which also means there is more profit for church funds. Please leave at St Mark’s Church office.

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.

Mrs Margaret Morton Toomey
‘ Margo ’

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

Help support www.ThisChurch.com

Our church website www.thischurch.com provides an outstanding ministry across the world. We provide a massive range of Christian resources including prayers, sermons, and Christian teaching. Every week we respond individually to prayer requests sent from many different countries. Money raised from purchases made through our website at Amazon helps support the cost of the web site. Please use Amazon whenever you can to buy books, electronic goods, CD’s, computer supplies etc. Amazon is always one of the cheapest places to shop and delivery is free with orders over £15. We are always happy to receive your goods during the day at St Mark’s Church office. It is important that you only visit Amazon by clicking on the link on our church website—that way we get the commission, which is generally about 5% of the total cost of the item.

This year so far we have raised £127 but it could be so much more if we all used Amazon!



Gift Idea - Why not purchase gift vouchers from Amazon and ask them to always log on to Amazon using thischurch.com !!

Car Boot Sale

Next Bank Holiday Monday at St Mark’s.

Please remember to bring tray bakes and goods to sell from the church stall.



We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Calvin George Ayton and Keesha La’Toya Edwards both of this parish. This is for the third time of asking.

Rest in Peace



The funeral of Barbara Josephine Nichol will take place on Thursday 23rd august at 10.45 at Bedford Crematorium. (Crossley)

The funeral of Madge Ursula Harrison will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Wednesday 29 August at 12.15pm (Royden)



St Albans Woodland
Burial Trust

Registered Charity No. 1118216

Woodland Burial

The natural choice

On behalf of the Trustees of the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust, I welcome you to the first edition of our newsletter, through which we hope to communicate with all of our Friends. If you have not yet registered as a Friend of the Trust, please do so, we can then keep you informed of developments at the woodland. Details of how to register are found on the back page.

I am delighted to report that our woodland was officially opened and consecrated on 7 June 2007 by The Bishop of Bedford, The Right Reverend Richard Inwood. You will know that consecration was crucial, we are now one of only two consecrated woodland burial grounds in England. We are also the only consecrated burial ground in this region which is available to the general public. At one time all churchyards in England were consecrated; this gave them the greatest protection available in English law and ensured that they were not built upon, or subsequently used for another unsuitable purpose. Increasingly this protection is being taken away on council and privately owned cemeteries. Instead leases are sold on grave space for a limited amount of time, usually between 30 and 70 years.

We all know that consecration does not make the soil more holy, but it does set our woodland aside as a special sacred space for ever. You can be assured that this woodland burial site will always remain as a natural woodland setting. It cannot be sold for another purpose and it will not fall into disrepair. Since the ground is consecrated by the Church of England as a sacred space, people who are buried here can lie in this land for ever, until nature runs its natural course. Consecrated woodland burial ensures that our loved ones really do 'Rest in Peace.' It is good to see the church making this new initiative, returning to one of our core principles in caring for people through death and bereavement. Of course we will show care and compassion to all people, without regard to race or religion. All of our volunteers are trained in bereavement counselling, because we take seriously the importance of offering the very best care to those who face death or suffer the painful loss of somebody they love.

It is appropriate in this first newsletter to say thank you to Mr Simon Bates of the College Equestrian Centre, for his assistance in making a gift to us of our beautiful two acre woodland, surrounded by 60 acres of countryside with planted trees. Our woodland can be accessed by public footpaths, however Simon has also agreed terms with the Trust to lease the access road and car park for a period of 999 years. The Equestrian Centre has proved popular with visitors to the woodland who enjoy refreshments whilst watching the horse shows. Please enjoy reading about the woodland and speak with us, or visit our website if you would like to know more.

Charles Royden
Chair St Albans Woodland Burial Trust



Scenes from a Woodland



On the 7 June we were pleased to welcome The Right Reverend Richard Inwood, representing the St Albans Diocese and The Reverend Martin Hounsfield from the Methodist Church to consecrate the woodland. Present at the occasion was Mr Lee Coley, responsible for arranging all the legal contracts on behalf of the Trust. We were joined by Trustees, ministers, members of the public and other friends. It was a special pleasure to welcome The Venerable Malcolm Lesiter, one of the original team who worked for many years to establish woodland, when he was Archdeacon in the Diocese of St Albans.



The excavations to lay a road and car park at the site went well and we now have access for all vehicles to the woodland. This development was only allowed to be carried out following a full archaeological survey.



In accordance with our environmental concern, coffins which are made of natural products are used. This includes wood and wicker. Grave digging is undertaken by our professional contractor using a small mechanical excavator. We have been delighted by the careful dignified manner in which graves are dug. We have also established the practice of revisiting graves to level soil, rather than creating large mounds of earth to allow for settlement. In keeping with best environmental practice, only single depth graves are used.



The Trustees have authorised the provision of oak cross markers for graves and also carved memorials, such as the one shown opposite. We were honoured that the first of these memorials was erected by the family of Mr Victor Farrar. He had served as architect in our team as we first sought to identify a site for our woodland and plan the principle of burial in glades.

The Trustees have also agreed to allow the dedication of a tree in memory of somebody who has died, together with an oak plaque. Several of these can now be seen at the woodland. The Trustees are soon to agree the provision of memorial benches and we hope that these will be donated and made available on site for visitors.



Introducing Mrs Linda Parry - Administrator

The first contact most people have with the Trust will be with our Administrator Mrs Linda Parry. As well as recently becoming a grandmother she has been devoted in helping the Trust become established. Linda has experience of working with bereaved families and provides a caring support to families making arrangements.

As part of my role as administrator for the St Alban's Woodland Burial Trust, I have been visiting the woodland at Keysoe over the past year and there have been many changes. The beauty and serenity of the area never ceases to uplift my spirits and recently, during the spells of good weather, I have been able to stand and appreciate my good fortune in being a part of this whole venture. I have met with many people as they make arrangements following a bereavement, I am also privileged to be able to assist people considering arrangements for themselves and we have now also taken a number of reservations.

The woodland is ready for us to consider how we can best develop this area as a place of special natural beauty and a haven for wildlife. We are delighted to have welcomed Mr Chris Rose, Forestry Consultant, to help us develop our plans. It is exciting to be at the start of something so special and unique. The Trustees are taking great care to ensure that the woodland is developed in a way that will establish it as a most special place.

In the past couple of months we have had 4 burials, 5 interments and 6 reservations. We have also dedicated six trees in memory of loved ones. Commemorative plaques will be placed by the trees in the near future. Reservations cost £325 and this covers half of the charges of burial at the time of death. Some people have chosen to pay all of the cost now, this means that there will be no burial fees to pay at a later date. We are grateful to people who make reservations because it allows the Trust to repay our loans and avoid paying interest.

I have felt privileged to offer help to people facing the most traumatic event of their lives, the loss of a loved one. I have spent some years previously working with the bereaved and I am engaged in ongoing training as a counsellor. The Trust takes seriously the need to offer compassionate support to all who come to us. We respect people of all different cultures, and beliefs and the woodland is open to people of all faiths, and no religious faith at all. We simply ask that any graveside ceremony be dignified and respectful.

At present there are many birds in the woodland, including Tree Pipits, Pied Wagtails, Willow Warblers, Chaffinch, Swift, Pheasant, Partridge and Hawks. We have named the first glade Skylark as this was the first bird to be identified there – you can't fail to hear their song. You are welcome to visit the site and enjoy walks in 60 acres of surrounding countryside, dogs are always welcome. You can access the car park until 6.00pm every evening. I hope, like me, you will visit often to enjoy the natural beauty of God's creation. During the day time you can also visit the College Equestrian Centre for refreshments, the bar is often available and a cafeteria. You may also be fortunate to see the magnificent horse jumping or show events which take place regularly. Our website www.Thischurch.com/woodland is kept up to date and you can also contact us by phone or Email. I look forward to speaking with you and appreciate opportunities to hear from friends.

Linda Parry

Receptions

We are pleased to recommend The College Equestrian Centre who provide receptions after funerals. Their charges start from as little as £3 per head and they are willing to cater for your needs with a licensed bar and excellent facilities. You can visit at any time and even watch the horses and riders in competition. For further information please contact Patsy Bates on 01234 708400/1 info@keysoe.com. The College Equestrian Centre, Church Road, Keysoe, Bedford. MK44 2JP



Why are people choosing woodland burials ?

Cremation was illegal in Britain before 1884 and the Roman Catholic Church only authorised its use in 1963. The swing towards cremation came after World War II, when the Government and local authorities encouraged it as an efficient and convenient method of disposal instead of cemeteries. The cremation movement's campaign slogan was 'Save the land for the living'. About 70% of people now choose this method or have it chosen for them when they die.

However many people are now deciding for themselves that woodland burial is a better and more responsible choice. A crematorium is a sad impersonal place and we are increasingly aware of the damage which they cause to the environment . Cremation consumes energy and produces greenhouse gases, it also causes pollution with poisonous chemicals, such as mercury from dental fillings. Woodland burial is different in many ways. For example, over the past few decades wooden coffins have actually been made from plastic veneered chipboard or MDF, bonded with formaldehyde resin. When a woodland burial takes place, the coffin used is made from real wood, or another natural material. Whilst traditional cemeteries took away precious land, woodland burial actually creates green spaces with precious trees as woodland havens for wildlife. Perhaps the biggest difference is just the way that woodland funerals make everybody feel so much more uplifted on the day. Woodland burial is here to stay!



Treasurer's Report by Mrs Janet Day

The woodland has been operating for two months and we have carried all the initial starting costs thanks to generous support. We are grateful to individuals and churches, as well as the Diocese of St Albans and the Bedford North Methodist Circuit.

If you would like to become a Friend of the Trust, we are offering 5 years membership for £25. This will really help support the Trust and we will be delighted to send you updates on how things are progressing at the woodland. Please complete your details below and return to us, or contact our Administrator Linda Parry.

I would like to become a Friend of the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust £25 (5yrs)

If enclosing a cheque please pay to St Albans Woodland Burial Trust

Name

Address

These details will not be passed to any third party

Email

Telephone

Please Gift Aid my donations (Yes / No)

Please return to: St Albans Woodland Burial Trust. The Administrator: Mrs Linda Parry
St. Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY. Tel/Fax 01234 342613
Email: woodland@thisischurch.com www.thisischurch.com/woodland