



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

19 June 2005  
12 in Ordinary

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



Church of  
England

## Church Services Today

### 8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

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

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day

Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard

#### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Jenny Emsley

Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

### 26 June 13 in Ordinary

#### 8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

#### 9.30am St Mark's Church – Morning Worship

Preacher—Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams

Intercessions - Ministers

#### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher –Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team -

Intercessions - Mr Eddy Peck

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Margaret and Eddy Peck to celebrate their wedding anniversary, and by Ruth Bunker and family in memory of Ruth's mother.

The flowers at St Marks this week are to celebrate the marriage of Duncan Marjoribanks and Nina Reynolds

## Prayer for Sunday

Father God,  
your Son is the way, the truth and the life.  
When our hearts are troubled,  
help us to walk in the way of obedience,  
believe in the truth of your promise  
and rejoice in the gift of eternal life  
in the place he has prepared for us.  
Amen *Heather Cooke*

## Contact Details

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

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

### The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Mobile -07917 356062Minister@ThisisChurch.com

### The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.

Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

### The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

Partnership News is now available each week on the  
Partnership Website - [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

### For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in  
Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

### Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com

*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,  
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.  
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

### Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am - 1.00pm Monday & Friday

9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

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

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen 407264

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

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

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Hymns are printed under CCL Lic No. 1501

# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

**9.30 - 12.00 pm Pre-school** (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).

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

**10.00am Supple Strength** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Louise Woodcock 270302

**12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box** at Putnoe Heights. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from.

**4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

**6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 400987

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Contact Penny Fulham 406045

**7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419

**7.15 m Guides** -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

**7.15pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

**7.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs C Cannon 404319

**7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month the next one 20 June St. Mark's Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

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

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

## Tuesday

**9.30am Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

**9.30am Jo Jingles** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866

**10.00am Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230

**1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

**12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World** at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.

**2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

**1.30pm Body Control Pilates** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Stephanie Smith 357787

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 21 June 'Biblelands' Mr. Graham Caldecott. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188.

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 21 June Members Afternoon. Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets

fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.**

Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

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

**6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Emma Holloway 293792

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

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

**7.30pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881 or 07891095746

**7.45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Next meeting 21 June 'Children in Need' Brian Leeson. Meets fortnightly. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

**8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

## Wednesday

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

**9.30am Bedford U3A** at Putnoe Heights meets bi-monthly. Next meeting . Contact Jenny Coggins 266379

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

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

**10am Sewing & Chat** Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966

**Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Height meets fortnightly. Next meeting 22 June Contact Putnoe Heights 365630

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

**4.15pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

**6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449

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

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

**7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting . Contact Sylvia Woods 365095

**7pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Contact Pam Holley 771964

**7.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes at St Mark's. Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890

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

welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

### Thursday

**9.30am Thursday Prayer Group** at Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*

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

**10.30am - 12.00am Fledglings** at St Mark's

**2.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic** at St. Mark's Contact 267444

**12pm Story box** at St Mark's. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities, songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

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

**1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.** Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

**2.30 Bedford Arts Society** at St. Mark's. Contact Celia Maddison 782901

**2pm U3A Indoor Games** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Radmila Dancer 404811

**4.00 Story box Plus** at Putnoe Heights. A drama group for 4-9year olds. Meets 4-5pm, drinks from 3.30pm

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.** Contact Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies** at Putnoe Heights . Contact Helga Nash 218521

**7.00pm Club 2000** at Putnoe Height. Contact Pat Stidolph 345247

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

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

**7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild** St Mark's- 3rd Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

**7.45pm. Housegroup**-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little

Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

**8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle** meets at St Mark's 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

### Friday

**9.30am U3A Exercise** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Carole Maunder 301325

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

**6pm Self Defence** at Putnoe Contact Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

**7. 30pm Bibleway** Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 376841

**6.30pm -8.30 pm Dog Training Classes** at St. Mark's. Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

### Saturday

**9.30am Stars School of Dance** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517

**10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train** at St Mark's -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 01234 782414

**2.30pm Calligraphy Group** at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting 2 July Contact Philip Jones 350295

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

### Sunday

**1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob. 07891095746

**6.00pm TNT (The Nearly Teens)** meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

## Church Calendar

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10
11	11	11	11
12	12	12	12
13	13	13	13
14	14	14	14
15	15	15	15
16	16	16	16
17	17	17	17
18	18	18	18
19	19	19	19
20	20	20	20
21	21	21	21
22	22	22	22
23	23	23	23
24	24	24	24
25	25	25	25
26	26	26	26
27	27	27	27
28	28	28	28
29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30
31	31	31	31

### Church Diary Dates

#### Partnership Council

**St Mark's Church Council** 12 October

**Circuit/Deanery Meeting** 7.30 p.m. 22nd June at Putnoe Heights Church (not Clapham as previously advertised)

**Circuit Meeting** 14 September

**St Mark's Leadership Team** - Weds 6th July

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** July 21

**St Mark's Church Management Meeting**

11 July, 12 September, 2 November. All meetings to

start 7.00pm

**Putnoe Heights Management**

**Putnoe Church Council** 10 Oct 2005

**Pastoral Group Meeting** - 19 September 2.00pm

**Church yard Committee** -

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting** .

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

**Brickhill Parish Council dates** (Held at St Mark's)

Allotments Committee 27 June 7.30pm

# Bible Notes

## Ordinary 12 Year A (Green)

### Verse of Scripture Romans Chapter 6:1-11

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### A Collect Prayer

Creator God, in the beginning your word subdued the chaos and in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, your Son, to rebuke the forces of evil and to make all things new. By that same power transform our fear into faith that we may have courage to follow in the way of your kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *Methodist Worship*

### First Reading – Jeremiah 20: 7-13

O LORD, you deceived me, and I was deceived ; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me. Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the word of the LORD has brought me insult and reproach all day long. But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side! Report him! Let's report him!" All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying, "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we will prevail over him and take our revenge on him." But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonour will never be forgotten. O LORD Almighty, you who examine the righteous and probe the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked. (This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God.**)

### Second Reading - Romans 6: 1b-11

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God.**)

### Third Reading –Matthew 10: 24-39

(When the Gospel is announced –**Glorify to Christ our Saviour**)

"A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household! "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all



**Whoever does not  
take up the cross  
and follow me  
is not worthy  
of me.**

**Matthew 10.38**

numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (This is the Gospel of Christ- **Praise to Christ our Lord**)

### **Commentary**

You cannot help feeling sorry for the Disciples as Jesus outlined what they could expect as they went out on their mission to evangelise the whole world: no pay, hand to mouth living, endless journeying through hostile country among often hostile people. The passage ends with a very frightening warning, echoing Micah 7:6, that the Gospel will not immediately bring in peace and harmony but will be damaging and divisive. Even those who should love and respect one another will become enemies because of the Gospel. Why should that be? Why should the assurance of God's love bring disagreement and enmity? Why should being shown the way to salvation cause rows even in close families? Because The Way isn't all puppies and sunshine! It causes trouble because it is vitally important, not a bland bolt-on to people's lives. It is a faith which can change us to our very core. The Gospel contains tough commandments and tells us that we should seek justice, be truthful and share resources, so of course Christianity means strife. The passage would have been deeply upsetting to Jesus' first hearers. In His society the extended family was the basis of all order. Members of the family knew their place within the hierarchy and owed obedience and loyalty to their senior members. What Jesus is suggesting is that anarchy may be the result of following Him! The idea of a child opposing the views of his or her parent was not only upsetting but wicked in their eyes. I believe that we might also read Jesus' words in terms of the internal conflict that we humans face, when we try and live the Way that Jesus taught. If we do as Jesus tells us then we will need to be in a constant state of war with our baser selves, our selfish desires. The implication of Jesus' commands is that we each of us stage a permanent revolution within ourselves, as we attempt to root out our own faults and failings. I believe that that the last two lines of the passage are, in part, about the willingness to give up the self in order to gain the kingdom of Heaven. Re-read them and see what you think. Rev Dr Joan Crossley

### **Meditation**

It is time to put my hands up and admit I may have been wrong, (yes it can happen!). I used to be very mocking about Victorian "Muscular Christianity", with its emphasis on manliness and Imperial mission. But I may have been too quick to dismiss the other virtues within the writings of people like Dr Thomas Arnold and G.H.Henry the poet (author of "Play up and play the game!") While it is true that they were often laughably bigoted and sexist to our eyes, they did demand that individuals take responsibility for their actions, that they try and endure dangerous and demanding situations with courage and determination and asked that people try their best. Above all they taught that we should place our trust in the Lord. These Victorian tough guys would have been mystified by our "blame culture" in which people are encouraged to blame everyone but themselves. Maybe we should try harder to emulate our Lord, who was generous, honest and forgiving to everyone else but was disciplined and courageous (even hard) on Himself? Rev Dr Joan Crossley

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

## Hymns

224 He who would valiant be (Monk's Gate)  
99 come on and celebrate  
428 Lord for the years (Lord of the years)  
590 Seek ye first (we sing during communion)  
143 Fight the good fight (Duke St)

## Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Heavenly Father, we hold before you the world of which we are a part. We thank you for its diversity and richness. We thank you for the many different peoples with whom we share this planet. We are sorry that we have created a world where there is so large a gap between the rich and poor. We ask for the grace to work for change. Amen (Jo Penberthy)

Give us grace, Lord, to give ourselves to you. Amen Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus your brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Love of the heart of Jesus, inflame me; strength of the heart of Jesus, uphold me; wisdom of the heart of Jesus, teach me; will of the heart of Jesus guide me; zeal of the heart of Jesus, consume me. St John Eudes, 1601-1680

---

## News, Views and Information

**Garden of Remembrance extension** The new scheme for the extension of the Garden of Remembrance at St Mark's was approved by the Church Council to go forward for faculty. You can see a copy of the plans in the foyer at St Mark's Church.

**The new playground at St Mark's** was finished this week and is looking magnificent. The cost of the playground will be funded by pre-school with assistance from a grant from the Lottery.

**Bat Boxes.** We are trying our best to consider ways to be environmentally aware in our management of the Garden at St Mark's. We have recently fitted two bat boxes which we hope will provide a habitat for these magnificent creatures. If you would like to donate a box the cost a donation can be made of £15. We will keep you advised of any inhabitants.

**Crime** Some months ago two men tried to steal from Putnoe Heights Church during the service and were prevented by the alertness of our Leadership Team person on duty Alan Cooper. The men then broke into St Mark's Church damaging the chapel door. The offenders were identified by CCTV and a man arrested and is paying compensation. The other man has now also been arrested and sent to prison for 10 months. He admitted many other offences against places of worship including the Salvation Army.

**Several new shrubs** have been planted in the Garden of Remembrance over the last week,

including some conifers, holly and black bamboo. We would be grateful for any kind donations towards these plants.

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

**Arthritis Research Annual Appeal.** We were very short of house to house collectors last week. If there was no collection in your road or you were out when a collector called and would still like to contribute, there will be a basket with envelopes in the welcome area at both churches today and next Sunday. They can be left in the basket or handed in to the office. Thank you. Marian Goddard (Hon.Sec. ARC Bedford Branch)

**A Summer Country Walk** on Sunday 26 June in aid of Arthritis Research, 3 or 4 1/2 miles around Souldrop. Sponsorship is not necessary but we ask for a donation of £5 to do the walk which includes refreshments afterwards. For more details, please contact Marion Goddard 344617.

**Partnership Council 22 June.** Will all members please note that it will be necessary to cancel this meeting because a meeting of the Circuit Deanery has been arranged at Putnoe Heights Church on the same night.



# 50th

## Celebrating 50 Years as a Methodist Local Preacher

# Anniversary!

### John Stubbs

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"  
Romans 10:15

**Congratulations** to John from all your friends at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights. We look forward to many more years of friendship and your continued dedication and Christian service. Today we pay tribute and celebrate your 50 years of ministry as a Methodist Local Preacher.

John was born in Eastleigh, Hampshire, into a Methodist family with Anglican connections and he was accustomed to social activities and choir singing at the local chapel. On leaving school he did his National Service mainly in the Army Education Corps in Norfolk and continued with his Methodist links. He then had four years at Exeter College, Oxford and joined the John Wesley Society and the Student Christian Movement, which gave him plenty of opportunity for study, discussion and ecumenical contacts.

He completed his local preacher studies in June 1955 and was accredited before he left Oxford. John remembers – just – his first preaching appointment in the Oxford circuit. He had actually finished his sermon almost before the organist had found her music for the last hymn and sat down in the congregation! Sermons got a bit longer after that! He also had his first experience of doing everything in a service – apart from taking the offertory – including playing the harmonium and leading the singing!

John went to work in Manchester and was a fairly busy local preacher. He was Warden of the Toch hostel, at the same time as Mary was a founder member of Methodist International House near by, and her first sight and sound of him was at an evening service, she a lowly member of the congregation, John elevated in what was then a typically high and lofty pulpit!

He joined the YMCA in England as a staff member and worked in Manchester, Chelmsford, Portsmouth, and then for the National YMCA in Scotland. Temporarily John was a member and elder of the Church of Scotland, but preaching continued – as a substitute for the minister- and he was paid a low percentage of the minister's annual stipend! Since coming to work for Bedfordshire County Council John has continued local preaching (even four times one weekend at Holy Cross), mostly in Bedfordshire apart from forays into North Wales and Yorkshire where Mary's father was Superintendent in country circuits.

The YMCA in England has recently recognised John's voluntary work for twenty years by presenting him with a special Gold Award – for helping to establish two YMCA hostels in Bedford (the first with Hugh Leckie as a colleague), working regionally on various committees and similarly on a national level, including being for a while the national Vice-Chairman of YMCA England.

The major influences on John have been his childhood upbringing, the John Wesley Society, the Methodist Renewal Group, the YMCA and various ministers and individuals who have offered him challenges, support and encouragement, which he has much welcomed and appreciated.



**Circuit/Deanery 'Open Meeting'** on Wednesday 22 June at Putnoe Heights to explore ways of using our premises, and to hear about current practice in our churches. Everyone is invited to this 'open' meeting.

**Monday Evening Housegroup.** Coffee Evening on Monday 20th June at 7.30pm at 14 Flint Way.  
Sylvia Cohen

**Lesley Rochford's diary** of her experiences nursing after the Tsunami is in the Office at St Mark's and can be borrowed. Entitled "To Hell and Back" is a frank and sometimes harrowing account of her work.

**Road Knight Scooter - Maxi Plus 4 convertible** includes side screens & full weather protection. Gel tyres, Range 25 miles, Max speed 4 mph. As new, only driven 2 miles, with manufacturers guarantee. (Elderly lady too frail to drive it). Price new £3590 - for sale £1000. Proceeds to Putnoe Heights Mission Fund. To view please telephone 356042

**My Favourite hymn is ----** We have received many contributions towards our list of favourite hymns. Please do advise a member of the Leadership team at St Mark's if you have a favourite hymn. Whilst we cannot promise to accommodate all requests we will try where possible. Please complete a form available in the foyer and hand to Ian Farthing St Marks Leadership Team

### Story box Plus notices

**Change of Date ! Putnoe Heights Junior Church and Storybox Plus Summer Outing will now take place on either 14 or 21st August**

We hope to go to Thurleigh Farm Centre, leaving from Putnoe Heights Church at 12 noon, taking a

### 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.

**Alan Turner  
Elsie Verona Bowness  
John Sidney William Crowther**

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



picnic for "Wacky Woods". Kids £3.75 Adults £3.25 Family £13.50 (2 adults and 2 kids). Please let Liz Spavins know a.s.a.p. which date you would prefer or for more details call Liz on 302349.

**Storybox plus** would like to thank everyone for the wonderful response to our junk request.

We now have so much to use for our activities that we will stop collecting for the time being.

**Storybox plus** has grown since it all began in January. We now have 11 children in our group. As our activities become more adventurous we could use some extra pairs of hands. If anyone would like to come and join us on a once a month/rota basis we would really like to hear from you, especially in June and July. We are taking a break in August then start again in September. For further details please call Liz Spavins on Tel: 01234 302349

### Putnoe Mission Group Notices

**Cream Tea** on Sunday 3 July from 3—5pm at 62 Church Lane the home of Bob & Pam Burn. In aid of Mission funds.

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

**For Sale** Electric Potters wheel & tools, and a workbench. No reasonable offer refused. Proceeds to Church Funds. Buyer collects Tel. 343424.

**Church & environment Statement** The group wishes to express concern that the church should take all necessary steps to show environmentally friendly practice, through recycling & care over energy use and introduce the use of Fair Trade coffee & tea for catering at church events. Sylvia Cohen 343424

### Forthcoming Funerals to be conducted by our ministers

**The funeral of Sidney Jacob** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on 22 June (NBC)  
**The funeral John Sidney William Crowther** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on 20 June (NBC)  
**The funeral of Peter Eric Hall** will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on 20 June (NBC)  
**The funeral of Stephen George Squires** will take place at Bedford Crematorium n Friday 24 June at 12.15pm (CR)