



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

19 March 2006

Third Sunday of Lent

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 Holy Communion both churches
9.30am St Mark's Church - Holy Communion
 Preacher - Rev Charles Royden
 Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry
 Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship with Baptism
 Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
 Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper
 Intercessions - Alan Bayliss

26 March 2006 - Mothering Sunday

8.30 Service of Holy Communion
9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship
 Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
 Leadership - Farthing/Day
 Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing
11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
 Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
 Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
 Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Reading 1 : Exodus 2: 1-10
Reading 2 : Colossians 3: 12-17
Reading 3 : Luke 2: 33-35 and John 19: 25-27

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Sheila Tapping in memory of her parents and sister, who all died in March in different years; also her brother, who passed away suddenly last month.

The flowers at St. Marks this week are given by Paul Marshal in loving memory of his wife Shirley Ann, and in the chapel by Mr. & Mrs. Harvey in memory of their daughter Susan whose daughter would have celebrated her birthday on 22 March.

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

Holy Father, keep us in your truth
 Holy Son, protect us under your cross
 Holy Spirit, make us temples and dwelling places for your glory
 Grant us your peace all the days of our lives,
 Lord. Amen. *Maronite Church*

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman
 107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
 266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
 (Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM
 (Day off Friday)
 12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE
 326643 Mobile -07917 356062 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)
 30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
 Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)
 The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
 309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

Partnership 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 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 - 12 noon Monday & Friday
9am - 5pm 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 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 - Mr Ian Farthing 210892
Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Partnership News is also archived on our church website
www.ThisisChurch.com

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school Mrs Janet Smith 326685

9.30 - 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.

Mini-Strikers Sport for Children at Putnoe aged 2-4 years. Contact Andy Carey 01908 313751 or 07766 142754, or www.ministrikers.co.uk

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

4pm Story Box Plus at St. Marks for 4 -11 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments & games, then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church the 1st Sunday of each month. Lots of fun. Free. Contact Liz 302349

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

4.15 - 5.45pm 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. Penny Fulham 406045

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

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

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

7.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next 20 March 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. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

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. Val Careless 345213.

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 21 March Favourite Flowers Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next

meeting 28 March with Women's Fellowship 'More than books' Anthea Slack Lawrence 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. 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

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights. Emma Holloway 293792

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

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

7.30pm Dog and Puppy Training at Putnoe Heights. Contact Lynn Southwell 07974 743240

7.45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly.at 7.45pm Next meeting 21 March Talk by Community Policeman. Madge Walsh 359088

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

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 22 March 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 - Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Mr James 07711 687449

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

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

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

7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe

Heights. Janice Loxley 347073

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. 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

1.00pm - 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 1234 302349

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

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

2pm - Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer 345991

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

2pm U3A Indoor Games at Putnoe Radmila Dancer
404811

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

7pm Street Dance at Putnoe Heights. Contact Curtis
Ritchie 349255 or 07984 525147

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Mrs M White 404992

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

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's 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 at 3 Little
Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Betty
Wyatt 350188

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

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights. Carole

Maunder 301325

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.

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

7.30pm Youth Club for age 13-18 at St Mark's
Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

Saturday

9.30 - 11.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe.

Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

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

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe. Meets
monthly next meeting. Philip Jones 350295

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 - 4pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe
Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob.
07866775515

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

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council 14 June, 11 Oct

Circuit Meeting 16 Mar 2006

St Mark's Leadership Team - 24 Apr, 6 June, 12
Sept

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team - 2 May

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

Putnoe Heights Management - 15 May, 17 July

Putnoe Church Council 12 June, 9 Oct

Pastoral Group Meeting -

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting-

Partnership Council - 19 Sept

Brickhill Parish Council - 23 Mar, 27 Apr,

Deanery Meeting St Mary's Eucharist 22 June, 14
September, 16 November

Annual Congregational Meeting 7 May 2006

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth - 26 Apr, 28
June

**Calendar dates appear on our church website
www.ThisChurch.com. Please advise St Mark's
Church Office of the dates of your meetings.**

Third Sunday of Lent Year B

Verse of Scripture Psalm 19:14

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves. Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

First Reading - Exodus 20: 1-17

And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. "Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. "You shall not murder." "You shall not commit adultery. " "You shall not steal. " "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour. " "You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour." (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1. 18-25

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Third Reading - John 2: 13-22 (Glory to Christ our Saviour.)

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered



the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken (Reader : This is the Gospel of Christ. **All: Praise to Christ our Lord.**)

Post Communion Prayer Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

St Mark's Please distribute Holy Communion booklets and Hymns and Psalms

Putnoe Please distribute Morning worship, baptism booklets and Hymns and Psalms

1. For the beauty of the earth (Tune England's Lane) 333 Hymns and Psalms
2. For I'm building a people of power 151 Mission Praise
3. O for a heart to praise my God (Tune Abridge) 536 Hymns and Psalms
4. Through all the changing scenes of life (Tune Wiltshire) 73 Hymns and Psalms
5. O for a thousand tongues to sing (Tune Lyngham) 744 Hymns and Psalms

Commentary

We read that the passage from John today takes place at the '*Passover of the Jews.*' The NIV reading '*Jewish Passover*' doesn't quite capture the essence of 'them and us' which is the true import of the phrase. The Passover Festival was derived from the episode in Egypt. It was of enormous importance for the Jews and their understanding of identity and faith. It was at this most significant festival, in the Temple - the most important and holy place, that Jesus decided to carry out this very visual and high profile attack.

All four Gospels tell the story of the cleansing of the temple (see Matt. 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48), but the Synoptics place it near the end of Jesus' life, whereas John's Gospel places the cleansing at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. So why does John put it at the start?

Firstly, we need to remember that for the Gospel writers chronology was of little importance in comparison to the theological message which they were intending to convey. John wants to make his Gospel about Jesus as the fulfilment of the religion of the Jews, hence phrases such as '*Passover of the Jews.*' The point being of course, that Christians no longer had need of such a festival. The Passover has been fulfilled in Jesus. The incident takes place at Passover, a time of death and sacrifice, because it is the death of Jesus which ends brings the need for a Passover to an end. Humankind would no longer need to purge guilt by placing onto animals the blame for their own sins.

John wants to establish right at the start of his writing what Jesus was about. He represented the end of the old of the old order and the beginning of the new. So it is that John starts his Gospel by showing that Jesus brings a new order, a transformation of religion and a time when sacrificial worship is brought to an end. The death of Jesus brings death itself to an end. Jesus is the fulfilment of the promises of God, he is about nothing less than the complete reconstitution of the worship of Israel around himself. The temple will become redundant, it will have no more purpose, it is obsolete. Rather it is the body of Jesus which is to be the true Temple.

It may well be that some of the trading which was going on in the temple precincts was inappropriate, but we miss the point of this episode if we think that this is what Jesus was so angry about. Jesus takes on the opposition fearlessly and his actions recalled to the disciples the passage from the Old Testament '*Zeal for thy house will consume me.*' *Psalms 69:9*

Make no mistake, Jesus did not have this zeal because he was on a mission to stop corruption, he has a much bigger target than that. Jesus is not involved in a clean up exercise, he wants nothing less than an end to the Jewish religion itself. *Charles Royden*

Historians will note that the Jews said to Jesus "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years" (v. 20). Construction began under Herod the Great in 20 or 19 B.C., which means that Jesus' cleansing of the temple takes place in 27 or 28 A.D. The majority of the work on the temple has been completed by this time, but refinements will continue until 63 A.D., only seven years before the Romans will destroy the temple. Incidentally, John mentions three distinct Passovers in his Gospel, which leads us to believe that the ministry of Jesus lasted three years. (2:13, 6:4, 11:55).

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead.

Lord Jesus there is within each one of us a reluctance to accept healing, a fear which stops us from changing. Sometimes Lord we are afraid to move away from what we have known even if it is hurtful to us. Give us strength to leave our brokenness behind and to be willing to accept your gift of wholeness.

My God I am poor and weak. Enrich me with your grace and make me strong enough to conquer temptation. May I seek the things that please you, and turn away from anything that displeases you. So that I may persevere until death in doing your will. Amen.

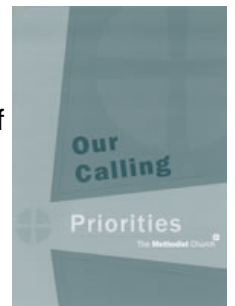
Lord we do not know what we should ask of you, but you already know what we need. You love us better than we know how to love ourselves. father, give to us, your children that which we do not know how to ask. We have no desire other than to do your will. Teach us to pray. Pray in us, in Jesus' name. Amen.
Francois de la Mothe Fénelon.

Meditation

Our Calling - Priorities

Dear Friends In recent years **Our Calling** has become a familiar process in many churches and circuits. It sets out briefly our core purpose as a Church. It is a simple statement against which to review each year what we do in each congregation and circuit. It can suggest to us, year on year, the next step to take together to become the Church God wants us to be in the twenty-first century.

In the light of **Our Calling**, we have listened hard to one another's dreams for the future of the Church. We have listened also to the fundamental and deep challenges that confront all churches in Britain today, in rural and urban settings. Throughout these consultations we kept hearing a few themes over and over again. The plea was for all of us to help one another, using all the resources of the Church, to pursue our dreams and to address these challenges. All this is summarised in the **Priorities for the Methodist Church**. The Priorities are a vision for change and for hope in the Church. God is calling us to pull together in developing the Priorities in churches, circuits, districts and the Connexional Team, with imagination and courage. *David G Deeks General Sec. Methodist Church*



Our Calling The Church exists to:

Increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love [Worship]

Help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care [Learning and Caring]

Be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice [Service]

Make more followers of Jesus Christ [Evangelism]

Priorities for the Methodist Church

In partnership with others wherever possible, the Methodist Church will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority:

To proclaim and affirm its conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the Church

As ways towards realising this priority, the Methodist Church will give particular attention to the following:

1. Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer
2. Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor - in Britain and worldwide
3. Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved
4. Encouraging fresh ways of being Church
5. Nurturing a culture in the Church which is people-centred and flexible

For you to consider

- What are our plans and targets for improving our worship over the next year?
- What are our plans and targets for developing our life together over the next year?
- What are our plans and targets for improving our community involvement over the next year?
- What are our plans and targets for making more followers of Jesus Christ over the next year?

News, Views and Information

Storybox at St Marks Thursday lunchtime

We are looking for a least one more pair to help out with the catering rota, please see Liz if you can help

Storybox Easter Arrangements at St Mark's

Thursday 6 April bring your own lunch, drinks provided. Thursday 13 April—No Meeting.

Friday 14 April Good Friday Special at Putnoe Church 12– 1.15 Easter Story, singing craft activities & light refreshments. Suitable for all ages, £1 donation per family Thursday 20 April back to normal

Storybox Plus Easter arrangements at St Mark's

Monday 3 & 17 April No meetings. Thursday 6 April Activity afternoon 1.15– 2.45. Good Friday arrangements as for Storybox above. Monday 24 back to normal..

Storybox Easter arrangements at Putnoe Monday

3 April bring own lunch, drinks provided. Mondays 10 & 17 April No Meeting. Friday 14 April Good Friday Special at Putnoe 12—1.15 Easter Story, singing, craft activities & light refreshments, suitable for all ages of children, £1 donation per family. Monday 24 April back to normal.

Storybox Plus Easter arrangements at Putnoe.

Monday 3 April Activity afternoon 1.15—2.45. Thursday 6 April No meeting, Good Friday arrangements as Storybox above. Thursday 20 April back to normal.

Mothering Sunday 24 April, the 1st Putnoe Brownies will be holding a cake stall after the service. They are raising money to send Claire, one of their young leaders, to an international Guiding Camp in Russia. If you would like to donate a cake or two, bring them along Sunday Morning. Many Thanks.

Putnoe Junior Church The “help” rota is now on the notice board in the welcome area. If you would like to join us one Sunday and see what we get up to please put your name down. We look forward to welcoming you. Thanks Liz and Sam

Storybox at both churches. If you would like to join either of our story telling teams after Easter please speak to Liz. You would be asked to tell a short, simple Bible story to under 5's approx. once every 2/3 months.

Spring Fair at Priory Methodist Church Saturday 25 March from 10 until 2pm. Admission 50p children free. Gifts, plants, cards, books, paintings etc. Lunches & snacks available. Proceeds for Church development fund.

Spring Fair at Biddenham Village Hall Saturday 1 April from 10 until 2pm. Admission 20p. Cakes, gifts, cards, toys plants, paintings. Light refreshments. Proceeds for Arthritis Research Campaign.

Swedish Evening

Saturday 6 May at 7.30 at St.Mark's. Tickets on sale shortly, pre-book them with Janet or Ian now.

Footprints Sunday 2

April meet at the Peace Pagoda Car Park, Milton Keynes , on V10 Brickhill St at 3pm (please note later start) 4 mile circular walk around Willen Lakes, Ouzel Valley and Grand Union Canal. Sue Allen 407264



Jim Gorrige will take his last service in the Circuit on Sunday 2 April at Priory. This will be followed by a presentation at 12.45pm and hot buffet lunch. The invitation extends to all circuit members. Further details from Sue Allen. Offers of desserts for the lunch will be welcome.

Safeguarding. Will anybody who has contact with children or vulnerable adults please ensure that they have CRB clearance. When telephoning to seek documentation please remember that your employer is either St Mark's or Putnoe Heights Church - it is not one of our groups such as Hazeledene Heights Pre-school. All volunteers and employees are responsible to **the church council** in all circumstances. This is important and it can cause the Diocese problems with registration if you forget.

151 Mission Praise

For I'm building a people of power
And I'm making a people of praise,
That will move through this land by My Spirit,
And will glorify My precious name.
Build your Church, Lord, Make us strong, Lord
Join our hearts, Lord, through Your Son.
Make us one, Lord, in Your Body,
In the Kingdom of Your Son.

Lent Course 2006 Belief and Unbelief

Held on Sundays at St Mark's at 4pm

19 March Rev'd Liz Macfarlane MA
"Tract into Tat" : The Church fight back"

26 March Professor Paul Crossley
"Poetry and Doubt"

Network Spring Craft Day Saturday 6 May at Priory Methodist Church. Wide choice of workshops. More information & booking forms from Pam Seymour 305695 or Eleanor Markirdy 360271 book by 6 April.

London NW District Women’s Network

Celebration Service Saturday 20 May at 2.30 pm at West London Mission, Hinde Street, London.

“God’s Story in Action” Bishop Richard and a team from the Diocese have put together a 6 week course including a DVD and course booklet. If you would like to order a copy for your group the cost will be £20. Please see Milly.

Bedford Town Concert Brass will be performing a selection of popular tunes ‘We will Rock You’ at Putnoe Heights Church on Friday 24 March at 8pm. Tickets £6 Concessions £4 will be available at the door or from Roger Nicholls .(Tel: 01234 357268)

Putnoe Heights Tuesday Club invite you to join them at open meeting on Tuesday 4 April at 7.45pm. for a talk by East Anglian Air Ambulance Service. Admission £1 including refreshments. We will continue to collect mobile phones for them until 4 April.

Consultation. The Leadership Teams of Putnoe Heights and St Mark’s are currently having a series of meetings with those concerned in seeking the way forward for our Ministerial Team when Neil leaves this summer. If you would like to share any of your

own thoughts please speak to any member of the Leadership Team

We were saddened this week to hear of the death of Edith Wilson. Edith attended St Mark’s for some years before she entered Residential care. Her funeral will be at St John’s Church on Friday 24 March at 1.30pm

A body calling itself the Christian Council of Britain and apparently associated with the BNP recently started joining protests against Jerry Springer: The Opera.

Anthea Cox, Methodist Coordinating Secretary for Public Life and Social justice, said, “I am outraged that the BNP and its allies are using Christianity to further their agenda of segregation and division. I think most Christians will be deeply affronted by this and want to speak out against such misguided extremism. We reaffirm our earlier statements that Christian belief is incompatible with any political party or philosophy that is based on hatred or treats people as inferior because of their race, beliefs or for any other reason. We are deeply concerned that some people are now appropriating Christian language and symbols for policies that are the very opposite of Christian values.”

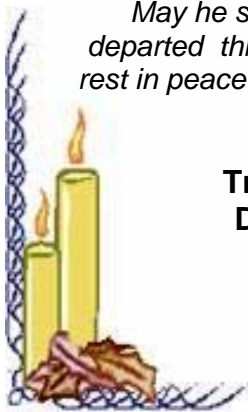
The CCB has claimed that the Bible justifies its support for the BNP’s repatriation policy. But the Revd Ken Howcroft, Coordinating Secretary for Conference and Communication, said “this was a way of interpreting scripture that was used to justify apartheid in South Africa, the banning of mixed-race marriages and the setting up of homelands. The South African Council of Churches condemned this interpretation, and some of the churches that did support this interpretation later formally repented. In Acts Paul writes ‘In Christ there is no Jew or Gentile,’ and this makes it clear that there is no Christian basis for racial discrimination or separation.”

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.

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

**Trevor Jones
Doris Webb**



Rest in Peace

The funeral of Alfred John Adams will take place at 11.30am on Wednesday 22 March *Royden*

The funeral of (Tony) Anthony George Little will take place at 10.45am on Friday 24 March *Royden*

