



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

1 May 2005

6 Sunday after Easter

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

1 May

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship with
Baptism

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions - Mr Warwick Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions - Ministers

8 May

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd B Webb

Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions - Mr Ian Farthing

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd B Webb

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Janet Smith, to celebrate a special birthday.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Chris & Patricia Izzard in memory of Barbara & Hugh Leckie

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate 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

God of mercy,
as we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son,
the Bread of Life,
feed us with your plenty
and increase in us compassion for the hungry;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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 News is now available each week on the
Partnership Website - www.ThisisChurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com

Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,

housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.

Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am - 1.00pm Monday & Friday

9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

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

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

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

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

wendy@thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day—295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

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

12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox 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 R.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 16 May Moorfields & Sight Concern 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. Next meeting May 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 May 10th Revd Jim Gorrige. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 24 May 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 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 May 10 Charity Evening-Patchwork 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

10.00 am Day Care Centre St Mark's for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

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

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

12 - 1pm Total Body Toning at Putnoe Heights Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Height meets fortnightly. Next meeting 11 May 2005 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 side chapel. 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 Storybox 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 Storybox Plus at Putnoe Heights. A drama group for 4-9year olds. Meets 4 5-pm,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
10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
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 26 March Contact Kathleen Sage 771525
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
6.45pm TNT (The Nearly Teens) meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

Church Calendar

Church Diary Dates

Annual Congregational Meeting 8 May 3.00pm St Mark's 4.00pm Putnoe
Partnership Council 21 June
St Mark's Church Council 15 June, 12 October
Circuit Men's Fellowship Lunch on the **St Mark's Leadership Team** 4 May –Home of Rev Dr Joan Crossley
Deanery Synod

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team July 21
St Mark's Church Management Meeting 24 May, 11 July, 12 September, 2 November. All meetings to start 7.00pm
Putnoe Heights Management Putnoe Church Council 13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005
Pastoral Group Meeting – Church yard Committee
Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings. Calendar dates appear also on our church website www.ThisChurch.com.

Bible Notes

Verse of Scripture Psalm 66 : 1

Shout to God with joy, everyone on earth! Sing about the glory of his name! Give him glorious praise!

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by His death he has recalled us to life, so by His continual presence in us He may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

First Reading - Acts 17: 22-31

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

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

Second Reading - 1 Peter 3: 13-22

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. "Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened. "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

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

He who is Lord of
heaven and earth
does not live
in shrines
made by
human hands.

Acts 17.24



Third Reading - John 14: 15-21

“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be ^[a] in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

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

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through Him who is alive and reigns, now and forever.

Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Service Sheets)

O thou who camest from above, **745**; Be bold, be strong, (Mission Praise) **49**; Teach me, my God and King, **803**; Take my life and let it be, **705**; O Jesus I have promised, **704**

Meditation

We share many human traits with the ancient Athenians that Paul encounters. We, as they, can prefer our divinity safely packaged -- appropriately in gold, silver or stone -- and in containers of our own construction. We, as they, can prefer our humanity safely packaged too, in prejudices and systems of our own construction, constructions we even sometimes attribute to God. Paul will have none of it. He introduces the Athenians to a God of the unknown, one that cannot be constrained in any construct of human making, whether shrine or prejudice. Paul doesn't just exhort the Athenians to trade the gods they know for the God he knows, He asks them to trade the gods they safely know for the God who by nature cannot be known at all. To offer their humanity to His divinity, to step out in faith from the known to the unknown with 'the God who made the world and everything in it'.

Commentary The Holy Spirit who is with us

The Gospel passage in today's reading is framed by human anxiety about the absence of Jesus and ultimately about the absence of God. The Chapter opens with the words, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled...', Jn 14 v 1; and closes with the passage, 'Peace I leave with you... ...do not be afraid', Jn 14 v 27). John does not seem to try to deny anxiety or distress, but in the centre of the passage, our reading today, he records a promise confirming that the presence of God will be with us for ever whatever our circumstances. A presence of God which offers us love, comfort, peace and support and which are inextricably intertwined with an obedience to the divine nature and will of God. A command to love, coupled with the requirement for obedience and the promise of the Spirit. The Spirit who assists all believers from the moment of their first encounter with God through on into everlasting life. The Spirit who helps believers to put their faith into action, to love others, to be obedient to God and to have real peace. The Spirit who's presence is both continuous (right now) and eternal (forever).

As He speaks in this passage Jesus is preparing His disciples for the day when He will no longer be with them as a physical presence, an event we remember on Ascension Day this coming Thursday. On Ascension Day we recall the moment when Jesus seemed to part from His disciples - and from the world. One of the hardest things to do is to part from those we love and it must be even harder when we have to part from someone on whom we have relied. The disciples had come to rely on Jesus. They had shared a common life with Him for three years, they had seen the great things He had done - and found that they shared some of His gift for healing and proclaiming the Kingdom. Jesus had conquered death and many of the disciples probably assumed He would therefore be with them forever.

That was not to be the case, Jesus was going to leave them in bodily form, but He was not going to leave them as orphans with no-one to protect them. He would still be with them, but not in a way that they expected or understood. He was to be with them in His Spirit, the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of love and truth which comes from the Father and the Son, the third Person of the divine Trinity. The Spirit through which

He is with us. The Spirit through which we are able to enter into eternal life. There are various translations for the word Holy Spirit (Paracletos) which are used in the original Greek version of the passage for the Holy Spirit. Comforter, advocate and “someone who walks with you to give comfort, counsel, or strength in time of need” are all used. The Holy Spirit was to comfort the disciples in their time of sorrow, loss and fear. He would be their advocate as they sought justice for the alienated and mercy from God. He would walk with them at all times, leading, guiding and supporting them on our journey through into eternity.

In Bette Midler’s song, ‘From a distance’, the lyrics speak of a God who is watching us from a distance. This may be true and God may indeed be watching us from a distance. But He is not a distant God. He is here with us now through His Holy Spirit in a relationship which is close, intimate and real. As we experience that relationship, the same relationship as the disciples experienced, we begin to catch a glimpse of what it means when Jesus says, "On that day, you will understand that I am in My Father - and you in Me and I in you". Understand that those who love God and follow Jesus' commands will know and be loved by God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Understand that they will be in God, and God will be in them. Understand that through the Holy Spirit we become no less than part of the mortal and divine nature of God Himself. *Sam Cappleman*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, and may the gifts of your Holy Spirit equip us to serve and worship you, now and always. **Amen**

Govern all by your wisdom, O Lord, so that my soul may always be serving you as you will, and not as I may choose. Do not punish me, I beg you, by granting what I wish or ask if it offends your love which should always live in me. Let me die to myself, so that I may serve you; let me live for you, who in yourself are the true life. **Amen** *St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582).*

Christ give you the grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow Him; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

God of mercy, as we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, the Bread of Life, feed us with your plenty and increase in us compassion for the hungry; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

God of mercy,
as we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son,
the Bread of Life,
feed us with your plenty
and increase in us compassion for the hungry;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

What do we believe ?

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. Inspired by our calling, we aim:

1. to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love
2. to help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care
3. to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice
4. to make more followers of Jesus Christ

A Hymn for Sunday

Be bold be strong, for the Lord your God is with you

News, Views and Information

Wednesday Bereavement Drop in Group.

On May 4 Lynne Davis will speak about the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau. The meeting starts at 2.30pm. All are welcome to attend these afternoon gatherings.

Please note: This will be the last meeting of this group.

Saints & Warthogs. Anyone interested in playing cricket? The new season is fast looming and Mike Cooper is the person to see if you would like to join their team. Tel:306751 -mikecoops@tiscali.co.uk.

Storybox plus We are after your potential junk please-foil milk bottle tops; butter and margarine tubs with lids; kitchen roll inners. Please leave at Putnoe Church office or give to Elizabeth Spavins.

Junior church The "help" rota is now on the notice board. Please sign up if you would like to join us one Sunday. Our 10+ group will be in the small hall led by Joan, Neil and other "Guest Leaders" and the younger ones will be in the large hall with Liz Spavins, John Barrow and Holly Webber.

Footprints meet on Saturday 7th May. Salcey Forest Northants. A pleasant. flat, no stiles, all day walk of approximately 6 miles. Meet 10.30am Grid Ref SP811508 in official car park. Left of B 526 , 2miles north of Stoke Goldington. (sign posted Salcey Forest) Car Park first on the left. Lunch at Forest Café where you can join or leave at the half way stage if desired. Further details contact Alan or Margaret on 327219. **Footprints Weekend** in Constable country— September 16-18th. Deposits due by end of April to Sue please. Rooms still available—non walkers welcome.

Easter Offerings —The Easter Offering Dedication Service will be held at Priory on Sunday ,1st May, at 6.30pm. The theme of the Service, planned by Caroline Salmon, is challenging injustice and prejudice by "creating a just community."

Tuesday Club Charity Concert by Patchwork in aid of the Primrose Fund, at Putnoe Heights Church on Tuesday 10 May at 7.30.pm. Music ,singing & readings. £6 at the door, includes refreshments & raffle ticket.

Coffee Morning Saturday 7 May from 10—noon at 16 Chillingham Green, the home of Eddie & Irene McKenzie. Cakes & a raffle. In aid of Mission Funds.

Donations of flowers. The new chart is on the St.Mark's foyer notice board, with lots of spaces from now to November. Please sign up if you wish to donate money for flowers on a special date. Talk to

Marion so she can put it into her diary and liaise with the flower arrangers and make an appropriate entry into the notices.

More volunteers needed for the coffee rota at Putnoe Heights. If you would like to help, please ring Margaret Massey on 327219 or speak to me at Church. It's not complicated and the more people on the rota, the less frequent the duty.

Paper Banks at Putnoe Heights are about to be removed. Thank you to everyone who has used the scheme but please do not use them further. There are other paper banks located at Library Walk shops.

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land With the London North West District Methodist Church 3-12 May 2006. A comprehensive 10 day pilgrimage to Jerusalem and Galilee. Cost £999 sharing a twin bedded room. Insurance and some additional costs . Contact Rev Vaughan Tong 01494 433504 Vaughan.tong@ntlworld.com

Thank you to Judith Stanton and her supporters for their donation raised at their last whist drive.

We are invited to join with St Paul's Church choir for a Combined Parishes Ascension Day Eucharist on Thursday 5th May at 7.30pm. It is proposed that there will be a full choir practise at 6.30pm prior to the service. More information from the church office.

Sunflower Competition Remember to bring your planted seed to the Fun Run to see whose flower has grown the best.

Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts at St Paul's Church
1.10 - 1.45 p.m. May 3.....Holly Barnard (sop) Ian Edmunds (baritone) Ashley Marshfield (piano)
May 10 David Boarder (organ)
May 17 Shulah Oliver (violin) Simon Marlow (piano)
May 24 Bedford Modern School Students
May 31 Anthony Stutchbury (tenor) Shirley Woods (piano)
June 7 Ashley Marshfield (organ)
June 14 Vicky Jolliffe (violin) Paul Guinery (piano)

Network Spring District Day Monday 6th June at Chesham Methodist Church. The theme "Building Bridges" will be led by Connexional President , Elaine Turner.A coach leaves from Priory Methodist Church at 8.30am, the cost is £10. To book a place please contact Elaine MacKirdy tel: 360271 as soon as possible and no later than 27th May.

Please note—When sending notices for inclusion in Partnership News by fax or email, please make clear if your notice only applies to one church.

Fun Run and Teddy Bear's Picnic! 22 May at Mowsbury Park, our 5km Fun Run followed by a BBQ, Bring a Teddy to the Teddy Bear's Picnic, 4pm. We are in need of prizes to offer our heroic participants. Sponsorship and entry forms are now available in St Mark's church office.

On the Hustings. A meeting will take place at Priory Methodist Church on Sunday 1 May at 8pm, chaired by The Right Revd. Richard Inwood, Bishop of Bedford. In attendance will be Patrick Hall (Labour), Richard Fuller (Conservative) and Michael Headley (Liberal Democrat). They will be present to answer questions which should be submitted before hand. This can be arranged through our church offices or by Email to margaret.blake@tesco.net

Christian Aid Week 15 - 21 May. Collectors urgently needed! If you can do one or more roads, by yourself or with a friend, Please sign up on the list in the Welcome Area at Putnoe Heights, and collect your envelopes in readiness for delivery on Sunday 15th May. Read all about it in May Seeround. *Beryl Wigginton 266780*
Collectors also needed for St Mark's. I would be grateful if you could help by delivering and collecting envelopes in your road or a road near you. Many hands make light work. Please sign up on list in Foyer. Thank you Wendy

Paper Banks at Putnoe Heights Church are about to be removed from the site. Please do not use them any further. There are other banks located at the front of Library Walk shops. Thanks to everybody who has supported this collection scheme in the past. Barry

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.

**Sydney Douglas Bodsworth
Lilian May Carter**

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



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Paper Banks at Putnoe Heights Church.The paper banks are about to be removed from the site. Please do not use them any further. There are other banks located at the front of Library Walk shops. Thanks to everybody who has supported this collection scheme in the past.

Storybox plus would be grateful if anyone could donate wire coat hangers for our next project. Please can you leave them in our junk collection box, which is under the table in the entrance hall at Putnoe Heights. Thanks Liz."

TNT meets tonight 6pm-7.30pm at Putnoe Heights Church. We will be cooking, so bring an apron.

Emmaus would be grateful for donations of any fishing gear as they are to start fishing in their pond. Please bring to St Mark's Church Office.

Nomination Forms for Church Council are available this morning. Please do nominate/ask to be nominated this morning

Publication of the banns of Marriage

We publish the banns and pray for the marriages of

Duncan Marjoribanks and Nina Jane Reynolds
This is for the third time of asking.

Benjamin Edward Watton and Nicola Ann Harley

This is for the third time of asking