



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

20 January 2008

Third Sunday of Epiphany



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

Third Sunday of Epiphany

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

**9.30am St Mark's -
Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows**
Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

**11.00am Putnoe -
Covenant and Renewal of Baptism Vows**
Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions - Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship
Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen
Bible Readings. All readers please note changes
1 Isaiah 91-4, 2. 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
3. Matthew 4:12-23, 4. Matthew 3: 13-17

Thank You

The flowers in the church at St Marks this week have been given by Valerie Edwards, in memory of her parents.

The chapel flowers are given by Barbara Joy in memory of Alan.

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) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

Lord, as you have taught us
the folly of gaining the whole world
and losing ourselves.
Grant us grace so to lose ourselves
that we may find ourselves made new,
and so to forget ourselves
that we may be remembered
in your kingdom;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reinhold Niebuhr, 1892-1971

Contact Details

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

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

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

For Data Protection Purposes

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

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved,
housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services.
Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am—5pm Monday to Friday
Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr Alan Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349
youth@thisischurch.com

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs L Parry 216724 Mob 07922053740
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)

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

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's
Mr Kellie ☎721063

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

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

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

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

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747

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

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week every month
Pat Nicholson ☎353518

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

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month . Next meeting 21 January Judith Stanton. ☎823313

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

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

Tuesday

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

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's.
Helen Folbigg ☎351223

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

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

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

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

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

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

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 22 January 2008 Mrs.R.Crawley 'Brake'. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs

Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group
St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

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

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

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

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

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 29January 'Talk about Railway Mission' by Richard Crane. Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

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

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎07973174430.

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

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

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

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

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 23 January 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

1.45 Scots Society Whist monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month
Ken Silvester☎400584

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

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

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

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

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

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

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

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

7.00pm Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Mr Farish ☎824984

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome.

Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 16 January 2008
Graham ☎406359 or Danny ☎401668.

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

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.40am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75 for first child. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

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

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's

Mr C Hill ☎772922

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights

Nina Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc. at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. marriot 303834

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

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

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

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

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

Friday

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

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

1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

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

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

7pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.

Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January.

Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing.

Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

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

Sunday

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

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

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

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Next meeting 27 January' Liz ☎302349

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 29th Jan 08, 17th June 08

St Mark's Leadership Team – 5 February 2008, 13 May 2008

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 21st January
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee 21st January 1.10pm

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings 14th Jan., 14th April and 14th July.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 12noon 15 January

Putnoe Church Council - 28 January 2008

Pastoral Group Meeting – 4.30pm 15 January

Churchyard Committee - 16 January 2008

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Next meeting
Weds 16 Jan 2008 at 14 Flint Way 7.30pm

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 7 February

Deanery Meeting -

Circuit Meeting - 10 March 2008, 12 June 2008

Woodland Burial Trustees - January 27th at 3.30pm 2008 in the Wren Room

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth– 21st January

Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Opening Verse - Isaiah 53:

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:

Collect Prayer for the Day

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence; renew your people with you heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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. *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading - Exodus 24: 3-11

When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

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

Second Bible Reading - Jeremiah 31: 31-34

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant though I was a husband to them, " declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (This is the word of the Lord - **All: Thanks be to God**)

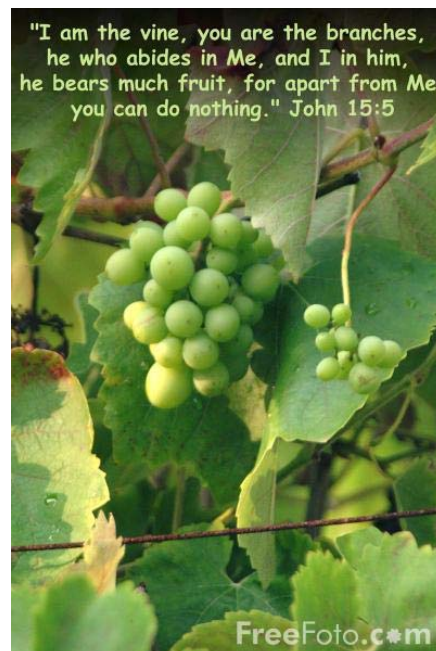
Third Reading -- Romans 12: 1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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

Fourth Reading John 15: 1-10

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you



remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. (Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Commentary

Today's reading from the Old Testament is taken from the book of the prophet Jeremiah. We know more about Jeremiah than we do any other of the prophets. A contemporary of Habakkuk, Jeremiah was writing about 626BC and ended sometime after 586. He outlived a number of rulers of Judah and subjected them to tirades of prophetic condemnation (there is even a word in English, "Jeremiad" which means a denunciatory speech! Jeremiah has often been called the weeping prophet because he channelled God's sense of pain and disappointment at the weak and faithless ways of his people. There is a bright side to Jeremiah, you will be pleased to know. Jeremiah's writings praise God as supreme creator of all things who yet is deeply concerned for individuals. Running through his dire warnings about the destruction of Judah there is a golden thread of hope, that God would not completely destroy the people as a punishment for their sins and that, somehow, the nation would rise again. Jeremiah, in a strange way, is a comforting prophet in spite of his endless complaints and accusations because of the sense of God's ultimate love and patience. In the passage from Jeremiah today, he speaks of a new covenant between God and his people which will bring them closer than a legal bond, when the law will be so ingrained and natural that it is part of their very being. Knowledge of God will be widespread and in very heart and God will forgive all sins and pain will pass away.

Meditation

A lot of New Year's resolutions are about self-improvement and changing personal habits. Yet all the happiness "gurus" tell us what we Christians already know, that it is doing things for OTHERS that makes us happier and healthier. If you are feeling a bit down or a bit stale or if you want to make the community better then why not volunteer? There is a lot of scope at both churches for helping out: with the children's' groups, young people, the pre-schools and the lunch club for the elderly. The Fourth Age project, starting in September, will provide new opportunities to work with the elderly at Putnoe. Storybox at St Mark's on Thursday lunchtime is short of sandwich makers and helpers. Drivers, caterers, flower arrangers, listeners and caring friends are always welcomed. See one of the ministers if you can spare a few hours a month to improve your own life and build up our life as a community. Joan

Hymns (*Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Covenant renewal of Baptism Vows*)

1. Through the night of doubt and sorrow 441
2. One more step along the world 746
3. Renewed by Grace (words on Partnership News) Tune: Gonfalon Royal
4. Guide me o thou great Redeemer 437

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Breathe on me, Spirit of God, awaken me to this moment of daylight's height, that points to the light of your son that is with me. Breathe on me Spirit of God, as I spread my hands before you, holding in them the lost, the desperate and the dying, holding those you have given me to love in my praying, holding in them my joys, my hopes and my sorrows. Let the eyes of Christ be fixed

on me and on those for whom I pray. As I rest for this brief moment, breathe, Spirit of Refreshment, on all of me that I may be drawn ever deeper into walking with the Son of Pilgrimage by whose love I move and pray and delight in God. Amen (Anon)

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; though Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

In Praise of the covenant service. Hymns rich in workaday yet powerful images are usually ranked as Methodism's main contribution to literature, but yesterday witnessed another example of this small but influential church's power of inspirational writing. Many Methodists across the country celebrated their annual covenant service, a renewal of faith comparable to new year resolutions, but one that impressively emphasises the importance of doing as much as believing. The heart of the occasion is a passage which includes the words: "Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you." It should not be misinterpreted as a sort of fatalism, for many Methodists have held eminent positions, espoused radical politics, and gone to prison for opposing injustice and war. Its nobility is the recognition of the accretion of great good through small deeds. There are other fine examples of this in English literature, including George Herbert's *The Elixir*, with its celebrated reference to making drudgery divine and the magnificent concluding passage of *Middlemarch*. In the latter George Elliot does not honour those "who lived faithfully a hidden life" out of sentiment, but because of their robust contribution to the growing good who say the Methodist covenant and try not to forget it, until the second Sunday in the new year comes round once again. *The Guardian* 14/1/08.



Methodist Church launches alternative credit card for Lent

The Methodist Church is encouraging people to buy less and live more this Lent, with their new alternative Buy Less: Live More credit card. The card cannot be used to make purchases, but is designed to be placed in a wallet in front of other credit and debit cards to remind people to think twice before they spend. Buy Less: Live More aims to challenge people to curb their

spending and shrink their carbon footprint.

The Revd Michaela Youngson, Methodist Secretary for Pastoral Care and Spirituality, says, 'When we take time to think about the things we buy and why we buy them, it can help us to reconsider our priorities. I may well want to buy something, but does that mean that I need it? But Buy Less: Live More isn't about depriving yourself of those things you want; it's about looking at life in a new way, trying different things and taking a few risks. So as well as reducing your carbon footprint by getting off the consumer treadmill, you can live life in all its fullness.' The initiative is supported by a website (www.buylesslivemore.org.uk) and a dedicated group on popular networking site Facebook. During Lent people who sign up will receive a daily email with 2 challenges or ideas for buying less and living more. These updates will also be available on the website and Facebook group. People will be able to share their experiences online, swapping stories, questions and advice.

Buy less: Live More credit cards can be ordered in packs of 10 from mph (www.mph.org.uk, 01733 325002) for free, with a small charge for postage.

The new Methodist Home of the Aged has been granted planning permission and work will start on February 11. The contract has been issued for a 72 week build. St Mark's will host the 'sod cutting ceremony' on April 11 for invited guests.

The next Children and Youth Meeting will be held at Putnoe Heights Church on Monday 21st January at 1.10pm.

TNT/TXT next meet Sunday 27 January, 6pm at Putnoe. Could **ALL** interested parties, members & adults please try & come as we would like to plan the future of both groups.

Unwanted Gifts. Hold on to those unwanted gifts!!! We need them on Sunday 3 February at Putnoe for our fund raising stall. Half profits to Church Youth Funds & half to Keech Cottage.

Music at St Andrew's St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford Saturday 8 March 2008 at 8.00pm Gamelan Lila Cita, the UK's premier Balinese Gamelan. Pre-concert supper at 6.30pm Concert tickets: £7 (£5 concessions) Concert and supper tickets £14 (£12) from: St Andrew's Church Centre Office, tel: 01234 216881 Classic Music, tel: 01234 357221 Central Box Office tel: 01234 269519

Service of Holy Communion at Sir William Harpur House on the first Monday of every month at 10.00am, led by Charles Royden. Everybody is invited to attend, not just residents.

Hazeldene Heights Preschool. Come & share in the activities with the children in our Preschool at Putnoe Heights. Please talk to Linda Hoar if you can spare a few hours each month or would like to know more about the group. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Linda Hoar 782717

Many Thanks to all who supported the Putnoe New Year Lunch, 108 people sat down to eat ! From the profits we have been able to donate £200 to church funds and £200 to Keech Cottage. Sue Allen.

Footprints Walking Group Meet 3 February at 2pm at Bedford Park end of Larkway for a 2hour ribbon walk 'Massey's Marvellous Mystery walk'. Our car will be at the end to transport drivers back to the start. Alan & Margaret 327219

Coffee Morning 2 February from 10 until 12 at Gwen Berwick's 6 Repton Close. Raffle, cakes etc. proceeds to Mission funds. All welcome. Offers & requests for transport ring Eddie & Irene McKenzie 311569

Putnoe Heights half term activities Monday 11 February : 12-1 **Storybox** for under 5's & their carers. Bible based story; games & singing. Lunch provided £1 per child.

1.15 –2.45pm **Storybox** Plus for 4-10yrs. Bible based story; craft activities & games. Light refreshments available. £1 per child.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January 2008

The Bedford-Wide United Service this year will be held at Priory Methodist Church on Sunday, 20 January at 6.30 pm. The preacher will be the Roman Catholic Bishop of Northampton, the Rt. Rev. Peter Doyle. Do not miss this wonderful opportunity to share in Worship with Christians of our own and other denominations from all over the town. In addition, short Lunchtime Services are being held during the week at the following venues:
Friday, 18 Jan St Luke's, URC, St Peter's Street
Monday, 21 Jan St John's, St John's Street
Tuesday, 22 Jan Bedford University Chaplaincy A104, Upper Room
Wed, 23 Jan Miracle Church, Conduit Rd
Thur, 24 Jan Friends Meeting, Lansdowne Rd
Friday 25 January Priory
All the Services start at 12.45 pm, with the exception of that at the Friends Meeting House on 24 January which starts at 12.30 pm. Tea/coffee will be provided after each of the Services and you are encouraged to stay, bringing your own sandwiches if you wish. These Services, too, provide an excellent opportunity to have a chat with other Bedford Christians.

100 years of Prayer for Christian Unity 1908-2008 Celebration Sunday 20 January 4 - 7.30pm at St Albans Abbey. Wendy Waters (01234 401834) is going by car, if anyone would like to go please phone her. Including London Community Gospel Choir, St Albans Cathedral Choir, Salvation Army Band, Pam Rhodes, Fr Timothy Radcliffe.

Lent 2008



Ash Wednesday Our church Lenten observance will start with an Ash Wednesday Circuit Service on February 6 at St Mark's Church, the preacher will be Richard Ledger.

This year our Lent Course will take place at Putnoe Heights Church on Wednesday evenings. Starting on Wednesday 20 February when Charlie will speak on the prophet Amos. The following three Wednesdays will include talks from Sam, Joan and Bishop Christopher.

Deanery/Circuit Care Homes Project. Launch meeting at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Avenue, Bedford. On Friday 31st January at 7.30pm. This project is very exciting and support is spreading to many denominations in Bedfordshire. All are welcome to attend, the more the merrier.

Maulana Kazmi is bringing congregations of Shi'a Muslims into churches to hear about the suffering of Jesus. Scheduled for Luton, Bedford, Watford and St Albans, these evenings of inter faith sharing begin with a Christian leader speaking about the suffering of Jesus followed by a talk from Maulana Kazmi. The events are free and open to the public. 9 pm Tuesday, 22 January at All Saints Church, Westbourne Road, Queen's Park, Bedford with Canon Christopher Dent speaking.

STORYBOX really need volunteers to help with catering and assistance with setting up and clearing away. If we can get enough people it would only mean once every 4-6 weeks on a Thursday from 12-1.15pm. If you can help please contact Emma Strangwick (211070 or talk to Linda Parry.

Another Charity Performance for Cancer Research UK Bedford Dramatic Club is performing "Habeas Corpus" a satirical farce by Alan Bennett in January and has kindly donated 50 tickets for the performance on Tuesday, 22 January for our fundraising. They are £6 each (£5 for concessions). This will be an enjoyable evening to look forward to after the rush of Christmas and the new year. Tickets are available from Sue and Richard Butler (Tel: 354183) or Howard Lawrence (Tel: 267837).

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Hymn "Renewed by Grace"

Renewed by grace we come to pray,
to seek again our way and call;
we trace the gospel narrative,
and know that God is all in all.

The covenant that hist'ry claimed
was sealed against all human hope;
remains and we will praise again
and trust the scandal of love's scope.

Amazed by grace, confirmed by love,
assured of hope that faith can give,
we are no longer ours but God's
and through the grace of Christ we live.

Within the love of God we stand,
for grace dispels all fault and fear.
The spirit gives us confidence,
we stand secure for Christ is here.

We trust that God will guard our way,
through joy or labour, doubt or pain
as on this day we make this vow,
to consecrate ourselves again. Amen.
Tune Gonfalon Royal

Pray without Ceasing

- Quotes from Philip Yancey's book 'Prayer'

Prayer is the act of seeing reality from God's point of view
Prayer is a declaration of dependence upon God
Humility does not mean I grovel before God...it means,
rather, that in the presence of God I gain a glimpse of my
true state in the universe

Prayer allow a place for me to bring my doubts and
complaints...and subject them to the blinding light of reality.

churches
together

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

Elizabeth (Betty) Lord

Joan Grint

Sylvia Yockney

Joy Case

Fred Jacks

*May the souls of all the faithful
departed through the mercy of God,*

Rest in Peace



The funeral of Erika Bithell will take place on Tuesday 29th January at 11.30am at Bedford Crematorium. (Crossley)

The funeral of Mrs Mabel Adelaide Wall will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 12.15pm on Wednesday 23 January (Royden)

The funeral of Mrs Alice Hettie Chappel will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Friday 25 January (Royden)