



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

20 July 2008

Ordinary 16



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights
2nd and 4th Sunday at St. Mark's Church

9.30am St. Mark's -Holy Communion

Preacher -Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team -Mrs Morag Stewart
Intercessions –Mr Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mrs. Linda Hoar
Intercessions - Ministers
Joan is away on holiday this week

27 July - Ordinary 17

9.30am St. Mark's– Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership Team –Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions – Mrs Pat Leusby

11.00am Putnoe Heights– Morning Worship

Preacher - Mr Chris Izzard
Leadership Team – Mrs Jenny Emsley
Intercessions – Mr Eddy Peck

Bible Readings

1. Genesis 29: 15-28
2. Romans 8: 26-39
3. Matthew 13: 31-33,44-52

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights this week have been given by Pam Crouch in loving memory of her husband on his birthday.

Anyone who wishes to donate flowers at Putnoe on a particular Sunday in the next few months is invited to enter their name(s) on the rota on the notice board in the welcome area at Putnoe Heights Church. For St Mark's Church flowers please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254

Prayer for Sunday

**God of change and constant love,
we thank you that you lead us
in new and unexpected ways,
with a strong arm and a guiding hand.
Give your people unity in diversity
and courage to change.**

Wycherley Gumbs

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 Mrs. Wendy Nash 357119

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 - Mr Mike Cooper 306751

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 ☎07720713738.

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

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

7.30pm Cancer Care Society. Meets monthly at St Mark's. Contact Mr J Dewhurst ☎01908 377020

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 July Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm House group 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 2nd September - AGM. 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 July 29th Afternoon Tea at Christine's at 2.30pm 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 18 June 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 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 30 July 2008 Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016 7.45 for 8pm God talk—women's group monthly meeting for worship and friendly chat at Wendy Nash's Contact Majella Atkinson ☎325293

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. 26 June will be at 14 Flint Way. 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. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

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

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 Jean Birks ☎219607

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 -7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm Improvers St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

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

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 13 July at 6pm. A trip to Wild Britain CANCELLED Please see Liz ☎302349.

Diary Dates



St Mark's Church Council –, 18 November

St Mark's Leadership Team – 8 September, 24 November

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team – 1 September
Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - .9 September, 12 November all at 12 noon

Putnoe Church Council - 6 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting - Monday 30th September at 4.30pm

Churchyard Committee - November 12 at 11am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings - 4th September, 2nd October 2008

Deanery Meeting - 18 September, 13 November

Circuit/Deanery Meeting

Woodland Burial Trustees -

Mission Group Meeting

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth

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

Ordinary 16

Opening Verse of Scripture - Psalm 86:11

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; knit my heart to you, that I may fear your name.

Collect Prayer for the Day

Lord God your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Bible Reading - Genesis 28: 10-18a

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel,

. (This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans 8: 12-26

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

There. (This is the Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)



Third Reading - Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' "An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn. "Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

(This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Holy Communion and Hymns and Psalms*)

1. Spirit of faith come down 325 Tune Diademata
2. Be still for the presence of the Lord (On Partnership News)
3. Jesus where're thy people meet 549 Tune: Wareham
4. the kingdom of God is God is justice and joy 139 Tune Hanover

Commentary

Waiting for the harvest is not an easy thing. Few of us spend very much time just sitting and waiting in the garden, for most of the time we are busy pruning, cutting and of course weeding. We just can't bear to look at those weeds! So it has been in the church, we have spent a great deal of time over the years doing weeding. Crusades, inquisitions there have been many times throughout Christian history. We have heard the words of Jesus about not judging and letting weeds grow alongside the good seed, but it is just too hard for us. There is a fear that our tolerance might be regarded as moral indifference, and the good seed will become overwhelmed. In every generation something always had to be done to clean up the field. We find it impossible to believe that God doesn't understand that too many weeds might choke the harvest?

Well of course nothing can stop the harvest at all. God is in control. Moreover the life of Jesus teaches us to be careful about making too many assumptions about who is a weed and who is good wheat. Jesus reserved his strongest criticism for the Pharisees who were considered really holy, and who spent all of their time weeding everybody else. Instead Jesus treated with compassion the very weeds who were openly condemned. Jesus loved weeds and spent time with them, the thieves, prostitutes and the ones thought to be sinners.

Nothing can stop God's work in the world. His kingdom is growing. Even when it's difficult to discern signs of the kingdom, the seeds of salvation are alive and well, growing in our midst.

It's often hard to tell who is wheat and who is weed. Indeed if we are honest, inside each one of us there is a capacity to be wheat and sometimes weed. Sometimes we are confused as to which one we are. Fortunately time is being given us, to let the good seed planted in us bear its fruit. We can trust that God who reaps the harvest knows what to do, and we can have trust in the outcome. This is a parable of confidence. God is in charge and will help us work things out. We don't give up the struggle to do what is right, even when we feel dismayed at how much still needs to be done. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

From an occasional series of writings from the 2008 Lambeth Conference, penned by the Rt Revd Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans— These can be found on the Diocesan Website—They will make interesting reading!

The question is “Who was John Goat?” No, I haven’t mis-spelled his surname; that is what he carved into one of the pillars of Canterbury Cathedral. If you want to see it for yourself you will need to look at the westernmost pillar of the nave and on the south aisle side you will spot it.

Next to John Goat’s personal bit of graffiti there are other marks on the stone. Some of them are just the wear and tear of ages, others are more purposeful: a circle almost perfectly incised (there’s a small part missing) A bored schoolboy with a pair of dividers may have made the circle but had to stop part of the way through when the schoolmaster saw what he was doing. Or perhaps it was made by a medieval stone-mason trying out his latest, simple toy. It is clear that John Goat spent a good deal of time carving his signature, each letter is carefully formed.

No doubt, if I looked further and with greater attention more graffiti would be revealed. These early predecessors of Banksy are fascinating. If you want to know more about graffiti in churches in our own diocese treat yourself to the booklet written by Michael Rose about the graffiti in St Albans Abbey (look out especially for the Hare.) Or you might like to visit Ashwell where you will find words of anguish carved into the very stones of the church, words which describe in vivid detail the after-effects of the Black Death on the village in the mid-Fourteenth century.

And who was John Goat? The question is probably unanswerable, except someone out there will contact me in the next few days and give me a blow-by-blow account of him. I guarantee it. What is obvious is that he took time to leave his mark. It’s a statement, a signature of who he was.

On the Lambeth Conference Retreat to-day we have been thinking about the language of God. In his address to us the Archbishop of Canterbury used a haunting phrase about the need we each have to listen to “the hidden music of God”, the sound, the signature that God embeds in His creation and in our hearts. Laurens Van Der Post, some years ago, in one of his books about the Bushmen of the Kalahari, talked of something very similar. He referred to the way in which the Bushmen “listened to the tapping”.

It is part of our task, said the Archbishop, to “learn the language of God.” Learning any language, as he pointed out, needs patience, discipline, hard work and obedience to the structures of the language being learnt. Well. In a church that is endlessly talkative, which gushes out torrents of words, the message about learning the language of God needs to be taken to heart. God’s language is found in silence, a whole eternity of it. His language is found in Mary’s “Yes”; his language is found in the person of Jesus Christ and in all those places where truth and love are sought in humility. It’s not a language that can ever be mastered, it’s an entrancing discourse which catches us up into a conversation and continues to challenge and surprise us. I’m sorry to get a bit heavy but I can’t help quoting Heidegger (as one does...) He once said, “The limits of one’s language are the limits of one’s world.” God’s language is, if I can so put it, completely without limit and therefore as we try to learn God’s language, our human limits are stretched to breaking point. We come to a stage where we can do nothing except wait in stillness.

The Conference is a kind of background noise within which each one of us present is trying, yet again, to hear the still, small voice of God and to hear that same voice in others.

John Goat left his mark on the stonework of a pillar. We are trying, even if uncertainly, to let God put His signature on our lives. It won’t make headlines in any newspapers, it won’t grab the attention of the editors but quietly, very quietly, a bunch of noisy bishops are learning once again to enter the silence of God. And if we can get close to that, who knows what might follow. *Bishop Christopher*

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Lord Jesus, I give you my hands to do your work.
I give you my feet to go your way.
I give you my eyes to see as you do.
I give you my tongue to speak your words.
I give you my mind that you may think in me.
I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.
Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me your Father and all your creation.
I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that it is you,
Lord Jesus, who live and work and pray in me.’

Here, Lord, is my life. I place it on the altar today. Use it as you will. *Albert Schweitzer*

Pardon, O gracious Jesus, what we have been; with your holy discipline correct what we are. Order by your providence what we shall be; and in the end, crown your own gifts. Amen. *John Wesley*

Junior Church & YPF at Putnoe will not take place during August, but we hope to see you all at our summer workshops. Have a great summer. Liz and Sam.

Partnership Council. This week

There will be a meeting of the Partnership Council on Monday 21 July at 7.45pm in the chapel at St Mark's Church. This for the sole purpose of meeting with Circuit representatives to discuss the profile for the new Methodist Minister for the Partnership. The appointment is proposed to involve an appointment in the Partnership which is not full time but includes additional circuit wide duties. If you have any thoughts about the profile for the new minister, please speak with any member of the Leadership Team.

The Valedictory Service for Rev. Dr. Joan Crossley will be held at Putnoe Heights Church on 24th August at 6.30pm. All Welcome.

Future Dates for your diary.

'The partnership Summer Musical Workshops !!! - a mixture of story, music, dance, drama, crafts & fun. Tuesday 19 August 2– 4 pm 'Its Raining Cats and Dogs' aimed at the under 5's with carers. Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 August 10am—3pm 'The 7

Days of Creation' 5 years plus, all abilities . Full details to from Liz.'

Coffee Morning Sat. 2nd August 10am –12noon at the home of Bob and Pam Burn, 1 Slater Close, Kempston. Cakes, raffle, proceeds to Mission Funds. All welcome. Requests for/offers of transport to Sylvia Cohen 343424.

Storybox Tomorrow 21st July, Storybox at Putnoe meets as usual at 12.00 then we have a Storybox Plus Special between 1.15 -2.45pm for the over 5's, story, games and crafts. Join us if you can.

Has anyone got any old sheets or cotton material, white, coloured or patterned that we can have, for our summer workshop in August, to cut up and use as props. Thank you Liz.

"Living Fire" the Methodist prayer manual 2008/9 is due for publication. Please contact Vera Pearson Tel 270737 if you wish to order. Price £2. 75



Telecare

I was recently visited by two women deacons from Sweden, Kristina and Päivi. They are returning with a group of 11 others to visit our churches on Wednesday September the 3rd. They want to share some of the work which we are doing, specifically about church and community. It would be lovely for some of the folk engaged in our work were able to come and meet with them.

As we talked about our churches I was astonished when I told them about Telecare, because they also have the same scheme—called Telecare! We both felt very positive about what it did for caring. As we work with only one full time minister in the coming year, please consider enrolling in Telecare, especially if you are **elderly or live alone**. This pastoral support network assists us in finding out when people have not be able to come to church for a while. It is important that we keep in touch and it is so much appreciated by the ministers when members of the congregation help us in this way. A quick telephone call will be made every couple of weeks by a small group of our pastoral support team. They make the calls from St Mark's Church office. As well as making a friendly call from the church, there have been times when they have alerted the ministers to important situations of pastoral need. It might be something they have discovered when talking to somebody, such as a forthcoming visit to hospital. It might just as easily be something which we had forgotten or not noticed, such as a person who has not been able to come to church for a few weeks. Please help us keep in touch—join Telecare. Just ring St Mark's office and give your name, or tell one of the ministers.

Also, please do call Charlie if you or anybody you know goes into hospital, or is ill at home, such people will always be visited.

A Hymn for Sunday

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now,
with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found -
we stand on holy ground.
Be still for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight -
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace -
no work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:

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.

Colin Victor Skingsley

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



The Hungry Birds Parable

Taken from Wisdom of the Sadhu, teachings of Sundar Singh which can be downloaded on thisischurch.com

Once as I wandered in the mountains, I came upon an outcropping of rocks, and as I sat on the highest rock to rest and look out over the valley, I saw a nest in the branches of a tree. The young birds in the nest were crying noisily. Then I saw how the mother bird returned with food for her young ones. When they heard the sound of her wings and felt her presence nearby, they cried all the more loudly and opened their beaks wide. But after the mother bird fed them and flew away again, they were quiet. Climbing down to look more closely, I saw that the newly hatched birds had not yet opened their eyes. Without even being able to see their mother, they opened their beaks and begged for nourishment whenever she approached. These tiny birds did not say: "We will not open our beaks until we can see our mother clearly and also see what kind of food she offers. Perhaps it is not our mother at all but instead some dangerous enemy. And who knows if it is proper nourishment or some kind of poison that is being fed to us?" If they had reasoned thus, they would never have discovered the truth. Before they were even strong enough to open their eyes, they would have starved to death. But they held no such doubts about the presence and love of their mother, and so after a few days, they opened their eyes and rejoiced to see her with them. Day by day they grew stronger and developed into the form and likeness of the mother, and soon they were able to soar up into the freedom of the skies.

We humans often think of ourselves as the greatest living beings, but do we not have something to learn from these common birds? We often question the reality and the loving nature of God. But the Master has said: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Whenever we open our hearts to God, we receive spiritual nourishment and grow more and more into the likeness of God until we reach spiritual maturity. And once we open our spiritual eyes and see God's presence, we find indescribable and unending bliss.

**Seek not to understand
so that thou mayest believe,
but believe so that thou mayest understand.**
Augustine of Hippo