



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

22 April 2007
Third of Easter



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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 Chapel.

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mike Cooper
Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe - Morning Worship with Baptism.

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Mr Alan Bayliss

Fourth of Easter - April 29

9.30am St Mark's - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher – Revd Martin Hounsfeld
Leadership Team - Linda Parry
Intercessions - Chris Izzard

11.00am - Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion with PCH

Preacher - Revd Martin Hounsfeld
Leadership Team - Alan Bayliss
Intercessions - Eddy Peck

Reading 1: Acts 9::36-43

Reading 2: Rev 7:9-17

Reading 3: John 10: 22-30

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church have been given by Alan and Diane Bayliss on the occasion of their 45th wedding anniversary.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

Prayer for Sunday

Grant us, O Lord,
to seek first your Kingdom
and your righteousness.
Out of the abundance of your grace,
grant us sufficient light
and strength for our journey.
Forgive what we have been,
sanctify what we are
and order what we shall be,
in you and for you,
now and for ever. Amen

Mary Tileston, 1820 -1895

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 Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Youth & children's worker - Mrs Liz 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 Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim 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

12.00-1.00pm Story box Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

2.30-4.30pm Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights
Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

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. Miriam Adcock ☎01908 565044

4.15-6.00pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights.
Ms Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎364710

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. Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

7.30pm Creative Needles. Putnoe Heights.
Jacky Hayward ☎307648.

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's each month next 16 April
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). Putnoe Heights.
Judi Staughton ☎341821

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

10.00am Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman
☎822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights.
Andrea ☎210177 or Majella ☎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 only)
Mrs Burman ☎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 24 April A Slide Show by Miss A.Doody Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

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

Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's Meets fortnightly. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45-5.30pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights.
Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 0582468.

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights.
Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group at St Mark's, (1st Tuesday) Contact Kate Parsons 351150

7-8pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎214107.

7-9pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights.
Karen King ☎07941 264885

7- 10pm Card Makers Club meets fortnightly at St Mark's.
Carol Houghton ☎346718

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

7.30-10.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Mks

7.45pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 24 April A Talk on Aloe Vera ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.00am Paint Tots at St Mark's Jacqui Harrahan ☎824475

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

9.30am - Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights.
Stephanie Smith ☎357787.

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 2 May 2007 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.30-4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

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

4.15-6pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights
Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

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

6.15-7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights
Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

6.30-7.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

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

7.00pm Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

7.00pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly. Putnoe Heights.
Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.45pm Badminton Club. Putnoe Heights
All welcome. Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00-10.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. More details Graham 406359 or Danny 401668.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's (1st week) 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.

9.30am-12.30 Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

9.45am-11.30am Chat and Play St.Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.50 for first child + 50p for each extra child over 2 years. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

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

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

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Andrea ☎210177 or Magella ☎325293.

2.30pm Bedford Arts Soc St Mark's Malcolm Smith ☎400741

2- 4.30pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30-7.30pm 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 & Mrs Pike ☎823795

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights
Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

7-9pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's (2nd & 4th week) Contact Doug Ovenden ☎825059

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

7.30-9.30pm Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's
3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs E Rigby ☎344442

7.30-9.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible Studies every 2 Thursday- Pastor Tarr ☎360188

7.45pm Housegroup meets fortnightly
Betty Wyatt ☎350188

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

8.00-10.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's (2nd & 4th weeks) Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's (1st and 3rd weeks)
Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30am & 12.30pm U3A Photography Group (4th week)
Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

1.30-2pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights
Contact Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30-9.00pm Line Dancing. St Mark's
A night of fun Christine Rushton ☎782360

7-10pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7.30pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.

Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey ☎349179

Saturday

9.00- 12.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe
Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

10.00am - 1.00pm Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing. Kate Randle ☎01234 782414

7.15-10.30pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's
Ann or Peter ☎212066

Sunday

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

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

1 - 3pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights
Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

6-7.30pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Liz ☎302349.

6 -7.30pm T.X.T Putnoe. for 13 + fortnightly, join us for fellowship, debate & discussion. Liz ☎302349

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 12 June
Circuit Meeting -

St Mark's Leadership Team – 9 May 07 at the Vicarage, 26 June Linda's

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –30 April at Alan Cooper's

St Mark's Church Management Meeting - 24 April, 20 June.

Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 14 May, 16 July

Putnoe Church Council - 11 June

Pastoral Group Meeting – 8 May 07

Churchyard Committee - 6 June 07

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting
Wednesday 13 June, 14 Flint Way.

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council

Meetings on 18 April, 7 June, 5 July

Deanery Meeting -

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth– 23 April at 1.00pm

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



Telecare

It is extremely helpful to the Ministers to be able to have feed back, especially if somebody is poorly or in hospital. If you have not yet put your name down, please do so.

Easter 3

Opening Verse Psalm 30 : 11, 12

You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever?

Collect Prayer for the Day

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

First Bible Reading - Acts 9: 1 - 6

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? Who are you, Lord? Saul asked. I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting, he replied. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.

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

Second Bible Reading— Rev5: 11 - 14

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise! Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever! The four living creatures said, Amen, and the elders fell down and worshipped.

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

Gospel reading - John 21: 1 - 19

Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. I'm going out to fish, Simon Peter told them, and they said, We'll go with you. So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. He called out to them, Friends, haven't you any fish? No, they answered. He said, Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some. When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, It is the Lord! As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, It is the Lord, he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, Bring some of the fish you have just caught. Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, Come and



*The conversion of Saul
Michelangelo*

have breakfast. None of the disciples dared ask him, Who are you? They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these? Yes, Lord, he said, you know that I love you. Jesus said, Feed my lambs. Again Jesus said, Simon son of John, do you truly love me? He answered, Yes, Lord, you know that I love you. Jesus said, Take care of my sheep. The third time he said to him, Simon son of John, do you love me? Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, Do you love me? He said, Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you. Jesus said, Feed my sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go. Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, Follow me!

(This is the Gospel of Christ -- **Praise to Christ our Lord.**)

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Morning Worship)

1. Come let us join our joyful song, **810**
2. Alleluia, alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord, **250**
3. The head that once was crowned with thorns, **209**
4. I heard the voice of Jesus say, **136**
5. Love divine, **267**

Commentary - Conversion or calling?

The brief passage from Acts which is often titled, 'Paul's conversion' is a description of an amazing encounter between Paul and a heavenly being. But if we are not careful we can reduce this meeting to a mere conversion experience, often because this is exactly as it is described, or some tactical recruitment by God to ease the situation for the early Christians and their church. Paul's encounter with God is much more than this. It is a conversion experience, and one which had profound implications for Paul and the early church, but it also a description of God's calling of Paul. When God calls to each one of us He does so not because He want to convert us, although He does want us to have His perspective on life rather than our own, He calls us because He loves us as individuals and wants us to be in a relationship with the triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus speaks to Peter, the conversation is clearly taking place at many different levels, Peter's reinstatement as a disciple, the atonement for his threefold denial, the role that Jesus wants Peter to have in the embryonic church, the need to give up all that distracts from having a divine relationship with Him, and probably many other dimensions which we'll never fully understand. But the primary reason for Jesus speaking with Peter is the love that Jesus has for Him and the desire Jesus has for Peter to be fully in relationship with Himself and the Father.

Augustine of Hippo wrote in the early years of the church that, 'Christ had been raised to life in the flesh, and Peter to life in the spirit; for when Christ died as a result of the torments he endured, Peter was also dead as a result of denying his master'. Despite all Peter's failing, Jesus simply calls Peter to follow Him. He then gives Peter - the disciple who had dramatically failed - the responsibility to care for and nurture the church. God has risked the future and security of the church by placing it in the hands of people, people like Peter, and people like us. The charge to Peter is a charge to all of us; to care for the ones that God places in our sphere of influence. Regardless of where God may lead some other disciples, each of us is called to be faithful in the responsibilities which Christ has given us.

The three readings together give us an insight into how our spiritual lives evolve to fit together with Gods. The reading from Acts taken together with the reading from the gospel shows that a complete relationship with Christ involves many stages and phases, from being called, through repentance and conversion, on to the responsibilities of discipleship and vocation. Revelation

would also seem to indicate that our relationship with God involves deep and profound worship. If Lent is an opportunity to reflect on our spiritual journey, then Easter is surely an opportunity to live out the reality of our glorious Christian calling, a relationship of love, service and worship, all inextricably bound together into an eternal future through the resurrection we celebrate at Easter.

Meditation - Words and deeds

Much has been written about the exchange that takes place between Jesus and Peter following the resurrection appearance of Jesus and the meal by the lake in our Gospel reading. Some of this focuses on the different words that are used by Jesus and Peter in the exchange. In the first two exchanges where Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him 'more than these', Jesus uses the Greek word *agape* as the word for love, a word which describes, embodies and personifies Jesus' total self giving love for the world. Peter on the other hand replies using the word *philio* for love, a word more usually associated with friendship and affection than total self giving sacrificial love. In the third exchange Jesus uses the same word for love as Peter and the dialogue comes to a close. There are also questions about what is meant by 'more than these'. Is Jesus referring to the fishing nets and boats that are part of Peter's livelihood and security or is He looking at the other disciples gathered around the shore while He's speaking? Sometimes we too can spend more time debating and discussing the words of the bible rather than trying to put into practice the principles they describe.

Post Communion Prayer

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Be light to my eyes, O Lord, and music to my ears. Be to me sweetness of taste and contentment of heart. Be sunshine to me in the day, food at my table and repose in the night. I give to you, O Lord, my body and my soul, all that I have and all that I am; my fame, my friends, my liberty and my life. Dispose of me according to your gracious will and the glory of your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *John Cosin, 1594-1672*

Risen Lord Jesus, who came to Your friends when all their hope was gone: come to us in the dark times. Come to those who despair, that they may feel your Easter presence in their hearts. **Amen**

Pray for me and I shall pray for you and all your friends that we may merrily meet in heaven. **Amen**
(Thomas Moore)

Lord Jesus be our companion on the road which we travel. Use us to bless the lives of others and to be a part of your revolutionary movement to transform the world. May we too be your disciples, ready to follow and willing to lead others to a relationship with you. **Amen**

The God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and tettle you in the faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Wonderful God - stretch our understanding of your love - expand the size of our hearts - help us embrace your purpose for us - grant that we may grow beyond ourselves - and enter the fullness of your grace. We ask it in Jesus' name. - Amen

Lord, remind us that we must "be" the church if we are to "be the church" in mission. Help us to continue to grow in the likeness of Christ by the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. Only by continued growth in him can we be released for mission to the lost, the poor, the broken. We would be instruments, O God, of extending the ministry of Jesus and his kingdom for your good pleasure. To serve you all our days is our hearts' fervent desire. Amen.

Churches Together Annual Forum 2007. To be held at St Nichols Church Hall, Barton. We would like our churches to be represented, can you go. Please speak to Charlie soon.!

Thank You Storybox. The Storybox Easter special on Good Friday was a great success. Thank you to everybody that helped in anyway to make it such an enjoyable Easter occasion.

Concert by Bedford Town Concert Band (directed by Kevin Nicholls) on Sunday 22 April at 3pm at Putnoe Heights.

Chat and Play a mums & toddlers group has got off to great start. It operates from 9.45 -11.30am on Thursday at St. Mark's Church. £1.50 for first child + 50p for any others over 2. More details from St. Mark's 342613 or Emma Strangwick 211070.

Faith in Action [extract from March 2007 newsletter]. Total number of cholera cases in six areas of Malawi 3000. On January 29th we sent £1269 for cholera treatment and £3000 for maize flour. Six government health workers are administering the drugs that we provided and caring for these patients. 108 x 10kg bags of flour distributed to 108 families. The rain has now returned to normal, flood water has gone down, and people have returned home. Crops grown away from the rivers should still be OK. A copy of the newsletter is available in the Welcome Area at Putnoe. Sylvia Cohen 343424.

TNT meet next on Sunday 22nd April at Putnoe 6.00 for Badminton. Please bring a racket if you can. Liz.

Footprints next Ramble is 6 May at 2.30pm. Please meet in the public car park on V10 - 100yards from Bow Brickhill Railway station. Sturdy footwear is recommended as the ground is uneven in places. There are 1 or 2 steepish climbs but there will be plenty of recovery time. If the weather is doubtful on the day, please ring before setting out. More details from Sue & Richard Butler 354183.

As from now the children of 8 years and over will be known as Young People's Fellowship (or YPF for short). Sam Ware.

Chairs for sale. Since the arrival of the extra 20 chairs in the chapel at St Mark's, we now have too many chairs in the church. We have sorted through them and there are about 25 chairs which the Leadership Team have agreed to sell. They are not in great condition, but would respond well to recovering. We are initially asking £5 per chair. Please do help yourself.

Election Time Churches urge their members to vote wisely in 2007 local elections

As Local Authority elections draw near and candidates begin to canvas for support, The Baptist Union of Great Britain, The Methodist Church and The United Reformed Church have joined together to encourage people to get involved, ask their candidates the hard questions, and to vote for candidates who will contribute to the common good.

On Thursday 3 May 2007, there will be local government elections in England, local government and Scottish Parliamentary elections in Scotland, and National Assembly elections in Wales.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain, The Methodist Church and The United Reformed Church have produced a briefing for the English local council elections, which can be found at www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/jpit_englishlocalelections_0307.pdf.

The three denominations suggest some questions that could be used to quiz candidates on a range of important issues such as housing, council tax, community relations, alcohol and gambling. Anthea Cox, Methodist Coordinating Secretary for Public Life & Social Justice, says; "We would encourage everyone to take an interest in this year's elections. We hope that people will ask the questions that are important to them, think carefully about where to place their vote and hold councillors accountable for their policies and promises."

The denominations' engagement with government on social and political issues has always sprung from a concern for the disadvantaged in society and they have particularly raised concerns about parties that advocate hatred and fear of racial, religious or other minorities. Stuart Dew, URC secretary for Church and Society, says; "The right to vote is both a privilege and a responsibility. We may take different views about which political approach best reflects our Christian calling, but it is important that we do express our views by voting."

Graham Sparkes, Head of Faith and Unity for the Baptist Union of Great Britain, says; "Decisions made at local level can directly affect the communities in which we live, so how we choose to vote matters! It will help determine the priority we give to caring for the vulnerable, the way our children are educated, and how we use our public spaces. Such issues can have a tremendous impact on the quality of peoples lives."

The denominations have made it clear that the racist and intolerant policies expressed by some parties are incompatible with their understanding of God's love for all people. They have encouraged people to exercise their right to vote, and urged them to reject parties which aim to stir up racial or religious hatred.

Kempston Musical Society perform Rutter's Requiem, and Vivaldi Gloria, at Kempston East Methodist Church on Saturday 28 April at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 available at the door or from members of the society. Further details 01234 854858

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust. The next meeting of the Trustees will take place on 7 May at 12.30pm

Car Boot Sale on Monday 8 May. Any donations for the Church stall and tray bakes for refreshments will be very welcome.

Pastoral Group. Please note that the next meeting of the pastoral committee will take place on Tuesday 8 May at 4.30pm at St Mark's Chapel. If you have any helpful comments on pastoral care in the partnership, please speak with Mary Stubbs.

St Mark's Church Leadership Team. Please note that the next meeting of the St Mark's Leadership team will take place at the Vicarage on 9 May.

Columbaria. It has arrived ! Do take time to view the new columbaria which has been installed in the Garden of Remembrance at St Mark's this week. It is quite outstanding as a feature. This will provide the unique opportunity to purchase a vault in a granite wall for the interment of ashes. Since it is in consecrated ground, unlike other such facilities, this will be granted in perpetuity. (In council cemeteries places for ashes are rented, usually for about 40 years after which they are removed.) If you would like more information then please speak with Mary Stubbs.

Woodland Burial. This will take place on 7 June at approximately 2.00pm. Prior to the consecration of the woodland the Bishop of Bedford will also consecrate the extension to the Garden of Remembrance at St Mark's.

Brickhill Police Partnership Extended. We were delighted this week that the Brickhill Parish Council unanimously agreed to extend the funding of a police post at St Mark's for up to a further four years. The Parish Council contributes £200 per month towards the cost of the police post which includes all utility costs and use of the premises for surgeries etc. The Parish Council also unanimously agreed to fund a Borough Council Street Ranger for Brickhill. The ranger will work especially with young people to attract resources and address the issues of increasing concern about youth behaviour.

Bark, This is an excellent time to think about putting bark on your borders. The introduction of bark helps by retaining water, preventing weeds and breaking down poor soil. The Gardens at St Mark's have been using this for the past 10 years to good effect. St Mark's has just received a new delivery and we are able to supply the bark at a ridiculously cheap rate of 50p per bag—please supply the bag and yourself. Bags can be any size, provided that they can be lifted without mechanical effort.

Nomination for Church Councils

Are you interested in becoming a member of Putnoe Heights or St Mark's Church Council, or do you know somebody who would be interested? If so here is a good opportunity to serve your church for the benefit of its members and the local community. If you are interested you will need a proposer and seconder. If you wish to propose somebody else you will need their consent and a proposer and seconder. Please complete a nomination form (obtainable from the church office) and then hand it to the church office by the latest for Sunday 29 April.

The annual congregational meetings will this year be held on 6 May 2007 after the Sunday morning service. We hope that people will feel that it is more convenient to simply remain behind after the service.

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.

**Donald Shore
Shona Denham**

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



Rest in Peace



The funeral of Mr Bernard Careless will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 1 May at 11.30am