

Partnership News

23 May 2004

Sunday after Ascension Day

Methodist
Church

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

Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shepherd

Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Appleton

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher – The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions - Mr Peter Bailey

Sunday 30 May

8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St. Mark's Church—Holy Communion with Prayer for Christian Healing.

Preacher—The Rev. Neil Bramble Chapman

Leadership Team—Mrs. Janet Day

Intercessions –Mrs. Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights—Morning Worship with Prayer for Christian Healing

Preacher—Rev. Neil Bramble Chapman.

Leadership Team Mrs. Betty Wyatt.

Intercessions—Ministers.

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by Damian and Donna Craddock on the occasion of their wedding.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mr & Mrs Laird to celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 13 June.

Prayer for Sunday

Help us, O Lord, to live one day at a time.
Let your grace be sufficient for today.
Let me not be anxious about tomorrow.
Let me rest in the arms of your love
in time and in eternity,
blest by your goodness,
now and for ever. Amen

Corrie Ten Boom, 1892-1983

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.

Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

Time for God Volunteer Kasia Piecyk

St Mark's Flat - 315455

Partnership 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 - 1.00pm Monday & Friday

9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mr Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy @thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Hymns are printed under CCL Lic No. 1501

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30 - 12.00 pm Pre-school (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).
10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties.
12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!
4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555
6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs. Jill Williams 357020
7.15 m Guides -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month. Next 31 May Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

Tuesday

9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
9.30am - 11.30pm Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866
10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230
1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828
12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting - 25 May. Mr. Lavery 'Cambodia' Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 15 June Mr. H. Charie 'First Round the World' Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.
2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709
2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's Church. Mary Stubbs 406784.
3.30 - 4.30pm Putnoe Heights Church Essential Stretch Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129
6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607

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

7.30 - 9.30pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Pastor Tarr 348438 or 07773354129

7.45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly . Next meeting 25 May India. Edna Rowley. Contact Mrs C Davies 219130

8.00pm Tuesday Housegroup Next Meeting 8June at 16 Swindale. Contact Alison 403551 or Brian 305347.

8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

Wednesday

10.00 am Childminding Support Group at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949

10.00 am Day Care Centre Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties.

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

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

12 - 1pm Putnoe Height Church Total Body Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

Luncheon Club at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 28 May Contact St. Mark's 342613

1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133

4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555

6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr James 07711 687449

6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731

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

7-10pm Putnoe Guild - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609

7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing Junior classes St. Mark's. Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890

7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights in the side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*

10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** Contact 267444

10.00am - 11.30am Yoga at Putnoe Heights Contact 244970

12 - 1.00 pm Storybox at St Mark's Church. Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities,

songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.
Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

12.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

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

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Mrs S Lewis 300198

7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000 Putnoe 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

6.15 - 7.30pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club at St Mark's Contact Mr Hatton 824988

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's- 3rd Thursday month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

7.45pm. Housegroup-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Church

6 -7.00 pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

7. 30 - 9.30pm Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 376841

7.30pm Music Group St. Mark's Church/monthly

6.30pm -8.30 pm Dog Training Classes at St. Mark's Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

Saturday

10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St Mark's -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 304865

7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge at St Mark's Contact Ann or Peter 212066

Peace Project Saturday School at Putnoe Heights. For details contact Mrs.E.Tarr 309881

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Pastor Tarr 348438
Mob. 07773354129

News, Views and Information

Forthcoming meetings. Please check!

Partnership Council 8 June
Putnoe Centre Management

7 Jun, 26 Jul,

St Mark's Church Council
Wednesday 16 June in the Chapel

Churchyards Committee
Next meeting 7 June at 10.00am

St Mark's Leadership Team
Wednesday 26 May Wednesday 8 September

Putnoe Church Council Monday 14 June

Pastoral Group Wednesday 15 September at 2.30pm

Fun Run & Sponsored Walk 5KM & 3KM. on Sunday 13 June .in Mowsbury Park, 2.30pm start. Prize giving at St Mark's at 4pm. BBQ, Bouncey Castle, Balloon Race. Entry forms available from St.Mark's Church. Please note once you have completed your application form you will be given a pack of information - including the sponsorship form.If you don't feel like walking we need helpers to steward , with catering and generally back at base.

NSPCC Coffee morning and Bring & Buy
Friday 4 June at Putnoe Height Church 10am to 12 noon. Enquiries to Mary Bull Tel: 270329

Ramblers Details of the Ramblers week-end away in September are available....

Putnoe Ramblers Walk Sunday 23 May starting at 2.30pm Houghton Conquest and Haynes West End. A walk of about 4.5miles. Parking at Village Hall, Houghton Conquest. Details from Jenny & Barry.

Tel 344417

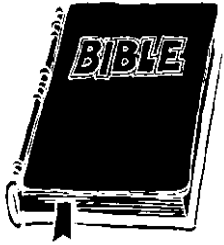
Important Change Of Date The next meeting of the Bedford Deanery and Bedford North Methodist Circuit will take place on Thursday 24 June at Putnoe Heights Church. The meeting will begin with a join Anglican/Methodist Eucharist at 7.30pm. This will be a con-celebrated communion with The Reverend Trevor Maines and the Reverend Jim Gorringe.

Dates for Diary—Mission Coffee Mornings.

21 August Pam & Bob Burn

16 October Irene & Eddie MacKenzie

20 November Margaret & Eddie Peck



Bible Notes Easter

(Ascension Sunday Year C, White)

Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. God has ascended amid shouts of joy. God reigns over the nations; he is seated on his

holy throne.

A Collect Prayer for Aldersgate Sunday

God of immeasurable grace
Your Spirit has from age to age,
confirmed your work of salvation in the hearts of those who love you.
Grant to your people a true spirit of worship,
That renewed in their calling
They might achieve the vision you have given to them.
May we become your people,
United and equipped to proclaim the good news of
Salvation for all,
By faith in our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit
One God, now and for ever
Amen.

First Bible Reading Acts Chapter 16:16-34

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God--he and his whole family. (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading Revelation Chapter 22:12 - 21

"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Reading John Chapter 17:20-26

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." (This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Morning Worship)

1. All people that on earth do dwell. (Tune: Old hundredth:long first note)
2. I am a new creation (254 Mission Praise)
3. Be thou my vision 378 (Tune: Slane)
4. O for a thousand tongues 744 (Tune: Lyngham)
5. Amazing Grace 215 (Tune: Amazing Grace)

Commentary

The passage from Acts today describes Paul and Silas being thrown into the jail at Philippi. Although they were falsely imprisoned after being beaten up, the two men kept up their spirits by singing praises to God. Even such a disastrous set-back did not crush their sense of God's purpose in sending them on their journey. Instead, imprisonment became an opportunity to proclaim their faith. And so it was that the first two converts in Europe were Lydia, who was not only a woman but a trader and their jailer, a minor public servant. Hardly the kind of converts who seemed to add prestige to the Church! But the story of Paul and Silas' adventure reminds us that Jesus too often was found spending time on the unimportant or the marginalized. Jesus placed a value on everyone equally, regardless of their wealth, status or gender. His Jewish contemporaries who favoured their own faith over that of foreigners; men over women; well over sick; rich over poor; found Jesus hard to understand. Jesus' radical message of human equality in the eyes of God is still challenging. Today, Aldersgate Sunday, we will be thanking God for the

ministry of John Wesley and his brother Charles. Their sense of God's calling took them into the newly industrialised cities of late eighteenth century England, where they reached out to the poor and exploited factory workers. The Wesleys were often treated with violence and hostility but they persevered and won thousands over to belief in Jesus. At His Ascension Jesus charged His disciples to spread the Gospel and to be the church until He should come again. Paul and Silas took up that challenge, the Wesleys took up the challenge in their time and we have the same duty to proclaim the Lord in our own age. The era is different but the message of love, forgiveness and joy remains the same.

Meditation

Many offices have a little note on the wall which reads "You don't have to be mad to work here, but it helps!". Perhaps we could adapt that to "you don't have to be mad to be an evangelist but.....". Our duty as Christians to proclaim Jesus and to offer the love that He showed can be dangerous. As we live in a country which seems ever more angry, rude and self-centred, love is often snarled at or thought weak. It can be, if not physically dangerous, but it can be tough to try and be a Christian! For example I stopped to see if a young woman who was collapsed over a shopping trolley in the middle of the road wanted help – she bit my head off for invading her privacy! We are called to offer love and kindness to strangers and we will often be rejected. If we try and tell what we believe, we will often be ignored. But we are called to offer and to keep on offering so that the work of Jesus can be accomplished. So "be of good cheer", as Wesley would have said, and do not be downcast when your kindnesses are rejected. The example of great Christians of the past is to keep on in the face of rejection, for the Lord's sake.

Prayers Including Prayers of John Wesley

Almighty and everlasting Father, you raised our Lord Jesus Christ to your right hand on high. As we rejoice in his exaltation, fill us with his Spirit, that we may go into all the world and faithfully proclaim the gospel. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *Ascension collect*

O God, seeing as there is in Christ Jesus, an infinite fullness of all that we can want or desire, May we all receive from him, grace upon grace; grace to pardon our sins, and subdue our iniquities; to justify our persons and to sanctify our souls; and to complete that holy change, that renewal of our hearts, Which will enable us to be transformed into the blessed image in which you created us. O make us all acceptable to be partakers of the inheritance of your saints in light. Amen. (adapted from the original by *John Wesley*)

O LORD God Almighty, Father of angels and men, We praise and bless your holy name for all your goodness and loving kindness to humanity. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and for your unceasing generosity to us throughout our lives; But above all, we bless you for your great love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ. We bless you for bringing us safe to the beginning of a new day. Grant that this day we fall into no sin, Neither run into any kind of danger. Keep us, we pray, from all things hurtful to body or soul, and grant us your pardon and peace, So that, being cleansed from all our sins, We might serve you with quiet hearts and minds, and continue in the same until our life's end, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen. (adapted from the original by *John Wesley*)

Eternal and gracious God, grant that as we believe your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to have ascended with triumph into your kingdom in heaven, so may we also in heart and mind ascend to where he is and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

A Blessing

Now, to God the Father, who first loved us, and made us accepted in the Beloved;
to God the Son, who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood;
to God the Holy Ghost, who sheddeth the love of God abroad in our hearts,
be all love and all glory in time and to all eternity.
Amen. (John Wesley)

Why do we call it Aldersgate Sunday?

Influenced by the Moravians the Wesleys joined in a 'Religious Society' in London, and in May 1738 both underwent a profound spiritual experience. John famously described this in his Journal for 24 May 1738

"In the evening I went unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther and preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter to nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Three days earlier, following his own 'conversion', Charles had written a hymn:
*Where shall my wondering soul begin
How shall I all to heaven aspire?*

For the following half-century such hymns flowed from Charles' pen (it is estimated he wrote over 6,000), while John was the organising genius who turned a spontaneous movement into structured body which became the origin of today's world-wide Methodist Church.

News, Views and Information

New Youth Group . We are planning to set up a group for 9—13 year olds, from both of our churches. The group, provisionally called TEXT, will meet on Sunday evenings at 6 pm, twice a month. We are holding a meeting for everyone who wants to help out or would like to join, at 12 on Sunday 30 May at Putnoe. Before going ahead with this I want to consult with as many people as possible, so if you are interested but can't make the meeting, please contact me—Joan Crossley on 344536.

The Befrienders Bedfordshire's leading mental health charity seeks someone to cook lunch for their club members each Monday and Friday. 7 hours over the two days (this includes shopping time). Salary £1859.92 p.a. Basic Food Hygiene Certificate training given. If you enjoy cooking good fresh food please call 015625 631322 or email befprojects@hotmail.com Closing date 2nd June 2004. Registered charity 1068724.

Mission News Kisiizi Hospital. Please pray for Ugandan Medical Superintendent Dr. Tony Tumuvesjiye & his staff, CMS & Tearfund are scaling down support, so there is a need for funds to support Hospital. (Sylvia Cohen)

Putnoe Scout Group are seeking to replace their retiring Treasurer. This is a voluntary position with expenses paid. For more information please contact Joanne Barrow 213038.

Whitsun Concert. You are invited to a concert by The Children's Choir of Reims Conservatoire, on Saturday 29 May at 6.30 pm at St. Peter's Church, De Pary's Avenue. There will be music by Benjamin Britten, Mozart, Faure & Zoltan Kodaly. There is no admission charge, but the young folk have requested that there will be a collection in aid of Leukaemia & Arthritis Research.

Flower Arranging at Putnoe If anyone is interested in joining the team of flower arrangers at Putnoe Heights Church, please contact Ann Hitt, tel. 404186.

St Andrew's Church, Bedford. A celebration of the opening of the Church Centre

Friday 25 June 7.30 pm Reception (open to all) hosted by the Friends of St Andrew's

Saturday 26 June 10 30 am Opening Ceremony by the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Mr Sam Whitbread, JP and Dedication by the Right Reverend Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans

7.30 pm Bedford Modern School Concert Band

Sunday 27 June 10.00 am Parish Eucharist: Preacher: The Right Reverend Richard Inwood, Bishop of Bedford, followed by brunch
The St Andrew's Church Centre will be open on Friday evening and all day on Saturday and

Sunday. Teas will be served on Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

Email Would you or your group like to have Email with Thisischurch.com. We can now arrange for you to have an Email address at Thisischurch.com with either just forwarding to another Email account or a dedicated POP Email account with your own username and password. This can then be accessed with your Email programme such as Outlook or Outlook Express. There is also the facility for the account to be accessed using webmail. There is no charge for this service for church groups.

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.

**William Hockley
Mrs Rosemary Stephenson**

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

Register! Why not register to receive Partnership News each week by Email, then if you are away for any reason you can still keep in touch. Just visit the church website www.Thisischurch.com and subscribe on the opening page. A confirmation Email will be sent to you and then you can confirm your wishes. You can also unsubscribe at any time

Christian Aid Thank you to everyone at St Mark's who assisted with collecting. With gift aid the sum of £802. 44 was collected.

A Hymn for Sunday

I am a new creation,
No more in condemnation,
Here in the grace of God I stand.
My heart is overflowing,
My love just keeps on growing,
Here in the grace of God I stand.

And I will praise You Lord,
Yes, I will praise You Lord,
And I will sing of all that You have done.

A joy that knows no limit,
A lightness in my spirit,
Here in the grace of God I stand.

We publish the banns of marriage and pray for the marriages of

1. Thomas Stuart Catchpole and Zoe Ann Burrows both of this parish to be married at St. Mary's Church, Luton This is for the last time of asking.(9,16,23

2. Devon George Ayton of this parish and Andrea Louise Brown of the parish of Elstow Abbey.(16, 23 & 30 May.) This is for the second time of asking

If anybody knows of any just cause or impediment why these persons may not be joined together in holy matrimony then you are to declare it.

Flowers in Church We are extremely grateful when donations are made for the flowers. This may be as a celebration of a happy occasion such as an anniversary or in memory of someone who has died. Contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St. Mark's) or Miss Jennie

The following funerals have been arranged

The funeral of Ian Harold Baker will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 27 May at 10.45am