



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

24 April 2005

5 Sunday after Easter

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

24 April

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions - Mr Chris Izzard

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper

Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

Neil will be preaching at Hingham Methodist Church in Norfolk for their 105th Chapel Anniversary

1st May

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions - Mr Warwick Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions - Ministers

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Veta Hudson Rae to celebrate the birthdays of Christopher, Johanne and Joshua.

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

Prayer for Sunday

Father of all, pour into our hearts the love that casts out fear, the truth that sets us free and the grace that is sufficient for all our needs, and grant that we may evermore rejoice that though you are unseen, you are not unknown and that though you are hidden from our eyes we may behold your beauty at the last; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Louisa M Alcott, 1833-1888

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

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

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Mobile -07917 356062Minister@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

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

For Data Protection Purposes

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

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com

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

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am - 1.00pm Monday & Friday

9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

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

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

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

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

wendy@thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day—295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

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

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

12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox at Putnoe Heights. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from.

4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 392698

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 400987

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Contact Penny Fulham 406045

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419

7.15 m Guides -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091

7.15pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights Church. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

7.30pm Creative Needles at Putnoe Heights. Mrs C Cannon 404319

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next one 16 May Moorfields & Sight Concern Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

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

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

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

9.30am Jo Jingles at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime at Putnoe Heights. Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Next meeting May Contact Morag Tompkins 356895

1.30pm Body Control Pilates at Putnoe Heights. Contact Stephanie Smith 357787

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship - Next meeting 26 April Scope. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 26 April Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709

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

6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 783129

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights. Contact Emma Holloway 293792

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

7.00 - 10pm Card Makers Club meets at St Mark's. Contact Carol Houghton 346718

7.30pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe Heights. Bible study & prayers. Contact Revd.Tarr 309881 or 07891095746

7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Next meeting 26 April 'Trek to Nepal' Jeanette Taylor. Meets fortnightly. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

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

Wednesday

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

9.30am Bedford U3A at Putnoe Heights meets bi-monthly. Next meeting . Contact Jenny Coggins 266379

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

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

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

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

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Height meets fortnightly. Next meeting 27 April 2005 Contact Putnoe Heights 365630

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

4.15pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698

6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Contact Mr James 07711 687449

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

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting . Contact Sylvia Woods 365095

7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe

Heights. Contact Pam Holley 771964
7.45pm Kick Boxing Junior classes at St Mark's.
 Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all
 welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

Thursday

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

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Contact Karen
 Simpson 244970

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

12pm Storybox at St Mark's. Service for parents,
 carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible
 Stories, Children's activities, songs & prayers, all in
 one hour from 12-1pm.

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe Heights.
 Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

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

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

2pm U3A Indoor Games at Putnoe Heights. Contact
 Radmila Dancer 404811

4.00 Storybox Plus at Putnoe Heights. A drama
 group for 4-9year olds. Meets 4 5-pm,drinks from
 3.30pm

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Heights . Contact Helga
 Nash 218521

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Height. Contact Pat
 Stidolph 345247

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

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

7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild St Mark's- 3rd

Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525
7.45pm. Housegroup-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little
 Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact
 Betty Wyatt 350188

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

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights.
 Contact Carole Maunder 301325

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Contact
 K Stenton 07748 760082

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

7. 30pm Bibleway Young Peoples meeting Contact
 Pastor Tarr 376841

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

Saturday

9.30am Stars School of Dance at Putnoe
 Heights. Contact Esther Sancto 272517

10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St
 Mark's -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 01234
 782414

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe Heights.
 Meets monthly next meeting 26 March Contact
 Kathleen Sage 771525

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

Sunday

1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church at Putnoe
 Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 309881 Mob.
 07891095746

6.45pm TNT (The Nearly Teens) meet fortnightly at
 Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact
 Putnoe Office 365630

Church Calendar

Church Diary Dates

Annual Congregational Meeting 8 May 3.00pm St
 Mark's 4.00pm Putnoe

Partnership Council 21 June

St Mark's Church Council 15 June, 12 October

Circuit Men's Fellowship Lunch on the 20th April

St Mark's Leadership Team

4 May -Home of Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Deanery Synod

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -

25 April 2005 at 7.30pm at Sam's

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

24 May, 11 July, 12 September, 2 November. All
 meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management 18 April

Putnoe Church Council

13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting -27 April at 2.pm.

Church yard Committee 25 April at 10 pm.

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

Bible Notes

Verse of Scripture 1 Peter Chapter 2

you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading - Acts 7:55-60

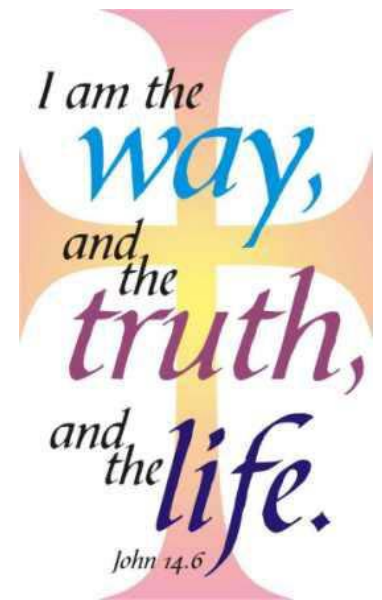
But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. (Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**)

Second Reading - 1 Peter 2: 2-10

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone, and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy (Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**)

Third Reading - John 14: 1-14

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the



father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.
(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord - All: **Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen

Hymns Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise

1. Jesus shall reign 379 Truro
2. All I once held dear 799 (On page 8)
3. He who would valiant be 224 Monks Gate
4. King of glory 397 Gwalchmai
5. Lord of creation Slane

Commentary

It is important before we look at the passage today, to think about what has taken place which produces the words which Jesus speaks in Chapter 14.

In John 13:33, Jesus has said that he is about to leave the disciples. Can you imagine how the disciples would be feeling? Facing the departure of their Lord they are going to be worried. The scene is one of anxiety, indeed Jesus himself uses the word orphans to describe them. The disciples had expected that they would be following Jesus until he established his reign and they would share in that. A future without Jesus was a shattering thought. It gets worse, Jesus tells Peter that he will deny him, not once but three times. This was truly dreadful, not just for Peter but for all the disciples. Peter was not a bad disciple, quite the opposite. The disciples would know that if Peter denied Jesus, then there was no hope for any of them.

Perhaps, in the light of such events to come we can understand the words of Jesus

‘Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.’

Jesus encourages the disciples to move from their fear to faith. Jesus makes it clear that the disciples must believe. And that belief must be not because of circumstances, but in spite of them. Worry is to lose its power because the human spirit trusts in the one who has the destiny of the whole world in his hands.

This is what Paul meant when he spoke these words in Romans Chapter 8:31

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Worry loses its power when we are in the presence of Jesus. The answer to anxiety and troubled spirits is to trust. To the disciples, what is about to unfold is a disaster. However, Jesus realises that the events which will take place are necessary, not a disaster. John 14 and Romans Chapter 8 are both readings which we use at funeral services because they encourage us to trust in God at the most dreadful time any of us can find ourselves, in the presence of death itself.

Jesus is going to die, he will not be around, the disciples will be left like orphans. But Jesus wants to reassure the disciples that they cannot be separated from him even by death. Jesus tells the disciples that he is not abandoning them, rather he is going to prepare a place for them.

The reading in the AV uses the phrase. ‘In my father’s house there many mansions’

Mansions is a lovely word, it comes to us from Tyndale’s translation of *monai*, but it means dwelling places. We could think of it as ‘in my Father’s house there are many rooms,’

Jesus goes on to speak of himself as the way, the truth and life. These are words of comfort and reassurance to desperate disciples. However, it is interesting that from being words of assurance and

comfort to his disciples, very often, these words are used by people inside the church as a means of making other people feel uncomfortable. They are used as a statement of exclusivity and exclusion, to make the point that unless we follow Jesus we are not following the way.

Of course Jesus is not a way to God like many others, he is God. Jesus is also truth, but Christians themselves disagree over what truth is and we must never be arrogant and assume that there is little which we can learn from those who do not share our faith. The words of Jesus perhaps mean the opposite to Christian exclusivism. Jesus tries to convince the disciples, and us, of his ability to save us. We are saved by Jesus, not by ourselves and our beliefs. Jesus Christ is the way – his path is the way to wholeness, salvation, and shalom—and this graceful and forgiving path may surprise all of us.

Hear the passage today and hear the words of comfort that Jesus speaks. His words are meant to reach out to us in whatever kind of distress we might find ourselves and speak reassurance. There is nothing of which we need be afraid. Just like the disciples we can find that our fears and disappointments can be trusted to Jesus. *Charles Royden*

Meditation The gospel of Jesus is not simply a "personal interior message or experience" which changes the way we feel. Genuine belief leads to works. Spirituality is connected to action. As Jesus says in today's gospel, "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these." The work of the gospel is reflected in the concern of the early church for the poor. In today's example from Acts, it is reflected in a concern for the widows in the community. The work of the gospel is about service and especially service to those who are most in need. It is a responsibility of the whole community - not just a responsibility for the apostles. This is important, for we desire to offer more than charity to respond to some immediate need but to create structures of justice that empower all people. We might also think of the vision of Jesus as speaking to our world here and now. Might not Jesus envision a world where all God's people have decent, safe, and affordable housing here today? Might not Jesus envision a world in which all men and women enjoy a sense of belonging and community wherever they live? Is this not what the early community is trying to create as they appoint deacons to make sure that everyone is included in the resources of the whole? Is this not what we all want to be about?

Every citizen also has the responsibility to work to secure justice and human rights through an organized social response. US Bishops, Economic Justice for All (#120)

It is in keeping with their dignity as persons that human being should take an active part in government. Pope John XXIII, Peace on Earth (#73) (www.coc.org/focus/ej/reflections.html)

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead.

Earth Day was Friday, April 22. Some congregations recognize this as Earth Day Sunday. Below is one prayer to use to celebrate Earth Day and links to some Earth Day prayers and prayer resources.

O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen:

You place us in your creation, and you command us to care for it.

Your works declare glory and splendor, and you call us to praise and reverence.

Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us.

Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us.

Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace.

Renew us in the waters of baptism, refresh us with the winds of your spirit, and sustain us with the bread of life. In the name of Jesus Christ, and for the sake of the new creation, we pray. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the privilege of exercising our right to vote in a free election in a democratic society; we praise you for those of this nation who have gone before us through whose campaigning zeal and personal sacrifice we enjoy universal adult suffrage. We ask you for grace to use the privilege of our vote responsibly and in accordance with a well-formed conscience and the good news proclaimed by your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

O God, who from of old taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen

GRANT us, Lord God, a vision of our land as your love would make it: - a land where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;- a land where the benefits of civilized life are shared, and every one can enjoy them; - a land where different races and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect; - a land where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. And give us the inspiration and courage to build it. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

News, Views and Information

Wednesday Bereavement Drop in Group.

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

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

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

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

Footprints meet on Saturday 7th May . Salcey Forest Northants. A pleasant. flat, no stiles, all day walk of approximately 6 miles. Meet 10.30am Grid Ref SP811508 in official car park. Left of B 526 , 2miles north of Stoke Goldington. (sign posted Salcey Forest) Car Park first on the left. Lunch at Forest Café where you can join or leave at the half way stage if desired. Further details contact Alan or Margaret on 327219.

Footprints Weekend in Constable country—September 16-18th. Deposits due by end of April to Sue please. Rooms still available—non walkers welcome.

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

Kempston Musical Society conclude their Centenary Season with a concert entitled 100 years of choral music at Kempston East Methodist Church. On Saturday 30th April at 7.30pm. The programme includes music by Coleridge-Taylor, Haydn, Mendelssohn and Rutter. Tickets available at the door of from members of the society. Further information :- 01234 261072

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

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

Thank You to all who supported The Book Sale. £224 was raised for Mission Funds.

Donations of flowers. The new chart is on the foyer notice board, with lots of spaces from now to November. Please sign up if you wish to donate money for flowers on a special date. Talk to Marion so she can put it into her diary and liaise with the flower arrangers and make an appropriate entry into the notices.

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

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



The Church Council at St Mark's Church met last week at St Mark's Church and agreed to extend a warm welcome to Bedfordshire Police to establish a police station on the premises. This is exciting news and will undoubtedly provide a valuable resource to our community. The police will have a base in the flat and be available to conduct surgeries in the community centre to meet with members of the public. There will be Police Community Support Officers and beat officers based at the Centre and we look forward to establishing excellent relationships with all of the officers.

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

NCH Boxholders. Will you please let Margaret Standley have your box early in April so that the total amount collected can be paid in. (An amazing £600,000, including Gift Aid, has been collected nationally by this method in a year.)

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

See Round. The Diocesan magazine is now available, please do take a copy if you would like to read more news from around St Albans Diocese.

Thank You. To everybody who helped with the launch of Clubhouse this week. It was an enjoyable event which also gave everybody the opportunity to meet with people from Social Services, County Council and the other agencies with whom we are associated. Clubhouse is now fully operational and gaining more members each week.

A Hymn for Sunday

- 1 All I once held dear,
Built my life upon,
All this world reveres,
And wars to own,
All I once thought gain
I have counted loss;
Spent and worthless now,
Compared to this.
Knowing You, Jesus,
knowing You,
there is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
and I love You, Lord.
- 2 Now my heart's desire
Is to know You more,
To be found in You
And known as Yours.
To possess by faith
What I could not earn,
All-surpassing gift
Of righteousness.
- 3 Oh, to know the power
Of Your risen life,
And to know You in
Your sufferings.
To become like You
In Your death, my Lord,
So with You to live
And never die.

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.

**Stella Howton
Sheila Peck
Dick Kempston**

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



Publication of the banns of Marriage

We publish the banns and pray for the marriages of
Duncan Marjoribanks and Nina Jane Reynolds
This is for the second time of asking.
Benjamin Edward Watton and Nicola Ann Harley
This is for the second time of asking

Forthcoming Funerals to be conducted by our ministers

The funeral of Sydney Douglas Bodsworth will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Monday 25 April. (Charles Royden)

The funeral of Lilian May Carter will take place on 26 April at Bedford Crematorium (Neil Bramble-Chapman)