



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

24 July 2005
17 in Ordinary

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



Church of
England

Church Services Today

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

St Mark's

9.30am St Mark's Church-Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership—Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions - Mr Mike Elliott

11.00am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt

Intercessions - Mrs Betty Wyatt

31 July 18 in Ordinary

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Putnoe Heights

9.30am St Mark's Church—Holy Communion

with Prayer for Christian Healing

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day

Intercessions - Mr Warwick Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Holy Communion

with Prayer for Christian Healing

Preacher - Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions - Mrs Sue Allen

1 Reading - Isaiah 55: 1-5 **2 Reading** - Romans 9: 1-5

3 Reading - Matthew 14: 13-21.

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mr & Mrs Morrow on the occasion of their daughter's wedding, and by Pam Crouch in loving memory of her husband on his birthday.

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

Gracious God,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of life
and the word of your kingdom.
Renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread,
even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Methodist Worship.

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 356062 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

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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 Sue Allen 407264

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

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

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

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).

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

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

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

3.30—5pm Story box Plus at St. Mark's for 4 to 10 years. A preparation group for small drama on the first Sunday of the month. Contact for more details Liz Spavins 302349

4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha 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. Jacky Hayward 307648. New members welcome.

7.30pm Whist Drive - At St Mark's each month the next one 8 August—Multiple Sclerosis—Barkers Lane 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. 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 9 August Strawberry Tea.". Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 13 September. 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 fortnightly 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 - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 19 July. Members evening. 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

9.00 a.m. Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Contact Karen Bywater 315460.

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

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Height meets fortnightly. Next meeting 7 September 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 quiet room. 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 Story box 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 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-10year old. A preparation group for a drama for the first Sunday in the month.. Meets 4-5pm, drinks from 3.30pm Contact Liz Spavins 302349

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

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

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.

Contact - Kate Randle 01234 782414

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting. Contact Philip Jones 350295

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

6.00pm TNT (The Nearly Teens) meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

Church Calendar

Church Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council 12 October
Circuit Meeting

St Mark's Leadership Team – 4 October

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team July 21

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

, 12 September, 2 November.

All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management

Putnoe Church Council 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting – 19 September 2.00pm

Churchyard Committee - 7 October at 4.15

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting .

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

Calendar dates appear also on our church website www.ThisChurch.com.

Brickhill Parish Council dates (Held at St Mark's)
Allotments Committee 7.30pm

Planning meeting

Bedford Deanery meeting 15 September

Partnership Council 20 September

Bible Notes

Ordinary 17 Year A (Trinity 9 Green)

Verse of Scripture Romans 8:38-39

Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

God, you have poured the Spirit of your Son into our hearts so that we call you father. Give us grace to devote our freedom to your service that we and all creation may be brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading – 1 Kings3: 5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. "Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

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

Second Reading - Romans 8: 26-39

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Neither death,

nor life,

nor angels,

nor rulers,

nor things present,

nor things to come,

nor powers,

nor height,

nor depth,

nor anything else

in all creation,

will be able

to separate us from

the love of God in

Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38-39



Third Reading – Matthew 13: 31-33, 44 - 52

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world." Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied. He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." (This is the word of the Lord— **Thanks be to God**)

Commentary - A Collection of Parables

From Matthew today we have a series of pictures which describe the kingdom of heaven and what our response and attitude should be to it. Matthew uses the term 'Kingdom of heaven', but it means the same as 'Kingdom of God,' it is simply that he does not want to write the word 'God' out of a respect for the holiness of God's name.

The mustard seed and the yeast - parables of growth

These two short parables contrast the small beginning of the kingdom with the greatness of its effects. Our faith came out of the birth of a baby in a manger, failed disciples who ran away and death on a cross. We need to remind ourselves of this fact when we are tempted to feel small and insignificant. God's kingdom has secret power which confounds the wisdom of the world. The parables remind us that in humility God's kingdom is established. Jesus disciples faced daunting odds, you would not have thought it was possible for them to achieve the promises of Jesus.

We need to consider why Jesus choose a mustard seed. The mustard seed is tiny, but is not, in fact, the smallest of all seeds. The shrub that grows from the tiny seed is great by comparison with its beginnings, the mustard shrub typically grows to between 8 and 12 feet, but this is hardly comparable to the mighty cedars of Lebanon, with which Israel preferred to liken itself. Why would Jesus not compare the kingdom of heaven to a great tree instead of a shrub that a farmer might consider a weed? Perhaps the lesson of the mustard shrub is that Christians should live expectantly, knowing that God brings great things out of small beginnings, but that we should not expect the kingdom to be great as the world counts greatness. The parable of the leaven also encourages us to avoid seclusion and to be involved in the world. Leaven works as it is worked into the dough. So as Christians we are encouraged to go into all the world and have an effect for good.

Treasure and Pearls - The Kingdom is worth everything

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Parable of the Pearl are parables which underscore the unique value of the kingdom. The discovery of things of great value produces joy and a willingness to give up everything for that which is best. The merchant is actively looking for pearls, while the other man just

stumbles onto treasure in a field. Both, however, recognize the overwhelming value of their discovery, and sell everything so that they might buy it. In neither case is there any hint of sacrifice -- of giving up something precious -- of having to make a difficult decision. Neither man is sad to sell everything, because they are both overwhelmed with the joy of discovery and the prospect of possessing such treasure. They are like the disciples, who left everything to follow Jesus (4:18-22; 19:27-30). It is worth remembering the rich young ruler who "went away grieving," because he could not bear to part with his many possessions (19:16-26). This young man understood how radical the demands of following Jesus were. He begrudged losing what he already had, he had become attached to other things than Jesus and was not overwhelmed by a spontaneous gesture to give it all up and follow..

We have to decide whether the price is worth paying and make the appropriate response of total commitment. We cannot serve two masters (6:24). If we are unwilling to pay the price of commitment then we will not gain the treasure. The men who gain the treasure do not sell everything and buy the treasure because they feel it is something which they should do out of duty. Rather they are prompted by the conviction that it is worth it the sacrifices. They are so overjoyed at the prospect of what will be theirs that they freely give everything.

The parable of the net - Judgement will follow

This parable is very similar to the parable of the weeds which we read last week. The message is that judgment belongs to God and nobody else. In this parable, a dragnet scoops up all sorts of fish, both good and bad. Jews were prohibited (Lev. 11:9-12) from eating certain types of sea life, creatures without scales or fins, so the fishermen would discard unusable fish. The message for the disciples is clear, the net will be sorted but not yet. The timetable for God's judgement is not ours, and be careful, the measure of God's judgement is not ours. God will decide not us. Be careful in judging others, if we really want somebody to judge then we can have a full time job dealing with ourselves. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

Forgiveness is understanding and holding the pain of another; it is compassion.

Forgiveness is the acceptance of our brokenness, yours and mine.

Forgiveness is letting go of unrealistic expectations of others, and of the desire that they be other than they are.

Forgiveness is liberating others to be themselves, not making them feel guilty for what may have been...

Forgiveness is peace-making:

struggling to create unity, to build one body, to heal the broken body of humanity.

Jean Vanier, 'Forgiveness in Community'

Post Communion Prayer

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and Morning Worship)

1. Tell out my soul 86 (Tune: Woodlands)
2. He is Lord 256 (*played rousing!*) (Tune: He is Lord)
3. God of grace and god of glory 712 (Tune: Rhuddland)
4. Lord thy word abideth 476 (Tune: Ravenshaw)
5. Thine be the glory 212 (Tune:Maccabeus) Requested

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

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

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Most gracious God, you are mindful of us through all the years of our life. Pardon our sins and fashion in us those virtues which are acceptable to you. Grant that in serenity and we may serve you faithfully in the days to come, that our lives may be a reflection of your infinite love.

Bridge Cottage We have decided to cancel the skip at Bridge Cottage Great Barford on 28/29/30 July, thank you for offers of help which will not be needed. *Alan Cooper*

Junior Church Today is the last Junior Church at Putnoe until 10 September but please do not forget there the Activity Day "Fishing For Souls" on Wednesday 10 August at Putnoe Heights Church 9.30am - 3.30pm. Drama, singing, games and costume making in preparation to perform a Bible based story on the 4 September at our fun filled Family Service. The Thurleigh trip on Sunday 21 August. Story box will continue at Putnoe on Mondays throughout August, older siblings and all from St.Marks are welcome(apart from tomorrow please bring a picnic lunch, drinks provided) Storybox Plus restarts at Putnoe on Thursday 8 September & starts at St. Marks on Monday 12 September. Please note that we have increased the age of this group up to 10 years. For further details call *Liz Spavins 302349*

NCH House to House Collection (Brickhill)

NCH, the children's charity, works with disadvantaged and disabled children, and their families, through its family centres located throughout the country. It is an independent charity working with other groups in partnership including the Methodist Church. The annual house-to-house collection to support the vital work of the NCH will take place as usual in the first 2 weeks in September. St. Mark's Church has the responsibility for covering most of Brickhill and last year we raised over £770; including gift aid. If you could spare a few hours during early September to put out and collect envelopes in the Brickhill area or would like more information contact *Mike Elliott (Tel. 342507)*

Storybox Plus starts at St Marks

Following the growing success of Storybox Plus at Putnoe we are very pleased to announce that we will be starting the group at St Marks. We will begin on Monday 12th September 3.30 start for refreshments and a chill out with a 4.00 start and 5.00 finish. During that hour we will read, study, and rehearse a Bible based story in preparation to perform at the Family Service on the 1st Sunday. We will also spend time making props for the play. Anyone between 4 (at school) and 10 can join us to make friends and have fun. As always the groups success will need volunteers if you can help with any aspect of our activities or have a child that would like to see what we are all about please phone *Liz Spavins on 302349*.

Storybox St Mark's The draft rotas are in the foyer. All corrections in Joan's drawer asap, please. More volunteers needed.

Auction of Promises September 17 at St Mark's Church

Thank you to those who have offered fantastic promises, in aid of the Building Development to replace the Portakabin and provide accommodation for Autism Bedfordshire. Please contact Chris Izzard who is organising this event. Telephone 212164.

Promises already made

- Tailor made bespoke shirt (own choice of colour and weight of Egyptian cotton) Retail Value £75 Addison & Steel London
- Evening dinner for two [drinks/wines not included] Retail value £75 at St Helena, Elstow
- One weeks accommodation for up to six people in a holiday cottage in Exmouth (situated very near the sea on dates mutually convenient) Retail Value £260 Mr and Mrs Puttock
- Voucher for men's clothing Retail value £50 Claytons, The Arcade, Bedford.
- Day out in chauffer driven vintage car (for up to 2 passengers) Mrs and Mrs Day
- Chauffer driven tour in a vintage 2 seater Morgan car (for one passenger) Mr Watters
- Six hand made cross stitch Christmas cards Mrs Elliott
- Anfield Stadium Tour (Museum and tour centre for up to four people) Liverpool Football Club
- Two ornamental concrete garden plant pots (Can be viewed at auction or before)
- Various sizes / quantities of plastic flower pots (Can be viewed at auction or before)

What can you promise ?

Please think if there is anything which you can offer to our auction of promises. And don't forget the date to come along, bid and enjoy yourself ! Gardening, bake a cake, babysitting, drive somebody to the airport, decorate a room

TNT The last session of TNT meets at Putnoe Heights tonight at 6pm. Bring and Share picnic followed by games. Please bring something savoury and I will bring the cakes. We will plan next year's timetable of events so think what you would like to do. *Joany*

Wanted Please could anyone lend me a travel cot for the 1 August. Donation to church funds. Thank you. *Delia 273628*

Mission Coffee Morning Saturday 13 August 10-12 noon at the home of Derrick Stoneham, 5 Braeside, Cakes and a raffle. In aid of Mission Funds.

Welfare of pedestals! Thank you to anyone who waters the church flowers during the week. However, sometimes water gets into the black container which supports the flower bowl and then the pedestals rust very quickly. Could any kind souls, who do watering, only put water in the flower bowl and ensure you don't overflow and cause a puddle in the pedestal bowl. If you do overflow, please dry up with kitchen roll. Many thanks, Flower team.

Putnoe Church Council. There will be a special meeting of Church Council on Sunday 14 August immediately after the service. One item on the agenda.

Cards. There will be no card sales during August but if you would like a special one please see Marion.

Rest In Peace

The following funeral will be conducted by clergy from our Partnership.

The funeral of Mark Davies Barnwell will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 1.45pm on Friday 29 July *Royden*

The funeral of Mr Frank William Solly will take place at St Mark's Chapel on Thursday 28 July at 2.00pm *Royden*

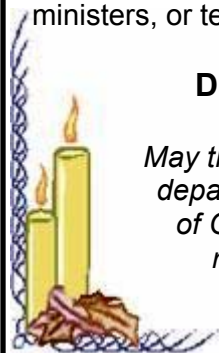
The Funeral of Mrs Mabel Selina Johnson will take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 27 July *Royden*

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.

Daphne Hilda Simons

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



Methodist Church response to the G8 summit

The Methodist Church has welcome the news from the G8 summit that an additional \$50 billion in aid has been secured for Africa. The Church also hailed the pledge of \$3 billion in aid for the Palestinian Authority. But Church leaders said that some of the news from the summit was disappointing. Anthea Cox, Methodist Co-ordinating Secretary for Public Life and Social Justice, said "although we are pleased by the aid packages for Africa and Palestine this is only a step in the right direction and more is needed, and sooner, if we are to really see alleviation of poverty in the world's poorest countries. We would also have hoped for the G8 to build upon the recent deal on debt agreed by the G8 finance ministers. We are sorry that the G8 leaders could not reach agreement on fairer trade, especially regarding agriculture subsidies. Perhaps most disappointing is the lack of progress on climate change, remembering that that the poorest countries are often the most disadvantaged by global warming. Nonetheless, at the halfway point of the Make Poverty History Campaign, the G8 leaders have begun to listen to what people are saying, and if we continue to keep the pressure on our leaders then we can hope for more movement in the second half of the year." Anthea Cox added "the first six months of Make Poverty History have shown that people can make their voices heard. The aid packages announced at Gleneagles are good news for poorer countries, but there is still much more that can and must be done. In particular, we need to see real movement on trade. I hope that all our supported will continue to keep up the call for the end of unfair trade barriers and subsidies. As the UK holds the presidency of the EU until the end of this year, our government has a real chance to effect change on trade. Fair trade is key to the long-term eradication of poverty, and with better aid and dropping the debt will make a fairer and kinder world."

Kirsty Smith, director of the Methodist Relief and Development Fund, said "it is clear that the message is getting through. For too long we have ignored the death toll caused by poverty, but I hope that people now understand that ending poverty is something that we can all play a part in, by pressing our leaders for the policies that affect so many people. I want to thank everyone who has supported the campaign so far, and encourage them to keep the pressure on as we move ever closer to our goals. The news on aid is encouraging, and we agree that governance is an important part of the deal. Aid must be given on the understanding that it will be well-managed. However, all of this will not achieve anything if there isn't also a seismic shift in trade policy, and we expect significant changes at the WTO talks in the autumn."