

Partnership News

25 April 2004

3rd Sunday of Easter

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 – Rev Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Linda Parry

Intercessions – Mr Warwick Holden

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher – Rev Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions - Mr Eddie Peck

Sunday May 2nd

8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church -

Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher – Rev Karen Murphy

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions – Mrs Pat Leusby

11.00am Putnoe Heights -

Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher – Mrs Clare Peck

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Bailey

Intercessions - Ministers

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given to celebrate the wedding of Mike Puttock & Penny Scott.

The flowers in the Chapel last week were given by Vera Tibbett to say thank you to her family and friends.

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

Prayer for Sunday

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

Mary Tileston, 1820 -1895

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 Sam_Cappleman@hotmail.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 Stephen Clare 308299

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 Jim Williams 360605

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 19 April 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
12.30 -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 - 20 April Salvation Army Singers. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 18 May Mr N Kinselly, Wood Carving. 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 27 April Prof. Colin Russell Contact Mrs C Davies 219130

8.00pm Tuesday Housegroup Next Meeting 20 April 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 Boding Toning Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

Luncheon Club at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 28 April 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

Sunday

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

11.45am Yoga at St. Mark's Church. Contact
Rachel on 783129 or 07703 300969.

News, Views and Information

Forthcoming meetings. Please check!

Partnership Council 8 June

Putnoe Centre Management

26 Apr, 7 Jun, 26 Jul,

St Mark's Centre Management

Church Council at St Mark's

Wednesday 16 June in the Chapel

Churchyards Committee

Next meeting

Putnoe Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday 5 May. Putnoe Heights Church

St Mark's Leadership Team

28th April at Jim Williams, Wednesday 26 May,

Wednesday 8 September

Annual Congregational Meetings Sunday 9 May

3.00pm at St Mark's and 4.00pm at Putnoe

Putnoe Church Council

Monday 14 June

Future Event The Fun Run June 13 at 2.30pm St

Mark's More details to follow

Pastoral Group The Partnership Pastoral Group met this week to consider matters of pastoral care relating to our churches. The names of 13 people were mentioned who are presently unable to attend church due to continuing ill health. Some of these are receiving Holy Communion in their own homes. The team also arranged the next Commemoration Service for 14 November at 3.00pm at St Mark's Church. If you have any matters of pastoral concern,

or know of somebody who is ill, or would like a visit, then please do speak with the team co-ordinator Mrs Mary Stubbs.

Next Meeting of the Pastoral Group Wednesday

15 September at 2.30pm At this meeting we will continue with the bereavement training video. Would team members please advise Mary Stubbs if you are not able to make this meeting.

British Red Cross Open Gardens. There are more gardens open this year in this area. For details please refer to the booklet which can be found on the notice board. If you wish to help with these events contact Jo Whitney 36106

Coffee Time Cards New stocks as usual reasonable prices. Commissions still taken. Contact Marion.

Ramblers Please also note that details of the Ramblers week-end away in September are available....

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.



Bible Notes Easter 3

(Year C, White)

Opening Verse of Scripture Psalm 33:20

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

Collect Prayer for the Day - Before we read we pray

Christ our friend, you ask for our love in spite of our betrayal. Give us courage to embrace forgiveness, know you again, and trust ourselves in you; we pray in your name. Amen.

First Bible Reading Acts Chapter 9:1-6

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

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

Second Reading Revelation Chapter 5:11-14

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

Gospel Reading John Chapter 21:1-19

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

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!" (This is the Word of the Lord-**Thanks be to God**)

Hymns (Please distribute Hymns and Psalms and communion booklets)

1. Lift high the cross 417
2. Give thanks 170
3. Restore O Lord 579
4. All I once held dear 799 (Page 8 of Partnership News)
5. I heard the voice of Jesus say 275 (Tune:Kingsfold)

Commentary.

Jesus has already appeared twice to his disciples, once to Mary Magdalene and the second time to the disciples, as they hid behind locked doors. We are told that this was 'for fear of the Jews', is that anti-semitic? Each time we are told that Jesus is not immediately recognised, yet they know that he is there and his body bears the marks of the death he endured. The disciples are given the Holy Spirit and sent out by Jesus.

Then in the story today we read that the disciples have gone fishing. This seems to be a strange thing for them to do at this time. Jesus has been raised from the dead, surely they had been called to be fisher's of men, why return to the boats? There is no doubt that Peter was the driving force of the disciples, yet it was he who must have felt a serious failure after his abandonment and denial of Jesus. He had felt able to understand that others might deny Jesus, but he would never countenance that he would behave in such a disappointing way. In Chapter 13 Peter proclaimed his loyalty to Jesus and it is clear that he considered himself to be a cut above the rest. However in Chapter 18 we read how Peter had let Jesus down and denied him three times. Subsequently he probably felt worse than everybody else and no doubt he would be incapable of leading the disciples and being the rock which Jesus considered him to be.

Such failure and disappointment, serious defeats and setbacks in life can have debilitating effects upon everybody, not just Peter. We can all understand how inadequate he must have felt for the task, and now he can't even catch fish! It was for him one of those times in life when nothing was going right. Perhaps he went to sleep at night with those same words echoing in his ears which he used to deny Jesus.

So it is that the three questions of Jesus to Peter cannot help but be a means of erasing the three denials which Peter had previously made on that most dreadful night of Jesus arrest. Jesus now shows Peter that he does trust him, in spite of the denials which he made. The disappointing denials were a surprise for Peter, but they were not a surprise for Jesus, he had told Peter that this would happen. It was Peter who needed to let go of the past, not Jesus. If Jesus had not come to Peter that day then he might have stayed fishing in the boats on Galilee for the rest of his life. He would have been trapped in the bad memories of the past and spent the rest of his life trying the impossible task of burying his failure. Fortunately Jesus did come to Peter and as Jesus asks if Peter loves him, the three answers by Peter are received by Jesus with the sincerity in which they spoken. We might understand if Jesus had said something like 'well are you sure, you said all kinds of things before and you let me down?' Jesus doesn't, he asks Peter three times not because he doubts him the first or the second or the third time, but rather for the benefit of Peter, to show that what was in the past lies in the past and is forgotten.

Jesus is showing Peter that he trusts him in spite of failure and there is important work that he wants to share with Peter. There has been much speculation about the significance of the number of fish caught, the different Greek words used when Peter and Jesus speak about love, most of it is utterly ridiculous. What is of significance however is that Peter realises that Jesus forgives, that after all is why the crucifixion took place. Peter does nothing to earn the forgiveness of Jesus, it is just there and he needs to recognise it to enable him to heal the hurts and failures of the past and discover the new life and ministry which Jesus has for him. *Charles Royden*

Meditation

A Russian called Anthony Bloom was an atheist when he was a university student in Paris. Simply to please somebody, he attended a meeting to which a Russian priest had been invited. Anthony Bloom hated the thought of being there, and grew more and more annoyed at what he heard about Christ and Christianity. When he got back home he asked his mother for a copy of the Gospels, because he wanted to prove that the priest had been lying. Anthony decided to read quickly one of the Gospels. He counted the number of chapters in each of the four Gospels, and found that the Gospel of Saint Mark was the shortest - he didn't want to waste too much time reading what he thought was rubbish! Before he reached the third chapter of Saint Mark's Gospel, he became aware of a Presence on the other side of the table. He became so sure that the Presence was the Risen Jesus, that his life changed forever. He became a Christian, and later became a priest. He is now an archbishop in the Russian Orthodox Church. From having hated all that he thought Christianity was about, Anthony Bloom's life changed when he had some kind of experience that Jesus was alive and was beside him.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Lord Jesus, we remember that you said that you would be with us, so we do know in our minds that you are present. But there's a difference between knowing that you're present and growing in the faith that you are beside us. We ask for the power of your Spirit in our lives each day, so that we may live more fully in your presence. Only then will our attitude and words and actions better reflect yours. Amen.

God of life and love, your son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. Open our eyes that we may see him in his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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

Mary Tileston, 1820 -1895

This week we heard about the appointment of Canon Jeffrey John as Dean of St Albans Cathedral. This is an appointment which will delight some and disappoint others. Our Bishop has issued the following statement.

Having had to stay completely silent until the official announcement from Downing Street was made about the appointment of Jeffrey John as Dean of St Albans, it is now a great relief to be able to put pen to paper.

As you will be aware the appointment of the Dean is in the hands of the Prime Minister and the Crown after soundings have been taken in the Church at large, in the Abbey itself, and after consultation with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and with me. The consultation process was conducted with great care and thoughtfulness,.

" It became clearer and clearer to me, after many weeks spent in prayer and thought (and, of course, I was 'not able to talk about the appointment), that Jeffrey John would be absolutely the right candidate. He is, as you will know, a priest of great integrity, a preacher and teacher of real significance, and a man of prayer. He is very committed to the mission of the Church and longs to help parishes grow and develop. His gifts have been tested and strengthened in university chaplaincy, in his work as a parish priest and latterly in his work in Southwark Cathedral and diocese. .

You will be aware that following the storm surrounding his nomination as Bishop of Reading, he had to endure the most prying and exposing scrutiny. It was an ordeal that no- one should have to undergo, but he behaved throughout with dignity, heroic patience and forbearance.

He has made it clear that he is homosexual but lives a celibate lifestyle, In other words, he lives within the

parameters of the House of Bishops' statement.

There are those who will welcome his appointment very warmly - and I am amongst them; there will be others who will be perplexed, and yet others who will be highly critical. I would ask you, whichever category you consider yourself to be in, (and there will be more categories than I have outlined), to simply pray: to pray for our Cathedral and Abbey Church, to pray for wisdom and to pray above all, for Jeffrey. In the Church, whatever our beliefs may be, we are brothers and sisters in Christ. (Isn't that what the Lord's Prayer implies?), and we need to do all we can to ensure understanding between us and not to fall into the trap of stereotyping each other.

There will be much talk of biblical authority and teaching - and again, we shall need the grace and wisdom to distinguish between the inherent authority of Scripture itself and the claims any of us may make that our own interpretation is the only one which has real authority. We have much to learn' from each other - and that requires a quiet but perspicacious attention to the Scriptures, to God and to one another.

I have little doubt that Jeffrey's appointment under God's mercy and grace, will be a blessing to our diocese and to the wider Church. What we are all involved in is a quest for the truth revealed by God through Jesus Christ, truth which necessarily embraces self-understanding, the understanding of society and the great doctrines of the Church.

Please pray for Jeffrey, for the Abbey and for me: but pray that together as a diocese within the Church of England, we may grow in concern and compassion for one another - and may learn, above all else to work for the increase of the love of God and love of neighbour in our generation.

Statement by the Bishop of Bedford, the Rt Revd Richard Inwood

The appointment of Canon Jeffrey John as the Dean of St Albans means we shall have a gifted preacher and teacher in this key position. He also brings a commitment to mission, both within the Cathedral community and beyond, which I welcome warmly. Jeffrey John has made certain undertakings to the Diocesan Bishop on the Bishops' statement 'Issues in Human Sexuality.' This assures me that none of the issues that caused concern last summer to so many people, including myself, will arise.

News, Views and Information

Clapham Methodist Church - presentation on the work of 'International Aid Trust' on Monday 26th April at 7pm. Everyone welcome.

Music for a May Evening at St Mark's on Saturday 8 May at 7.30 pm, by ensembles from Biddenham, Sandy, Sharnbrook & Stratton Upper. Tickets £5 (£2.50 concessions) available from Mike Cooper or Adrian Quarry (409612) or on the door. Proceeds in aid of County Youth Music & Christian Aid.

Network— District Day at Hertford on Thursday 29th April from 11.00 am to 3.30pm. Business meeting am followed by a speaker from Keech Cottage Hospice.

Grass Cutting If you are able to help with the grass cutting at Putnoe Heights Church please would you sign yourself up on the Rota which is now on the church notice board. Thank you.

N.C.H. Home Collection Boxes. If you hold one of these will you please let Margaret Standley have it as soon as possible. Last year the total raised at St. Mark's was £154. 50. In the U.K. as a whole £600,000 was raised by the 40,000 Box holders. New members are always welcome. Thank you

MHA "Get Together" at Elmside, Hitchin. Saturday 15th May 2004 from 10.30am -12.30pm.

An informal forum for people who are interested in their work and wishing to know more about recent developments and exciting plans for the future. An opportunity to see over the home at Elmside. MHA are happy to re-inburse travelling expenses and claim forms will be available at the meeting. If you wish to attend the meeting please let me know by May 7th at the latest. Grace Foster (MHA Co-ordinator) Tel:-215053.

Christian Family Care Wanted Secretary/Admin Assistant 37 hours per week £16515, with good working knowledge of Microsoft Office. Further details & application form Margaret Wardale 353592 . Closing date 22 April , Interview date 30 April.

Thank you to Judith Stanton and her supporters for the generous donation they have made to Story Box. This will be put towards equipment.

Saturday 8 May, 10am till noon. Dorothy and Reg Frank invite you to a coffee morning in aid of Mission Funds at 164 Kimbolton Road. Raffle and Cakes for sale.

Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club Charity Concert on the 11 May at 7.30pm will feature the Kempston Musical Society. Admission £5 including refreshments with all proceeds going to support the Alzheimers Society.

Church Cricket As you may know, several members of the Partnership (including one of our ministers!) belong to a church cricket team which plays other church teams, both local and further afield, during the summer. If you are interested in joining us, even on a very occasional basis, in a playing or, better still in an umpiring or scoring capacity, please let me know as soon as possible. Many thanks Andrian Quarry 409612

Christian Aid Week 9 - 15h May Collecting packs will be available at Putnoe Heights & St Mark's from Sunday 25 April onwards. New collectors are always welcome to join the regulars. Please contact Beryl Wigginton or Lawrence Wyatt at Putnoe and Wendy Rider at St Mark's. Thank you

Gideons International Bernard Hicks is offering to visit church groups to talk about his work with the Gideons. Contact him on Bedford 355491 e-mail ; -bernard @ bhicks.freeseve.co.uk.

Dear Revd Royden

My husband and I visited St Marks on Easter Monday for the car boot sale. As with all the events we come to at St Marks it was very well organised and we enjoyed our visit especially the delicious cake with our coffee. It was particularly nice to be greeted at the gate by yourself and to watch the excellent selling techniques of Revd Crossley on the church stall. We do hope that you had a very successful day.

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.

**Fred Seaton
Czeslaw Stefan Widlicki
Dick Kempston**

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

We have been to a number of the Christmas Fairs, usually with a stall to sell the crafts I make. This is so well organised and we always enjoy the day very much - last year of course was exceptional because we watched England win the World Cup on the TV you had provided for everyone.

Although we are members of Bunyan Meeting Church in Mill Street and are both very involved there, we live very near to St Marks and tend to come to quite a few events at the church. I belong to the Embroiderers Guild and have also been to other classes there. We think you have a lovely church and make such good use of the premises - there is always something going on. If there is an opportunity for you to pass on to your members how welcoming everyone is and how pleasant it is for visitors to come to your church, we would be pleased for you to do so. Please extend best wishes from our church to all at St Mark's. Yours in Christian fellowship. Gillian Millbery
(How lovely to receive such an encouraging letter praising everybody who works hard at the car boot sale and the volunteers at the church)

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 Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights).

Hymn For Sunday

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:

Chorus

*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.*

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.

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.

No funerals this week