



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

25 February 2007

First Sunday of Lent



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights Church. On the 2nd & 4th Sunday at St Mark's Chapel.

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership - Mr Ian Farthing
Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

Second Sunday of Lent

9.30am St Mark's - Family Worship

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership - Mrs Janet Day
Intercessions - Mrs Wendy Waters

11.00am -Putnoe Heights - Family Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Wendy Nash
Intercessions - Ministers

Reading 1: Gen 15: 1-12, 17-18

Reading 2: Phil 3:- 4: 1

Reading 3: Luke 13: 31 to end

Thank You

The flowers in St Mark's Church have been given by Jean Bank in memory of her mother Gladys Kittredge.

The flowers on the organ are given by Mrs Phyllis Barnwell in memory of her husband Alan.

The flowers in Putnoe Church have been given by Madge Walsh in memory of her husband on his birthday .

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

Prayer for Sunday

O God, forasmuch as without you,
We are not able to please you;
Mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
May in all things
Direct and rule our hearts;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisisChurch.com

Partnership Youth and Children's Worker

Mrs Liz Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

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

Partnership News is also archived on our church website www.ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

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

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss 268101

Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day 295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

- 9.30 - 12.00 pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school** Mrs Janet Smith 326685
- 8.30 - 5.30 pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school** Mrs. Helen Harpin 312634
(See website for more details)
- 9.00 am Clubhouse** at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater 315460.
- 12.00pm - 1.00pm Story box** Putnoe Heights church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz on 01234 302349
- 2.30 - 4.30pm** Bedford Arts Society at Putnoe Heights contact Malcolm Smith on 01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)
- 4pm Monday Club** at St. Marks for 3—8 year olds meet at 3.30. for refreshments , between 4 & 5 Bible story, craft activities & songs. Lots of fun. Contact Liz 302349
- 4.15pm - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness.** Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock 01908 565044
- 4.15 - 6.00pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms Raksha Mistry 01908 392698
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew 826190
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Sharon Tanner 364710
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs Pauline Parrott 768419
- 7.15 m Guides** -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 7.15pm Yoga** 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 next 19 March Contact 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. Judi Staughton 341821
- 10.00am Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Andrea 210177 or Magella 325293.
- 9.30am -12.30 & 4 - 9pm Slimming World** at St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg 351223
- 2.00pm Library Walk W.I.** at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Contact Mrs C Allen 363878
- 2 - 5pm Police Surgery.** St Mark's Foyer.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting ; 27 February. Mr Fenely. Being a Bevin Boy Contact Betty Wyatt 350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles

provided. Mrs Maureen Watling 262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. For details of next meeting contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

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

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

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

Tuesday - 7pm-9pm MT Karate [all ages] at Putnoe Heights. Please contact Karen King 07941 264885

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

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

7.45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 27 February. Concert—Melodians Contact Audrey Wilkins 365068 or Margaret Gentle 309043

Wednesday

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

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

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

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation meets fortnightly at Putnoe Heights - For details of next meeting Contact Audrey Hancock 365915.

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Heights fortnightly. For details of next meeting 21 February 2007 contact Putnoe 365630

1 - 3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

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

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

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

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

6.15pm - 7.45pm Yoga and Relaxation at Putnoe Heights. contact Racheall Monton 01234 297138

6.30 - 7.30 at St Mark's Karate contact Karen 079412 64885

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

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Contact Sylvia

Woods 365095

7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Janice Loxley 347073

7.45pm Badminton Club at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. 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.*

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

9.45am Yoga at Putnoe Heights. Karen Simpson 244970

9.45- 11.30 Chat and Play at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.50 for first child + 50p for each extra child over 2years. **Starts 1 March.** More details from St. Marks 342613 or Emma Stangwick 211070

1.30pm - 3.00pm Clinic at St. Mark's 267444

12pm Story box St Mark's Church welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible story, singing and activities. Lots of fun, donations. Contact Liz Spavins on 302349

1.30-3pm Toddler Playtime at Putnoe **Contact Andrea 210177 or Magella 325293.**

2 - 4.30pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer 345991

4.00 Story box Plus at Putnoe Heights for 4-11year old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm make props, sing & rehearse a short play to perform in church on the 1st Sunday of each month Lots of fun And it's free! Liz Spavins 302349

5.30 - 7.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.

Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Helga Nash 218521

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

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Sheila Jakeman 261935

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

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

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

7.45pm Housegroup meets fortnightly Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

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

Friday

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

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

2pm U3A Gardening Group at Putnoe Heights

Contact Eve Whitehead 356875

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

7.30pm Youth Club for age 10-15 at St Mark's Church. Contact PCSO Rowland Gilbey 349179

Saturday

9.00 - 12.00 Stars School of Dance at Putnoe.

Contact Esther Sancto 272517 or 07917 582468

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

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

Sunday

Junior Church with crèche for under 3's

9.30 - 10.30 at St. Mark's

11-12 at Putnoe Heights.

1 - 3pm Tabernacle of Truth Church at Putnoe Heights - Worship. Contact Revd. Tarr 360188 Mob. 07866775515

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

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

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 12 June

Circuit Meeting - 14 March

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

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

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

Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 5 March, 14 May, 16 July

Putnoe Church Council - 11 June

Pastoral Group Meeting – 8 May 07

Churchyard Committee -

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting

Partnership Council -

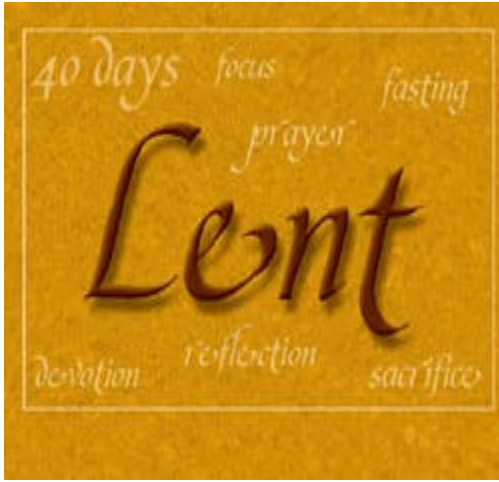
Brickhill Parish Council - 5 April 7 June, 5 July

Deanery Meeting -

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth– 23 April at 1.00pm

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

Lent 1



Verse of Scripture - Psalm 91:1

They who dwell in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty

Collect Prayer - *Before we read we pray*

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our

weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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

First Bible Reading - Deut 26: 1-11

When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the first fruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our forefathers to give us." The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, putting us to hard labour. Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the first fruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me." Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. And you and the Levites and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

(Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans 10: 8b - 13

But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

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

Gospel Reading - Luke 4: 1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'" The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendour, for it has been given to me, and I can give it

to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written " He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise)

1. Lead us heavenly Father lead us, 400 (Mannheim)
2. Forty days and forty nights, 160
3. As the deer pants
4. Through all the changing scenes of life, 702
5. Lord of the Church 442 (Londonderry Air)

Commentary

In the passage from Luke today we see Jesus doing battle with the Devil. Jesus is tempted, challenged and made to engage in a kind of spiritual combat with evil possibilities. Our human lives are a battleground. Each one of us is conflicted, seemingly surrounded by beast and angels, every one of us has weaknesses which expose us to the powers of evil. Biblical writers have used many different types of language and descriptions to describe this conflict. The writer to the Ephesians speaks about having to put on the armour of God for battle, in Romans the apostle Paul tells us that whilst he wants to do good things, so often he ends up doing the bad things he doesn't want to do.

Each one of us aspires to do great things, we are full of dreams and high ideas, yet so often we disappoint ourselves and don't meet up with our own expectations. We really don't need to come to church to remind ourselves that we fall short of God's ideal, the truth is that we can't even hit our own low standards, let alone God's!

How easy it is therefore to pile on the guilt at Lent. All the food we have consumed since New Year which we were going to stop eating. More importantly all the good ways which we might have thought we could behave to be better Christian people. In past years preachers were likely to mount assaults upon congregations, berating them for their sins, 'dangling them over the pit,' before offering them a way back to salvation.

Surely there is no need to do this to Christian people, we already know the error of our ways. Indeed, perhaps the message of Lent should be more affirming. Last Sunday evening I listened to Roger Royle on the radio doing his introduction to Lent. he played a few nice hymns and then at the end he used the General Confession from the Book of Common Prayer. For me memories flooded back of sitting in draughty old Anglican churches reciting this confession which drums into the praying person just how dreadful they really are

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

It really is depressing, 'there is no health in us' - 'miserable offenders.' Obviously we are all worms, not worthy. It is almost Monty Python. Contrast this with the Jesus who lifts up the head of the woman caught in adultery and sets her free from her captors. Are these the words which our Lord would expect to be on the lips of his children?

I have a problem with them. I see human beings made in the likeness of God. The image of God is poor in all of us, but we can never be worms. Moreover, telling people how dreadful they are so that they will turn

to God and seek salvation, this is not an encounter with the Good News, it is a threat. Jesus loved people into the kingdom, he never delighted to make them feel worse than they felt already. The ministry of Jesus was about him raising up people who were low in self esteem, and putting them back on the road to recovery. If we study the words of Jesus we find that threatening words were only ever used for the self-righteous and those who pointed the finger at the guilt of others.

So this Lent, let us not be reminded more than we have to that we fall short of God's ideal. Let us not focus on our own shortcomings, rather upon the saving grace of Jesus. He was surrounded by beast in the desert, he was challenged to decide how he would live his life, and he choose well. In the life of Christ is all humankind saved, not by our efforts to become acceptable and winning God over.

Charles Royden

Meditation 'Judging success'

Abraham Lincoln was elected 16th President of the United States. On this day in 1861 he was sworn in as President, just as the American Civil War was about to begin. He is one of the most respected of American presidents, but he could have given up at the time of any one of his many failures and negative experiences: In 1832 he was defeated in state elections. In 1833 he failed as a shopkeeper and was in debt. 1836 saw him have a nervous breakdown. In 1849 he was disillusioned at not being offered a government post, and he left politics for a time. In 1855 and also in 1858 he was defeated in his wish to be elected for the U.S. Senate. He experienced personal tragedy as three of his four children died young. On finally becoming president, he was let down by some of those he had appointed to positions of trust.

Prayer Father, into your hands I place my successes. Into your hands I also place my failures, and I pray that, through your spirit, I may face the challenges of life with courage and determination. Help me to think anew and see things more broadly than in terms of "success" and "failure". Lead me always to trust and place myself confidently in your hands. Amen.

Prayers for Lent

Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord, that by the observance of this Lent we may advance in the knowledge of the mystery of Christ, and show forth his mind in conduct worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Gelasian Sacramentary

Loving father, today we start Lent. Over the next six weeks, with your help, we are going to prepare for Easter. From today we are making a new start with a bigger effort to be more loving and kind. Help us to show concern for the less fortunate, the hungry and the poor, and especially help us to speak to you more often. We ask this through your Son, Jesus, whose death and resurrection we will be thinking about in the next few weeks. *Tony Castle*

O Lord and heavenly father, who hast given unto us thy people the true bread that cometh down from heaven, even thy Son Jesus Christ: grant that throughout this Lent our souls may be so fed by him that we may continually live in him and he in us; and that day by day we may be renewed in the spirit by the power of his endless life, who gave himself for us, and now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. FB Macnutt. 1873-1949

As the days lengthen and the earth spends longer in the light of day, grant that I may spend longer in the light of your presence, O Lord, and may those seeds of your Word, which have been long buried

Lent Book Review.

This week I have been reading "Finding Sanctuary: monastic steps for everyday life". The writer is Abbot Christopher Jamison, familiar to television viewers as the head of Worth Abbey, which featured in the series "The Monastery". The book encourages busy people to adapt aspects of monastic life into their working week. The Abbot has strong things to say about people who get their lives get too busy! The book takes you through silence, contemplation, obedience, humility, community, spirituality and hope as characteristic of a healthy relationship with God. A simple yet challenging book to read for Lent. Joan

Finding Sanctuary, by Christopher Jamison is published by Weidenfeld and Nicholson, London 2006 and may be purchased through clicking through the church website to Amazon.

Mission Coffee Morning Saturday 10 March at 22 Brecon Way from 10 until 12 noon. Raffle, cakes etc. Proceeds to African Projects. Richard & Claire Peck

The Chapel Chairs Would everybody who has bought a chair please give the wording which they would like on the plaque on their to Charlie, the leadership team or the Office.

Are you willing?

This leaflet is now available from church. It encourages us to recognise that it is important for each one of us to have completed a will. Failure to do so can cause your loved ones untold misery. Be considerate.

The leaflet also encourages us to consider remembering your church. A gift of this kind can transform the ministry of the church.

The Lent course will take place at Putnoe 7.30 for 8 start. Finishes ay 9pm.

28 February Heaven and Hell

A Biblical perspective—Charles Royden

7 March Professor Paul Crossley

Medieval Images of heaven and hell

14 March Professor Paul Crossley Images of heaven and hell in literature

21 March Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Images of heaven and hell in art

Wine Bluffs for Wine Buffs. 17 March at Putnoe Heights 7.30. An evening of wine tasting and food. In aid of NSPCC and Church funds. Tickets£12.50 now available from Church Office/Jenny Emsley.360397

St Mark's Community Centre Extension

The new centre is now open. We are pleased to announce that already 12 new groups have arranged to come to our community centre.

Network – Daffodil Day will be on Monday 5th March at Methodist Central Hall, London 2pm. See poster in foyer for more details.

BEH Network District Day on 14th March from 11am to 3pm at Bishops Stortford Methodist Church, South Street. See poster in foyer. District Craft Day on 31st March at Priory Methodist Church from 10am to 4.15pm. Places to be booked by 12th March please. Further details and booking form from Pam Seymour. Tel: 305695

Help Please! I need to collect plastic sleeving, such as that which brings catalogues and magazines through the post, for a Guide Project I am launching after Easter. Any size will be useable, especially if cut open, not torn and brought it to me flat not folded! I need to collect about 1000 sleeves so any help you can give will be appreciated. I'll let you know when I have sufficient! Marion Prior

Moving Sale - 8 x8 shed cost £569 2 years ago. Now only £200 and I can help dismantle and re-erect. 3 piece rattan suite with blue cushions £80. Alstons Havana Wardrobe 5 doors. The house we are moving to has built in wardrobes. It is white and was bought from Hatters in 2001. Cost over £600, offers around £300. Keyth and Sara Richardson 01234 330029

St. Mark's Church Pre-School are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. Please ask friends and family if they could collect them for Pre-School and leave them at the office. Helen Harpin.

Goldington and Putnoe Children's Centre now has an office at Putnoe Heights Church and will be taking over the management of the Toddlers Playtime group in April. Would you like to support the centre as a Trustee? They are looking for individuals with varied business experience. Meetings are held monthly with all expenses paid and training opportunities are available. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Linda Hoar 782717.

Thank you to those who assisted with the refreshments and washing up for the Ash Wednesday service. It was particularly pleasing to welcome so many of our friends from across the Circuit to what was a moving service, well appreciated.

Donations. St Mark's Churchyards Committee would like to receive donations from anybody who would like to gift a tree, shrub or other plants for the new garden. There are also other more sizeable features which can be donated if preferred. We would also like to start a donations book, if you have donated anything to St Mark's Church or Garden over the years please tell us so that we can make a suitable entry — lest we forget !



Putnoe Heights Church
 50th Anniversary Weekend
 16-17th June, 2007
 Putnoe Heights Church was
 opened and dedicated in June
 1957.

A weekend of celebration is being planned to include activities for families and a concert by Kempston Musical Society on Saturday with special services, including a Circuit service followed by a meal on Sunday. We would like to invite past members who have moved away so, if you are in touch with anyone who might be interested, please pass their names and details to Alan Cooper. Throughout the weekend, the church will be open with a display of 50 years of church history. If you have any photographs of weddings, christening or other events that we might borrow please contact Gerry Allen. Please help us to make the weekend a success.

St Albans to Taize 2007. Join this year's pilgrimage 21st - 30th July. If you are aged between 15 & 30 and would like to take part come along to a meeting on Saturday 31st March at Christ Church, Goldington Road, Bedford at 7.30pm.

Concert by Chapel Choir of Christ's College, Cambridge. Saturday 17 March at 7pm in St. Paul's Church, Bedford. Programme to include Scarlatti's Stabat Mater. Tickets £8 from : Heather Turnham 343477, /Central Box Office, /Classic Music, Lime St ,Bedford..

Thank you to Judith Stanton and her members for their kind donation of £140.

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.

Geoffrey Morris

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



Photo's of St Mark's Do you have any old photographs of the buildings at St Mark's? We are hoping to do a display for the opening of the new building on March 9. Please do let us copy them by delivering them to St Mark's Office for Charlie

Chat and Play a mums & toddlers group starts 1 March from 9.45—11.30am at St. Mark's Church. £1.50 for first child + 50p for any others over 2. More details from St.Mark's 342613 or Emma Stangwick 211070.

Women's World Day of Prayer at Putnoe Heights Church Friday 2nd March at 7.30pm. Service prepared by Christian Women of Paraguay. Speaker - Rev. Sarah Burrow, Assistant Minister, St. Peter's. All Welcome. Also at St. Paul's Church Bedford at 2pm.

TNT meets again next Sunday, the 25th, 6.00pm at Putnoe for T shirt painting. Please supply your own T shirt, paints provided. Liz

Footprints - Massey's Marvellous Mystery Tour, Sunday 4 March 2007. Start time 2.00pm at Larkway opposite Bedford Park. One way route about 2½ miles. We will have our car at the end for lifts if necessary. Mainly tarmac paths but a little muddy in places. Alan and Margaret Tel 327219.

Line Dancing at St Mark's. Taster sessions for both beginners and improvers 2,9,16 March. Lessons begin 20 April. Christine Rushton 01234 782360.

Thank you To all of those who helped with the Vision for Action celebration in the Cathedral on Saturday. It was a great day and your support helped make it possible.

Rest in Peace



The funeral of Rona Spinks will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Thursday 1 March at 4.00pm Royden

The funeral of Daphne Williams will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 2 March at 10.00am Royden