



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

25 September 2005
26 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

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship with
Baptism of Jayla Green

Preacher - Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams

Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions—Mrs Sue Allen

27 in Ordinary Harvest Festival

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

St Mark's Church Harvest Family Worship

9.30am Preacher - Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership - Mrs Janet Day

Intercessions - Mrs Alison Holden

11.00am Putnoe - Harvest Family Worship

Preacher - Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss

Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

1 Reading Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 **2 Reading** Phil
3:4b-14 **3 Reading** Matt 21:33-46

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Alan & Margaret Massey in celebration of their third wedding anniversary & Mrs Britton in memory of her husband Jeff.

The flowers in Church at St Mark's this week have been given by Mike & Audrey Elliot to celebrate their Ruby Wedding, and by Elias & Margaret Jaworsky to celebrate their granddaughters christening.

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, you give the water of eternal life through Jesus Christ your Son. May we always turn to you, the spring of life and source of goodness: through the same 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 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

309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

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

Children's and Youth Worker-Mrs Liz Spavins 302349

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).

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

10.00am Supple Strength at Putnoe Heights. Louise Woodcock 270302

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, no charge. Contact Liz on 01234 302349

3.30 - 5pm Story box Plus at St. Mark's church invite all 4-10 year olds to join them after school at 3.30. We chill out with refreshments and games then until 5pm, make props, sing and rehearse a short play which we then perform in Church the first Sunday on each month. Lots of fun, no charge. 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. 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 17 October St. Mark's 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. Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203

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

10.00am Keep Fit at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Stileman 822230

1.30-3pm Toddlers Playtime at Putnoe Heights. 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 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. Stephanie Smith 357787

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship -

Next meeting 27 September Mission Mrs Alderman - Betty Wyatt 350188.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 27 September. Members Study Afternoon Acts 6, vv 1-7. Lawrence 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. Mary Stubbs 406784.

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

6.45pm Guides at Putnoe Heights. Emma Holloway 293792

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

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

7.30pm Bibleway 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 7.45pm 4 October - Harvest. Madge Walsh 359088

8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing group) - 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 . 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 Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 5 October Putnoe 365630

1- 3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights . Resuming 24 August

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

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

6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe Mr James 07711 687449

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

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

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

7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. 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. Ken Marriott 214867
8.45-9.45pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong (Self help healing group) starting 1 Oct - Mr F Steele 355937

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. Karen Simpson 244970

10.30am - 12.00am Fledglings at St Mark's

2.00pm - 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, no charge. Contact Liz Spavins on 1234 302349

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

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

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

2pm U3A Indoor Games at Putnoe Heights. 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 Liz Spavins 302349

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

6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe Heights. Helga Nash 218521

7.00pm Club 2000 at Putnoe Height. Pat Stidolph 345247

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

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

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

7.30-9.30pm Bibleway Church- Bible Studies every 2nd Thursday- Pastor Tarr 360188

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

8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle meets at St Mark's 3rd Thursday each month. 1st Thursday as from January 2006 Mr John Broadhouse 740271

Friday

9.30am U3A Exercise at Putnoe Heights. Carole Maunder 301325

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

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

7. 30pm Bibleway Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 360188

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

Saturday

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

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

2.30pm Calligraphy Group at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting. 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 360188 Mob. 07866775515

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

Diary Dates

2005	2006	2007	2008
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	

St Mark's Church Council 12 October

Circuit Meeting

St Mark's Leadership Team - 4 October at Vicarage

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team Sept 26 7.30pm at 70 Brecon Way.

St Mark's Church Management Meeting

2 November. All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Heights Management - 14 Nov, 16 Jan 2005

Putnoe Church Council 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting - 6th February 2006 2.00pm

Churchyard Committee - 7 October at 4.15

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting .

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council 26 September, 13 October

Visit of Bishop Christopher 23 October

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

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

Bible Notes

Ordinary 26 Year A Trinity 18 (Green)

Verse of Scripture Psalm 25 v 1

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God

A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray.

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

First Reading – Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: 'The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son— both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die. Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear, O house of Israel: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin, he will die for it; because of the sin he has committed he will die. But if a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his life. Because he considers all the offences he has committed and turns away from them, he will surely live; he will not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Are my ways unjust, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust? Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offences; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offences you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

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

Second Reading - Philippians 2: 1-13

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

Third Reading - Mathew 21: 23-32

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?" Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you



Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4

by what authority I am doing these things. John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?" They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'From men'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' " 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

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

Commentary

Philippians 2 v 5 – 11 is probably a quotation from an early hymn of praise to Christ. It is sometimes called the Kenotic Prayer, from the Greek kenosis meaning 'to make empty'. There are clearly divisions and factions in the church at Philippi and Paul urges all parties to forget their pride and to live and work and think as one. We are urged to do the same. Anything less than this is unworthy of the Christ who came as the supreme example of humanity. It was because Jesus gave up all He had, including his life, and emptied Himself, made Himself nothing, that God exalted Him to the highest place of all. In making himself nothing and becoming human Jesus still retained the form of God, His essential nature and attributes, but effectively waived His status and accepted human limitations. He lived a life of humble obedience, limited to the resources God gives to all humans; the power of His Spirit, His Holy Word, and prayer, a constant dialogue and communication with the Father.

How strange then that this Jesus, who had emptied Himself of everything, posed such a threat to the Jewish authorities. But in maintaining the theme of this gospel, and our readings over the last few weeks, Jesus continues to redirect the tradition of Israel away from ritual legalism and a dominant priesthood towards a more personal commitment to, and relationship with, a loving and forgiving God. This approach threatened the religious authorities of the time, and anyone challenging this social and moral rigidity was automatically suspect by both Pharisees and Sadducees alike. And it's not surprising that Jesus confronts them with the question of John's authority. John had been baptising people for the forgiveness of sins. Rituals for the forgiveness of sins were largely in the hands of the priests and the temple. That was one of its main functions. While there was technically nothing wrong with John's rather novel rite, in the eyes of those properly ordained to priestly tasks, it amounted to something of a maverick enterprise. Interestingly the issue for the Jewish leaders seems to be about authority not blasphemy. Were they perhaps more interested in maintaining the status quo rather than in trying to understand the word and nature of their God? Could someone like Jesus declare God's forgiveness, pronounce absolution?

Jesus' final thrust that the tax collectors and prostitutes may have an advantage over these religious authorities must have been especially difficult to accept! It underlines the fact that the irreligious can sometimes respond to the words and prompting of God, and His forgiveness, more readily than those whose self-deceiving moral superiority makes them impervious to its appeal. How strange to us too sometimes that God does speak to people who are very different to ourselves. Stranger still, He sometimes chooses to speak to us through them. Ultimately, however, the principle involved in all of today's readings is not words but actions. Just like 'the chief priests and the elders of the people', we will be judged, not by what we say, but by what we do. *Sam Cappleman.*

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Praise to you, God, for all your work among us. Yours is the vigour in creation, yours is the impulse in our new discoveries. Make us adventurous, yet reverent and hopeful in all we do. Amen.

Lord, help us to empty ourselves that we may serve you. Help us to serve you that we may do your will. Speak to us, that we might listen, speak through us so that others may hear. Amen

Lord God, we thank you for calling us into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey His will. May your Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission and service to your world; for we are strangers no longer but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom. Amen *Prayer of the Inter Church Process (The Swanwick Declaration)*

God the Sender, send you; God the Sent, go with us; God the Strengthener of those who go, empower you, that you may go to do His will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Meditation

In the Gospel reading the tax collectors and the prostitutes are like the first son. Initially they said no to God, but on hearing John the Baptist's preaching they accepted the word of God and started doing that which pleases God. The chief priests and elders, on the other hand, are like the second son. They too heard John's preaching, and even witnessed the responses of the tax collectors and the prostitutes. But they only feigned acceptance, and refused to accept John as a true messenger from God because he seemed such an unlikely character. Are there people in our lives who perhaps sometimes speak the word of God who we ignore, or only pay lip service to, because they too are unlikely characters?

Post Communion Prayer.

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise—at St Marks we also require baptism booklets*)

- a. 756 When morning gilds the skies
- b. 394 Jubilate Everybody
- c. 13 All Hail the power of Jesus' name!
- d. 173 Glorious things of thee are spoken
- e. 575 Rejoice the Lord is King

"My God, do not abandon me.
I have done nothing good
before Thee, but grant me,
in Thy compassion,
the power to make a start.

*A favorite patristic prayer from
Arsenius (5th century):*

News, Views and Information

Story Box and Story Box Plus Storybox Plus starts at St Marks

3.30 starting with 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. 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.

Audrey & Mike Elliot invite you to take a piece of cake with your tea/coffee at the end of this mornings service in celebration of their Ruby Wedding.

Putnoe Heights Harvest Lunch - Sunday 2 October. A simple two course meal with soft drinks provided - please bring your own wine. Tickets available from the Church Office £5 for adults, £2.50 for children under 10 years.

Flower Festival "For the Beauty of the Earth" 10am - 6pm Renhold 24-26 September In aid of church funds. Refreshments available entry by programme £1.

Network Autumn District Day on Tuesday 4 October from 11am—3.30pm at St. Margaret's Church, Luton. The theme is "Looking at Overseas Mission". Further details from Pam Seymour 305695 or Eleanor MacKirby 360271

Bedford Ecumenical Lay Training Centre 'Practical Spirituality' course. Wednesday 5, 12, 19 October & 2, 9 November 2005. 7.45 - 9.30pm at St Andrew's Church. Rev Dr Joan Crossley 344536

Piano lessons: I have a few vacancies for new pupils for the coming year. Special rate for members of the Partnership Churches. All ages welcome! Adrian Quarry Tel. 409612.

Macmillan Coffee Morning—Peter and Valerie invite friends old and new to join them in a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Nurses on Friday September 30 between 10.00am and 12.30pm at 1, Bindon Abbey (Riverside Drive). Macmillan goods for sale, raffle and Bring and Buy.

Storybox at Putnoe If you would like to join the story telling rota, contact Liz Spavins on 302349. We are also looking for extra hands to help set up

Fifties Nite!
Putnoe Heights church
Saturday 22nd October 2005
at 7.30pm

to celebrate the dedication
of the site for a new
Methodist Church at
Putnoe Heights
in October 1955

Ticket: £7-10s-0d (£7.50p)

Rock'n'Roll!
Pop !!
Swam !!!

Tickets are now available for this
fantastic night of celebration

and put away tables once a month.

Vision for Action Launch. The way forward for the Diocese of St Albans will be presented on 17 October at St Andrew's Church by the Bishop. Evening starts with refreshments at 8.00pm. Members of Leadership Teams please think if you can go, it promises to be an interesting evening. Please let me know if you are available. We also need a parish link person, please let me know if you are interested. *Charlie*

Footprints meet today in Millbrook at 2.30pm at "The Chequers" (parking in car park next to Vehicle Proving Ground). Circular walk passing through proposed site for (CentreParcs). Further details contact Sue Allen 407264

Rotas. Please note that rotas are now available for the next quarter. On display at St Mark's is a provisional rota for you to ammend. If your name is not currently on the rota then please let us know, we are always looking for new readers, or people to lead prayers.

To advertise in Partnership News please send your advertisement to office@thisischurch.com, fax 01234 342613.

We are pleased to include advertisements for a small charge, when space is available.

Brass, Buffet and The Bishop.

Come and meet Bishop Christopher and have a fantastic night of entertainment with the Bedford Town Brass Band we will have We welcome Bishop Christopher on Sunday 23 October at 7.30pm

Cancer Research UK - Theatre Tickets. Bedford Dramatic Club are performing "Veronica's Room", a thriller by Ira Levin, at the end of September. They have donated 50 tickets to Cancer Research UK, and all proceeds from the sale of these tickets will go to the charity. The performance is at The Place, Bradgate Road, Bedford on Tuesday, 27 September at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 each (concessions £5) which is a discounted price for us, and are available now from Howard Lawrence (tel. 267837) and Sue Butler (tel. 354183). Reserve yours soon, or you may miss out on what will be a very entertaining evening, and a chance to help this worthwhile cause.

Thank you to everybody who contributed in any way to the auction we raised over £3,000 towards the new building extension.

'Bed:Rock' Concert - Priory Methodist Church 7.30pm 1st October. Details contact James Robinson-Morley 01234 295587

UCCF Prayer Group If you have a son, daughter, grandchild or friend at, or about to go to University, come & join the local prayer Group on 7 October at 7.30pm at 2 The Furlong. More information phone Hywel or Jackie on 01234 363453.

Partnership Council Meeting

Review. The Partnership Council Meeting took place last week at St Mark's Church. The main discussion

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.

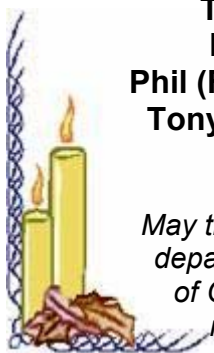
Tracy Palmer

Lilian Taylor

Phil (Felise Helen) Kinglerlee

Tony (Anthony) Winstanley

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



concerned the Partnership Review Draft Document prepared by The Reverend Stephen Heap. The report was fully examined and comments made prior to the completion of the final document which will be sent to our sponsoring body the Beds Ecumenical Committee. The Council felt that the report was affirming and highlighted the many positive features of church life. Stephen Heap had also made many helpful observations. When received the report will be published in our churches.

Clubhouse. The Council heard that St Mark's Clubhouse has been shortlisted to receive a European Social Fund award for the quality of the Clubhouse project which has been achieved in such a short time.

Youth and Children. The Council formally welcomed Liz Spavins to her new role as Children and Youth worker. We heard that Storybox Plus at Putnoe now has 14 children involved and work is in progress to attract support for a club at St Mark's.

Circuit and Deanery. The Council were advised that new Vicars were to be inducted within a week at St Mary's Goldington and St James Biddenham and All Saints Kempston. A new minister will also be sought for Priory Methodist Church for August 2006. There will be a special Circuit Service at St Mark's to celebrate the 50 years of John Stubbs as a Local Preacher.

Pastoral Support. The Council approved the suggestion by the Pastoral Support Group that all names entered in the Book of Remembrance at St Mark's will be included in intercessions at Wednesday Holy Communion. If requested by family these names will also be read out when a candle is lit at Sunday Services together with the names of those whose funeral has been held the previous week.

Bridge Cottage Update

We have been delayed in our sale of Bridge Cottage due to difficulties in obtaining planning permission. However we are pleased to report that it has now been formally placed onto the market by Barfords of St Neots who are the appointed agents. Offers will be invited for the cottage with the expectation of a final offer in six weeks time. By this time we expect to have a final judgement on the planning application which allows for conversion of both barns on the site into additional dwellings and accommodation. Any requests for information regarding the sale should be directed to Barfords Estate Agents 01480 213811

Forthcoming funerals to be taken by our Ministers

The funeral Mollie Joyce Reece will take place at Bedford Crematorium at 10.00am on Tuesday 27 September