



Methodist  
Church

# Partnership News

26 June 2005

13 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

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Avril Williams

Intercessions - Ministers

#### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mr Alan Bayliss

Intercessions - Mrs Sylvia Cohen

## 3 July 14 in Ordinary

### 8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

#### 9.30am St Mark's Church –

Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher—Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard

Intercessions –Mrs Alison Holden

#### 11.00am Putnoe Heights

Family Worship with Baptism

Preacher –Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mrs Sue Allen

Intercessions - Mrs Claire Peck

## Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by May and Roy Laird in memory of the Laird and Harland family.

The flowers at St Marks this week are given by Iris Perry in loving memory of Cyril on the occasion of their wedding anniversary.

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

Almighty God,  
may my mouth speak for justice,  
may my feet walk for justice,  
may my hands work for justice,  
but more than any of those,  
may my heart and soul long for justice,  
until your will is done on earth  
as it is in heaven. Amen.

*Peter Graystone, Christian Aid.*

## Contact Details

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

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

### The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Mobile -07917 356062 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

### The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.

Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

### The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

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Partnership News is now available each week on the  
Partnership Website - [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://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 Samantha Ware 304058

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

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

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

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

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

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

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

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

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

**6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Contact Penny Fulham 406045

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

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

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

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

**7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month the next one 18 July Moorfields & Sight Concern Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313

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

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

## Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting 28 June -PC Milbourne, Bedfordshire Police Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188.

**2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meeting 5 July members afternoon. Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.

**2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets

fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709

**2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.**

Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.

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

**6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Emma Holloway 293792

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

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

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

**7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Next meeting 5 July Talk on 'The Eve Project.

Meets fortnightly. Contact Madge Walsh 359088

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

## Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

**Luncheon Club** at Putnoe Height meets fortnightly. Next meeting 6 July Contact Putnoe Heights 365630

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

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

**6.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449

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

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

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

**7pm Putnoe Guild** meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Contact Pam Holley 771964

**7.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes at St Mark's. Contact Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890

**7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

## Thursday

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

**9.45am Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Karen Simpson 244970

**10.30am - 12.00am Fledglings** at St Mark's

**2.00pm - 3.00pm Clinic** at St. Mark's Contact 267444

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

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

**1.30pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.**

Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

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

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

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

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.**

Contact Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies** at Putnoe Heights . Contact Helga Nash 218521

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

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

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

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

**7.45pm. Housegroup**-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact

Betty Wyatt 350188

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

## Friday

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

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

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

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

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

## Saturday

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

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

**2.30pm Calligraphy Group** at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting 2 July Contact Philip Jones 350295

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

## Sunday

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

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

# Church Calendar

## Church Diary Dates

**Partnership Council**

**St Mark's Church Council** 12 October

**Circuit/Deanery Meeting** 7.30 p.m. 22nd June at Putnoe Heights Church (not Clapham as previously advertised)

**Circuit Meeting** 14 September

**St Mark's Leadership Team** – Weds 6th July

**Putnoe Heights Leadership Team** July 21

**St Mark's Church Management Meeting**

11 July, 12 September, 2 November. All meetings to

start 7.00pm

**Putnoe Heights Management**

**Putnoe Church Council** 10 Oct 2005

**Pastoral Group Meeting** – 19 September 2.00pm

**Churchyard Committee** -

**Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting** .

**Please advise St Mark's Church Office of the dates of your meetings.** Calendar dates appear also on our church website [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com).

**Brickhill Parish Council dates** (Held at St Mark's) Allotments Committee 27 June 7.30pm

# Bible Notes

## Ordinary 13 Year A (Green)

### Verse of Scripture Romans Chapter 12:11

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

### A Collect Prayer

Lord of heaven and earth, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and power of your Church. Sow in our hearts the seeds of your grace that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit, in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** *Methodist Worship*

### First Reading – Jeremiah Chapter 28:5-9

Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah before the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD. He said, "Amen! May the LORD do so! May the LORD fulfill the words you have prophesied by bringing the articles of the Lord's house and all the exiles back to this place from Babylon. Nevertheless, listen to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people: From early times the prophets who preceded you and me have prophesied war, disaster and plague against many countries and great kingdoms. But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as one truly sent by the LORD only if his prediction comes true." (This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God.**)

### Second Reading - Romans 6: 12-23

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. ( This is the word of the Lord—**Thanks be to God**)

### Third Reading –Matthew 10: 40-42

"He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward." (This is the word of the Lord.—**Thanks be to God**)

### Commentary

The passage from Matthew this morning is a simple one, but it has a powerful message. Over the past two Sundays we have heard how Jesus sends out his disciples. He calls for commitment from them, he is honest about the dangers they will face, including rejection by their own families. In the reading from Matthew today we hear Jesus reassuring the disciples that he will reward those who



receive them and treat them kindly.

*"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me,  
and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."*

The disciples are to go out in the name of Jesus. They are to speak his words, they are his representatives, not their own. For this reason the response which people make to the disciples will be a direct reflection upon Jesus whose job they are doing. It is similar to the way in which we treat ambassadors from other countries. If we insult them, then it is not just a personal insult, we insult the country which they represent.

Jesus is clear, kindness shown to his disciples is kindness to him, because they are acting on his behalf. And of course if they act on behalf of Jesus they act for God himself. This is a serious warning to those who might offer hospitality, it is also a reminder to the disciples that they are not out campaigning for themselves, they are nothing short of the visible presence of God himself.

It seems that everybody will be judged by the way in which they treat the disciples. Jesus does not just consider how kings will change government policy. Rather he uses the example of how an ordinary person might respond by offering a drink. It is only a small thing, it does not require great affluence, and so the point is made, we do not have to be rich to help, and poverty is no excuse because we all have something to offer. To provide a cup of cold water to a thirsty person is not costly, but it might be extremely welcome, indeed it might be the gift of life itself.

We do not know what reward Jesus has in store for those who help and offer support, but we do know that the reward is guaranteed. In Acts 20:35 we read the following words of Paul

*'In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

Paul quotes Jesus and speaks of the importance of helping those less fortunate. He states what has been discovered by those who give, that we gain blessing in helping others. Perhaps that is sufficient reward in itself.

It is important to remember that Jesus is not commending general hospitality, but rather hospitality to his disciples. Providing hospitality to the disciples shows support for their message. But we fail to do justice to the ministry of Jesus if we fail to recognise the importance of showing kindness to any vulnerable person. Jesus healed freely, he fed freely, he cared for all without distinction.

This was a message and pattern of behaviour which Jesus would have known from the Scriptures. Proverbs tells,

*Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31: 9*

As the Christians church across the world we must go and preach as those early disciples preached. As we go we must recognise that things have changed since those first disciples went out. The church is no longer in the position of needing to ask for water. Rather we know of all too many people in countries where there is no water and the church now represents many who have power and wealth. In this the church has a prophetic voice to raise. We want to make the proclamation of the Good news to the poor, but good news which the poor are waiting to hear is that they are poor no more.

If we are to take the commission by Jesus to all his disciples that we should go out and reveal who he is, then we need to consider how we might best do this. If we copy the example of Jesus then we will show the love of God in acts of kindness and speak words of compassion indiscriminately. It is particularly appropriate that this week we have included in Partnership News resources from the Make Poverty History Campaign. Please use these to inform your thoughts and prayers in the week ahead. *Charles Royden*

## **Meditations**

It is not from your own possessions that you are bestowing alms on the poor, you are but restoring to them what is theirs by right. For what was given to everyone for the use of all, you have taken for your exclusive use. The earth belongs not to the rich, but to everyone. Thus, far from giving lavishly, you are but paying part of your debt. (St Ambrose, 340-397)

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. .

## **Hymns**

1. Praise my soul the king of Heaven 560 (Request) 2. When I needed a neighbour were you there (On Partnership News) 3. Be still for the presence of the Lord (request) 50 4. Tell out my soul 631 Tune Woodlands 5. O for a thousand 496 Tune Lyngham (Request)

## **Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead**

O Lord Christ, who became poor that we might be rich, deliver us from a comfortable conscience if we believe or intend that others should be poor that we might be rich; for in God's economy, no one is expendable. Grant us instead the riches of love. (*World Alliance of Reformed Churches*) Peter Williams/WCC

I dare to pray: Lord, let the world be changed, for I long to see the end of poverty;  
I dare to pray: Lord, let the rules be changed, for I long to see trade bring justice to the poor;  
I dare to pray: Lord, let my life be changed, for I long to bring hope where good news is needed.  
In the strength of your Spirit and inspired by Your compassion,  
I make this promise to work for change, and wait confidently for the day  
when You make all things new. Amen (*Peter Graystone, Christian Aid*)

Give us, O Lord, churches that will be more courageous than cautious;  
that will not merely "comfort the afflicted" but "afflict the comfortable";  
that will not only love the world but also demand justice;  
that will not remain silent when people are calling for a voice;  
that will not pass by on the other side when wounded humanity is waiting to be healed;  
that will not only call us to worship but also send us out to witness;  
that will follow Christ even when the way points to a Cross.  
To this end we offer ourselves in the name of him who loved us and gave himself for us.  
(*Christian Conference of Asia*)

God of Justice, manifest in a carpenter's son, we pray for all who labour and toil and for those charged with protecting the conditions of their work. Grant to these stewards of economic justice an abiding and untiring commitment to the rights of all workers and to the protection of international labour standards throughout the world. Amen. (*Source unknown, pp119 Harvest for the World compiled by Geoffrey Duncan © Canterbury Press 2002, 2004*)

God of the just weight and the fair measure, let me remember the hands that harvested my food, my drink, not only in my prayers but in the market place. Let me not seek a bargain That leaves another hungry.  
(*Janet Morley Christian Aid; pp149 Harvest for the World compiled by Geoffrey Duncan © Canterbury Press 2002, 2004*)

We shall not be crushed; we do not despair; we know you will not abandon us; or let us be destroyed: for you are the God of life, and we carry your life in us. (*Christian Aid; Hunger for Justice (ed) Martin John Nicholls © 2004 Kevin Mayhew Ltd*)

To the countries where food is scarce, mercy Lord, while there is still time.  
To the countries where crops have failed, rescue Lord, while there is time.  
To countries where people are fearful, security Lord, while there is time.  
In the countries where we have plenty, set our hearts on sharing this time.  
In countries where we feel in control, set our minds on justice at this time.  
In countries where we forget those in need, set our prayers on Africa at this time.  
Amen (*Peter Graystone/Christian Aid; pp 133 Blessed Be Our Table; compilation © 2003 Neil Paynter*)

# MAKE POVERTY HISTORY



1. Trade justice
2. Drop the debt
3. More and better aid



[www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org)

Make Poverty History is a unique alliance of UK charities, trade unions, campaigning groups and celebrities who are mobilising around key opportunities in 2005 to drive forward the struggle against poverty and injustice. [www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org)

A most important gathering will soon take place when leaders from the "Group of 8" (G8) industrialized countries meet July 6-8 in Gleneagles, Scotland. The agenda of each G8 meeting is traditionally driven by the host country, so there is symbolic importance in the fact that that the United Kingdom was also host when the G8 group reached historic agreement on \$100 billion worth of debt cancellation in 1998. Since the UK will also hold the presidency of the European Union from July-December, there is some hope that the muscle of the G8 host will be applied to ensure effective European compliance with commitments made at the Millennium Summit.

In preparing for the July G8 meeting, campaigners have been concentrating on three broad areas in which they hope leaders will make progress: debt, aid, and trade.

## The Manifesto

### Trade Justice, Drop the Debt and More and Better Aid

Today, the gap between the world's rich and poor is wider than ever. Global injustices such as poverty, AIDS, malnutrition, conflict and illiteracy remain rife. Despite the promises of world leaders, at our present sluggish rate of progress the world will fail dismally to reach internationally agreed targets to halve global poverty by 2015. World poverty is sustained not by chance or nature, but by a combination of factors: injustice in global trade; the huge burden of debt; insufficient and ineffective aid. Each of these is exacerbated by inappropriate economic policies imposed by rich countries. But it doesn't have to be this way. These factors are determined by human decisions. 2005 offers an exceptional series of opportunities for the UK to take a lead internationally, to start turning things around. This year, as the UK hosts the annual G8 gathering of powerful world leaders and heads up the European Union (EU), the UK Government will be a particularly influential player on the world stage.

A sea change is needed. By mobilising popular support across a unique string of events and actions, we will press our own government to compel rich countries to fulfil their obligations and promises to help eradicate poverty, and to rethink some long-held assumptions.

Make Poverty History urges the government and international decision makers to rise to the challenge of 2005. We are calling for urgent and meaningful policy change on three critical and inextricably linked areas: trade, debt and aid.



### 1. Trade justice

- Fight for rules that ensure governments, particularly in poor countries, can choose the best solutions to end poverty and protect the environment. These will not always be free trade policies.
- End export subsidies that damage the livelihoods of poor rural communities around the world.
- Make laws that stop big business profiting at the expense of people and the environment.

The rules of international trade are stacked in favour of the most powerful countries and their businesses. On the one hand these rules allow rich countries to pay their farmers and companies subsidies to export food – destroying the livelihoods of poor farmers. On the other, poverty eradication, human rights and environmental protection come a poor second to the goal of ‘eliminating trade barriers’.

‘Poverty is not natural,  
it is man made’  
*Nelson Mandela*

We need trade justice not free trade. This means the EU single-handedly putting an end to its damaging agricultural export subsidies now; it means ensuring poor countries can feed their people by protecting their own farmers and staple crops; it means ensuring governments can effectively regulate water companies by keeping water out of world trade rules; and it means ensuring trade rules do not undermine core labour standards.

We need to stop the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) forcing poor countries to open their markets to trade with rich countries, which has proved so disastrous over the past 20 years; the EU must drop its demand that former European colonies open their markets and give more rights to big companies; we need to regulate companies – making them accountable for their social and environmental impact both here and abroad; and we must ensure that countries are able to regulate foreign investment in a way that best suits their own needs.

### 2. Drop the debt

- The unpayable debts of the world’s poorest countries should be cancelled in full, by fair and transparent means.

Despite grand statements from world leaders, the debt crisis is far from over. Rich countries have not delivered on the promise they made more than six years ago to cancel unpayable poor country debts. As a result, many countries still have to spend more on debt repayments than on meeting the needs of their people.

Rich countries and the institutions they control must act now to cancel all the unpayable debts of the poorest countries. They should not do this by depriving poor countries of new aid, but by digging into their pockets and providing new money.

The task of calculating how much debt should be cancelled must no longer be left to creditors concerned mainly with minimising their own costs. Instead, we need a fair and transparent international process to make sure that human needs take priority over debt repayments.

International institutions like the IMF and World Bank must stop asking poor countries to jump through hoops in order to qualify for debt relief. Poor countries should no longer have to privatise basic services or liberalise economies as a condition for getting the debt relief they so desperately need. And to avoid another debt crisis hard on the heels of the first, poor countries need to be given more grants, rather than seeing their debt burden piled even higher with yet more loans.

### 3. More and better aid

- Donors must now deliver at least \$50 billion more in aid and set a binding timetable for spending 0.7% of national income on aid. Aid must also be made to work more effectively for poor people. Poverty will not be eradicated without an immediate and major increase in international aid. Rich countries have promised to provide the extra money needed to meet internationally agreed poverty reduction targets. This amounts to at least \$50 billion per year, according to official estimates, and must be delivered now. Rich countries have also promised to provide 0.7% of their national income in



aid and they must now make good on their commitment by setting a binding timetable to reach this target.

However, without far-reaching changes in how aid is delivered, it won't achieve maximum benefits. Two key areas of reform are needed.

\* First, aid needs to focus better on poor people's needs. This means more aid being spent on areas such as basic healthcare and education. Aid should no longer be tied to goods and services from the donor, so ensuring that more money is spent in the poorest countries. And the World Bank and the IMF must become fully democratic in order for poor people's concerns to be heard.

\* Second, aid should support poor countries and communities' own plans and paths out of poverty. Aid should therefore no longer be conditional on recipients promising economic change like privatising or deregulating their services, cutting health and education spending, or opening up their markets: these are unfair practices that have never been proven to reduce poverty. And aid needs to be made predictable, so that poor countries can plan effectively and take control of their own budgets in the fight against poverty.



Speak out,  
judge righteously,  
defend the rights of the  
poor and needy.  
*Proverbs 31: 9*

### **Make Poverty History and the fight against Aids**

Around 38 million people are living with HIV (the virus that leads to AIDS). 95% of these people live in developing countries.

Scientists have developed anti-AIDS treatments that can keep people alive and healthy for up to twenty years, but most of the people living with HIV are too poor to afford them. If patients receive drugs and other care, HIV is a manageable illness. Unfortunately, unfair trade rules, crippling debt and insufficient and ineffective aid are stopping poor people from getting the AIDS care they need - and the consequences are fatal.

The virus has already claimed the lives of 20 million people, and left 15 million children orphaned. As people die, communities lose their mothers, fathers, producers, public servants and future leaders. In some countries teachers are dying of AIDS faster than replacements can be trained.

Complacency and inaction from G8 members (the group of the 8 most powerful political leaders) has taken a treatable, preventable disease and turned it in to a global emergency. Stephen Lewis, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on AIDS in Africa, has called the situation 'mass murder by complacency'. When the UK hosts the G8 summit in July 2005 it has the opportunity to change the course of the epidemic, and make AIDS history. The Stop AIDS Campaign is demanding that Tony Blair and other G8 leaders commit to a binding timetable for providing access to HIV and AIDS care and treatment for all who need it. Access to care and treatment can never be a reality without action on trade, debt and aid.

Unfair trade rules mean drug prices are set too high for poor communities to afford them. Debt repayments mean poor countries can't build up their health systems. Insufficient and ineffective aid means countries don't have the money they need to buy drugs and other treatments for their people.  
Make AIDS and Poverty History.

### **Prayer for make poverty history**

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit'. We pray for the children, women and men across the world who struggle each day to survive, pitted against economic conditions beyond their control. Give them strength to meet each day and hope for a different future.

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers.' We pray for the people and organisations campaigning for change as part of the Make Poverty History coalition. May the call for trade justice, for an end to debt and for more and better aid echo loud and clear across the world.

Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.' We pray for the leaders and politicians with the power to change things. Help them to take the side of the poor, to resist the voices of self-interest and complacency and to make bold choices for the good of all people.  
We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, friend of the poor. Amen.

## Litany for Make Poverty History

On those bowed down by poverty	Lord have mercy
On those who struggle to survive	Lord have mercy
On parents who have lost children to disease	Lord have mercy
On children who miss school because of unpayable debt	Lord have mercy
On young people growing up with no hope for the future	Lord have mercy
On adults who work and cannot make a living	Lord have mercy
On farmers who cannot sell what they produce	Lord have mercy
On people working to rebuild their lives after the tsunami	Lord have mercy
For campaigners fighting for justice	Make their voices heard
For citizens standing up for their rights	Make their voices heard
For postcard-signers, email-senders and white-band-wearers	Make their voices heard
For politicians and decision-makers	Give them wisdom, Lord
For the G8 leaders as they prepare to meet	Give them wisdom, Lord
For the leaders of Africa	Give them wisdom, Lord
For ourselves, as we struggle with these issues	Make us the means of change
For your world	Help us make poverty history

## A Hymn for Sunday

When I needed a neighbour were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour were you there?

*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, Were you there?*

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there? *Chorus*

I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?  
I was cold, I was naked, were you there? *Chorus*

When I needed a shelter were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a shelter were you there? *Chorus*

When I needed a healer were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a healer were you there? *Chorus*

Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there,  
Wherever you travel I'll be there.  
*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, I'll be there.*

**Change of Date ! Putnoe Heights Junior Church and Storybox Plus Summer Outing will now take place on either 14 or 21st August**

We hope to go to Thurleigh Farm Centre, leaving from Putnoe Heights Church at 12 noon, taking a picnic for "Wacky Woods". Kids £3.75 Adults £3.25 Family £13.50 (2 adults and 2 kids). Please let Liz Spavins know a.s.a.p. which date you would prefer or for more details call Liz on 302349.

**Storybox plus** has grown since it all began in January. We now have 11 children in our group. As our activities become more adventurous we could use some extra pairs of hands. If anyone would like to come and join us on a once a month/rota basis we would really like to hear from you, especially in June and July. We are taking a break in August then start again in September. For further details please call Liz Spavins on Tel: 01234 302349

**Open Garden** –On Sunday July 3rd with Cream Teas £2. Raffle—3pm till 6pm in aid of Mission Funds. At the home of Pam and Bob Burn, 62, Church Lane. All Welcome

**Volunteers wanted** to host a Mission coffee morning on a Saturday from 10 –12, anytime from August onwards. Help from Mission Group on the day. Sylvia Cohen 343424

**Thank you** to Judith Stanton and her supporters for the donation of £102 made at their recent Whist Drive.

**Footprints** 10 July at 2.30pm (please note this is one week earlier than on programme) Meet at Cranfield Church for a circular walk based on "The Clay Way". Please bring a picnic tea if you would like. Further details from Ruth & Alan Bunker 213951

**For Sale** Electric Potters wheel & tools, and a workbench. No reasonable offer refused. Proceeds to Church Funds. Buyer collects Tel. 343424

**Church & environment Statement** The Putnoe Missions group wishes to express concern that the church should take all necessary steps to show environmentally friendly practice, through recycling and care over energy use and introduce the use of Fair Trade coffee and teas for catering at church events. Sylvia Cohen 343424

**Lecture** to be given by the Bishop of St Albans on 'Images of the Resurrection' to be held at Elstow Abbey on 4 July at 7.30 pm. There will be refreshments and a question and answer session with the Bishop to follow. It's in order to turn up on the night, but Jeremy Crocker (261477) would be

grateful to know numbers in advance if this is possible.

**Garden of Remembrance extension** The new scheme for the extension of the Garden of Remembrance at St Mark's was approved by the Church Council to go forward for faculty. You can see a copy of the plans in the foyer at St Mark's Church.

**Local Preaching** I would like to thank everybody for their good wishes and congratulations, the letters I have received and the generous gift which marked my completion of fifty years as a Local Preacher. I have been quite overwhelmed, John Stubbs.

**Bat Boxes.** We are trying our best to consider ways to be environmentally aware in our management of the Garden at St Mark's. We have recently fitted two bat boxes which we hope will provide a habitat for these magnificent creatures. If you would like to donate a box the cost a donation can be made of £15. We will keep you advised of any inhabitants.

**Several new shrubs** have been planted in the Garden of Remembrance over the last week, including some conifers, holly and black bamboo. We would be grateful for any kind donations towards these plants.

**Auction of Promises September 17 at St Mark's Church.** Thank you to those who have offered fantastic promises, in aid of the Building Development to replace the Portakabin and provide accommodation for Autism Bedfordshire. Please contact Chris Izzard who is organising this event. Telephone 212164.

**A Summer Country Walk** on Sunday 26 June in aid of Arthritis Research, 3 or 4 1/2 miles around Souldrop. Sponsorship is not necessary but we ask for a donation of £5 to do the walk which includes refreshments afterwards. For more details, please contact Marion Goddard 344617.

**Lesley Rochford's diary** of her experiences nursing after the Tsunami is in the Office at St Mark's and can be borrowed. Entitled "To Hell and Back" is a frank and sometimes harrowing account of her work. We also hope to have a copy placed on our website soon.

**Road Knight Scooter - Maxi Plus 4 convertible** includes side screens & full weather protection. Gel tyres, Range 25 miles, Max speed 4 mph. As new, only driven 2 miles, with manufacturers guarantee. (Elderly lady too frail to drive it). Price new £3590 - for sale £1000. Proceeds to Putnoe Heights Mission Fund. To view please telephone 356042

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**Please note that Rotas** are now out and available. The rota at St Mark's is provisional, please make any changes or alterations now and a master copy will be produced for next week. You are reminded that Holy Communion will be fortnightly at each church during the summer.

### **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.

**John Sidney William Crowther**  
**Peter Eric Hall**  
**Sidney Jacob**  
**Stephen George Squires**

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

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