



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

27 April 2008

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

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

9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship
Preacher - Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership Team -Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions – Mrs Mary Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights – Morning Worship
Preacher – Mr Richard Ledger
Leadership --Mrs Sam Ware
Intercessions -Mrs Claire Peck

May 4th- Seventh Sunday of Easter

9.30am St. Mark's Church - Family Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mrs Laura Farthing
Intercessions - Mr John Stubbs

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Family Worship
Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman
Leadership Team - Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Ministers

Bible Readings.

1. Acts 1: 6-13
2. 1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11
3. John 17: 1-11

Thank You

The flowers at St Mark's have been given this week by Mrs Eason in memory of her husband John

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion such as 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) or add your name to the rota in the foyers.

Prayer for Sunday

Forgive us, O Lord, when we listen,
but do not hear;
when we look, but do not see;
and when we feel, but do not act;
and by your mercy and grace draw us into the
righteous deeds of your kingdom of justice and
peace; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Maria Hare, 1798-1870

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

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 Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349
youth@thisischurch.com

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 L Parry 216724 Mob 07922053740
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school

Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634

(See website for more details)

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

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's

Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

12.00pm Story box We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

1.45pm U3A History Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. ☎ David Fowler 824474

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Margo Needham 843747

4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎07720712735

6.15 Pilates at Putnoe Heights Jane Butcher 300859

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's 3rd & 5th week each month. Next meeting 19 May Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm House group 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

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

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

10am -Bedford Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting 29 April 'Members Favourite Pictures' Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917582468.

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

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

7.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.30pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 6 May YMCA Delia Shepherd .Audrey Wilkins☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.15am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Hanahan ☎824475

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

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎07973174430.

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

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

10am Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 7 May 2008 Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

12.30pm Men's Fellowship Lunch St Mark's 2nd week each month. Chris Izzard ☎212164

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

1.45 Scots Society Whist monthly .All welcome Nancy Barr 268147

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month Ken Silvester☎400584

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

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

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

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Racheall Monton ☎01234 297138

6.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

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

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month. Ken Silvester ☎400584

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095

7.00pm Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.00pm U3A Sky at Night 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Mr Farish ☎824984

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome.

Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's, 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 30 April 2008 Graham ☎406359 or Alan 345312.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st week in the month. Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.

9.40am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Lena Holland ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play weekly at St. Mark's. A group for Mums & toddlers. £1.75 for first child. More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma Strangwick ☎211070

12pm Storybox weekly at St Mark's welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. Lots of fun. Contact Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30—3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic St. Mark's 267444

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Majella Atkinson ☎325293.

1.45-3.15pm Rosemary Conley St. Mark's. Contact Margot 843747

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

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

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's Mr C Hill ☎772922

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights Nina Ovenden ☎825059

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.00pm British Cardiac Patients Assoc. at Putnoe bi monthly Mrs. E. marriot 303834

7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club St Mark's Mr P Housden ☎376597

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's 3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th week Jean Birks ☎219607

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography Group St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

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

1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm –7.30pm Line Dancing. Beginners 7-8pm Improvers St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights

from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.

Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

7.45pm Astrology Group St Mark's as from 11th January. Mr Kenworthy ☎402792

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe

Esther Sancto ☎295862 or ☎07917 582468

10.00am Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing.

Kate Howard ☎01234 782414

1.30pm Young Embroiders bi monthly Terry Fletcher Tel 357198

7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger ☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's with crèche for under 3's

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for our young adults. A crèche is also available.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd. Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Next meeting 10 February Liz ☎302349



Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council
– 17th June, 18 November
St Mark's Leadership Team
– 13 May
Putnoe Heights

Leadership Team – May 12th

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth Committee – 21st April

Putnoe Heights Management Meetings 14th July.

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 19 May, 11 July, 9 September, 12 November all at 12 noon

Putnoe Church Council - 16 June, 6 October.

Pastoral Group Meeting - 10 June 4.30pm

Churchyard Committee - 11 June 11.00am

Putnoe Heights Mission Group –
Partnership Council - May 13th at St Mark's
Brickhill Parish Council Meetings -

Deanery Meeting - 12 June, 18 September, 13 November

Circuit/Deanery Meeting 12 June

Woodland Burial Trustees - AGM

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth–

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

6th Sunday of Easter

Opening Verse - Psalm 66:1

Shout to God with joy, everyone on earth! Sing about the glory of his name! Give him glorious praise!

Collect Prayer for the Day

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by His death he has recalled us to life, so by His continual presence in us He may raise us to eternal joy; 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 *Common Worship*

First Bible Reading - Acts 17: 22-31

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." (This is the word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading-1 Peter 3: 13-22

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. "Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened. "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the



I will ask the Father,
and he will give you
another Advocate,
to be with you forever.

John 14.16

resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

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

Third Reading - John 14: 15-21

“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[a] in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” (This is the word of the Lord: **All: Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Hymns (*Please distribute Mission Praise and Morning Worship Booklet*)

1. Jesus is King 356
2. Majesty 454
3. This Joyful Eastertide (On Partnership News)
4. All shall be well (Tune: Song 46) (On Partnership News)
5. The Spirit lives to set us free 664

Commentary

This is what William Barclay says about the reading from Acts.

“There were in fact many altars to unknown gods in Athens. Six hundred years before this a terrible pestilence had fallen on the city. Nothing could halt it. A Cretan poet, Epimenides, had come forward with a plan. A flock of black and white sheep were let loose throughout the city from the Areopagus. Wherever each lay down it was sacrificed to the nearest god; and if a sheep lay down near the shrine of no known god it was sacrificed to “The Unknown God.” Athens had its regiment of unknown gods. From that Paul takes his starting point. Paul could fit his message for any audience. There are a series of steps in his sermon. (i) God is not the made but the maker, therefore He who made all things cannot be worshipped by anything made by the hands of man. It is all too true that men often worship what their hands have made. If a man’s God be that to which he gives all his time, thought, energy, life, many a man is engaged in worshipping material, man-made things. (ii) God has guided history. It was He who had been behind the rise and fall of nations in the days gone by. His hand was and is on the helm of things. (iii) God has made man so that instinctively he longs for God. There is that in man which makes him grope in the darkness after God because man is a child of God and kin to God. (iv) The days of groping and ignorance are past. So long as men had to search in the shadows they could not know God and God excused their follies and their mistakes; but now in Christ the full blaze of the knowledge and revelation of God have come. The days of excuses are past because now the truth has come. (v) The day of judgement is coming. For man life is neither a progress to extinction, as it was to the Epicureans, nor yet a pathway to absorption to God, as it was to the Stoics; it was a journey to the judgement seat of God where Jesus Christ was Judge. (vi) The proof of the pre-eminence of Christ is the Resurrection. It is no unknown God but a Risen Christ with whom we have to deal.”

The language is slightly quaint, but it does bring home to us that we need to be able to defend the faith we hold in a reasonable way. We ought to know what we believe - 1 Peter 3 points to this too. We should think our faith out - and be able to state it in an understandable way. We shouldn’t give the impression that “faith is believing what we know isn’t true!”. It needs to be a first hand discovery and not a second-hand story. That is what Charlie said on Easter Day!

So, if when we are asked what we believe, can we answer honestly? And if we are then asked why we believe it, what can we say then? We need to try to answer with “gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3¹⁵). Lots of people state what they believe with arrogance - seeking to ram their news down other people’s throats and this puts others off easily. But no-one possesses the whole truth. Humility might avoid some acrimonious theological debates. Now there’s a thought and a message to share! In the end, of course, what really carries weight is not so much the words we say but lives we live. Someone said “I’d rather see a sermon than hear one any day” and “A saint is someone whose life makes it easier to believe in God”. May that become daily more true of us as God continues to energise and encourage us by his Spirit who is his risen presence with us forever. *Richard Ledger*.

Meditation

Because

Because he emptied himself of all but love, you can be filled.
Because his body was broken, your life can be whole.
Because his blood was shed, your sins can be forgiven.
Because he submitted to injustice, you can forgive,
Because he finished his Father's work, your life has worth.
Because he was forsaken, you can never be alone.
Because he was buried, you can be raised.
Because he lives, you don't have to be afraid,
Because he reached down to you, you don't have to work your way up to him.
Because his promises are always true. You can have hope. *Anna Reid.*

Father, forgive.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class, Father, forgive.
The covetous desires of men and nations to possess what is not their own, Father, forgive.
The greed which exploits the labours of men, and lays waste the earth, Father, forgive.
Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others, Father, forgive,
Our indifference to the plight of the homeless and the refugee, Father, forgive.
The lust which uses for ignoble ends the bodies of men and women, Father, forgive.
The pride which leads to trust in ourselves, and not in God, Father, forgive.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

I thank you, O God, for the pleasures you have given me through my senses; for the glory of thunder, for the mystery of music, the singing of birds and the laughter of children. I thank you for the delights of colour, the awe of the sunset, the wild roses in the hedgerows, the smile of friendship. I thank you for the sweetness of flowers and the scent of hay. Truly, O Lord, the earth is full of your riches!
After Edward King, Nineteenth Century.

O God, it is hard for us not to be anxious. We worry about work and money, about food and health, about weather and crops, about war and politics, about loving and being loved. Show us how perfect love casts out fear.
Monica Furlong, Twentieth Century.

Heavenly Father, we bring to you in prayer people who are suffering in mind or spirit. We remember especially those facing long and incurable illness; those cast down by the cares and sorrows of daily life; those who have lost faith and for whom the future is dark. In your mercy maintain their courage, lift their burdens and renew their faith, that they may find in you their strength, their comfort and their peace, for our Saviour's sake.
Frank Colquhoun, Twentieth Century.

Alone with none but thee, my God, I journey on my way. What need I fear, when thou art near, O King of night and day? More safe am I within thy hand than if a host did round me stand.
St Columba of Iona, Sixth Century.

God of your goodness, give me yourself, for you are sufficient for me... If I were to ask anything less I should always be in want, for in you alone do I have all.
Julian of Norwich, Fourteenth Century.

Eternal God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, the strength of the wills that serve you; help us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom.
Pope Gelasius' Prayer Book, Seventh or Eighth Century.

So send your Spirit, now, dear Lord to me that he may break my bonds and set me free. Amen.

District Women's Network Spring Craft Day 2008 on 3rd May. 9.45am to 4.15pm at Priory Methodist Church. Booking Forms from Pam Seymour. Tel: 305695, to be returned by 23rd April.

Easter Offering The Dedication Service will be at Priory Methodist Church at 6.30pm on the 27th April. The theme will be "Making a Difference, Transforming Lives.

Ministerial Appointment Following the forthcoming ministerial vacancy from August of this year, we will for a period have only one full time minister in our churches. Over the coming months the Leadership Team, Church Council and Partnership Council will discuss with our parent denominations the possibilities for future ministry in our Partnership. There are currently discussions taking place at a Circuit and Deanery level about the changing nature of ministry in Bedford, as we face the fact of declining numbers of full time clergy. Inevitably we need to consider what ministry deployment will be available and how best to structure our resources. This situation provides challenges and opportunities which we will discuss together and we will all have an opportunity to engage in the process of consideration for the way forward. If you would like to participate fully in this process, then please do make sure that you have yourself nominated for a position on one of our Church Councils, forms are still available this morning.

St Mark's Church Annual General Meeting
4 May, after church. Nomination forms for the are available from the church office.

St Mark's Leadership Team. The Leadership Team at St Mark's are to assist the ministers by providing feedback and evaluation on Sunday Worship. They will write structured comments on the services, especially regarding preaching, which will then be discussed among the Leadership Team. If you have any comments on services which you would like to make we would all value your comments.

Partnership Council

There will be a Partnership Council meeting at St Mark's Chapel on Tuesday 13 May at 7.30pm

Woodland Burial Open Day There will be an open day at the St Albans Woodland Burial Ground at Keysoe on June 7 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. The woodland has over 50 acres of land for you to walk and enjoy a day out. Refreshments will be served. Our new access road will be completed this week, why not visit and take a look.

Thank you to NCH box holders at St Mark's and Putnoe Heights who have raised £403.33 since May 2007. This generous support gives help to some very vulnerable children, young people and their families, so that they have an opportunity to reach their full potential.

Christian Aid Week 11-17th May. If you are willing to help with this door to door collection in Brickhill please sign the form in the foyer at St. Mark's or let the office know. Envelopes etc will be available for collection on Sunday 4th May.

Footprints Walk near Castle Ashby Sunday 11th May 2.30pm. Details from Barry & Jenny 317597.

Adopt a garden bed scheme

Most people have agreed, when asked, to continue caring for their respective beds in the GoR. Thanks. Could I ask you to help Jean and I by giving your beds special attention over the next few weeks, as baby tree seedlings are taking over the world and need removing while they are small and soil still damp. Other weeds have similar ideas!

Table Top Sale on Saturday 28 June in the afternoon in aid of Church Funds. If you could help with organizing and running this event please see Joan or Liz.

1st Putnoe Brownies celebrate their 50th anniversary on 21 June. If you know anyone who has connections with the group please contact Sharon Tanner on 01767699399 or email firstputnoebrownies@hotmail.co.uk

TNT next meet Sunday 11 May at 2.30pm at Priory Country Park for a cycle ride to the Danish Camp at Willington. We welcome anyone to join us for the ride or meet us there for tea.

Future Dates for your diary. 'The partnership Summer Musical Workshops !!! Tuesday 19 August 2- 4 pm 'Its Raining Cats and Dogs' aimed at the under 5's with carers. Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 August 10am-3pm 'The 7 Days of Creation' 5 years plus, all abilities . Full details to follow later.

Lena & Alan Cooper would like to thank everybody for all the cards, good wishes and visitors Lena has received, and for all the offers of help Alan has received. Lena is progressing very slowly but hopes it will not be long before she is home.

Ecumenical Forum The forum this year will take place at Barton-le-Clay on Thursday 22 May at 7.30pm. Would like to go and hear what is happening ecumenically across Beds ?

Hymn 3

This joyful Eastertide
 What need is there for grieving?
 Cast all your cares aside
 And be not unbelieving:

*Come, share our Easter joy
 That death could not imprison,
 Nor any power destroy,
 Our Christ, who is arisen!*

No work for him is vain,
 No faith in him mistaken,
 For Easter makes it plain
 His kingdom is not shaken:

*Come share our Easter joy
 That death could not imprison
 Nor any power destroy
 Our Christ, who is arisen.*

Then put your trust in Christ,
 In waking or in sleeping:
 His grace on earth sufficed;
 He'll never quit his keeping:

Hymn 4

All shall be well!
 for on our Easter skies
 see Christ the Sun
 of righteousness arise.

All shall be well!
 the sacrifice is made;
 the sinner freed,
 the price of pardon paid.

All shall be well!
 The cross and passion past;
 dark night is done,
 bright morning come at last.

All shall be well!
 within our Father's plan
 death has no more
 dominion over man.

Jesus alive!
 rejoice and sing again,
 'All shall be well
 for evermore, Amen!'



St Mark's Coffee Shop
Every Sunday 2.30pm until
5.00pm.



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www.Thisischurch.com. Only if you do this do we
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 £142

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 Molyneaux Munro Eason
Dick Kempston

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



Rest in Peace

**The funeral of Brian Arthur
 Wright** will take place at Bedford
 Crematorium on Wednesday 30
 April at 12.15pm (*Royden*)

**The funeral of Donald
 Gammons Brown** will take
 place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday May
 2 at 12.15 pm (*Crossley*)

The funeral of Bessie Chappell will take
 place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 2nd
 May at 10am (*Crossley*)