



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

27 February 2005

Third Sunday of Lent

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

Preacher – Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper

Intercessions - Mr John Tatman

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Leadership Team – Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Massey

6 March

8.30 Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

9.30am St Mark's Church - Family Worship

Parade Service with baptisms

Preacher – The Reverend Charles Royden

Leadership Team - Mrs Iris Perry

Intercessions - Mrs Morag Stewart

11.00am Putnoe Heights- Family Worship

Preacher - The Reverend Charles Royden

Leadership Team – Mr Dave Allen

Intercessions – Mrs Margaret Massey

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Diana Johnson in memory of her mother, Jean Brown.

The flowers at St Mark's Church this week have been given by John and Janet Day to celebrate the 1st Birthday of their grandson Joseph.

Prayer for Sunday

Grant to us, Lord, we pray,
the spirit to think and do always
those things that are right;
that we,
who can do no good thing without you,
may by you be enabled to live
according to your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

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

The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Mobile -07740 865167 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 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

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

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 www.ThisisChurch.com

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy@thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mrs Janet Day—295592

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

Hymns are printed under CCL Lic No. 1501

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

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

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

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

12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox 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 R.Mistry 01908 392698

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

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Contact Penny Fulham406045

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. Next 21 February St. Mark's 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

12.30pm 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.

1.15pm Library Walk W.I. at Putnoe Heights meets monthly. Next meeting 19 April. 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 1 March 2005 –Rev. Neil Bramble-Chapman. Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship. Next meeting 1 March 2005 –Rev. Neil Bramble-Chapman. 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 1 March Well Dressing. 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 23 March. Contact Jenny Coggins 266379

10.00 am Day Care Centre St Mark's for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

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

12 - 1pm Total Body Toning at Putnoe Heights Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

Luncheon Club at Putnoe Height meets fortnightly. Next meeting 2 March 2005 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 16 March. Contact Sylvia Woods 365095

7pm Putnoe Guild meets monthly at Putnoe Heights. Next meeting 16 March. 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 side chapel. 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 Storybox 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.

12.30pm 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 Storybox Plus at Putnoe Heights. A drama group for 4-9year olds. Meets 4 5-pm,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. Next meeting 24 February. 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

10.00 am Day Care Centre at St. Mark's Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

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 26 February. Contact Kathleen Sage 771525

Embroiderers Guild Saturday Workshop at Putnoe Heights. Meets monthly next meeting 26 February. Contact Kathleen Sage 771525(check also for Young Embroiders)

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

6.45pm TNT (The Nearly Teens) meet fortnightly at Putnoe Heights for various fun activities. Contact Putnoe Office 365630

News, Views and Information

January 2005	February 2005	March 2005	April 2005
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
30 31	27 28	27 28 29 30 31	

May 2005	June 2005	July 2005	August 2005
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30 31

September 2005	October 2005	November 2005
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3	1	1 2 3 4 5
4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
11 12 13 14 15 16 17	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
18 19 20 21 22 23 24	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
30 31	27 28 29	25 26 27 28 29 30 31

The Church Calendar

St Mark's Church Council 15 June, 12 October
Circuit Men's Fellowship Lunch on the 9 February
St Mark's Leadership Team
 4 May -Home of Rev Dr Joan Crossley

Deanery Synod

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team -
 25 April 2005 at 7.30pm

St Mark's Church Management Meeting
 23 May, 11 July, 12 September, 2 November. All meetings to start 7.00pm

Putnoe Church Council

7 Feb 2005, 13 June 2005, 10 Oct 2005

Pastoral Group Meeting -27 April at 2.pm.

Church yard Committee 25 April at 10 pm.



Bible Notes

Verse of Scripture Psalm 95 v 6, 7
Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.



A Collect Prayer - Before we read we pray

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before He was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Reading Exodus 17: 1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarrelled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" (Reader : This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading - Romans 5: 1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

Gospel Reading - John Chapter 4:5-42

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who

living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth." The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him. Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour." Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world." (Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All - Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymns (Please distribute Mission Praise and morning worship)

1. In Christ there is no East or West, **329**;
2. For I'm building a people of power, **151**;
3. Praise my soul, **560**;
4. Restore, O Lord, **579**;
5. Man of sorrows! What a name, **458**

Commentary

Who are you?

By telling the woman at the well who she is, Jesus shows her who He is. By confirming her true identity, He reveals his own, and that is how it still happens. The Messiah is the one who shows us who we are by showing us who He is, even if He has to cross boundaries and break a few rules to do so. He challenges us to drop our disguises and to meet with Him where we

are. And in acknowledging who He is, we have no choice but to acknowledge who we are, perhaps in a moment of full disclosure which can be as painful as it can be healing.

In the Gospel reading today we have Jesus' longest-recorded conversation in the Bible, and to cap it all it's with a Samaritan woman. On many counts it seems extraordinary that it took place at all: a man and a woman in public; a Jew and a Samaritan; a transient and a citizen; one offering living water and another caught in the ceaseless rounds of drawing water at the well. It would seem bizarre to many at the time. But true dialogue with God transcends sex, race, and tradition because His love cuts across racial and cultural prejudice. Today's Gospel has many levels of meaning. As always in John the central character is God and God's gift of life through the invitation to live in the holy space of the Father's love. A love which we see affirms women and engages and loves sinners. In what was a man's world, John describes a woman as the supreme example of someone stepping out and exercising ministry, but doing so with the fragility and hesitancy and perhaps inadequacy which happens when ordinary human beings (of both sexes) begin to engage in ministry. An image of someone who, being transformed is prepared to step out in faith, so that others may experience God's transforming love.
Sam Cappleman

Meditation

Water crops up in the Gospel of John many times. Water turned into wine, water used to wash the disciple's feet, water in which Jesus is baptised, water on which Jesus walks. In today's Gospel passage Jesus offers living water to all those who come to Him to drink. Indeed, Jesus' final post-resurrection appearance is by water where He challenges His disciples to cast their empty net in the water on the other side of the boat. Some of the disciples were fisherman and understood the dangers and possibilities of water. Water was a symbol of chaos and yet also the source of sustenance and survival, a metaphor for life and death and the transformation that takes place between them. When we look at the story of the Wedding at Cana we see Jesus transforming the water into wine. A simple story, quietly told, almost low-key, reflecting the simple, inexplicable, transformation that was witnessed. That same, mysterious, power of transformation is featured in many of the following stories in John, often with increasing drama. The Woman at the Well passage from today's readings is one of those stories where water and transformation are inextricably linked. It's that same transforming power of God that we experience in our lives as we live out the final act of divine transformation. The transformation that is the reality of the Lent and Easter story, the transformation of the crucifixion of Jesus into His glorious resurrection and our eternal inheritance.

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We pray that in all our relationships you will make us effective channels of your love and forgiveness. Make us awash with your living water so that our home and places of work, our conversations and our actions, are always in touch with the renewing power of God. **Amen**

We stand alongside all those who are suffering, whether in body, mind or spirit, and long for your healing and comfort, your strength for perseverance and your patience in dark times; we long for your living spirit to envelop and sustain them. **Amen**
(Prayers of Intercession for Common Worship, Susan Sayers)

Christ give you the grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow Him; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

News, Views and Information

Partnership Singers Please could we re-convene to prepare for Easter Services (on 27 March), rehearsing on 4 March 7pm at St Mark's, 11 March 7pm at St Mark's-Small Hall, 18 March 7pm at St Mark's, Thursday 24 March at Putnoe.

Wednesday Bereavement Drop in Group.

Next meeting is Wednesday 2 March at St Mark's Church, 2.30pm- 4pm. Mr Michael Dallas will talk about Bedford Arts Society. On 6 April Mr. Alan Cox will speak on "London Curiosities" and on May 4 Lynne Davis will speak about the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Fun Run and Teddy Bear's Picnic! 22 May at Mowsbury Park, our 5km Fun Run followed by a BBQ, Bring a Teddy to the Teddy Bear's Picnic! Time to get in training!

Missions Group Meeting Tuesday 1 March at 14 Flint Way (off Bamburgh Drive). Starting 7.30pm. All interested in Missions welcome. Sylvia Cohen 343424

Maundy Thursday. The eucharist with the blessing of oils takes place on Maundy Thursday, March 24th, at the Cathedral and Abbey church of St Alban at 11.00am. It is a service at which the Bishop calls together all clergy, Readers and lay ministers who hold his licence in the Diocese and also those who are retired. But it is also a service at which anyone is welcome to be present and it is hoped that many people from congregations around the Diocese will wish to come.

At 7.30pm we will have our own service at Putnoe Heights Church.

The Lent Course 2005

Looking to Easter - The Gospel According to Paul
St Marks and Putnoe Heights Lent Course

The apostle Paul was the first and possibly the most influential Christian missionary, writer and theologian there has ever been. Nearly half of the books of the New Testament are attributed to Paul providing some of the great foundation stones for the Christian Church. His legacy as a travelling preacher proclaiming 'not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord!' still impacts us today. But where did Paul come from, what did he really believe and how did that influence his perspective on the cross, and the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ?

This year's Lent Course will look at Paul and how he has influenced what we believe about Jesus and our Christian faith.

Wednesday 2 March

Paul, what did he really believe; can we make sense of his letters? Revd Dr Sam Cappleman

Wednesday 9 March

Paul, where was he going; what lies beyond the cross? Revd Neil Bramble-Chapman

The Lent course will be held at Putnoe Heights church and start at 7:30 pm each week and we'll finish at 9:00 pm promptly.

Footprints (Putnoe ramblers) Four churches walk on Feb 27 at 2.00. Meet at Meppershall Church (OS grid ref 135360) and visit Upper Gravenhurst and Shillington on a pleasant cross-country walk. Boots will be needed, as it will be muddy in places, but not deep mud, and you will enjoy views across Mid-Bedfordshire. Approx 4-5 miles and 2½ hours gentle walking. Further details please contact Keyth or Sara Richardson 330029.

London Marathon April 17 2005. Kenelm Richardson (Morwenna's brother) will be running the London Marathon to raise money for a children's charity. If anyone wishes to sponsor him, his website which has full details can be found at; <http://www.justgiving.com/kenelm>. For those who are not yet Internet connected his parents Keyth and Sara hope to have ordinary sponsorship forms soon, and can be contacted on 330029

St Mark's Clubhouse The Clubhouse project would be very grateful to receive any of the following: double knitting wool, knitting needles, no smaller size than 3.5 mm. Also any unwanted games such as Ker Plunk, Frustration, memory games, etc. Magazines, old birthday cards. Thanks from the Clubhouse Team 315460

Update - Thank you for the gifts which have started to come in for the project, especially to the kind person who donated a brand new Kerplunk!

Can we have your Tesco Vouchers please. St. Mark's Church Preschool will be collecting Tesco vouchers for computers for schools from 7 March until 15 May. Please ask family and friends to collect for us. Thank you. Helen Harpin.

Thomas Mckay (St Mark's Church) is cycling from London to Paris and back in aid of Raleigh International. He is going to Malaysia, Sabah region, in February 2006 for 10 weeks to take part in community and environmental projects. The cycle ride is from 30th March to 5th April 2005 to raise funds for the work in Malaysia. Any sponsors/donations would be gratefully received. Details in St Mark's church office.

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 4th March. Afternoon service 2 p.m. at The Salvation Army, Commercial Road. Evening Service 7.30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road. All welcome to either of these services. For further information contact Kathie Longden Tel: 345760.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the American Choir concert. The retiring collection raised £516.35. After deductions for expenses, the remainder will be donated to the Tsunami Appeal and Autism Bedfordshire.

'Kaleidoscope' a musical revue by the Millers Entertainment Group, at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 12 March at 7.30pm. Admission £5 ..including light refreshments. (Children Free if accompanied by an adult) in association with Bedford NCH Support Group. Contact Vera Pearson 270737 or Margaret Standley 305352.

Brickhill Lower School is hoping to recruit a Community Governor from the Brickhill area to join the school's Governing Body. The commitment would be to attend six Governing Body meetings plus three sub-committee meetings per year and to visit the school for half a day once per term. In return they can offer an interesting and rewarding time helping a successful local school. If you live or work in the Brickhill area and are interested in becoming a school governor, please contact the clerk to the Governing Body for more information. Tricia Kane. Brickhill Lower School Bedford. 01234 401404.

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team would like to thank all those who were involved in the planning and organisation of "Jesus Christ Superstar" last Sunday 20th Feb. It was a huge success and greatly enjoyed by all those who attended the performance. Special thanks must go to all the

hosts for the evening, who safely returned their charges to Putnoe, some as early as 6.30am! Also a big thanks to "Sue and the kitchen Crew" as they are now known, for feeding the cast and crew. Thank you all so much.

The Good Friday Witness 12 noon 25th March 2005, St.Paul's Square. All welcome.

NCH -On the box quiz 2005. Dear supporters , do you like a challenge ? I have copies of an entertainment quiz priced at £1 each (a donation to NCH). It is great fun and if you send in your completed form you could win the first prize of £25 .Please support this worthwhile cause. Grace Foster.

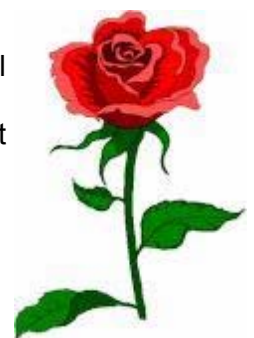
Bedford Care Volunteers required to answer telephones or to transport the elderly and infirm. All expenses paid. 215500

Tsunami Appeal update. Immediately after the Tsunami our churches gave £3,000 to The Methodist Relief and Development Fund's Tsunami appeal. They have now raised over £1 million. . The appeal was launched on 26 December 2004, and people's generosity has made it the biggest-ever response to a MRDF appeal. Kevin Fray, MRDF Supporter Relations Coordinator, offers "a big thank you to everyone who has responded so generously. The impact of this disaster will be felt for a long time, and The Methodist Church is committed to supporting the rebuilding effort for as long as necessary."

Money given to MRDF has already gone to provide truckloads of food and water to remote communities; fishing nets and boat repairs to help fishermen start earning a living again; blankets, clothing and cooking equipment; house reconstruction; and trauma counselling.

Following some of the bad press about charities not being able to spend the money sent to them, it is good to hear this from MRDF. Hopefully members of our churches will recognise that we gave our money wisely to ensure it got through to those most in need.

The funeral of Mr Belcher will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Tuesday 1 March at 10.00am
The funeral of Cyril Hayward will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 4 March at 4pm



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.

**Marie Isabella McGregor
Heather Symes**

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

